**Literacy NY Executive Director News: August 2025**

Hello, everyone. Hard to believe it is August already! Hope you are making every moment of summer count!

Upcoming Board Calls/Meetings:

* Thursday, September 11, 2025; Zoom
* Thursday, December 11, 2025; Zoom

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! Speaking of the Strategic Action Plan, the Governance Committee and I are in the process of updating the plan to better reflect our current operations. We will get the updated plan out to the full board for review soon.

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

ALE

We have been busy kicking off the new program year with our ALE funded programs. As reported in my previous newsletter, the Rest of State STAC (our project with the NYS Adult Education Department/AEPP) is supporting 22 ALE contracts across the state, with about 35 sites of instruction. We only have one newcomer to the funding, so there is not a ton of orientation we have to provide, though we are making sure our new folks are up to speed with everything. I was part of an official ALE Orientation webinar provided by leadership at AEPP in July, and have been part of the planning for onboarding ALE programs supported by our partner organization, the NY City STAC.

We have scheduled 6 ALE Regional Meetings between September and November. The Regional Meetings are a deliverable in our state grant, and provide a great opportunity to meet with the programs in each region. Our AEPP regional representative is invited, as well as the RAEN Directors.

As far as money-- we received our final payment for the 2024-25 ALE grant cycle. We also received preliminary approval for our 2025-26 ALE budget from AEPP and expect our final letter soon. The timeline has been pretty typical so far—we’ll see if there are delays moving forward. Our original award notification shorted us over $23,000 of the $450,000 applied for (annual figures). We received a corrected award letter that still shorts us, but by $17,300. The amount has to do with administrative costs, and though I wrote the narrative to charge part of Suzanne’s time to direct service in supporting programs with MWBE and budget issues (one of our grant deliverables), I was told she could not perform those duties, and her salary exceeds the 5% administrative expense rule. After meeting with our board treasurer, Joe Campbell, he and I concluded that it was in our best interest to give up that fight, and adjust our budget. We can certainly absorb this “short” without adversely affecting our work, and adjust our spending accordingly. When we have the opportunity, we will look at increasing our indirect rate (now it is a paltry 2.7%) and move some of Suzanne’s salary to that line. We heard that a number of programs were not awarded their full asks, and were shorted at higher amounts, so we will move forward, grateful for the funding.

Digital Literacy

The Digital Equity Capacity Building grant opportunity through ConnectALL that was halted by the federal government has been re-booted by the state, and we are resubmitting our proposed project to create Digital Literacy Hubs at 9 sites across the state. As you may remember, we partnered with an organization called Human-I-T that will provide devices and other assets to the project. They are the lead agency, so they are responsible for the required match and they have taken the lead in writing the grant. The funding will support part time Digital Literacy Coordinators at the participating sites, as well as provide computers, training, and support. The submission is due on 8/25—fingers crossed—it will be a great project ~~if~~  *when* funded!

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

New STAC Website and Tutor Portal

One of the requirements of the new ALE round of funding for the STAC is the creation of a website specific to the STAC project. In the past, we’ve just used our Literacy NY website, but now we are creating a standalone site with the required URL [www.STACROSregion.org](http://www.stacrosregion.org/) (not yet active) with our web developers at 360PSG. The site will have our program locations, all guidance and communications from AEPP, announcements of meetings and training opportunities, and our new Tutor Portal. The Tutor Portal is an exciting addition to the support we provide to our volunteers and staff at our ALE funded agencies. It will have resources for tutors, opportunities for tutors to connect and chat, blog posts, and a place where tutors can ask questions of our master trainers. We are fortunate to have a seasoned volunteer coordinator from one of our ALE funded programs coordinating the password protected tutor portal on a contractual basis. We expect the new site to be up and running in September.

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

Our Governance Chair, Pat Rajala, had us distribute a message regarding board development. Great to see action around board recruitment this early in the year! Please reach out to Pat or me with any ideas or comments.

I will be out of the office the first week of September (9/1 to 9/5).

Best,

Kathy

*“Breathe the sweetness that hovers in August.” — Denise Levertov*

Abbreviations and acronyms:

AEPP: Adult Education Policy and Procedures

ALL IN: Adult Literacy and Learning Impact Network; a collective impact initiative charged with carrying out the National Action Plan for Adult Literacy

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

CBO: Community Based Organization

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; RAENs offer professional development to adult education teachers and practitioners.

RFP: Request for proposal; document that solicits proposal, 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

GED: NYS’s high school credential exam

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)

MWBE: Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises

I2O: Intake to Outcomes; Literacy NY’s online training platform for ALE funded programs

OTT: Online Tutor Training; Literacy NY’s online training platform for users outside of the ALE cohort

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

CSO: 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/>)

OCTAE: Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education; federal Dept. of Ed for adult education providers