



President's Message

The Pandemic affected our students and tutors, yet we remain committed to serving our community. Through the kindness of our Grantors, Donors, Tutors, and Board, we continue to fulfill our mission. The Whittier Area Literacy Council has not stopped tutoring at our facility or online.

As a tutor and board member for over twenty years, I have enjoyed assisting our non-profit in support of Whittier and the surrounding communities with better literacy. Since the summer of 1962 when Dr. Laubach spoke to many residents on the need for literacy, we have tutored first adults, then English as a Second Language, and for decades now-children.

This spring, we intend to stage our Soup & a Good Book Event at our facility. For the last several years, we held an online event. Our students wrote an essay or poem which was read by either the student, their tutor, or a board member. It was fun but we missed seeing everyone in person.

Please join us this spring as we grow our program to serve more students.

Cel Carr
President

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Making a Difference

On December 10, 2022, WALC Board Members were invited to attend a Family Literacy Festival held at Ellen Ochoa Prep School in Pico Rivera. Hundreds of free books were being offered not only to our organization but also to children and families in the surrounding area. We were able to select books and also pick up duplicate copies so that tutors and their students can both have the same book during tutoring sessions.

In charge of that event was ERUSD Resource Teacher Lilia Carreon. I had been urged to contact her by Pat Almada, who serves on WALC's board. Pat had been Lilia's third-grade teacher. When I mentioned Pat's name, Ms. Carreon's eyes lit up, and she said, "Oh, Ms. Almada helped me **so** much! She knew that I needed some extra attention and did not hesitate." All these years later, Ms. Carreon remembers that help and the difference that one-on-one attention can make. She, in turn, is helping students: carrying on the torch. KUDOS to both Pat Almada and Lilia Carreon!!

Barbara Walters



Principal for a Day at Hoover Elementary School

On November 2, 2022, I had the pleasure of serving as "Principal for the Day" at Hoover Elementary School in Whittier along with a local counselor named Maria Duarte from Spirit Family Services. The experience was enjoyable and unique. I had a firsthand experience of meeting very dedicated staff and teachers who were instructing over 300 students. Each day the students were individually greeted by their principal and counselor at the school's entrance. Then I had a continental breakfast with their principal, Jennifer Capitolo. Next, I visited several 2nd to 5th-grade classrooms. I saw firsthand how the students learned to read, spell, and measure the land for a fifth-grade garden project.



Each student was fully engaged and enjoyed their learning experience. You could see the magic in their eyes. I also saw a second-grade class perform a country square dance routine. Additionally, I met the fifth and fourth-grade student council members. It immediately brought back memories of serving on my Junior and High School's student council. We were also treated to a fabulous lunch at the Whittier School District and had our pictures taken. Moreover, all participants received a beautiful plaque! I encourage other Board Members to undertake this great experience!

Anna Hinkle / Community Liaison and Board Member



Holiday Luncheon

On December 10th, members of the WALC Board were able to meet and enjoy a delicious lunch at El Cholo Restaurant. Our tutors, as well, were invited, and several were able to join us. The restaurant was festively decorated for the holiday season, the food was delicious and those attending were delighted to once again enjoy socializing in such a warm and friendly atmosphere. Adding to the festivities were fun gifts and raffles which helped to make the occasion truly "merry and bright." A fine time was had by all.

Celia McCabe

Bertha's Empowerment

When Bertha started tutoring, she had rudimentary English. She wanted to improve her writing, reading, speaking, and English comprehension skills. She had her sessions here at the center at the same time as her 10-year-old daughter. Bertha had a thirst for biographies of people who made a difference. She was also interested in the science of biology. During the two and a half years that I tutored Bertha, she increased her reading skills. Bertha read books such as "House on Mango Street" by Sandra Cisneros and the biography of Cesar Chavez. Bertha's huge accomplishment was getting a job promotion and raise. She was now able to quit her second job. Bertha's perseverance in learning helped her fulfill her goals of a better life.

Michael Saldivar

A New Face in Town

We are delighted to welcome Stephanie Ramirez Garcia, Outreach/Education Coordinator, to our WALC family! Stephanie is a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles where she majored in Political Science and Sociology. The Boys and Girls Club of Whittier will fund this full-time position as part of our new partnership created to serve the academic needs of our community. Stephanie is fully bilingual and has three years of experience tutoring minority students. The Outreach/Education Coordinator's primary function is to recruit, retain, secure, and train volunteers in the implementation of a pre-selected curriculum for reading and writing. She will be out in the community recruiting in the mornings and at the council in the afternoon to support our tutors. We thank Oscar Hernandez, Executive Director, and Laila Sanchez, Area Director, of the Boys and Girls Club of Whittier for their assistance and generosity in the creation of this wonderful partnership.



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WALC would like to thank you grant funders, whose generosity and commitment to sustain WALC in our mission to provide literacy skills to our students.

BCM Foundation	Whittier Host Lions
East Whittier Lions Club	Sunrise Rotary Club
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Oltman's Construction	LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn
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**Whittier
Area
Literacy
Grant
Funders**

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Email:

walcread@gmail.com

Visit us on the web at

walcread.org

What legacy would you like to leave the world?

WALC cherishes the support you have afforded us through the years as a tutor, donor or volunteer. You know us well and understand the importance of the work we do. You might consider extending your support for generations to come by making a planned or legacy gift to the Whittier Area Literacy Council, Inc.

(ID: 95-4769694)

A legacy gift can be a simple bequest in a will or trust, a beneficiary designation in a retirement fund or life insurance policy or a contribution in honor of a family member or event. If a legacy gift is something you would like to consider, please consult with your tax or legal advisor as to the benefits you may be entitled with respect to this or any other charitable gift.

Mission Statement

WALC is a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to teaching people to read, write, and speak the English language (for free). WALC has served Whittier and adjacent communities since 1962. WALC's mission is to build a stronger, more literate community by connecting those who can help with those who need it the most. Through your generous donation, you can help WALC achieve its mission.

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