

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.

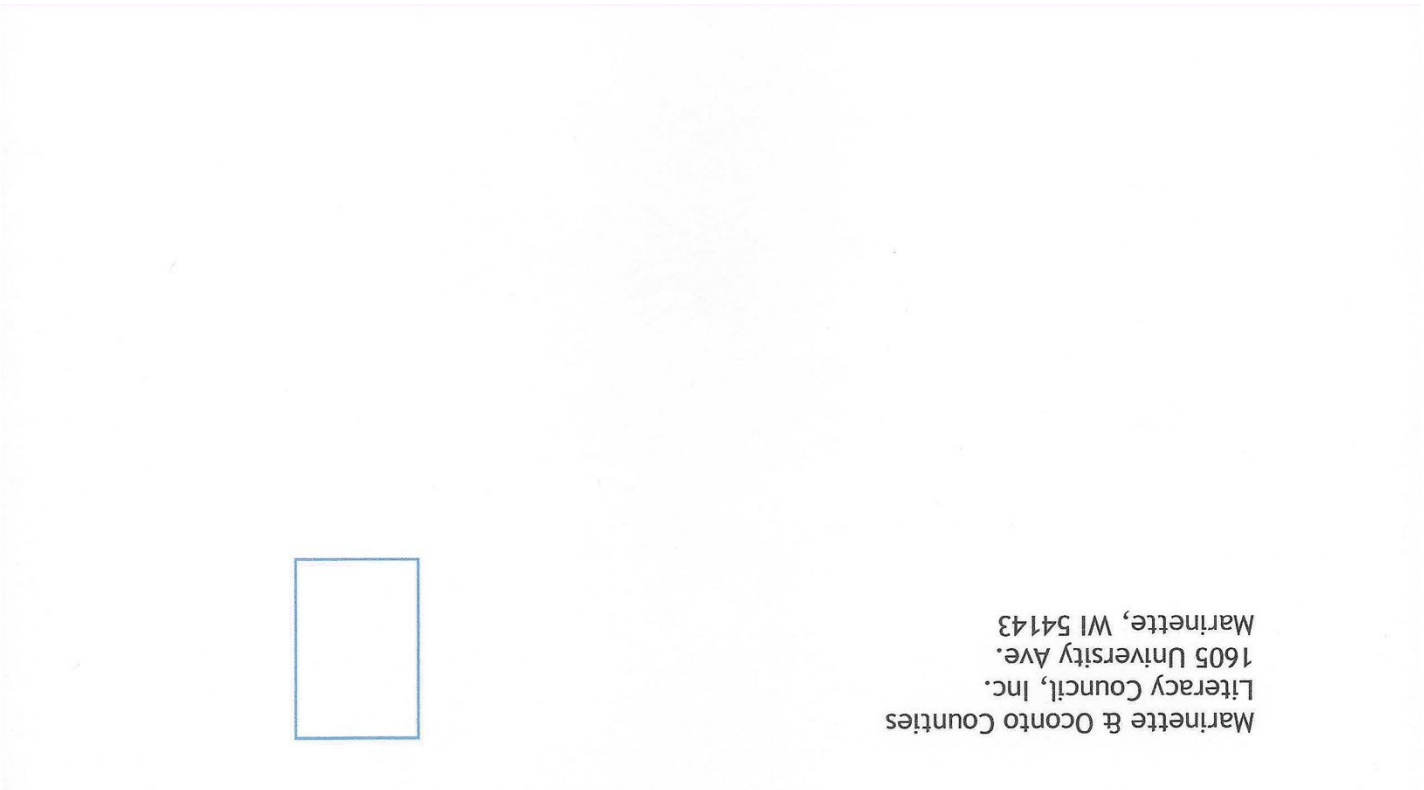
Vision Statement

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.



Tutor Talk

Winter, 2025
Volume 11
Issue 1

A Newsletter for and about the Marinette & Oconto Counties Literacy Council, Inc.

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<http://facebook.com/MarinetteOcontoCountiesLiteracyCouncil>

In Spanish or English, the word is still...

Excellent



Festival Hispano was celebrated in Marinette on Saturday, September 21 on Stephenson Island. National Hispanic Heritage Month is from September 15 - October 15 each year. It honors the history, culture and contributions of Latinos whose heritage is from Spain, Mexico, Central & South America and the Caribbean. The entire island was full of food trucks, dance lessons, various churches and organizations and, of course, our own literacy council since Janet was distributing brochures. It was a hot day but being right on the river, a nice breeze was blowing.

Thank you to our Hispanic neighbors for your contributions to our country.

For this lady tutoring is “a piece of cake.”



Sylvia’s class: Marclay, Erica, Sue, Augusman, and Telo.



Sylvia Zane

Sylvia (Sue) Zane was trained as a tutor in Sept 2023. Then, in Oct. 2023 she began her first tutoring class with a group from Haiti. Here she was a brand-new tutor and she began with a group! Way to go, Sue! Most of the group speak French/Creole but Sue also took 2 students in a separate group who spoke only Creole. This was a fun challenge for her. This group has continued to meet since that date in 2023.

Now, Sue is seeing her French speaking students reach their goals and move onto other things. In fact, it sometimes becomes difficult for them all to meet because of varying schedules. Several have gotten their driver's licenses or began a CNA class and all have become employed. The group feels like they have done more than what they expected they could do. And, this is all because Sue has worked so well with the group; encouraging them, believing in them and always keeping a sense of humor.

Because of all this, the students are moving on and will set further goals. With the help of Sue's guidance, the students can now do decision-making on their own. They feel excited, although somewhat scared, but they say they are so glad for Sue's initial instruction and assistance. Sue plans to continue tutoring the Creole-speaking students since she will work with them on their English-speaking skills; although they have reached the goal already of becoming employed.

Because of all these accomplishments and because some of the students are now "on their own", Sue was officially thanked for her time and service and a cake was shared in her honor.

Thank you, Sue, for all you've done and for what you continue to do with your small group going forward. You have helped an entire group of people, new to this country, on a good path of knowledge and experience. We appreciate your service.

Board of Directors

Officers:

Janet Glime, President

Marycarolyn Jagodzinski, VP

Allen Bartel, Secretary

Diane Nichols, Treasurer

Linda Bublitz

Leonard Burns

Mike Churchill

Vicki Dobratz

Brenda Friction

Carol Lee Saffioti Hughes

Advisory:

Candy Descharne, Consultant for Tutor Training

Howard Eslien, Attorney

Sarah Ferdon, Foodwise Nutrition Coordinator at the UW-Ext, Marinette & Oconto Counties

Robyn Hallet, WI Literacy NE Regional Consultant

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

Jack’s Market supports Rounding Up

North Coast Marine Manufacturing Training Center, Marinette

NWTC Marinette

Oconto Falls Senior Center

Oconto Falls H.S. FBLA & Business Class

OEC Grant

Pirates of the Northwoods Parrot Head Club in Lakewood

ProLiteracy

Peshtigo City Hall

Stephenson National Bank

Wisconsin Literacy Council, Inc.

WVCA Wisconsin Volunteer Coordinators Assoc.



January 21, Tuesday 1:00 P.M. Literacy Board Meeting at the Coleman Village Hall, 202 E. Main Street.

Annual Meeting: On the agenda is voting for new officers.

February 18, Tuesday 1:00 P.M. Literacy Board Meeting at the Coleman Village Hall, 202 E. Main Street

March 18, Tuesday 1:00 P.M. Literacy Board Meeting at the Coleman Village Hall, 202 E. Main Street

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

This and That

Interesting Immigration Info:

President Janet Glime was pleased to see that we now have an Immigration Attorney in Green Bay and has taken students there who have made appointments. The cost is approximately \$6,000, requiring much documentation and the actual court hearing may take several years to be scheduled. But it is worth it for those who would like to stay in the USA legally.



Family Literacy

A mother's reading skill is the greatest determinant of her children's future academic success, outweighing other factors, such as neighborhood and family income.⁹

Under consideration: The board may be hiring a first-time paid position to help run our Council. Stay tuned...

Games for Adult English Class

Make your own Bingo Sheets
Try Word Bingo at:

<http://myfreebingocards.com>



M&O Counties Literacy Council				
literacy	citizenship	volunteers	Tutor Time Out	confidence
digital skills	adults	community	math	positive
family	programs	FREE SPACE	workforce	speaking English
cultural awareness	test prep	tutors	write	contributing
service	read	students	health	mission

M&O Counties Literacy Council				
read	digital skills	adults	cultural awareness	workforce
tutors	contributing	programs	write	literacy
students	positive	FREE SPACE	mission	confidence
citizenship	math	test prep	speaking English	health
community	volunteers	Tutor Time Out	service	family

US Facts
48 Million

Approximately 48 million adults in the United States cannot read above a third-grade level.¹

The Cost of Low Literacy

\$2.2 Trillion

Bringing all adults to the equivalent of a sixth-grade reading level would generate an additional \$2.2 trillion in annual income for the country.³

\$106-238 Billion

It is estimated between \$106-\$238 billion in health care costs a year are linked to low adult literacy skills.⁴

November 2024 Tutor/Student of the Month



Tutor: Carol Lee Saffioti-Hughes
Students: Patrick & Christine Dooko

Carol Lee requested information on becoming a volunteer tutor in May 2024 and by June began tutoring her first students, who she had volunteered to help. Meeting the couple both at church and in the community, Carol Lee realized this couple would appreciate assistance on improving their spoken and written English and proceeded from there. Carol Lee's background as a college English professor certainly did help but, more than that, her kindness and empathy were very evident and heartfelt. She used the books given but also asked about others when needed. Meeting at the Lakewood library was a halfway point for them both and a bright part of their day and week. Although her tutoring will soon get a break due to her students moving out of the country for the winter, she looks forward to seeing them again in the summer when they plan to return.

Congratulations, Carol Lee, on being chosen November 2024's Tutor of the Month!

Patrick and Christine were born and raised in Camaroon, located in Western Central Africa where the primary language is French, along with many African dialects. Basic English is taught in schools in Camaroon but the couple would like to improve their English so they may find some employment while here and mingle with the community. They are currently residing in Wabeno but meet with their tutor, Carol Lee, at the Lakewood library. Patrick completed nursing school in Camaroon, along with a Master's program. The couple has begun becoming active in the community, joining a church and attending community gatherings. Because their son is currently stationed in Morocco, the Dookas plan to spend the winter with his family there (where the weather is mild in the winter) and are looking forward to seeing their grandchildren. Patrick & Christine have told Carol Lee they plan to return next summer and plan to reconnect with her then. Being with the Dookas is a breath of fresh air as they always smile, are gracious and kind and laugh easily. They have improved their spoken English and reading ability and enjoy their lessons with Carol Lee, who has been a good friend to them. Thank you, Patrick & Christine for putting forth your best effort in class with Carol Lee.

Congratulations Patrick & Christine on being chosen November 2024 Students of the Month!

Oct 2024 Tutor/Student of Month Tracy & Daniel



Congratulations Tracy and Daniel
for being chosen as October's
Tutor/Student of the month!

Tracy learned about being a literacy tutor, along with her husband, in 2021. She had several students following that but none showed as much promise to excel as her current student, Daniel. Of course, Tracy goes the extra mile for the sessions with him, which is very much appreciated. Tracy is kind, considerate and shares in the joy for her student's successes. Tracy says that Daniel tries hard and is courteous and considerate.

Daniel was matched with Tracy in August 2024 and they meet at the Coleman Library. He likes using the books: English/Spanish dictionary, the book Aprender Ingles & the Immigrant Guide. He is learning English, local customs and idioms in class and feels he is able to comprehend English better both at work and in the community because of his classes. Daniel's sense of humor keeps the classes fun. He appreciates Tracy's kind patience with him and enjoys class time with her teaching. He even invited Tracy to his birthday party! And, although Tracy could not attend, he did inform her of the fun time he had.

Go For the Gold



Marinette Health Fair for its city and county employees was held Wednesday, October 2, 2024. Held at the Marinette Rec Center, the hall was full of vendors from all over Marinette and beyond telling of their concern for people's physical, mental/emotional and spiritual health. Of course, our literacy council had a vendor table sharing how being able to read and speak English can be considered good health also. With the theme being "the Olympics", our table stated "Go for the gold Learn to read". Helping at the literacy table was Bud Bartel, Marycarolyn Jagodzinski and Janet Glime.



Author! Author!

Yup, We Have Two
Published Authors who
are Trained Literacy
Tutor in Our Council!

Carol Lee Saffioti Hughes and Colleen Wicker have both been trained as literacy tutors, and Carol Lee also has begun a term as a member of the Board of Directors. They have something else in common: they each have authored at least two books.

Carol Lee retired back to this area after serving as an English Professor for 33 years at UW-Parkside in Kenosha. She also entered and won a local poetry contest and she held a poetry workshop. She has been involved in area libraries since her return to this area. The two poetry books she is shown with are:

- *The Lost Italian* and the *Sound of Words*, published in 2002
- *When Wilding Returns*, published in 2022

Carol Lee has also written a book for students on how to write effectively. Carol Lee has "visions of helping young people to write poetry, especially during the month of April, which is national poetry month."

Colleen and her husband, Joe, have long been members of the local community while Colleen served on the Friends of the Suring Library Board. Joe and Colleen together used to sing and share humor with local nursing home residents. Colleen has published two books:

- *Tubsey's First Winter*, published in 2014. This was Illustrated by Mavis Suring who was then 91 years young.
- *Life and Times in Rhyme*, published in 2017. This book came about through the encouragement of Colleen's friend, Marycarolyn Jagodzinski, a literacy Board member.

Colleen's first published article was titled "Fun" in a children's magazine. She has also had several poems published in the TV Guide and in the local newspaper.

Both of these women have had a lifelong quest of sharing their love of reading and poetry with others and hope to continue with this dream. Their hope is that, through the literacy council, they may help others, be they students or tutors, develop a love of reading and writing.

Thank you, Carol Lee and Colleen, for showing us what can be accomplished because of a dream.