



February 5, 2010

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from the Literacy Interest Group

CALIFORNIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



Literacy at Work for CLA

Two people have stepped forward on behalf of all of us in literacy to key assignments as members of important CLA committees:

Laura Seaholm – is our representative serving on the **CLA Legislative & Advocacy Committee**. Laura has been the Program Manager of Project Second Chance, the Contra Costa Library's adult literacy program, since February 2008, having served two years as the Tutor/Student Coordinator for Central & West County. Prior to this, Laura served as volunteer tutoring four students. Her previous career was in the financial services sector for 24 years. She earned a Bachelor's degree from Northwestern University in 1980, and her Masters in Business Administration from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1983. lseaholm@ccclib.org

Josephine Jones – is our representative serving on the **CLA Conference Planning Committee**. Jo has served as the Director of Literacy Services for the Escondido Public Library for seven years. With her background in education and community responsiveness she transformed the program from one-on-one to small learning communities that include book discussions, language labs and GED preparation. Working with her Advisory Board she transitioned to a non-profit entity. Jo holds a MA and BA in Literature and Writing from CSU San Marcos. jjones@ci.escondido.ca.us

Laura and Jo did not hesitate to accept the invitation to serve our group in spite of the fact that they are just as busy as the rest of us. Please take a moment and send them a note to wish them well and thank them.

Literacy Interest Group

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Declaration for The Right to Literacy

By now just about everyone involved in literacy has heard about the conference last June in Buffalo, NY where the convention on The Right to Literacy was held. If you haven't already done so, I urge you to go to: www.literacypowerline.com and sign on for the **1,000,000 for Literacy: Shatter the Silence**.

Preaching to the Choir

Very few people in this country understand better than those of us in literacy how low literacy skills can devastate a life. Very few people in this country realize they are surrounded by people who can talk to them, but who cannot read or write what they said to them. And therein lies our dilemma. Because the general population does not see this "invisible" problem, our legislators get only the pressure from those of us in literacy. Thus, the resources provided for literacy are only enough to help about 10% of those in need.

We are the ones that have to change this lack of understanding. We have to educate our fellow citizens and our legislators about **The Right to Literacy**. We have to show them how what we are doing is the answer to many problems; to help people better themselves and reach their potential, to reduce unemployment, poverty, welfare and crime. This movement for **The Right to Literacy** gives us a platform from which to launch a renewed, fresh message. It also gives us a national unity of strength for a message that all of us have been trying to get across to others for our entire careers in literacy. Even in these very difficult times, please place a high priority on delivering the message about **The Right to Literacy** in as many ways as you can, to as many people as you can in your sphere of influence.

And if you wish, send me a brief description of what you do, and I'll share with everyone to stimulate as much action as possible. Thanks for your devotion to literacy.

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-news

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