



# Read All About It!

Volume 3, Issue 1

August 30, 2006

**Leon County  
Reading  
Council**

*46 Years as  
Literacy  
Leaders*

## President's Message from Linda Heller



Dear Leon County Reading Council Members,

Wow! What a year! Under the leadership of President Sharon Hinsley and Past-President Shannon Ayrish the Leon County Reading Council grew to almost 800 members. The number of programs we sponsored expanded from the highly popular "Vote for Books" to the new middle school "Poetry Jam." And the crowning glory of the whole year was probably the collection of over 14,000 books which were delivered to schools devastated by hurricane Katrina in Ocean Springs, MS. For the 18<sup>th</sup> year in a row we received the IRA Honor Council Award.

This year we intend to continue the same programs that have been so highly successful. Our goal is to have more members participate in planning, carrying out and attending the events we offer to enrich the lives of people not only in Leon County but everywhere. We will continue to have the fall Membership Party, sponsor the Leon County Spelling Bee, co-sponsor the Big Bend Regional Spelling Bee, facilitate the Young Authors Writing Contest, the annual Spring Banquet, book drives for the needy, and other literacy events and training opportunities. This year we will be adding a mini conference in April with breakout sessions, a luncheon and featured author.

I strongly believe the slogan "it takes a village to raise a child" can be applied to our organization. If all members can take it upon themselves to recruit one new person to join and contribute time, resources or talents to the programs we sponsor, the impact we can have on the lives of children and families will be increased substantially.

A love of books and reading begins at home and flourishes as it is supported by the community. "Take Reading To Heart" and help to make it a part of everyone's life. You are a vital part of our organization. Please take a few moments to think about what you can do this year to help us make a difference.

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Leon County Reading Council is a non-profit organization affiliated with the Florida Reading Association (FRA) and the International Reading Association (IRA).

**MEMBERSHIP PARTY  
SEPTEMBER 25TH  
22ND FLOOR OF CAPITOL!**

# Literacy Award Winners for 2005-2006

by Shannon Ayrish

The **Leon County Reading Council (LCRC)** works to promote literacy at all levels throughout the community. We are fortunate in Leon County to have so many talented and dedicated educators, volunteers and parents who work hard to provide for students' literacy needs.

The Reading Council recognized individuals who have made outstanding literacy contributions by presenting them with the LCRC Literacy Award at our annual banquet on Thursday, April 27, 2006.

## **Patricia Rouse - Reading Coach BelleVue Middle School**

"Getting students excited about learning is one of Ms. Rouse's assets. She does the afternoon announcements at Belle Vue and makes sure that students leave school excited about what they have learned each day. She also uses this time to encourage students to challenge themselves and read, read, read!"

- Reginald Griffin

## **Grandpa Fred Hollis - Volunteer at Oak Ridge Elementary**

"Fred Hollis, Sr. [is] a wonderful literacy mentor [in] my first grade class. He has motivated them to enjoy literature through his reading with each child every

day, during our center time. He is 91 years old and gives each child the benefit of his wisdom and wit! They have read numerous folktales together from the Waterford Early Literacy Program and have lively discussions about the characters and plots of the stories. He also brings in special books that teach the children valuable life lessons. The children are so proud of their ability to read the stories independently, showing how their hard work and focus pays off. And Grandpa Hollis is so proud of them. He calls them his "beautiful people" when they leave each day. I am humbled to be in the presence of such wonderful relationships that go far beyond basic literacy... to what literacy provides...a world of values and experiences that we all share and can rejoice in."

-Sally Feehrer

## **Hal Pitts - Principal at Buck Lake Elementary**

"Mr. Pitts has been the principal at Buck Lake for twelve years, and during that time he has made many outstanding contributions to encourage reading and writing with our students, parents, faculty and staff. He is well respected by everyone in our Buck Lake community. Mr. Pitts is admired and revered throughout the county. He sup-

ports reading and writing at every level with the students at Buck Lake and also with the faculty and staff. He attends the book studies and learning communities in which the faculty and staff are involved. Mr. Pitts is dedicated to student learning and achievement, and he is willing to go the extra mile to ensure that all students, teachers and staff have the necessary tools to be successful readers.

-Nancy Reddick

## **Noreen Beattie - Reading Teacher at FSU School**

Noreen Beattie is a teacher and mentor who has made significant contributions to the literacy program at Florida State University Schools. Her experiences as a Summer Reading Academy Developer have allowed implementation of reading intervention strategies as the first reading teacher at the middle school. Ms. Beattie is an individual who has made significant contributions to her school and profession in literacy education."

-Rodney Ryan

Congratulations to these outstanding literacy leaders! We appreciate your efforts and outstanding contributions to literacy education in Leon County.

## "It's A Capitol Idea" Leon County Reading Council 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Mini Conference April 21, 2007

By Linda Heller

The Leon County Reading Council board has decided to hold a reading conference in Tallahassee similar to "Reading By the Bay" sponsored by Bay County Reading Council. Many LCRC members travel to Panama City each year to this mini conference and we hope you will continue to do so.

While sharing to and from the conference, several members have discussed holding a conference in Tallahassee. We have lots of local people that would make excellent presenters. Likewise, it would be a

great opportunity to invite speakers to our area.

If you would like to be a presenter or you know someone who would be a great presenter, please fill out the "Application To Present" in this newsletter or you can find it at our website <http://meL25345-01.k12.fsu.edu> online.

We have named our mini conference "It's A Capitol Idea," which is the slogan printed on our logo.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 21, 2007. The conference will be held at Lawton

Chiles High School. Registration and breakfast will be from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Sessions will begin at 9:00 a.m. Our annual LCRC Banquet will be held at noon (this will take the place of the evening Spring Banquet held in the past at the Ramada Inn). A special featured author will be our speaker.

Plan now to attend and help us make this an annual event. Tallahassee is the capitol of the state. Let's make a statement of leadership and provide an example of excellence in promoting literacy education.

## LCRC: What Does It Offer Me?

By Sharon Hinsley, Past President

### LCRC offers its members what they value:

**STRONG FOCUS** for literacy topics,

**OPPORTUNITIES** to make use of your unique talents with literacy issues,

**FREEDOM** to create and innovate through grant initiatives and workshops,

**OPPORTUNITIES** for "making a difference" in literacy instruction, and

**FUN** working and meeting with other individuals who have a passion for literacy and reading.

### Your membership in LCRC provides you these benefits:

- 1 A means of extending your abilities in the field of reading and education within an atmosphere of positive fellowship.
- 2 Professional networking with fellow members
- 3 Experience in leadership positions through committee work and by taking part in special interest groups
- 4 Possession of professionally sound in-service materials through its workshop offerings
- 5 Affiliation with the Florida Reading Association and the International Reading Association.

# Let's Care and Share a Book

By Sharon Hinsley

When Hurricane Katrina left schools in ruins on August 29, 2005, LCRC took charge by donating classroom books and other instructional materials. After contacting the MS Reading Association for guidance, the hard hit schools of Ocean Springs, MS, were chosen. Taking into account the huge devastation left on schools in this small district, the Council began a campaign to help TEACHER-TO-TEACHER and student to student by giving books for teachers' personal classroom libraries and school libraries.

More than 14,000 books were delivered on Saturday May 20 to Principal Linda Budinich at St. Martin North Elementary, our "clearing house" school. These books were from Pre-K to 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

Many individuals, schools and businesses helped with this project. It is my hope that your school is not left off this list. Please let me know if additions need to be made to the schools or persons who donated books.

THE STORAGE CENTER (Donation of FREE storage space for books)  
Anonymous (\$ Donation toward truck rental)  
Esposito's Garden Center (\$ Donation toward truck rental)  
Envision Credit Union (\$ Donation for gas)  
Wal-Mart  
Flagler College - Education Department  
Epiphany Lutheran  
Holy Comforter  
Maclay School  
Saint Paul's United Methodist Church  
Trinity Catholic  
Astoria Park  
Buck Lake  
Canopy Oaks  
DeSoto Trail  
Gilchrist  
Hawks Rise  
Leon High School (What a book drive! Six thousand books from your school!!)  
FSUS  
Rickards High School  
Roberts

Thank You

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Young Authors Writing Contest

By Lynn Peterson

It is time to start collecting your students' stories for this year's competition. We have exciting events planned for this year. There will be a reception for all writers at the Leon County Public Library on March 1, 2007. Winners in different age categories will be given cash prizes at the Young Authors Reception. The top writers in each category will be invited to



attend a Saturday workshop with a local author.

**The deadline for submitting entries will be January 12, 2007.** Promotional flyers and entry forms will be given to LCRC building reps in September.

For more information call Lynn Peterson at 488-1074 or email your questions to peter-sonl@mail.ruediger.leon.k12.fl.us.

# LCRC's First Annual Middle School Poetry Jam Rocks!

By Jenny Beyer

Last May almost 50 middle school students from around the district had the chance to show off their poetry and performance skills at the Leon County Reading Council's First Annual Middle School Poetry Jam. Hosted by Dr. Nile Stanley from the University of North Florida and preceded by a poetry workshop for teachers, the contest gave students the opportunity to perform original or recited poetry for a live audience. The jam was held in the Rickards High School auditorium on May 9 and featured students from Cobb, Raa, Nims, and Deerlake middle schools, as well as students from Holy Comforter and Florida High. In addition to the obvious entertainment that our middle school poets provided, Professional Storyteller and Florida High eighth-grader Tyler Smith wowed the audience with original stories and songs as the judges deliberated.

Amelia Jones of Florida High took third place in the contest with "A Tear," Victoria McNeil from Holy Comforter placed second with "Old Porch Swing," and Shonn McCloud was the contest's big winner with his poem "I Must Overcome."

Sherkira Stacey of Cobb won for Best Recitation of a Published Poem with "Africa" by an unknown author. Nate Grimsley of Cobb won for Most Inspirational Poem with "Struggle," and Cobb student Simon Kennell took the Most Humorous win for "My Locker."

All winners were recognized both on poem content and on performance skills. We were incredibly impressed with all of our young poets and can't wait to see what this year's Poetry Jam has in store!

## LCRC Poetry Jam winner Shonn McCloud's Poem,

### "I Must Overcome"

I must overcome the click and the tick of life  
I must overcome racism, criticism, and all of  
the others, but  
I must overcome the trial that stretches  
longer than the Nile

The thrust of lust  
The pain of fear  
The penetrating luminous lies I hear  
The perpetual motionless life we live

I will overcome the what if and juvenile trips  
I will overcome the stunning, gunning, and  
turning of life.

The sweat of tears  
The height of my fears  
The black of white  
The custom cracks in hell

Oh please overcome! I yell  
Oh yes! Oh yes, I will!

## Membership Party

Mark your calendars for Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup> for the Annual Leon County Reading Council's Membership Party. It will be held on the the 22<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Capitol. It is an exciting opportunity for us to meet each other and find out what the Leon County Reading Council is all about. How awesome to be able to overlook Tallahassee, the capital city, while browsing the art work of local author Melinda Cooper. She was featured in the *Tallahassee Democrat* just last week. There will be door prizes provided by local merchants and refreshments provided by SRA McGraw-Hill. Please make every effort to attend. I promise you will be glad you did!  
- Ava Lee, Membership Chr.

## CALL FOR PRESENTERS!

Leon County Reading Association

*"Reading Is A Capitol Idea"*

*Mini-conference*

Saturday, April 21, 2007, Tallahassee, Florida

### Presenter Information

PRESENTER(S) \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION (for introduction) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Session Information

**Session Title** \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas Addressed (circle all that apply)**

Technology, Language Arts, Reading, Writing, Math, Social Studies, Science,  
ESE, Music, Art, P.E., Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Session: (circle all that apply)** Hands-on, Process, Demonstration, Make-and-Take, Multiage, Lecture,  
Strategies/Techniques, Training, Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Session Description** (Include in your narrative specific description of areas addressed, subject integration and type of session as indicated above. This information will appear in the program guide.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**CIRCLE GRADE APPROPRIATENESS:**

Pre-K, Upper Elementary, Primary, Middle School, Multi-age, High School, Administration

**CIRCLE EQUIPMENT NEEDED:**

TV Monitor, VCR, Overhead projector, screen, or LCD projector

You are responsible for furnishing any other equipment not listed above.

Wish list of equipment if available \_\_\_\_\_.

**Return by September 29, 2006, to:**

Linda Heller

President, Leon County Reading Association

P.O. Box 14128

Tallahassee, Florida 32317

FAX 850-488-1218