



National Coalition For Literacy

NCL Update **April 2008**

NCL Membership Meeting - Thursday, May 8

The National Coalition for Literacy will hold its quarterly Membership Meeting on Thursday, May 8, at the Hall of States, 444 N Capitol Street, NW in DC, starting at 9 am. A panel on national service at 11 am will follow the public policy committee meeting. After lunch, Sylvia Robinson, Assistant Vice President and Executive Director of the GED Testing Service, American Council on Education, will present on the GED. For more information, please contact Jennifer Maloney at Jennifer.maloney@ncldc.net.

COABE Public Policy Sessions, April 29-30

NCL and COABE are sponsoring a series of public policy sessions at the national COABE Conference. The policy panel, a plenary session on the morning of April 30, will include Bob Weng (COABE), Marty Finsterbusch (VALUE), Israel Mendoza (NCSDAE), Lynn Selmsler (NCL), John Segota (TESOL), David Harvey (ProLiteracy), and Tony Peyton (NCFL). Participants will address “Federal Adult Education Policy Issues and Organizational Responses” using a question and answer format with Sherrie Claiborne, President of NCL, serving as the panel moderator.

Five concurrent sessions will also be offered including “Show Me The Basics: Understanding how Congress Works” with Lynn Selmsler, “Successful Advocacy at the Federal Level” with Art Ellison and Jackie Taylor, and “Emerging Policy Issues: Immigration & Health Literacy” with John Segota, Bob Purga and Dr. Paul Smith on Tuesday, April 29; and “A Riverside Chat with Cheryl Keenan” and Sherrie Claiborne, moderator, and “Successful Advocacy at the State Level” with Art Ellison and Jackie Taylor on Wednesday, April 30. We hope to see many of you at COABE in St. Louis.

Pathways to Partnerships – next in Dollar General Presentation Series

The next meeting in the Dollar General Presentation Series will be *Pathways to Partnerships* in Houston, Texas on May 29 at the Sheraton Houston Brookhollow Hotel. Denine Torr of Dollar General Literacy Foundation will open the conference with comments on the impact of low literacy on America’s global



**DOLLAR GENERAL
PRESENTATION SERIES**

competitiveness, followed by a presentation on Texas state demographic trends by Dr. Karl Eschbach, Interim Director of the Texas Institute for Demographic and Socioeconomic Research. Joanie Rethlake of Texas Learns will present an overview of adult education in Texas. During lunch, Susan Narvais, Mayor of San Marcos, TX will talk about her experience as an adult learner. Adult educators and business leaders will discuss the importance of literacy services and how to work together to promote adult education. For more information, contact Jennifer Maloney at Jennifer.maloney@ncldc.net.

Website Offers Resources for Adult Educators and Public Libraries Serving New Immigrants

The US Citizenship and Immigration Services website now provides information and resources to new immigrants and adult educators. Visit the *Education and Resources* section on the website at <<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis>>. Under the section on Resources for New Immigrants, the document entitled, "Welcome to the United States: A Guide for New Immigrants" includes general information on adult education and learning English, as well as information on K-12 education and higher education. Immigrants can find service providers by following links to ProLiteracy and America's Literacy Directory. Resources for Adult Educators include "U.S. Civics and Citizenship Online: Resource Center for Instructors." This web-based application provides links to lesson plans, curricula, teacher assessments and more for incorporating civics into ESL instruction.

ProLiteracy Extends Deadline

The deadline to submit presentations for ProLiteracy's 2008 annual conference in Little Rock, AR has been extended to Monday, April 21. To submit your proposal, visit <http://www.proliteracy.org/conference/presentations08.asp>.

Upcoming Adult Literacy Events

<i>Apr. 28-May 1:</i>	COABE Conference, St. Louis, MO
<i>May 4-8:</i>	International Reading Association Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA
<i>June 26-July 2:</i>	American Library Association Annual Conference, Anaheim, CA
<i>Sept. 27:</i>	The Center for the Book, National Book Festival, Washington, DC
<i>Oct. 1-4:</i>	ProLiteracy 2008 Annual Conference, Little Rock, AR
<i>Oct. 19-21:</i>	National Even Start Association Annual Conference, Austin, TX
<i>Nov. 1-2:</i>	Student Coalition for Action in Literacy Education, Read.Write.Act National Conference, Chapel Hill, NC
<i>Nov. 10-14:</i>	AAACE 2008 Conference, Denver, CO
<i>Nov. 12-15:</i>	National Adult Education Professional Development Consortium, National Training Institute, Seattle, WA

If you would like to list your event or meeting here, please send information to Jennifer Maloney at Jennifer.maloney@ncldc.net by the 5th of the month.

Upcoming Coalition Events

May 8: Membership Meeting
May 29: Dollar General Presentation Series, Houston, Texas
Sept. 10: Literacy Leadership Awards
Sept. 11: Membership Meeting
Dec. 3: Public Policy Forum
Dec. 4: Membership Meeting

Public Policy Corner:

The House and Senate Budget Committees are still negotiating over the Budget for fiscal year 2009. Once differences are resolved and the House and Senate pass the compromise budget resolution, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees will be able to begin the difficult task of determining funding levels for programs such as adult education and Even Start for the upcoming fiscal year. The state directors did submit testimony to the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education in support of additional funding for adult education and Even Start consistent with the numbers agreed to by the Coalition. In addition, the Coalition, working with the Research Committee, developed a paper on the need for a research center for adult education. This document was forwarded to the Senate Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education. Mark Laisch, the staff person responsible for our programs, had expressed an interest in receiving additional information on the need for a research center. We will continue to monitor activity in this area and provide you with updates as information becomes available.

As in the past few months, there is little to report on the reauthorization of adult education or Even Start. Although some discussions are being held, there are no current plans to actively consider the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act. While the Senate still appears interested in moving a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (currently known as No Child Left Behind), again there is little to report.

This month the Coalition did send a letter to Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA) regarding recommendations from the White House for new members of the NIFL Advisory Board. The letter requested the Senator to withhold confirmation of any new members until a new Administration was in place. A letter was also sent to the White House, expressing concern about the lack of credentials in adult education of those individuals recently recommended for appointment to the NIFL Board. Both the state directors and COABE sent similar letters to Senator Kennedy.

Lynn Selmsler

Visit the National Coalition for Literacy's website to view NCL documents and letters and for more information, <http://www.national-coalition-literacy.org/>.