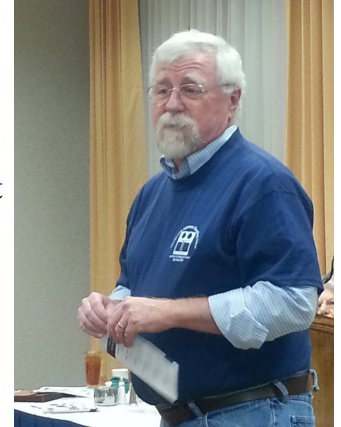




THE BULLETIN

FLORENCE EXCHANGE CLUB
THE OLDEST SERVING SERVICE CLUB IN THE SHOALS BEGINNING JUNE 1921

Northwest Alabama Reading Aides, located at 501 N Seminary St., is spreading awareness of its adult literacy services to Franklin, Colbert and Lauderdale counties. “The organization has been around since 1977, and there are still so many people in the Shoals who don’t know who we are,” said Jim Green, Northwest Alabama Reading Aides Director. “The goal is to change that so when you meet someone who can’t read, you know that you’ve heard of an organization somewhere that’s free and that can help.”



The mission of the Northwest Alabama Reading Aides is to provide individualized instruction in ESL, reading, writing and English language skills to adults 16 and over in our area empowering them to become self sufficient, health conscious, confident members of the community.

The Northwest Alabama Reading Aides aims to significantly decrease the number of illiterate adults in the Northwestern region of Alabama. “Our program also strives to decrease unemployment rates by preparing individuals for the job application process. We hope to educate our students in a variety of ways by increasing reading levels and knowledge of basic technology,” Green added



The Laubach method was developed specifically to help adults with limited or no reading skills achieve success and become confident readers. This series works even with learners who have had negative experiences with other reading programs. This comprehensive four-level phonics-based reading and writing program has repeatedly been shown to be a highly effective method for teaching adults to read and write.

“NARA is a private, non-profit organization funded by the United Way of the Shoals, private foundations, and local contributors,” Green said. “I’m the only part-time staff working with 60 volunteers.”

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**April 30
FOOD RUN**

**May 3
Peggy O’Steen**

**May 9
Board Meeting**

**Freedom Shrine
Presentation**

**May 10
Joe Patterson**

2015-16

OFFICERS

Adin Batson, *Pres*
Bert Bretherick
Pres. Elect
Brian Maples
Vice Pres.
Teresa Robertson,
Imm. Past Pres.
Laura Williams
Secretary
Howard Tinsley,
Treasurer

DIRECTORS

One Year

Frank Eastland
Vance Persall
Jenny Mitchell

Two Year

Joe Patterson
Doug Evans



The election of 2016-17 officers and board members was approved by the members on Tuesday. A listing of members will be in the next Bulletin.

The organization provides one-on-one tutoring for adults in the community that are illiterate or functionally illiterate. We have trained tutors who provide non-readers with personalized teaching. "We have some students who meet once a week for an hour and other students who might meet two times a week for two hours," he said. "Our goal is to help the student meet their goal. We find out what the student wants to achieve, and we make that happen."

The program will also completely protect the student's anonymity, Green said. No one knows who the students are, and they are never advertised unless they want to tell their stories.

NARA also works with stroke survivors whose reading abilities have been compromised due to a stroke and host stroke support group meetings twice each month. All tutors work on a voluntary basis and all services are free to students.

Northwest AL Reading Aides partnered with UNA Honors Program to present FREE conversational English classes. This is hands-on activities to help learn English, discussing current topics, common slang terms, and cultural differences to help learn English, learning common words and practices to comfortably go through the job application/interview process and more.



Editor Note: The current member status is 39 Active, 5 At Large, totaling 44. FEC started July 1, 2015 with 48.

List of prospects:

Eric Foster; Billy Hammock; Steve Chenault; Jimmy Williams; Bryant Pruitt; Anita Marks; Joel Quillian; Eddie Buckley; Chris Chamblis; Jeff Butler; Chad Pickett; Stephanie Pinckard; Barry Griffin; Brice Curtis and J. R. Sharp.



Volunteer on April 30 at Food Land on Cox Creek and Cloverdale Road. The program will start about 8 AM with the drawing about 10 AM.



The FEC has been invited to set up an educational booth at the YMCA next May 18 (Wednesday). Time will be 8 AM to noon. Table and chairs will be available. More info will be given later.



The **PICNIC** Committee has announce the date of May 24 as a tentative date for the Annual Picnic. It will be held at the McFarland Park along the river. All are invited so plan to bring family and friends.

Joe Flippen has announced that a 30-plaque Freedom Shrine will be installed at the Lauderdale County High School in Rogersville at 2 PM Monday May 9.