



Literacy Council for Josephine County

SPRING/SUMMER, 2011

223 S.E. M Street, Grants Pass, OR, 97526

Overhead...

As I review the Literacy Council's operation, I realize how blessed we are to be able to keep our 2011 costs to a bare minimum:

- Labor (all volunteer) — 0
- Books and manuals — \$280
- Copies and postage — \$400
- Facility (rent) — \$5,600
- Insurance — \$266
- Internet — \$100
- Fundraising — \$97
- Non-profit fee — \$50
- Publicity — \$400
- Supplies — \$40
- Telephone — \$500
- Tutor appreciation — \$300

You will note that our biggest cost is the roof over our heads. (Our overhead!)

Our main sources of income are Wal-Mart, Rogue Community College, book sales and donations from citizens of Josephine County.

They provide roughly 60 percent of our cost.

The question arises: Where does the other 40 percent come from? From our past savings.

During the last three years, three of our major fund donors are no longer in operation. Unless we receive additional support, the Literacy

Council will cease to be within six years.

What are we doing to help our-

selves?

A new member has agreed to "spread the word" to service clubs and businesses throughout the county. We are seeking sponsors for our annual book sale. We are reaching out to those businesses that are sympathetic to our cause. We are seeking ideas for income-producing activities.

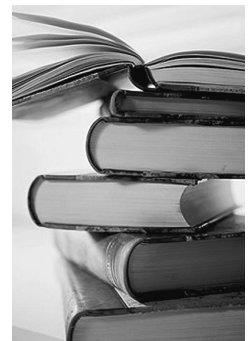
If you have any ideas as to how we can raise funds, please give me a call at 541-761-2804. I promise to return your call.

— Allan Hammer, Literacy Council Chairman

Notes from the Chair

Buy the book

- **WHAT:** Literacy Council Book Sale
- **WHEN:** 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 6
- **WHERE:** Daily Courier parking lot, Seventh and J streets, Grants Pass
- **DETAILS:** This is a big event for us. Last year, we raised more than \$800 in six hours selling tattered romances and novels, well-read adventure paperbacks and mysteries, children's books, reference books, how-to books, self-help books and cookbooks.
- **HOW YOU CAN HELP:** Give some books. We'll take anything you've got.
Give some cash. Stop by the sale and buy some books.
Give some time. Volunteer to spend an hour or two helping out at our major fundraiser of the year.
Call Kathleen Alaks at 541-474-3815 or 541-955-5371 or email kalaks@thedailycourier.com.





Literacy Council for Josephine County

Literacy Council Board Members

- **Allan Hammer, chairman**
phone: 541-761-2804
e-mail: hammerhaus@charter.net
- **Don Stocking, treasurer**
phone: 541-761-7402
e-mail: donstocking@gmail.com
- **Mary Slayter, secretary**
phone: 541-476-6315
e-mail: mslyayer1@earthlink.net
- **Kathleen Alaks, publicity**
phone: 541-955-5371
e-mail: kalaks@thedailycourier.com
- **Wanda Holder Sherman, RCC liaison**
phone: 541-956-7465
e-mail: wsherman@roguecc.edu
- **Andrea Dougan, tutor**
phone: 541-471-4893
e-mail: dougan@q.com
- **Nancy Hitchcock, tutor**
phone: 541-479-9436
e-mail: jnhitchcock@charter.net
- **Merle Nyberg, tutor**
phone: 541-479-7437
e-mail: monyberg@q.com
- **Dee Pierce**
phone: 541-955-5185
e-mail: da@q.com
- **Sue Ward, Head Start liaison**
phone: 541-450-4379
e-mail: wardjohnsue@aol.com

Contact Us!

Call: 541-472-0355
 Email: jocoliteracy@yahoo.com
 Find us online: literacyjoco.weebly.com

CALENDAR

Upcoming Board Meetings

Meetings are at 12:30 p.m. at the Literacy Council office, 223 S.E. M St. in Grants Pass. (That's in the Coalition for Kids building; entrance is off the back parking lot.)

July 14	Oct. 13
Aug. 11	Nov. 10
Sept. 8	Dec. 8

Ch..ch..ch..changes

For some time now, Liz Medley has been serving as Literacy Council office manager and member of the Literacy Council Board. In those capacities, she has not only done an outstanding job but has also contributed an enormous amount of her time.

Recently, she decided it was time to step back a bit and reduce her responsibilities and hours.

Liz worked to divide her responsibilities. It is a testimony to her commitment that it now takes six people to do the job she had been doing on her own.

Here is a summary of what each person is now responsible for and how you can contact them:

■ **Dee Pierce.** Sends out reminders to tutors about reporting monthly hours; compiles tutor and student hours and provides information as needed to Nancy Hitchcock; reports monthly tutor hours to Kathie Saunders at RSVP; maintains tutor roster and sends out updated roster regularly; sends out email notices about and leads monthly Tutor Roundtable meetings; updates and maintains computers and computer learning software and provides computer training as needed; serves as member of LitCo Board.

Contact Dee at pierceda@q.com, at 541-955-5185 (home) or 541-291-0004 (cell).

■ **Carol Szallasi.** Talks with new students about needs and times available for tutoring, fills out new student forms, explains procedures, maintains the monthly tutoring session wall calendar; provides information on new students to Liz Verbeck.

If anyone contacts you about a prospective new student, let Carol know. Contact her at szallasi@clearwire.net or 541-787-2008.

■ **Liz Verbeck.** Meets with new tutors; fills out new tutor forms; gives them volunteer handbook; explains procedures; submits application for background check; discusses available students and matches tutors with students; signs out LitCo office key after lessons start; provides information on new tutors to Dee

Pierce for the roster; provides information to Nancy Hitchcock, Dee Pierce, Liz Medley and Pat Benton when new match is made between tutor and student.

Her office duties: checks in and out materials; catalogs and prepares new materials; backs up Carol on posting the monthly tutoring session wall calendar.

If anyone contacts you about a prospective new tutor, let Liz V. know. Contact her at lizverbeck@hotmail.com or 541-582-3243.

■ **Liz Medley and Pat Benton.** Meet with tutor and student for initial lesson and sit in on lessons as agreed with tutor; suggest materials to use for tutoring sessions and how to enrich lessons; handle \$10 student deposit on borrowed materials; fill out RCC registration and notify Nancy Hitchcock by email.

Liz will be your initial contact. Reach her at almedley@charter.net or 541-479-9436.

Contact Pat Benton at patbenton3@gmail.com or 541-474-6979.

■ **Nancy Hitchcock.** Compiles monthly student hours; provides reports to RCC; administers CASAS pre- and post-tests; coordinates test times with tutors; serves as member of LitCo Board.

Contact Nancy at njhitchcock@charter.net or 541-479-9436.



Who's Who? Meet Pat Benton and Dee Pierce

Q. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR TENURE AT THE LITERACY COUNCIL?

PAT. I joined in early 2011, with the wish to help persons new to this country overcome their language difficulties and settle into a successful life here. America has been great to me and I'd like to pass some of our prosperity along to others who are so willing to contribute to our communities.

DEE. I joined at the end of March 2011. At the time, I was still tutoring a GED student in math at RCC and had the interest and time to take on another student. I recalled hearing about the Literacy Council at the RCC tutor training three years ago, so decided to give Liz Medley a call, who was also in the same RCC tutor training class.

Q. DESCRIBE WHAT YOUR NEW RESPONSIBILITIES ARE AND HOW IT'S WORKING SO FAR?

PAT. I will be sharing my insights with other teachers and learning their expertise and experience from them as well.



PAT BENTON

DEE. I will be responsible for various reports (including maintaining a spreadsheet of monthly tutor and student hours, regularly updating and distributing the Literacy Council roster, and attending and reporting on the tutoring program at the monthly board meetings), as well as overseeing the computer

facilities and various educational software programs.

It will take some time to get a complete handle on all the tasks required, but Liz has gotten us all off to a good start.

Q. PLEASE SHARE SOME PERSONAL INFORMATION: EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND, CAREER, FAMILY.

PAT. Recently married, retired linguist, two years

MBA studies at Monterrey Institute of International Studies. Learned Japanese and some Chinese living in both countries about 23 years. Taught English as second language in both countries.

DEE. I have a PhD in biology and worked for 20-plus years in the biotechnology industry, including as



DEE PIERCE

research director for new technology development and a director of biotechnology contracts and licensing. I have a brother in Virginia and sister in Texas. My only child is my dog Jazz — we have been having a great time competing together in AKC obedience events.

Q. WHAT, IF ANY, OTHER GROUPS OR CLUBS ARE YOU INVOLVED WITH?

PAT. None.

DEE. I will still be tutoring a GED student in math at RCC.

Q. IF YOU WERE STRANDED ON A DESERT ISLAND, WHAT ONE BOOK WOULD YOU WANT TO HAVE WITH YOU?

PAT. The New Shanghai Chinese-English Dictionary.

DEE. "Madame Bovary" by Gustav Flaubert

Q. ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO COMMENT ON OR SHARE?

PAT. I have a long career learning difficult languages in foreign countries and would like to share some of my solutions. I see myself as a tutor to others in similar straits. I am very happy to take on this additional duty.

DEE. It is very rewarding to be part of the Literacy Council, a group dedicated to helping others learn! I am a huge believer in education.

Council Profiles



Immigrants tell us they do it for their children: Here are their stories

■ His parents were unforgiving when his kindergarten teacher spanked him. They didn't trust schools anyway and they were headed north. From age 6 he worked for the family – in ethnic restaurants, painting houses, landscaping. He never again went to school. Now, at 41, he studies with us. He has the respect of his three children, who help him learn.

■ She is a widow and she could not support her child. When a relative offered her work in Grants Pass she came, leaving her daughter with an aunt. She sends home every penny she can. We are helping her learn English. She hopes to get a job as a tour guide in her home country.

■ Drug cartels took over his home town. He felt desperately endangered. Relatives in Oregon offered a job that wasn't being done by Americans, and he came as a lawful, permanent resident. He married and has a baby. But he is still a citizen of Mexico and he feels he cannot, ever, risk being deported and leaving his family. He studies for citizenship.

■ She was an elevator operator in a small inland town and he drove a bus. They noticed each other because each always carried a book. Schools were expensive there. They had struggled to get an education. When they had children, they pledged they would move to a country with good schools. In Grants Pass they have low-paying jobs, but their children are not just good students, they win awards as the best in their classes.

A Way With Words

To write with a broken pencil is pointless.

When fish are in schools they sometimes take debate.

A thief who stole a calendar got 12 months.

When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U.C.L.A.

The professor discovered that her theory of earthquakes was on shaky ground.

The batteries were given out free of charge.

A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.

A will is a dead giveaway.

If you don't pay your exorcist you can get repossessed.

With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.

Show me a piano falling down a mineshaft and I'll show you A-flat miner.

You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.

Local Area Network in Australia : The LAN down under.

A boiled egg is hard to beat.

When you've seen one shopping center you've seen a mall.

Police were called to a day care where a 3-year-old was resisting a rest.

Did you hear about the fellow whose whole left side was cut off? He's all right now.

If you take a laptop computer for a run you could jog your memory.

A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two tired.

In a democracy it's your vote that counts; in feudalism, it's your Count that votes.

When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds

The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine was fully recovered.

He had a photographic memory which was never developed.

Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.

When she saw her first strands of gray hair, she thought she'd dye.

Acupuncture: a jab well done.

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