

Georgia Adult Literacy Advocates (GALA)

June 10, 2008

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Literacy Action, Inc., Atlanta

MINUTES

Attendees:

Emily Ellison
Daphne Greenberg
Ryan Hall
Laura Hauser
Billie Izard
Debbie McIntyre

Meeting Summary:

Six attendees gathered at Literacy Action's offices at 100 Edgewood Avenue, Atlanta, at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, June 10, 2008. The purpose of the meeting was to resume discussions from the last GALA meeting held on April 22, 2008, in Warner Robbins, Georgia, and to continue moving forward in developing a working advocacy group. Daphne Greenberg agreed to be the informal facilitator of the meeting.

1. Issues Brought Forward from Previous Meeting.

Daphne used an annotated agenda based on email responses from the group in regards to unresolved issues and questions posed after the April meeting. It was agreed that the group should follow meeting norms suggested by various GALA members, including being respectful of one another and having no one person or persons monopolize conversation; not becoming too bogged down in details; sharing responsibility for keeping the meeting moving. It was agreed that members are responsible for reading meeting minutes and keeping up with the information distributed and decisions made at previous meetings rather than the group repeating details and rehashing conversation at future meetings. When decisions are made in someone's absence, those decisions should stand.

2. Google Discussion Group.

It was decided that the GALA discussion list serve and web page will be useful to the group. Ryan Hall agreed to send an email to the group that explains how to register and use the technology.

3. Mission, Vision, Definition.

Those in attendance agreed that the Mission and Vision statements drafted at the last meeting should stand. It was decided that the drafted Definition should be used for the group's internal use only for the present time and that it will be amended as needed when the group "goes public." (See separate page for Mission, Vision, and Definition.)

4. Goals to Accomplish Mission.

The group went through the list of possible goals that individual members suggested via email.

It was agreed that before the group launch initiatives such as a post card campaign or seeking funding, members should review all of David Rosen's handouts. Ryan Hall agreed to scan this information and post it on the GALA web page.

It was also agreed that the group should meet with a state politician to ask questions in a "safe" environment and request input and advice before going to a larger political body. Emily Ellison agreed to contact Stacey Abrams, Representative of the 84th District in the Georgia General Assembly, and see if Ms. Abrams will meet with the group for an informal, off-the-record conversation.

The group discussed the possibility of GALA making a presentation at the fall DTAE conference or have Dr. Josephine Reed-Taylor or someone else from DTAE meet with the group.

In addition, there was discussion around how to get EAGLE students involved.

5. Leadership.

The attendees agreed that discussion of leadership roles and terms of office should be tabled for the present time. Daphne Greenberg agreed to continue serve as an informal facilitator until officers could be elected.

6. Frequency of Meetings.

The group agreed that it was important to keep making progress and meeting on a regular, monthly basis if at all possible. It was agreed that the schedules meetings would be held even if there were only two or more members who could attend. The date for the next meeting was to be determined after contacting and scheduling a conversation with Representative Stacey Abrams. (Tentative dates for that conversation are August 14, 20, and 21. The date, time, and location of the meeting will be communicated as soon as possible after confirming with Stacey.)

Georgia Adult Literacy Advocates (GALA)

Mission:

The Mission of the Georgia Adult Literacy Advocates is to increase awareness, support, and funding for adult literacy needs and efforts in Georgia.

Vision:

Our Vision: A literate Georgia with accessible learning opportunities for all adults.

Definition:

Adult literacy includes reading, writing, and speaking in English; numeracy skills; other life skills up through preparation for post-secondary education. (For internal use only.)