

MARC Connections

Reflections from the Director



Kristen Kohn,
Executive Director

The saying goes “*Time flies when you’re having fun*” and indeed, it’s hard to believe that I already have one year with MARC under my belt. Each day has brought new discoveries about the impact of our work and the capacity of our volunteers and donors who make our mission possible. I want to personally thank you for your warm welcomes, encouragement, and faithful support of this vital organization. This year has brought many changes to MARC, but our personal, confidential approach to learning remains the same. At our mid-year point, our tutors have already logged over 300 hours of learning, empowering learners to find employment, apply for citizenship, and discover the joy of reading. Several new tutors have joined our ranks and we are excited to be using updated, top-notch training materials. Whether you worked as a tutor, or assisted in the office, I would like to extend a big **thank you!** Our dedicated volunteers are the backbone of our organization.

We’ve also been busy reaching out to our community. Our Linking to Literacy initiative was developed to improve our connections in the community. Perhaps you have seen our new flyers around your neighborhood or you’ve stopped by our booth at an expo. We’re promoting our literacy services to connect with new learners and volunteers. As a MARC supporter, we hope you feel connected, too. We’re utilizing our Facebook page, our website, and our newsletters to keep you in the know. Looking ahead, MARC has some wonderful plans in the works. As we recruit learners, new volunteer tutors are needed. Consider becoming a MARC tutor— you won’t regret it! Together we will continue to work to improve lives in Montcalm County through the power of literacy. I’m looking forward to the progress ahead!



We celebrated our volunteers and said a special thank you and goodbye to retiring Board Member Loren Strothiede!



Promoting family literacy at our Popsicles in the Parking Lot event with Alpha Family Services.



MARC presented tutor Christina Carpenter with the William Cook Spirit of Learning Award



MONTCALM AREA
READING COUNCIL

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UPCOMING EVENTS

International Literacy Day
Saturday, September 8

MARC Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 11

Adult Education & Family
Literacy Week
September 23-29, 2018

National Tutoring Week
October 1-5, 2018

MARC Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 9

 Find us on
Facebook

A Note of Thanks

I would like to thank the MARC members for their lovely honor of naming your annual Spirit of Learning Award in Bill Cook's name. For a naturally humble and caring man, he would have been so pleased. MARC was truly his "baby" and he worked diligently to make sure it was doing what it was meant to do. He was a truly giving man both financially and of his time and talent. MARC will continue to grow and it will continue to have the presence Bill wanted it to have. Thank you for thinking of him. He would have loved it.

- Harriette Cook

**New
Tutor
Training**

New tutor trainings are on the horizon! If you would like to get involved, please contact the MARC office ASAP!

AEFL Week is Coming

September 23-29 is National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week, an annual event that raises public awareness about the need for and value of adult education and family literacy.

Why celebrate AEFL Week? Increasing adult education opportunities gives those with low literacy skills a chance to find a job, educate their own children and live healthier lives. And because the affects of low literacy are cyclical, family literacy programs offer a multi-generational solution. Of the 93 million adults in the U.S. functioning at or below basic levels of literacy, 30 million are the parents or primary caregivers of children ages 0-8. Family literacy services brings parents and children together to support and encourage life-long learning.

Join the celebration! Here is how you can help:

- Share our social media messages on Facebook and Twitter
- Call on your elected representatives to support adult education and urge employers to invest in adult education.
- Support MARC as we work to promote education our community

We're looking forward to participating in this annual event. Help us advocate for resources that support adult education and family literacy.



Adult Education & Family Literacy Week



Annual Meeting 2018

MARC held its annual meeting on June 12 at the Montcalm Community College Ash TLC building. The following Board of Directors was elected to serve:

Jodi Petersen- Chairperson

Jeanne Trepins- Vice-Chairperson

Erin Tarkington- Treasurer

Shirley Pyle- Secretary

Katie Arwood- Member

Jane Anderson Beach- Member

Mattie Cook- Member

John Ekholm- Member

To learn more about the MARC Board of Directors, please read the biographies on our website.

MARC grants membership to individuals upon receipt of a monetary donation. Membership is annual and renewable. Members have the right of one vote per member at annual meetings. Please join us for our 2019 Annual Meeting.

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Visit our website at www.MontcalmAreaReadingCouncil.com