

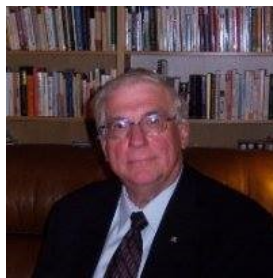


"Literacy is one of the greatest gift a person could receive."

— [Jen Selinsky](#)

Preparing the Ship for a Bold New Future

By: Richard Chagnon



Summer, or the second and third quarters of 2017, saw some breakthroughs in our ability to serve the Eastern Shore of Virginia. We deepened and solidified what we already had, and further strengthened our new avenues of service, namely Family Literacy and Coaching for Citizenship.

Strength of Meaningful Relationships.

2017 has been a banner year in further developing effective working relationships with the school systems of Accomack and Northampton counties, the Public Library system with its locations in Chincoteague, Accomac, Nassawadox and Cape Charles, and the major banks of the Eastern Shore by partnering with them on their community development teams. Together we look for areas of mutual benefit and deliver our services with more targeted results.

As Brian Patterson, Principal of Pungoteague Elementary, reminded us, "We are working with the parents of the children they have in school." Of course, the schools want to work with us. Everybody wins! Every day!

Fund Raisers. Following the very successful **Spell Rite** competition in April, **Feed-a-Mind** in June was fed by a wide array of restaurants and food establishments on Virginia's Eastern Shore. Strong and committed participation from these restaurants was key. A particular highlight was Johnny Mo's contribution of music and a large fund raising auction at Mallards on June 25th. Preparations for the **October 6 Drive for Literacy Golf Tournament** started in July and is well underway for another "fun event", as described by some of our participants. Accolades go to Yvonne LaChapelle for all the time and energy she is devoting to make our events successful.

Grants. Grants have been received from United Way of Virginia Eastern Shore for \$5,469, Virginia Literacy Foundation for \$5,000 and Gannett Foundation for \$1,000, each supporting the excellent work our staff is doing. Many thanks to United Way of Virginia Eastern Shore, Virginia Literacy Foundation, and Gannett Foundation.

Coaching for Citizenship. Thanks to the work of two of our tutors, Peggy Keating and Pat McArdle, two learners are well on their way to becoming full citizens. Stay tuned for further progress in this area.

Citizenship was granted to our former learner Luz del Carmen Flores on August 14. We are all proud of her and happy to officially welcome her as citizen. (see page 2)

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This is what Success Looks Like

"In order to succeed, we must first believe that we can."
— [Nikos Kazantzakis](#)



August 14, 2017 is a day Luz del Carmen Flores will never forget.

"My name is Luz del Carmen Flores. I'm from Mexico, and I want to thank you for granting me citizenship in the United

States" were the words she practiced over and over again while she was waiting to be sworn in as a citizen in the United States Court building in Norfolk on that Monday.

"When my husband asked me to marry him, I was only thinking about being with him for the rest of my life." Luz admits that leaving Mexico and her family and moving to Virginia was a big step, especially when she couldn't speak English very well. She also had to give up her consulting business and probably wouldn't be able to get a job as a CPA in Virginia without knowing English well.

In spite of the drawbacks, love won out. Luz did marry Valerio Montalvo and now keeps the books for the Don Valerio's restaurants. To more fully address her concerns about the move, she came to the Literacy Council to ask for help in speaking English.

"She is the brightest, hardest working student I've encountered here on the Shore," her tutor, Betty Mariner, reported. "She did homework and even spent many additional hours using the internet to further research what we studied. Being there when she got her citizenship was one of the happiest days of my career as teacher and as a long-time friend."

We are all extremely proud of Luz del Carmen Flores and happy to welcome her as a citizen of the U.S. Congratulations LUZ!

Top left photo: Left to Right— Betty Mariner and Luz del Carmen Flores

Family Literacy Night is a Huge Success



"All I have learned, I learned from books."
— [Abraham Lincoln](#)

Our main focus for family literacy night is to provide families with the opportunity to build their knowledge and interest that assists with their growth within the community and involvement in their children's success as well as their own.

Each of the lessons that is presented to the families promotes interactive activities that focus on improving their literacy skills, becoming an active member in the community, and building positive home and school relationships.

Guest speakers who presented at our family literacy night are representatives of well-known organizations in the community such as Chincoteague Bay Field Station, Eastern Shore Public Library, and Chincoteague Island Museum.

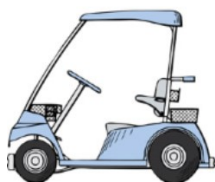
Family Literacy Night takes place every 2nd Wednesday of the month at Metompkin Elementary School. All our learners and tutors are invited to attend. Please call so we have enough supplies for all.

Tutors Needed-New Tutor Training

We love our tutors! They give generously of their time and knowledge to help adults on the Shore improve their English skills. But, we have learners waiting to be matched to a tutor, and we just don't have enough tutors.

Won't you consider becoming a tutor? No special training is needed. We train you and give you the materials you need to be a great tutor. Our next tutor training is scheduled for late September, give us a call at 757-789-1761 or email us at esliteracy@gmail.com for more information.

Drive for Literacy Golf Tournament 2017



The 21st annual Drive for Literacy Golf Tournament, known as the most fun tournament on the Shore, will be held Friday, October 6 at the Eastern Shore Yacht and Country Club to benefit the learners of the Eastern Shore Literacy Council (ESLC). Shot Gun Start is at 1:00, immediately following a buffet luncheon starting at 11:30. Supporting sponsors are PNC Bank and Perdue, with PW Davis Disposal and Tyson providing the lunch and social hour, and Seaside Properties, Ocean Bay Enterprises and Hall-Richardson providing beverage carts. Many shore businesses and individuals have donated hole sponsorships. The day will wrap up with presentation of prizes at the social hour following the tournament.

Registration is \$100/individual and \$400/team.

Sponsorship levels are:

The Pro-\$2,000 includes your name in the title and 2-4 person teams.

The Ace - \$1,000 with team entry included

The Greens/"Fore" Play – \$500 sponsor our lunch or social hour-fees paid for 2 golfers.

"Water Hazard" – \$250 sponsor a Beverage Cart.

Hole Sponsor-\$100.

All sponsorships include signage posted at the tournament and media promotion. Sponsor and registration forms are available on our website at www.shoreliteracy.org.

You can win a new car from Buchanan Subaru or Midway Toyota with your hole-in-one in addition to First and Second place prizes for teams with best net and gross scores (that means 4 teams win!).

- The biggest winner, of course, is the non-profit Eastern Shore Literacy Council. We are in our 31st year of providing free literacy services to adults on the Eastern Shore.

Sponsorship deadline is September 8, registration deadline is September 26. Contact the us at 789-1761 or esliteracy@gmail.com.

Feed-a-Mind Fun

This year 17 restaurants continued their sponsorship of Feed-a-Mind and 6 food trucks up and down the Shore joined with their support to make Feed-a-Mind a huge success. The total amount raised was more than \$6,000 to support Literacy on the Shore. We greatly appreciate each and every restaurant and food truck sponsor for their participation and contribution to our Feed-a-Mind events. See our Facebook page for a full list and more pictures.

Huge thanks to Johnny Mo who did a magnificent job as our host and auctioneer during our deck party and auction at Mallards at the Wharf in Onancock. Also special thanks to our Mallards celebrity bartender and Fair Grounds wait staff who consists of Bill Hall, Kelley Gaskill, Leslie Hart, Tres Atkinson, Royce Stafford and Mary Margaret Browning. Special thanks to everyone who took time out and supported our Feed-A-Mind event by dining at our participating restaurant and food truck sponsors and bidding at our auction.



Eastern Shore Literacy Council

29300 Lankford Hwy.
Melfa, VA 23410

Phone: 757-789-1761
757-789-1795

Staff

Richard Chagnon - Executive Director
Brittany Pettit - Office Manager
Yvonne LaChapelle - Event Coordinator

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PERMIT NO 104
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23350

Want to stay up to date on with all the latest news and events of the Eastern Shore Literacy Council, find us on Facebook and like our page on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/easternshore.literacycouncil



Change a life. Volunteer to be a tutor. Call 757-789-1761 or email esliteracy@gmail.com

Preparing the Ship for a Bold New Future Continued from page 1

Family Literacy now has a stronger foothold in our program offerings. A recent event on August 9th during the Summer Program at Metompkin Elementary highlighted what can be achieved. Maria Grenchik from the Museum of Chincoteague skillfully led both adults and children in working together on an oyster can labeling project. Much fun and much learning.

The **Metompkin Program** is now delivered year round. A Wednesday night class during July and August continued the excellent work begun during the school year on the Mondays and Wednesdays of 2016-2017. Child Care on these days made the attendance of families fully possible. This will continue.

Progress is being made on many fronts. We are making a difference, and the future is wide open.

Yes, I would like to donate or attend the Drive for Literacy Golf Tournament

I would like to make a tax free donation to sponsor ____ a learner \$60 , ____ a tutor \$120, ____ a class \$500, ____ other

I would like to attend or sponsor the Drive for Literacy Golf Tournament ____ hole sponsor \$100 ____ play(how many) \$100

Send this form with your check to the address above. Check for total of \$_____ enclosed.

PAYPAL may be used for donations to Eastern Shore Literacy Council

Name: _____ Phone _____

Mailing address: _____

Street/PO Box

City & State

Zip

Email: _____ ***Yes, send me this newsletter by email in 2017*** _____

