



Build Our Mission ...

Join the Network

WE LEARN

Mission Statement

WE LEARN is a community promoting women's literacy as a tool that fosters empowerment and equity for women.

Hello WE LEARN Supporters!

I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself to you. **I'm Stacie Evans, WE LEARN Board Member and chair of the newly-created Membership Committee.**

This new role involves increasing awareness of and membership in WE LEARN. It will be my job and my pleasure to stay in touch with all of you, to keep you informed about what the Board is doing, keep you up to date with WE LEARN, facilitate your involvement with the organization, take your suggestions and feedback to the Board, and make sure you get the most out of your membership.

Not too long ago, we asked current members to tell us why they are members of WE LEARN. Some of their responses are included here, and I thought I would share my own WE LEARN experience.

I've been a member since the first WE LEARN conference. **I loved the idea of an organization centered around women's literacy and social justice.** Once I got to the conference, I fell in love: I found myself in a room full of interesting, intelligent women discussing subjects I cared deeply about. I knew then that I would maintain my membership, but it wasn't until after the second conference that I found a way to get more involved. I worked on the conference and *Women's Perspectives* committees and presented workshops and facilitated panels at the annual conferences. I was elected to the Board in 2007 and am now taking on this committee chair position.

If you have questions about how you can become more involved with WE LEARN, please feel free to email me: girlgriot@gmail.com. I look forward to working with you in the coming year!

-- Stacie Evans

Dear Colleagues...

National events of the past months have given WE LEARN both simultaneous cause for concern mixed with renewed hope and gratitude. WE LEARN understands these are difficult financial and political times. It's always been hard for us to ask for money and volunteer time because we know our supporters are both underpaid and overworked. In spite of these limitations, though, we also recognize how you value our work and want to help us build our capacity.

We know our mission inspires many people. We see how many students, teachers and community activists have benefited from our work and programs. Over our short 5 years, we have slowly and steadily grown -- both our financial base and our communities of support. WE LEARN has managed to survive (like many of our members) with limited resources. As women, we know how to accomplish a lot with a little.

But we know our constituents can and will benefit from more of what we vision. **So, we need you now more than ever -- both your creative energy and your financial support.**

Foundations have fewer grantmaking dollars available and more needs to address. Even so, WE LEARN has not been able to fit well with those funds; we don't offer direct services; we have specific priorities not often grant funded; and we will not chase money that distracts us from our mission.

Even social change organizations prefer to fund concrete and quantifiable actions for change. WE LEARN knows that women must first learn and emphasize individual power and leadership as a critical step towards achieving the community power and institutional change we seek.

As a grassroots movement-building organization, we believe it's as important to do "friend-raising" as well as "fund-raising." THEREFORE, we offer several meaningful and accessible options for your support -- both through active participation and through financial donation.

Thanks. We look forward to your involvement.

Mev Miller, Ed.D., Executive Director

Get connected to a network of concerned people who understand that women's literacy supports improvement of women's personal lives as well as our communities.

More than an organization...

WE LEARN creates a broader grassroots movement for social change by supporting women's learning.

As I work on the Board of Directors, I can be an advocate for women in literacy programs. WE LEARN is a program to take women to the next level in life. And it is an honor for me to have something to do with that. Students need to have a voice. I can represent the student voice of literacy women.

-- Diana Hunter, San Diego, CA

I am a new member of WE LEARN because women should empower themselves and be empowering to others. I agree that women are still excluded from making decisions about their lives. Training women and giving them skills will help change their lives and give them better self-esteem.

*-- Emma Torrez, Student,
Kennewick, WA*

WE LEARN has a mission statement that reflects my values. The radical, collective, sharing and supportive structure builds community, so hard to find for many of us. Focusing on women and literacy goes to the root of many social and political challenges that need to be urgently addressed. The projects with low income women and women in prison especially resonate with my sense of a population profoundly impacted by the empowerment goals of WE LEARN.

*-- Linda L. Anderson,
Hamden, CT*

What Dues & Donations provide for WE LEARN

80% of WE LEARN's income directly support our projects (20% for operations)

60% of our annual budget depends on member/donor support

Dollar by dollar - YOU make the difference - no amount is too small (or too large)!

Some examples...

- ☆ \$25 = one Honorable Mention award for student writing in *Women's Perspectives*
- ☆ \$25 = one registration for student to attend the annual conference
- ☆ \$50 = one Honors award for student writing in *Women's Perspectives*
- ☆ \$200 = one panelist for the annual conference
- ☆ \$350 = one year of Internet access
- ☆ \$500 = print & mail member newsletter twice a year
- ☆ \$800 = telephone conferencing for Board, Work Groups and Committees working across the country to plan the conference, *Women's Perspectives* & other events
- ☆ \$1000 = prints 200 copies of *Women's Perspectives*

I am a member of WE LEARN because I share your vision and believe in your work. I am a retired College of Public and Community Service (UMass, Boston) faculty member and participated with my students in the first WE LEARN conference that was held at U Mass. I was bowled over then by the thoughtfulness and thoroughness with which the conference was planned and the sensitive ways in which the conference embodied the aspects of your vision. You created a space where women grappling with literacy could fully participate and where the commitment to social change and social justice were palpable. I am not an active member now but I continue to be impressed by the quality of your newsletters and the reports of your activities and I am happy to make financial contributions.

--Vicky Steinitz, Massachusetts

ABE Students, Educators, Tutors, Administrators, Support Staff, Volunteers, Librarians, Researchers, Academics, Community Activities, Policy Makers, Business Leaders, Family & Friends, Etc...

The success and viability of WE LEARN as a network supporting women's literacy depends on the participation and creativity of our membership.
 Membership is open to any individual or organization who supports the ongoing vision and work of WE LEARN.

Details		Organizations	Supporters	Networkers
Dues	Annual Fee - Sliding Scale based on income	x	x	x
What we invite members to do as part of the Network	Levels of Participation			
	Exchange website links - We add your organization to our website directory of programs supporting women's literacy, and you list us on your website	x		
	Short-term or one-time activities to advocate or spread the word of WE LEARN's mission or to support our work (<i>for example: Make a donation, recruit new members, participate in our events, write a review of materials or article for newsletter, send a lesson plan, be a presenter, or other options</i>)	x	x	x
	Active participation in one or more on-going work groups or committees (<i>for example, Conference Committee, Women's Perspectives, Community Building, Curriculum Resources, or other options</i>)			x
What you receive from WE LEARN	Benefits for Membership			
	Email announcements of activities and products	x	x	x
	Biannual Newsletter (by Mail) & Quarterly Updates (by Email)	x	x	x
	Annual Report (Hard Copy Mailed)	x	x	x
	Special discount rates for conferences, events & publications	x	x	x
	Group registration rates (or scholarships) for ABE students to conferences & events	x		
	Recognition in the Annual Report	x	x	x
	One vote on each matter submitted by the Board of Directors for decision by the membership, including election of Board Members	x	x	x
	On-going input in the creativity, direction, and decision-making on the committee or work group where the member is involved			x
	Certificates of participation or recognition in event program materials and other publications			x
Additional benefits for work group activities, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference committee members receive additional discounts on conference registration fees • <i>Women's Perspectives</i> Selection Committee members receive a complimentary copy of the journal • Participants develop connections and networking with other WE LEARN members • Active members gain great satisfaction, new learning and skills, and new colleagues and friends 			x	



WE LEARN

**Women Expanding
Literacy Education
Action Resource
Network**

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Cranston, RI 02910

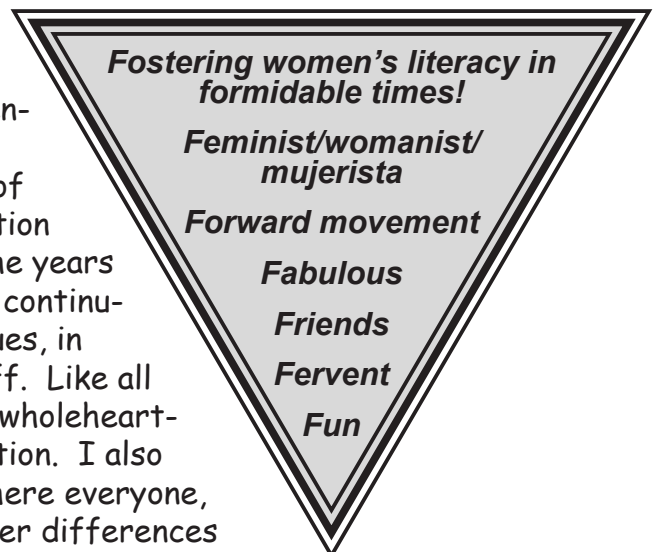
welearn@litwomen.org
401-383-4374

www.litwomen.org/welearn.html

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Open Invitation... Please join the WE LEARN Network

I first became a member of WE LEARN in 2003, due to my own interest in women's literacy issues as well as from my perspective as a staff development specialist in ABE. There was a need in the field to address women-specific literacy and WE LEARN came along to fill that need. I have since been involved as an active member of both the conference planning committee and the selection committee for "Women's Perspectives." Throughout the years of my active involvement, I have seen the organization continually grow and support even more learners and more issues, in response to the needs of women learners and ABE staff. Like all of the active members, I volunteer my time because I wholeheartedly support the mission and practices of the organization. I also enjoy being part of a community and working groups where everyone, regardless of educational level, age, race and many other differences is equally respected, heard and supported.



-- Michele Sedor, WE LEARN Member, Western Massachusetts