

June 1, 2011

Meet the ARC Board for 2011-2012

President—Jeanne Cantu

Jcantu98@aol.com

Jeanne is a retired educator having worked 30 years in San Antonio ISD and Northside ISD. At retirement, she was Director of Reading and Language Arts in SAISD. She is now working independently as an educational consultant with districts across the country. Jeanne is proud to be a Diamond Level Abydos Trainer.

Recording Secretary—Laura Raden

jimraden@sbcglobal.net

Laura is beginning her second year on the ARC Board. Last year she served as Corresponding Secretary and Literacy Project Chair. She is a Reading Specialist at Oak Hills Terrace Elementary School in the Northside ISD.

Treasurer—Sheryl Lew

slew@saisd.net

Sheryl has been a Literacy Coach and Reading/ELA Teacher Specialist in San Antonio ISD. She is excited to return to the classroom as a second grade teacher at Smith Elementary. She enjoys all foodie pursuits, watching Johnny Depp movies, and keeping in touch with friends through Facebook.

Past President—Marsha Spizzirri

mkspiz@sbcglobal.net

Marsha has served on the ARC board for the past 6 years and is currently teaching 6th grade Pre-AP English in NEISD. She is proud to be an educator with 25 years of classroom experience. She looks forward to teaching her son how to drive this summer.

Membership Chair—Diane T. Garcia

diane.garcia@nisd.net

Diane is the Instructional Support Teacher for Elementary Language Arts and Reading in the Northside ISD. She has been married for 32 years to a wonderful husband named Ray and has two children, Laura, 22, and Jonathan, 27. In her free time, she enjoys reading and going to BodyPump.

Snapshots from the April 9 Meeting



Dinah Zike
Academy
Consultant, Dr.
Judith Younger,
presented
“Foldables across
the Curriculum.”



We were moved by a presentation of Liberia Now, one of ARC's literacy projects.



ARC Literacy Projects

Liberia NOW

Alamo Reading Council believes it is our responsibility to encourage the joy of reading to our international friends. This year the ARC donated \$250 to Liberia NOW, a faith-based organization whose purpose is to increase literacy in Liberia. The language in their schools is English, but they are lacking in reading materials. Liberia NOW helps to set up community libraries and train their teachers to use best teaching practices such as Guided Reading. They used the ARC donation to purchase dictionaries, biographies of their president, the *Hunger Games* trilogy, and a copy of *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* for every school library.



At the April 9th meeting, Laura Raden presents a \$250 check from Alamo to a representative of Liberia Now.



Jireh House

This year as part of our reaching out to the San Antonio community to encourage habits of life-long reading, the Alamo Reading Council donated \$500 to Jireh house to start a library at their community development and resource center. Jireh house serves the Cassiano Homes public housing project on the west side of San Antonio. The population is 93% Hispanic and nearly 40% of the residents live below the federal poverty level. The children attend SAISD schools. Jireh House provides services in three areas: food, clothing, and education.

Literacy San Antonio Book Drive

Be on the lookout for collection boxes at the SA Public Library and its branches, Firstmark Credit Union, and other business locations throughout the city. The *SA READS...One Book at a Time* Book Drive is collecting books this summer for distribution to school districts in the fall. Please consider donating a new or gently-used children's book for this worthwhile project.

Texas State Reading Association Closes its Doors as of May 31, 2011

In a letter to council leaders dated May 16, TSRA President Betty Forbes announced that the Texas State Reading Association will close its doors as a state association promoting literacy in Texas. The decision was made by the Board of Directors based on data analysis, trends in state associations, and finances. Forbes notes that conference registrations have declined over the past three years as has membership in associations nation-wide. In addition, due to increasing demands on educators, leadership in professional associations is hard to secure.

What this means for Alamo Reading Council is that we will no longer have a unified dues structure with TSRA. Of the \$35.00 membership dues, \$22.50 went to TSRA and \$12.50 to Alamo Reading Council. The ARC Board recently voted to raise our portion of the dues to \$17.50. Members who joined recently and whose checks we still hold will hear soon from the treasurer about their options. ARC continues to be an affiliate of the International Reading Association.