



National Coalition For Literacy

NCL Update **March 2008**

COABE Public Policy Sessions, April 29-30

Once again NCL and COABE are sponsoring a series of public policy sessions at the National COABE conference. The policy panel, composed of many member organizations, will be a plenary session this year, offered on the morning of April 30. Participants include Bob Weng (COABE), Marty Finsterbusch (VALUE), Israel Mendoza (NCSDAE), Lynn Selmsler (NCL), John Segota (TESOL), Peter Waite (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 & 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, MO at the end of April.

Next NCL Membership Meeting - Thursday, May 8th

Hall of States,
444 N Capitol Street, NW
Washington DC 20001
9 am – 3 pm

**Presentation by Sylvia Robinson, Assistant Vice President and Executive Director
GED Testing Service, American Council on Education**

Panel on National Service

Public Policy Committee and Membership Meeting

Dollar General Presentation Series Continues

NCL and Dollar General Literacy Foundation in partnership with the South Carolina Office of Adult Education sponsored the fourth meeting in the Dollar General Presentation Series in Spartanburg, SC in February. Drawing the largest audience to date adult educators, program directors, business leaders, and more heard panelists discuss trends in adult education and the impact of low literacy. Denine



Torr, Senior Manager, Community Initiatives, Dollar General Literacy Foundation, attended the day and presented two \$2,500 grants to organizations at the meeting to further their work in marketing and advocacy for adult literacy. More information is available at <http://www.national-coalition-literacy.org/>.



The next Dollar General Presentation Forum will be held in Houston, Texas on May 29, 2008. For information, contact Jennifer Maloney, NCL Director (Jennifer.maloney@ncldc.net.)

ED Pubs Has Redesigned Web Site

The U.S. Department of Education's ED Pubs (Education Publications) web site has undergone an extensive redesign. The shopping process has been improved by adopting the latest in eCommerce "shopping carts," making it easier to order publications and provide concise, accurate shipping information. The capabilities of "your account" have been extended to realize a more user-friendly environment tailored to your preferences. Other new features include Hot Topics, Find Publications By, and an Espanol link,

Visit the site at <http://www.edpubs.ed.gov> to see all the new features. If you had previously registered on the site, no need to re-register, your user name and password will work and your order history is still available!

Upcoming Adult Literacy Events

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| <i>Mar.25-26:</i> | National Institute for Literacy <i>LINCS</i> Region 1 Health Literacy Summit, Indianapolis, IN (Contact Kaye Beall, kaye_beall@worlded.org for registration.) |
| <i>Mar. 30-Apr. 1:</i> | National Conference on Family Literacy, Louisville KY |
| <i>Apr. 2-5:</i> | TESOL's 42 nd Annual Convention and Exhibit, New York |
| <i>Apr. 28-May 1:</i> | COABE Conference, St. Louis |
| <i>May 6:</i> | International Reading Association Annual Conference, Atlanta GA |

- Sept. 24-27:** National Center for Developmental Education 4th International Conference on Research in Access and Developmental Education, San Juan, Puerto Rico. See www.ncde.appstate.edu for a call for proposals.
- Sept. 27:** The Center for the Book, National Book Festival, Washington, DC

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:

Congress is beginning the process that will end with appropriations for adult education and Even Start for FY 2009. At this point, the House and Senate Budget Committees have released their Chairman's Mark (the starting point for legislative debate) for the FY 09 Budget Resolution. The House document provides for a \$7.1 billion increase over the President's request for the Function 500 account, which includes adult education and Even Start. The Senate increases overall education funding by \$5.4 million over the President's request.

At the same time, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees are beginning hearings and staff is meeting with organizations to hear their funding requests. A number of state directors visited Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees and the Committee on Education and Labor on March 7 to discuss funding for adult education and Even Start programs. At the same time, Lennox McLendon and I met with House and Senate Appropriations Committee staff to discuss funding for 2009. We were joined at these meeting by a number of state directors.

Charmaine Mercer, the individual now handling education funding for David Obey (D-WI), Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, previously worked for the Congressional Research Service. She told us that part of learning about the programs for which she is now responsible is checking their PART rating and how they were treated in last year's funding proposal in the House. In this regard, she said we were off to a really good start because of our positive PART rating and the fact that the Committee had proposed a funding increase for adult education last year. We left her with a packet of information on adult education. Several state directors also spoke to her about the need for increased funding for Even Start.

On the Senate side, Mark Laisch, who works with Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) once again told us our biggest problem was a lack of strong advocates for adult education in the Senate. Mark understands adult education and has actually been a tutor. He also asked us about funding for an adult education research center. He is very interested in receiving information on the need for need for the Institute of Education Sciences to once again fund a center focused on adult education. I explained that the Coalition's Research Committee was revising their previous document and planning on coming to the Hill to meet with him and others to discuss the need for a research center. He is very open to such a meeting. We will continue to monitor action by the House and Senate Appropriations Committees and to provide them with information to reinforce our need for additional program funding to meet the increased demand for services.

Finally, Lennox and I spoke again with Adrienne Dunbar, the individual handling adult education for the Education and Labor Committee. She has now read the Coalition's proposal for reauthorization of the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act and had a few questions on some of the proposals. Even if we do not get a bill this year, it is good to know our proposal is getting serious attention. She also spent an hour talking to the state director from California during the March 7 visit.

Lynn Selmser

Visit the National Coalition for Literacy's website for more information.
<http://www.national-coalition-literacy.org/>