

Mission Statement

The mission of the Marinette & Oconto Counties Literacy Council is to provide adults of Marinette and Oconto Counties with programs and services to improve literacy in reading, writing, comprehension, health, speaking English, math, digital skills, and cross-cultural awareness. The power of literacy will enable adults to become self-confident, contributing, members of their community and work force and positively impact their families.

Vision Statement

Our vision for the organization

Marinette & Oconto Counties Literacy Council actively assist those with a literacy need and remains committed to those we serve and to our organization. Community outreach is ongoing and involves many organizations within Marinette and Oconto counties. The marketing effort is strong and has many available resources at its disposal through grants, fundraising and human resources, such as volunteers.

Our vision for the region

Within the communities, there is an increase awareness of the resources that are available to individuals who are in need of literacy services. Community organizations, together with individuals, have become advocates for those in need of literacy services. The literacy rate continues to improve through the willingness of individuals to accept assistance without fear.



February, 2024  
Volume 10  
Issue 1

Tutor Talk

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Vicki Dobratz

Honored at Rural Urban Banquet of Oconto County



On October 16, 2023, Oconto County's Rural Urban Committee honored those individuals who were chosen to receive a Volunteer Award. The criterion for this award is that the person must be at least 70 years old, reside in Oconto County, and have volunteered much of their adult life. Vicki Dobratz certainly met those standards as she volunteers with her husband's Shriner activities, at St Clare Hospital in Oconto Falls since retiring from there, and, also, with Marinette & Oconto Counties Literacy Council. Talk about being busy! Yet, Vicki always has a smile on her face and is willing to help out where needed. She is a part our literacy council's Heath Literacy group and a member of the Literacy's Board of Directors.



Diane Nichols

Diane Nichols, Board member, has authored another book: *Peshtigo Fire Survivors, Two Stories based on Real-Life Accounts*. She was also added to the Oconto Falls HS Wall of fame because of her accomplishments.

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Mary Jane & Brenda (tutor)

### What's the difference between a GED & a HSED?

Both HSED and a GED are competency-based programs. Though both credentials are technically the same, a GED only indicates that you've passed a test, whereas an HSED indicates that you've passed a test and completed some other coursework.



## HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALANCY DIPLOMA FOR MARY JANE

The Bowling Alley in Suring on December 14th was the site of a ceremony for a student who received her HSED certificate after working very hard with her tutor.

Brenda Friction gave Mary Jane the frame as a gift so Mary Jane can hang the certificate and show it with pride in her home. They studied hard together, meeting at either Mount Olive Lutheran Church on Religious Ed Night or the Suring Library.

The ceremony was held to celebrate the hard work Brenda & Mary Jane did together, studying, & testing, subject by subject. Mary Jane's family and friends were present to watch as Mary Jane walked down the aisle to the tune of "Pomp & Circumstance" and then was handed the certificate by her tutor, Brenda. Some tears were shed and treats were enjoyed. We are so proud of her!

## Essential English and More...



Front: Lilly, Alexandra, Genesis, Cameron, Janet.  
Back row: Wilhelina, Lourdes, Arlene

Trade Team USA, the contracting agency providing employees at Fincantieri Marinette Marine, assisted with arranging a class to improve English for interested workers. The class was held for 10 consecutive weeks at NWTC North Coast Marine Training Center in Marinette, where the class was graciously given a room. Although some of the students could not attend weekly, the classes continued. Along with essential English, the class also had fun learning about Trick-or-Treating, Daylight Savings Time and the Green Bay Packers. Other, more serious, topics were covered as well such as world unrest and natural disasters. Instructors were: Janet Glime and Lilly Vang, with help from Cameron, Trade Team USA.

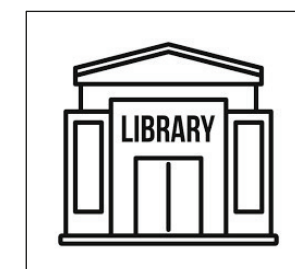


**February 13, Tuesday 1:00 P.M.**  
Literacy Board Meeting at the Coleman City Hall, 202 E. Main Street

**March 12, Tuesday 1:00 P.M.** Literacy Board Meeting at the Coleman City Hall, 202 E. Main Street

**Coming in the spring:** Tutor Time out

### CONNECTIONS:



#### Library Support

Coleman Area Library  
Crivitz Area Library  
Gillett Public Library  
Lakes County Public Library  
Niagara Public Library  
Peshtigo Public Library  
Stephenson Public Library, Marinette  
Spies Public Library, MI  
Suring Area Public Library  
Wausaukee Public Library

### Board of Directors Officers:

Janet Glime, President  
Candy Deschane, VP  
Allen Bartel, Secretary  
Diane Nichols, Treasurer  
Linda Bublitz  
Leonard Burns  
Mike Churchill  
Vicki Dobratz  
Lilly Vang, Web Site Manager

### Advisory:

Howard Eslien, Attorney  
Sarah Ferdon, Foodwise Nutrition Coordinator at the UW-Ext, Marinette & Oconto Counties  
Marycarolyn Jagodzinski, Grant Consultant  
Danielle Lemke, Health & Wellbeing Educator at the UW Extension, Marinette County  
Marti Matyska, PhD, Newsletter  
Dale Mohr, Associate Professor at the UW Extension, Oconto County  
Sarah Schindel, Food Nutrition Educator at the UW-Ext, Marinette & Oconto Counties  
Jennifer Thiele, PhD- Professor, Louisiana State University (LSU); manages Facebook  
TBA-NE Regional Consultant

### Friends of M&O Counties Literacy

Claudia Bartz  
Jill Cholewa  
Nancy Crevier  
Romelle Delzer  
Francis Lewandowsk  
Daniel Slater  
Judy Sytsma  
Chris Verges

### CONNECTIONS:

#### We support or are supported by:

COAB-Coalition on Adult Basic Education  
Coleman Municipal Building  
Crivitz Woman's Club  
North Coast Marine Manufacturing Training Center, Marinette  
NWTC Marinette  
Oconto Falls Senior Center  
Oconto Falls H.S. FBLA & Business Class  
ProLiteracy  
Wisconsin Literacy Council, Inc.  
WVCA Wisconsin Volunteer Coordinators Assoc.

**TUTORS:** If you're looking for an election season resource for adult learners, you can download a free [2024 Voting Guide](#). The plain-language guide from *News for You* explains the who, why, and how of voting. The guide also provides key definitions and offers tips on staying informed and understanding campaign ads and debates.