

LEARN Minutes – November 1, 2005, at Oak Park Public Library

In Attendance:

1. Jean Demas (Lisle)
2. Hugh Glenn (Literacy in Action – Dupage)
3. Debra Kakuk (College of Dupage)
4. Izora Lewis (Glenside)
5. Sr. Marybeth McDermott CSJ (School on Wheels – LaGrange)
6. Bea McLean (Literacy Volunteers of Western Cook County)
7. Susan McNeil-Marshall (Woodridge)
8. Melissa Mickelberry (Literacy Volunteers of Western Cook County)
9. Michael Moulds (Glenside)
10. Karen Neal (Downers Grove)
11. Jacki Peterson (Literacy Volunteers – Dupage)
12. Joe Popowitch (Indian Prairie)
13. Tuki Sathaye (Addison)
14. Zeno Vacquat (Literacy Volunteers of Western Cook County)
15. Rebecca Vnuk (River Forest)
16. RoseAnn Vonesh (Oak Park)

Introduction of New Members

1. Literacy Volunteers of Western Cook County was represented by Melissa Mickelberry, Bea McLean and one of their tutors, Zeno Vacquat. LVWCC serves approximately 200 students per year and has a close ties to the Oak Park Library.
2. Jacki Peterson represented Literacy Volunteers of Dupage (LVD) which currently serves about 400 students. She emphasized that each of their tutors receives at least 18 hours of training and can meet at a place convenient to the student. LVD is especially interested in joint funding opportunities.
3. Tuki Sathaye from Addison Public Library heard about LEARN from Debra Kakuk and is interested, as we all are, in collection development and possible joint funding opportunities.
4. Rebecca Vnuk from River Forest Public Library heard about LEARN, I believe, from RoseAnn Vonesh. She is also interested in how LEARN can help with collection development, etc.

Website Demonstration – The LEARN website was presented to the group. I am in the process of putting it on the web on NorthStarNet, more or less as it was presented, except for a few corrections. Suggestions for more substantial modifications to the website will be incorporated once the website is up and running.

1. Homepage – Jacki Peterson pointed out that we should change “people” in our description to “adults,” because our audience does not include children. I will go through all the pages to make sure that it is clear that we are targeting adults.
2. About Us

- Jean Demas asked me after the meeting to include a fifth goal of LEARN: “To develop strategies for funding opportunities to support libraries and literacy organizations networking together.”
 - Lisle Public Library will be changed to Lisle Library District.
 - The word “and” was unnecessarily capitalized in one of the points under “Benefits of Membership.”
 - I will say that there are “several” members of LEARN instead of “fourteen” so that this page will not need continuous updating as the number changes.
3. Groups That Help Teach English
- Jean wondered if we could still try to find a better phrase as the header for this page. She thought it might work as “Groups to Contact That Help Teach English.” However, she wanted to know if anyone could still come up with something better. In particular, can we eliminate the word “that” from the header? I am going to move ahead with putting the website online. If anyone has a suggestion, I can change this header at any time.
 - I was concerned about the necessity to scroll a lot on this page, especially as we begin to include longer descriptions of each group. I suggested we have just a short list with the names of each group linked to a separate page for each organization that teaches English. However, many members thought this would just make it more confusing by layering the information into too many pages. Debra Kakuk had suggested using navigation bars at the top to link down the page, and this is what we will try.
 - Lyons Township High School Adult and Continuing Education Center will be eliminated from the list.
 - Morton High School and High School District 88 will be called to verify their information.
 - We will try to have each group provide longer, more detailed descriptions of the services they provide.
4. Member Information
- Everyone agreed that there should be some mention on this page of whether or not each library has meeting space available.
 - Debra Kakuk suggested having a link to a Microsoft Excel chart which listed all the services provided at each library. The chart would be a pdf file and thus not require extensive scrolling.
5. Links – Occasionally people give me new links, and I have been adding them. We may want to put a limit at some point so that users will not feel overwhelmed. There are 17 links right now, and RoseAnn gave me one before the meeting which I am adding.
6. There were no comments on the remaining pages.
7. Website Address – I am going to try to obtain the following address: www.learnenglish.org. It was suggested that we have it www.adultslearnenglish.org to clarify that we just help adults. However, some members felt that the simpler, the better. Plus, anyone linking to the

site should be able to tell immediately that we target adults because I have changed the wording to that effect.

Publishers List – At a prior meeting we had talked about creating a list of English as a Second Language publishers. RoseAnn asked about the status of this list. I believe that both Jean and Debra thought they had lists that they could share. So, either they can post them to the yahoo e-mail group or forward them to me so that I can do it.

Marketing – I asked whether we thought that we should devote some time to talking about marketing, either jointly or coordinating individual marketing campaigns. The group felt that the website was the first step in marketing and that we could talk about other ideas after the website was operational.

Funding Opportunities – Jean felt that we should get started tracking down grants. She has volunteered to spearhead this initiative starting in January. I think this is a good idea considering that the application deadlines for many grants are in the spring.

Resource Sharing – At each meeting, or maybe every other meeting, I am hoping we can continue to offer a “show and tell” of good resources. Here are the items discussed at the November meeting:

1. ESLOA (English As A Second Language Oral Assessment) – Published by Literacy Volunteers of America. Presented by RoseAnn Vonesh.
2. Tutor Resource Manual – Put together by Literacy Volunteers of Western Cook County.
3. Easy English (3 CDs, includes pronunciation and lessons 1-20) and Easy Pronunciation (6 CDs), both by Living Language, presented by Karen Neal.
4. Success with English (Spanish version) – 18 volume video series by Cyberdyne Systems, very expensive, presented by Joe Popowitch. Currently looking for better labeling because it is not circulating well.
5. Voyageur Series
6. English for Work Activities: a picture process dictionary – For ESL learners who need to communicate in typical workplace situations. Presented by Debra Kakuk.
7. The Complete Get That Job: a quick and easy guide with worksheets by New Readers Press, very pictorial and user friendly, presented by Debra Kakuk.
8. Accent English – I am sorry, but I apparently forgot to write who presented this item. I believe it was a cassette, and as I look on Worldcat I see that the subtitle is “Sounds of American Speech.” There appears to be a generic title for all learners, then there are separate titles for the following languages: Spanish, Russian, Arabic, Vietnamese, Chinese, French, Japanese, Korean, Tagalog, Thai, Indonesian, Greek.

Tasks to be Completed

1. **Web site** – Put the website online and modify as needed.
2. **Funding Opportunities** – In January Jean will start looking at possible joint funding ventures.

3. **Publishers** – Debra or Jean can post a list of publishers of ESL materials, to which anyone can add publisher names.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, March 14, 2006, from 2-4 p.m. at the College of DuPage Library in the Veihman Archives Reading Room (SRC 3040A). The room is located on the second floor of the Library. Directions to the College of DuPage can be found at:

http://www.cod.edu/Maps/Map_Loc.htm

Directions to the Library (located in the Student Resource Center-SRC building), maps of the Library and a virtual tour can be found at:

<http://www.cod.edu/library/services/directions.htm>

Carol Larsen of New Readers Press will speak.