**Literacy NY Executive Director News: April 2023**

Hi, everyone! Happy April!

Upcoming Board Calls/Meetings:

* June 9, 2023, 10:30 to 12:15 Annual Meeting; White Eagle Conference Center

Here is the latest from Literacy New York– I’ve tied activities back to our Strategic Action Plan goals. Reach out with comments and questions!

**Goal: The Board of Literacy New York, Inc. will diversify and strengthen board members’ contributions and commitment to the Mission of LNY**

We are thrilled to welcome Brad Loliger to the Literacy NY Board– he will be beginning his service in June! We are still looking for potential board members (at least one more) to join the board in June. If you have a friend, colleague, associate, etc., whom you see as a good fit for the board, please contact Cecilia, Mary Ellen, or me to get the process going. Cecilia, Mary Ellen, Mary, and I had the pleasure of providing Brad with an orientation to Literacy NY and the work we do, and it was a reminder of the great things we have going on here– should be an easy sell to potential members ! :)

**Goal:  Literacy NY will continually evaluate current activities and assess future activities to maximize opportunities for the organization**

State Budget: As of this writing, the state budget has not yet passed. ALE was in both one-house budgets for the restored $7.8M, and the Assembly also proposed $3M for a pilot of the Community Literacy Fund and $5M in additional ALE funding. We’ll see how it all shakes out– because both Senate and Assembly had us in at our restored amount, we are optimistic that ALE will be fully funded.

Financial News: We are up to date in billings and payments with the ALE and RAEN contracts. We submitted an amendment for the 2022-23 ALE budget and have received preliminary approval. We will be submitting the 2023-24 ALE budget to the Adult Education department for approval soon.

**Goal: Literacy NY will serve as a catalyst to advance adult literacy**

NYACCE Conference: The NY State Association for Continuing and Community Education (NYACCE) had our first in-person conference in 3 years this April. I say “our” because I am now an active member of the NYACCE board and had the pleasure of working on this year’s event. I also presented a workshop during the conference.

A point of pride– NYACCE gives out awards for exemplary Adult Educators, and this year we had one honorable mention and three winners from the ALE funded cohort supported by our NYSED/STAC grant. Our job, as the STAC, is to build capacity in ALE-funded programs, and to support practitioners working in these programs. We hope our work contributed to the excellence of these awardees.  Also– on the RAEN side– 5 additional adult educators recognized were from our two RAEN regions! Here’s to Advancing Adult Literacy!

COABE:

Ann Marie and I both attended and presented at the COABE Conference in Atlanta, GA in April. I had the pleasure of “listening in” to Ann Marie’s workshop, and she did a wonderful job.  In fact, she has been invited to present her session, “Instructional Routines”, in a few more places! It was valuable connecting with adult education practitioners from across the country. We heard directly from the Assistant Secretary of OCTAE (Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education), Amy Loyd, who oversees adult education at the federal level.  She was enthusiastic about the future of adult education and supportive of the work practitioners do in the field.

White Eagle Conference:

Staff has been busy planning for this June’s LNY@White Eagle Conference for many months now, and we are excited that it is drawing near. We have a great slate of workshops and activities on tap– including two sessions with Kelli Johnson, Literacy NY Board Member! Our June meeting will be onsite, at the White Eagle, starting at 10:30am on Friday, 6/9, and included lunch with the ALE programs after the meeting. If you need accommodation on Thursday night, please let me know. And if you are interested and available to attend more of the conference, let me know that too!  I will be sure to send you all the schedule and session descriptions.

Best,

Kathy

*"No Winter lasts forever, no Spring skips its turn. April is a promise that May is bound to keep." Hal Borland*

**Abbreviations and acronyms**:

AEPP: Adult Education Policies and Procedures

ASISTS: Adult Student Information System and Technical Support; the database that houses program data in NYS.

ELL: English Language Learners

HSE: High School Equivalency

MWBE: Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises; a NYS program that encourages grantees to utilize MWBE vendors in fulfilling contracts and grants.

NYRS: New York’s Reporting System; the system of accountability under which ALE funded direct service providers work.

NYSED: NY State Education Department

RAEN: Regional Adult Education Network; LNY holds contracts for these programs in Western NY and in the Capital/North Region. RAENs offer professional development to adult education teachers and practitioners.

RFP: Request for proposal; document that solicits proposals, often made through a bidding process.

STAC: Support and Technical Assistance Center; LNY is funded as the Rest of State New York STAC, providing technical assistance to ALE-funded programs.

TASC: NYS Test of Adult Secondary Education (Previously the GED test)

WIOA: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act; the federal funding stream administered by the state supporting LNY’s Regional Adult Education Networks (as well as direct service providers)

I2O: Intake to Outcomes; Literacy NY’s online training platform

**Organizations**:

NYACCE: New York Association for Continuing and Community Education; the voice for adult education programs in NYS.

NYATEP: New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals

LAC: Literacy Assistance Center; our STAC counterpart in NYC

NYCCAL: NYC Coalition for Adult Literacy; our advocacy partner in NYC

BOCES: Boards of Cooperative Education; BOCES house adult education programs across the state

LINCS: Literacy Information and Communication System (LINCS); a national leadership initiative of the U.S. Department of Education

COABE: Coalition on Adult Basic Education - Council of State Organizations: A group of state directors of volunteer-based adult literacy programs and ProLiteracy

ProLiteracy: The largest adult literacy and basic education membership organization in the nation (<https://www.proliteracy.org/>)

TCALL: Texas Center for the Advancement of Literacy and Learning; the statewide Professional Development and Resource Center for Texas Adult Education and Literacy (AEL).