



LITERACY HI-LIGHTS

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Spring 2020

"I wish it need not have happened in my time," said Frodo. 'So do I,' said Gandalf, 'and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide.

All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us." —

J.R.R. Tolkien

Board Members
Steve Doan-President
Philip Wilson, VP
Jackie Davis— Treasurer
Karen Morris-Sec'y
Wanda Caffrey
Lakesha Gummeson
Peggy Keating
Diane King

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Spell-Rite Spelling Bee

Friday, September 25, 2020



You won't want to miss the 19th annual Spell Rite Adult Spelling Bee at the Great Hall at ESCC where 6 local teams vie for the title of "Best Spellers on the Shore". Are you a good speller, and know 2 friends who might join you in this fun competition? Would your business become a sponsor? We are also looking for volunteers for the night to help setup and cleanup, serve at the buffet table, and help with the auction. Please email us at esliteracy@gmail.com for information about sponsorship, participating, or volunteering. .

We are so excited to announce that Joan Carrow, owner of Heavenly Creations will be catering our event with fried chicken, pulled pork, sides, and dessert. She is well-known on the Shore for her wonderful food.

Doors will open at 5:30 so that you can get a look at the fabulous items available for the silent auction as well as enjoy a beverage while browsing. We will be updating auction information as we get closer to the event but it will be full of great gift certificates, delicious baked goods, and needed services all donated to help us continue to provide FREE English lessons to adults on the Shore.

Name the ESLC Learning Owl



Even as COVID-19 continues its charge, the Eastern Shore Literacy Council is springing up. A new member of the Council family recently arrived, weighing under one pound, and measuring 14 ½ inches tall. While not able to go out in public yet, the Eastern Shore Literacy Council will begin to travel with its newest addition when restrictions have been lifted. In the meantime, help us name our newest edition by entering our contest. Email your submission to esliteracy@gmail.com by 5 p.m. on April 30, 2020 using the subject "Name the ESLC Learning Owl" or enter your submission in the comments section on our FB page. In the case of duplicate name submissions, the first person who submits the name will be entered in the contest. The winner will receive a gift certificate to the Book Bin.

Literacy Council Appoints New Executive Director

*NEVER climb
higher than you'd
care to fall
NEVER buy
something just
because it's cheap.
NEVER go
anywhere the water's
too deep
NEVER eat
Road Runner.
EVER. At all—
Wiley. E. Coyote*



Rose Rulon

The Eastern Shore Literacy Council Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Rose Rulon as Executive Director. Rose comes to the Literacy Council with over 20 years of work experience with local non-profit organizations, including the Eastern Shore of Virginia Chamber of Commerce and ESVA Tourism Commission, the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore, and the YMCA of South Hampton Roads. Since retiring as Business Director at the Eastern Shore Family YMCA in 2015, Rose has been working part-time at YMCA Camp Silver Beach.

“This is a time of opportunity and growth for the Eastern Shore Literacy Council. Rose brings with her the talents, enthusiasm and confidence needed to move the organization forward,” stated Steve

Doan, Board President.

Rose said, “Literacy is more than just reading. It’s about increasing knowledge and it’s about succeeding. I’m excited to be working with an energetic board of directors, staff, volunteers, tutors and most of all the learners, as we build on 34 years of service to the community and continue developing programs and partnerships to provide free tutoring opportunities for adults needing to improve literacy skills.”

The Eastern Shore Literacy Council provides adults over the age of 18, with the very lowest literacy levels, tutoring through two programs: Adult Basic Education (ABE) and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). All instruction is free. After successful completion of ESLC programs, learners are eligible to take GED and other programs offered by Eastern Shore Community College.

Moving Forward

Our plans for the future are a bit unclear right now but we will be doing another book drive with the Kiwanis Club of Accomack over the summer, as we did last year, and have books available for distribution in Sept. It will take place during the June -early Sept period. We are looking for children's and young readers (up through Jr. high age) books. Are your kids growing out of their old books? Please keep us in mind as you clean out the bookshelves at home and email us at esliteracy@gmail.com if you have books to donate.

Eastern Shore Community College made an incredibly fast move to online learning and it is definitely an approach we will be investigating going forward. We have some challenges to overcome as many of our learners do not use computers, have no internet, and do not have an appropriate device to be able to use a platform like Zoom or facetime. We are taking advantage of webinars explaining how to implement

these new initiatives, and we are looking at moving our learner database to a web-based program to allow more working from remote locations as we anticipate disruptions going forward.

We are also looking into seminars for adults on the Shore to learn the basics of “practical internet use” which would include how to order groceries online, access a medical portal, check bank accounts, and order prescriptions. We anticipate that local banks would participate in these events. Many seniors on the Shore needed grocery delivery but were unable to order for themselves. Although Shore Delivery Corps made “tutors” available many were still afraid to try.

The generous grant we received from the Eastern Shore of Virginia Community Foundation has helped to fund the purchase of laptops for a potentially mobile office situation.

Our Tutors/Board Members in the Community

*“Where are we going, Poob?’
Home, Piglet. We’re going home because that’s the best thing to do right now.”*
—A.A. Milne



Although we are not currently tutoring, our volunteers are keeping busy helping those in need during this emergency.

Tutor and Board Member Peggy Keating has stepped up her commitment to Manna Café CI, which is a food pantry in Chincoteague. Started in 2017 by Bill and Fran Lytle to provide food, fellowship and love to both the attendees and homebound residents on Chincoteague, it has evolved from serving a free lunch weekly to a total of over 21,500 guests in 2019, having a “take” table, and delivering lunch to 70 homebound individuals into operating a full service food pantry. In partnership with the Tasley FoodBank through the TEFAP(The Emergency Food Assistance Program) which provides American-grown USDA food to low-income Americans, Manna Café picks up 6000 lbs. of food weekly with a few teams of individuals—each team limited to no more than 10. Peggy and her husband Kevin are two of the people who break down and pack the boxes for distribution. With other volunteers, they also deliver lunch to 80 homebound residents, make sure they are ok, and respond to their needs.

Over the past few weeks their food distribution day has seen an increase from 33 families a week to 121 last week. Manna Café is a 501c3 charity. <https://mannacafeci.org/>

“There are days when solitude is a beady wine that intoxicates you with freedom, others when it is a bitter tonic, and still others when it is a poison that makes you beat your head against the wall.” —
Sidonie-Gabrielle Colette



Board President, Steve Doan, is a semi-retired minister and has continued to minister to the Melfa United Methodist Church congregation and now hosts a weekly live Facebook service each Sunday morning. Because he is high risk, he does it all from home. Steve is shown at left with his wife, Donna, also a minister.



Board Treasurer, Jackie Davis is a key player in the Shore Delivery Corps, a new non-profit formed to assist our fellow Eastern Shore citizens who are at the highest risk for serious complications from the COVID 19 pandemic with the intent to keep this population at home and out of public places. From Jackie “We are engaging volunteers who are at the least risk of COVID 19 severe complications to deliver the needed medical supplies and prescriptions as well as perishable and non - perishable groceries to the doorsteps of the COVID 19 high risk population in as practical a virus free manner as possible”.



Shore Delivery
Corps

Jackie’s particular mission is in evaluating the most practical way working with all of our Shore resources to identify the highest risk citizens of the Shore and creating the Database of citizens in need, their contact information, address and identify a generic “needs” checklist that could be utilized as a template to coordinate needs of highest risk demographic with the supply chain committee. For help with your grocery delivery contact Shore Delivery Corps at <https://www.shoredelivery.org/> or 757-801-9950.

Eastern Shore Literacy Council

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Staff

Rose Rulon - Executive Director

Yvonne LaChapelle - Office Manager

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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.
Email esliteracy@gmail.com
Follow us on Instagram at [esliteracy](https://www.instagram.com/esliteracy)*



Yes, I would like to support Spell Rite Event 2020

I would like to purchase _____ tickets @\$40 for Spell Rite 9/25/20

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

PAYPAL may be used for donations/tickets to Eastern Shore Literacy Council

I can't make it to Spell Rite but enclosed is my check for \$_____ as a donation.

Name: _____ Phone _____

Mailing address: _____

Street/PO Box

City & State

Zip

Email: _____ *Yes, send me this newsletter by email in 2020* _____