

November 2011



## Nebraska Branch Celebrates 30 Years

November 5 marked a special day – the celebration of 30 years of the Nebraska Branch of the International Dyslexia Association helping struggling readers succeed.

Thirty members and guests enjoyed a morning of renewed friendships. Katie Songster, David Staenberg and Steve Bush shared their personal accounts of their own victories overcoming dyslexia. The founding board of the organization was recognized for their dedication and support throughout the years.

Outstanding achievement awards were presented to Joan Stoner for her leadership throughout the years, to Mary Lou George for her involvement in developing instructional programs to serve individuals with dyslexia, and to Molly Moller recipient of a Nebraska outstanding teacher award. President-elect Eileen Vautravers reviewed the 2011 accomplishments and shared insights about plans for 2012.

Dr. Eileen Vautravers, President-elect, shared the following as a closing to our Celebration (quoting portions of the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi as it applies to each of us in our work, past, present or future with children and adults with dyslexia).

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred of reading, let me sow love;  
Where there is doubt in one's abilities, let me sow faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
Where there is sadness, joy in learning.*

## Founding Board Members of NE-IDA Recognized

In 1981 a group of individuals came together with a united purpose to increase awareness of dyslexia across the state of Nebraska and to improve the resources and services for evaluating and treating it.

On November 5 these 19 individuals were recognized by the Nebraska Branch of the International Dyslexia Association for their vision, dedication, and determination to create this statewide resource for individuals, families, and educators.

NEIDA would not have celebrated 30 successful years if it had not been for their faithfulness to this cause.

NEIDA extends to you our greatest admiration and deepest gratitude for a job well done. A sincere 'thank you' is offered to each of you from the hundreds of children and adults with dyslexia for whom you made a difference in their lives.

### Founding NE-IDA Board of Directors 1981-1982

Loel Brooks	Laura Burton
Dr. Beverly Doyle	Cuz Johnson
Dr. Richard Eisenhauer	Judy Hoppe
Judy Kirsch	Helene Krivosha
Richard Metteer	Lu Pansing
John Prasch	Goldie Quinn
Dr. Herbert Reese	Ginny Reese
Kent Seacrest	Judy Spaur
Joan Stoner	Marty Strong
Dr. James Travis	



*Dr. Joan Stoner (right) is recognized at the first meeting of the Nebraska Dyslexia Association by Carolyn Brandle, past-president.*

## **RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NEBRASKA DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION**

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Joan Stoner, President of the Nebraska Branch of the International Dyslexia Association, has provided for thirty years exemplary leadership to NEIDA; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Joan Stoner has provided for nearly forty years significant contributions to the International Dyslexia Association of her time and leadership as Branch Council Chairman and Secretary; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Joan Stoner has been instrumental in establishing educational programs for primary, secondary and college level students with reading, writing, and spelling deficits; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Joan Stoner has improved the lives of countless children by investing innumerable hours in providing effective reading instruction to students with learning disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Joan Stoner has improved the lives of countless children and adults by providing and promoting the education of teachers in effective reading instruction; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Joan Stoner has donated immeasurable time and financial support to improve the awareness and remediation of dyslexia throughout Nebraska;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors of the Nebraska Dyslexia Association does hereby recognize and honor Dr. Joan Stoner for her contributions, her passion and her faithfulness to her life's work – improving awareness and remediation of dyslexia.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **A tribute to Joan Stoner by Steve Bush**

“From time to time I walk out into the dark night... look up into a starry sky.  
The moon pauses momentarily and my heart is filled with song.  
I begin humming quietly, not to the music, but to something else...  
Someplace else...A time remembered.  
A time when a young woman took time away from her family to teach me to read!”

*(Adapted from “A River Runs Through It.”)*



### **Member Alert! Nebraska Dyslexia Association Created**

In October, the Board of Directors of the Nebraska Branch of the International Dyslexia (NE-IDA) voted unanimously to relinquish our status as a chartered branch of the of the International Dyslexia Association effective October 31, 2011.

The organization will continue under the name of the **Nebraska Dyslexia Association** and retain its 501(c)3 status as a non-profit organization. The mission will remain the same – to serve families and educators throughout Nebraska.

Please join the Nebraska Dyslexia Association as soon as you receive the membership mailing. Your membership in IDA will continue until its expiration date. You may become a member of the Nebraska Dyslexia Association, a member of The IDA, or a member of both organizations. You will also have a choice to become an IDA member with another state branch or become an IDA member-at-large until your IDA membership expires.

#### **The Nebraska Dyslexia Association’s mission is to:**

- Improve educational opportunities for students with reading, writing and spelling deficits.
- promote education of teachers in research-based approaches to reading instruction.
- work with teacher education providers to require research-based training for teacher certification.
- provide information and support to parents and the public on reading problems.



### **Nebraska State Reading Association Conference February 23 - 25, 2012 Kearney**

*Get ready to CONNECT with fellow educators,  
with books, with authors, with specialists,  
with ideas galore!*  
[www.nereads.org](http://www.nereads.org)

### ***How to Become a Reading Tutor***

For Elementary Age Children

**February 13 – March 5, 2012**



#### **Southeast Community College, Lincoln**

Reading is the basis for learning and school success. While reading is learned primarily in the classroom, many students need extra time and help. Join other adults who want to become reading tutors for students in Kindergarten through fifth grade.

Learn practical, easy-to-use methods for helping students who are struggling with reading. You will discover successful techniques that help students learn or regain literacy skills, review structured lesson plans and learn how to measure student progress. Participants will spend five hours working one-on-one with K-Fifth grade students during class to practice and refine techniques.

Find information and online registration at <https://webadvisor.southeast.edu>, click on Continuing Education and search for “reading tutor” to find the course. Or contact Nancy Holman at [nholman@southeast.edu](mailto:nholman@southeast.edu), 402.437.2712 or 800.828.0072, ext. 2712.

## **Nebraska Branch of the International Dyslexia Association 2011 Accomplishments**

Thanks to the dedicated, hard-working members of NE-IDA, we continue to spread the word about dyslexia awareness and provide much-needed resources to children, families and educators throughout Nebraska. This year included numerous accomplishments.

### **Community Outreach**

- 5 presentations to pediatricians and staff about dyslexia and preschool and school-age Screening
- 2 fundraising and informational displays at Barnes and Noble book fairs
- Regularly-updated website with new Speakers Bureau of educational program offerings
- 6 newsletters
- Press release about Dyslexia Awareness Month activities
- Governor's Proclamation for October Dyslexia Awareness Month
- Parent Training Center , Bellevue
- American Academy of Pediatrics Kansas Chapter's Dyslexia Task Force
- Lincoln Public School director of Junior ROTC program

### **Parent Workshops**

- Holdrege ESU 11
- Southeast Community College

### **Teacher In-Service**

- Montessori Preschool – 12 attendees
- Holdrege ESU 11 – 95 attendees + 2 well-attended sessions
- Lincoln Catholic Diocese
- Holdrege workshop for high school teachers – 12 attendees

### **Teacher-training Courses (All 1 Week Courses)**

- Wayne State College – 17 attendees
- Bellevue – 6 attendees
- Kearney – 7 attendees
- Holdrege ESU 11– 15 attendees
- Holdrege ESU 11 (2 weeks)
- Inland Empire Southern California IDA Branch-sponsored - 6 attendees
- Lincoln – 6 attendees

### **Conference Presentations**

- Plum Creek Festival, Concordia College, Seward – 25 attendees
- Nebraska Speech Language Hearing Association, Kearney – 75 attendees
- Nebraska State Reading Association, Kearney – 10 attendees

### **Contacts**

- 26 e-mails with at least 70 correspondents
- 12 phone calls

## Celebration Honors Founding Board Members of NE-IDA

President-elect Dr. Eileen Vautravers presents recognition awards to the founding board members who attended the 30-year celebration in Lincoln on November 5.



**Dr. Beverly Doyle**



**Virginia (Cuz) Johnson**



**Dick Metteer**



**Lu Pansing**



**Goldie Quinn**



**Loel Brooks**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Nebraska Dyslexia Association 2012 Calendar**

Join us for these upcoming events throughout 2012, and stay tuned for more announcements.

#### **February 13 – March 5**

Reading Tutor Training  
Southeast Community College, Lincoln

#### **February 24-25**

Nebraska State Reading Conference  
Kearney

#### **March 3**

Parent Involvement Conference  
ESU 5  
Fairbury

#### **March**

Practical Pediatrics 2012 Update  
Creighton University

#### **March**

Journey into Dyslexia  
Community Awareness Event, Lincoln

#### **April 27-28**

Nebraska Christian Home Educators  
Association, Indian Hills

#### **September**

Plum Creek Festival  
Concordia University, Seward

#### **October – Dyslexia Awareness Month**

Nebraska Lutheran Teachers Conference  
Lincoln Catholic Diocese Conference



## Banner County Names Nebraska Paraeducator of the Year

*By KAY GROTE, Staff Reporter, Scottsbluff Star Herald  
Published: Wednesday, November 16, 2011*

Sharon Lease, who has served the Banner County School district for 15 years, was recently honored as Nebraska Paraeducator of the Year.

Lease was recognized for her exceptional work in Title 1 and special education assistance in elementary classrooms. Lease is also a bus driver for the school district.

Lease received the award last month at the 21st annual Paraeducator Conference in Kearney.

The Nebraska Council of School Administrators gives this award. She was among only three recipients of the award from across the state.

According to Banner County School superintendent Lana Sides, Lease has been a positive influence for students and is always encouraging them. "She has a superb work ethic and a genuine compassion for students," she said.

Lease was originally hired as a kindergarten paraprofessional and is now a half-time Title I/half-time special education paraprofessional. She assists in the instruction of Soudy Phonics, Read Naturally, language arts, agriculture and family consumer science curriculum, and study skills.

### Nebraska Dyslexia Association Board of Directors

Joan Stoner, President

Eileen Vautravers, President- elect

Gwelda Carlson, Treasurer

Stacey Conroy

Shelli Cook

Tricia Fuchs

Kate Hatch

Sheri Jablonski

Becky Kugler

Gina Fuelberth, Vice President

Peggy Stahr, Secretary

Carolyn Brandle, Past President

David Staenberg

Linda Lannin

Molly Moller

Cheryl Reed

Owen Saunders

Virginia Johnson, ex-officio

Sharon O'Neal, ex-officio

## About the Newsletter!

Share your story! Share a book summary! What's going on in your school? Parents, what are your concerns and questions? Send your thoughts about our conferences and workshops! YOU, the members, help to make the newsletter. Send information to Gwelda Carlson [gjcarlson@windstream.net](mailto:gjcarlson@windstream.net).