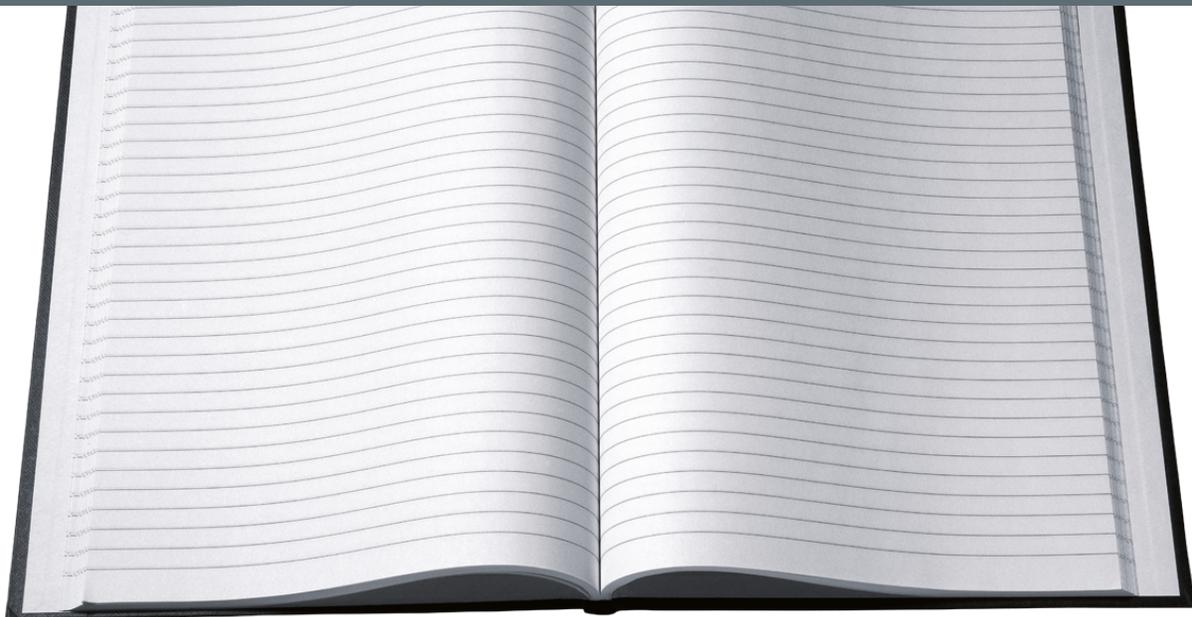


Between the Lines

Literacy Volunteers of Upshur County



Hey, there! Long time no newsletter.

We're back and we have lots of exciting changes to tell you about.

From the Director: Cortney Phillips Meriwether

Well, Literacy friends, it's been a whirlwind 2018 around here so far. We know it's been awhile since you heard from us via newsletter and there have been a lot of changes around here, so we figured it was

about time to catch you up.

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Cortney Phillips Meriwether. I've been a volunteer tutor for the past three years and a member of the Board of...

Continued on

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A New Program!

We're reaching out to the community for help — and you can get involved.

Page 2

A New Website!

A new year, a new director, and...a new website?? Come check out our new online home.

Page 2

A New Raffle!

Learn how you can help us sell tickets — just don't forget to buy some for yourself!

Page 2



Announcing!

Our New Website

We decided 2018 was the perfect time to revamp the Literacy Volunteers of Upshur County website. In addition to the redesign, we also migrated to a new URL.

You can find our brand new site, as well as lots of up-to-date information at upshurliteracy.com. Check it out and let us know what you think!

Introducing: The Community Partners Program

As part of our ongoing effort to both increase community awareness of LVUC's mission and raise the funds to make our operation sustainable, we're excited to announce our new Community Partners Program.

Local businesses and organizations can join our program through a monthly or yearly donation and receive various stages of recognition. These donations are then used for things like maintaining our building, paying our phone bill, and stocking office supplies.

Thank you to the following Community Partners who joined this quarter!

Hank Ellis Insurance

Sam's Pizza

Arch Coal, Inc.

If you or someone you know would be interested in becoming a Community Partner, please give us a call at (304) 472-2343 or visit our new website to learn more: upshurliteracy.com.

Happening Now: BBQ Basket Raffle Fundraiser

For our spring fundraiser, we're selling raffle tickets to a BBQ-themed basket, sponsored by Arch Coal, Inc. The "basket" — which is actually a picnic basket cooler! — is valued at more than \$500 and contains:

- \$200 gift card to Lowes
- \$100 gift card to Wendlings
- \$50 gift card to WalMart
- \$25 gift card to Miss Piggy's BBQ
- Cookbooks, grill tools, sauces, seasonings, aprons, and more!

Tickets are \$1.00 each or \$5.00 for six. The raffle drawing will be held on June 29th — just in time for the 4th of July! We're asking all of our volunteers and students to buy or sell at least one book (six) of tickets. Please stop by 34 Franklin St. to purchase tickets or pick up a book to sell. Let's make this our most successful raffle yet.





Update!

Rachel Strawder Returns for Second Year

Our AmeriCorps VISTA, Rachel Strawder, recently signed on for another year of service to LVUC. We are so grateful for all of the hard work Rachel put in during her first year and we're thrilled to welcome her back for another year. In 2017, Rachel was instrumental in operating our online Amazon store, helping us apply for much-needed grants, improving community outreach, and working through two successful book sales. Thanks for all you do, Rach!

Announcing: Computer Classes Starting in March

Last fall, we began holding group adult computer classes taught by WVU-Parkersburg IT professor Jenny Dawkins. These classes resumed March 16 and will focus on a single topic each session. The next class is March 23. Designed for beginners, these classes are free of charge. While we have a few laptops for class use, students are advised to bring their own laptop and charger — Windows only, please. Space is limited, so call the LVUC office to reserve your spot today! (304) 472-2343

Update: Board of Directors New Members

The Board of Directors held their annual meeting this past summer and voted on new positions within the board, as well as approved two new members. Your current board members are:

Creed Pletcher, president

Matt Kerner, vice president

Jay Bryant, treasurer

Cortney Phillips Meriwether, secretary

Jessica Vincent, WVWC liaison

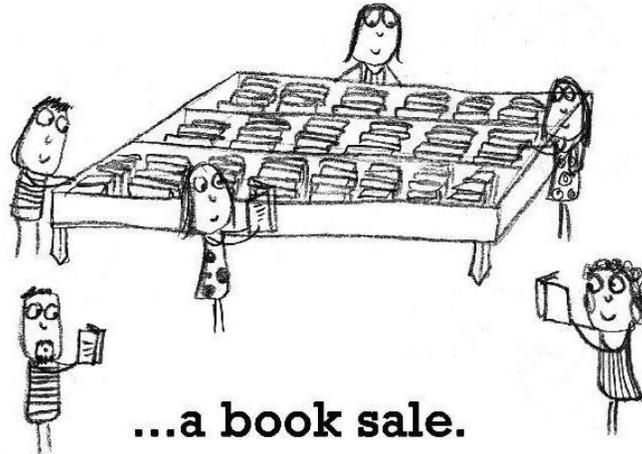
Joe Rogers, member

Leona Foster, member

Lori Ulderich Harvey, member

The board continues to meet once per month and will meet again on April 17th.

HAPPINESS IS



...a book sale.

Coming Soon: Spring Book Sale!

It's that time again — book sale week is fast approaching!

If you've helped out with our biannual book sale before, you know how instrumental volunteers are to making it happen. Please make note of the following dates, let us know when you will be available to help, and spread the word around town! As always, all volunteers are entitled to three free books per day of service, as well as lots of good eats from our community donors.

To prepare for the sale, we'll soon be holding book-sorting parties upstairs in First Community Bank. If you're available to help with book-sorting, please call the office and talk to Rachel about your availability. We're so thankful for your help!

SCHEDULE

Monday, April 9: Set up from 12:00pm – 3:00pm

Tuesday, April 10: Set up from 9:00am – 3:00pm

Wednesday, April 11: Set up from 9:00am – 3:00pm; sale begins 3:00pm – 6:00pm

Thursday, April 12: Sale open 8:00am – 6:00pm

Friday, April 13: Sale open 8:00am – 8:00pm

Saturday, April 14: Sale open 8:00am – 12:00pm; Clean up 12:00pm – 3:00pm

From the Director, con't from Page 1

...Directors for the past six months. I'm currently serving as interim director, which I understand may come as a shock to many of you.

Our previous director, Terri Frazee, accepted a job in North Carolina and moved the beginning of January. While we were excited for her new opportunity, the change happened very quickly and we were again left without a director — a problem that has occurred numerous times over the last few years.

However, this time is different. Our longtime VISTA/VISTA Leader, Kristy Stewart, will be officially assuming the role of director come August 1st. I'll be filling in until Kristy is available to take over and, together with our VISTA Rachel Strawder, we're working hard to restore continuity and consistency to LVUC. Along with the Board of Directors, I wholeheartedly believe Kristy is the answer to our past several years of director woes. I'm excited to see how our organization can thrive under her direction.

In the meantime, you'll find me sitting behind the big desk and plotting future fundraisers and events. I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to give back to a place that has meant so much to me these past three years. If we haven't met before, please stop by and say hello soon. We'd love to tell you more about what we're planning.

Happy Reading!

Cortney

A Big Thank You: Our February GoFundMe

Thank you to everyone who shared our February GoFundMe page on Facebook. In less than one week, we raised \$3,000! These donations will be instrumental in funding our operations over the next few months. The GoFundMe page is still live and we've set a new goal of raising \$5,000 total. Please continue to share this page and give what you are able. You can find the page at:

<https://www.gofundme.com/literacy-volunteers-needs-your-help>.

Report: "Learning Made Fun"

On February 23, Rachel hosted a nutrition-themed Learning Made Fun event for current students. Paula Strawder, a local registered dietician, taught the students how to make healthy fruit punch, pineapple cream cheese spread, and ice cream in a bag. There were eight students in attendance, all of whom received a recipe packet and door prizes. Thank you to Paula and Rachel for this great event!



Literacy Volunteers of Upshur County
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(304) 472-2343

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upshurliteracy.com



Community Partner