

HISTORY

Fall 2002

Kym Prewitt e-mails friends who might be interested in helping to create a new organization. First meeting is held at the home of Janet Haas. The response is so positive that two subsequent meetings are held. All are well-attended and many women sign up to help. Organizational Committees for the coming year are formed.

Winter/Spring 2002-2003

Weeks of planning, making phone calls, writing letters, and writing, gathering and mailing packets of information culminate in a top-notch Advisory Board of twenty-seven individuals who are outstanding in their respective fields. Also during this time, officers are selected.

Summer 2003

The summer months are spent recruiting 135 Charter Members from throughout Jefferson and Shelby counties. Having first established a solid Advisory Board proves to be the key to the recruitment of the Charter Members.

October 22, 2003

CLG has the opportunity to host and benefit from an art show and sale featuring a noted art collector and critic from New York, Mr. Walter Edleman. Only about \$800 is raised from the event, but the exposure in the paper and at Books & Co. where the event is held is helpful.

November 18, 2003

The Inaugural Luncheon of The Children's Literacy Guild of Alabama is held at The Club with 155 in attendance. First Lady Patsy Riley, the keynote speaker, is joined by Jim Young, principal at Lineville Elementary in Clay County. Although the luncheon is interrupted by a tornado warning, the weather doesn't stop the event from being a huge success. A total of \$8,000 is donated as a result of the meeting and many people offer to get more involved.

December 2003

CLG works a giftwrap table at Barnes & Noble at the Summit to raise money and awareness.

February/March 2004

Much preparation goes into producing the mailing for general membership recruitment. Jennifer McMahon, VP of Membership, works with the professional design staff at Walls Media to come up with pieces for the mailing. More than 500 packets of information are mailed in mid March. Also, Walls Media designs and hosts the CLG website. Lee Walls at WM kindly does this as a donation to the CLG. All committee chairmen are selected. Some co-chairs are yet to be determined.

Also, the CLG has the opportunity to team with Better Basics and Wayne's Environmental Services to host a storytelling booth at the Home & Garden Show where approximately 60,000 people are expected. This is not a fundraiser but excellent exposure, especially at a time when the CLG is recruiting members.

March 31, 2004

The first official meeting of the entire leadership of the CLG is held at the offices of Better Basics. To date, Kym Prewitt has met with representative from the Literacy Council of Central Alabama, The Center for the Book, the State PTA, the Alabama Reading Initiative, and the State Board of Directors of Alabama Association of University Women. All parties are excited about the prospects of working together for the betterment of our state and the lives of individual children.

April 18, 2004

The first General Membership Meeting is held at the Homewood Library Auditorium. Many new members join that day as well. It is the first opportunity for members to sign up for committee work. All committee chairmen are in attendance with decorated tables showing the goals of their respective committee. Membership stands at over 100.

May 17, 2004

Another meeting of the leadership (minus the Advisory Board) is held at the home of Dana Robicheaux. Several important announcements are made including expansion meetings to be held within the week in Tuscaloosa and Montgomery. Also, Kym Prewitt announces that Governor Riley will hold The Governor's Reading Summit in July and the CLG will be an important part in the planning and execution of that event.

May 18, 2004

Memily Colvin, Kym Prewitt and Sue Knudsen travel to Tuscaloosa to the first CLG expansion meeting at the home of Karen Brooks. Over 25 potential members attend including a representative from Artur Davis' office, the superintendent of Hale County Schools, and several women connected with the University of Alabama. The lunch meeting is a huge success with over a dozen women joining to begin the Tuscaloosa "committee" which will become a chapter in a year.

May 22, 2004

The first ever City Fest is held at the Vestavia City Center with the CLG being one of two charities to benefit from the event. Those arrangements are made by Kendra Thomley. As a "thank you", CLG supplies 20 models for the fashion show held on the center stage.

May 23, 2004

Memily Colvin, Dana Robicheaux, Nancy Corona, and Kym Prewitt travel to Montgomery for the second CLG expansion meeting at the home of Lee Sellers.

July 28, 2004

The Governor's Reading Summit is planned and executed by the CLG in Birmingham. Over 500 educators, business leaders, and volunteers attend this highly successful event focusing on the Alabama Reading Initiative.

September 2004-May 2005

September 2004 marks the beginning of the first official operating year of the CLG. Four regular meetings are held; committees are fully operating; a membership drive and several book drives are held.

March 2005

The CLG officers vote to hire non-profit consultants Tom Thompson and Karen Rolan to help revamp the structure of the CLG. The results include the naming of a twelve-member Board of Directors for the Statewide organization and separating the chapters. The by-laws are also rewritten.

May 2005

A luncheon is held to celebrate the end of the first year of the CLG and all its membership has accomplished. The luncheon is held at The Club with 100 people in attendance to hear First Lady Patsy Riley introduce keynote speaker Betsy Rogers, 2003 National Teacher of the Year. New officers and Board of Directors are announced.