

READ ALOUD

WEST VIRGINIA

Read-A-Palooza 2024: Read The Future



JOIN US!
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 18
University
of Charleston

READ THE FUTURE
What we've learned. Where we're going.

Join us for a fun evening at the University of Charleston!

Our annual fundraiser will be at UC on Thursday, April 18,
from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

We'll be recognizing our wonderful volunteers and looking toward the future of Read Aloud! Tom Heywood, a partner at Bowles Rice, led our organization in a strategic planning session last fall. He will speak at 6:30 p.m. about Read Aloud's future work to improve literacy in West Virginia. The event will feature appetizers and drinks in a casual environment with a happy hour feel, as well as a fun and popular "wine pull." For \$20, participants can pull a mystery bottle of wine. All bottles are worth \$20 or more.

Tickets are \$45 online or \$50 at the door. They can be purchased below:

[Get Read-A-Palooza Tickets Here!](#)

Can't make it, but still want to support? [Click here](#) to send a donation in lieu, or mail a check to **P.O. Box 1784, Charleston, WV 25326**



Thank you to Read-A-Palooza Signature Sponsor [Encova Insurance!](#)

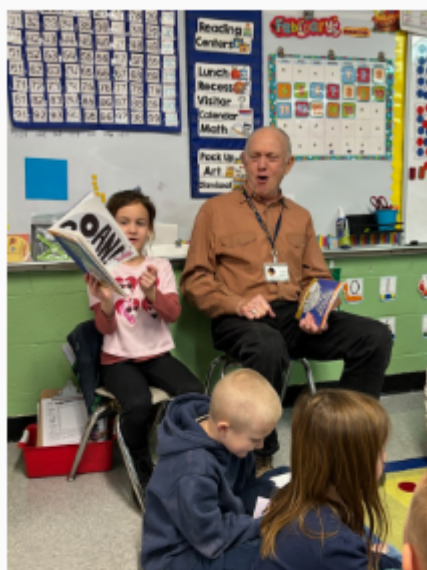
**An evening with Marion County Literacy Volunteers
.... and Ozzie The Reading Dog!**

HELP MAKE
OZZIE
The Reading DOG
AMERICA'S
FAVORITE PET
VOTE daily on sb
@Literacy Volunteers
of
MARION COUNTY
304 - 346 - 6055



Literacy Volunteers of Marion County invited Read Aloud WV to visit in March. Thirteen Literacy Volunteers -- and their dog Ozzie, pictured here with volunteer Pam Shanholtz -- attended an orientation to qualify as Read Aloud volunteers. Literacy Volunteers tutor students and adults in reading, loan books to readers, and distribute books to families in Marion County.

Newly Independent Readers in Gerrardstown





A short story from Read Aloud board member and Berkeley County volunteer reader Casey Willson:

"We sent 22 books home with the kids in Ms. Edwards' kindergarten class at Gerrardstown Elementary. It was 'Waiting is Not Easy' by Mo Willems. I kept a copy and Ms. Edwards has the balance in the classroom.

It worked well: I read the book to the class last week; we put in book plates then and the kids wrote their name in the book. Today, I read with the kids page by page, then had individuals come up with me and read a page or two. We then sent them home with the book to read to or with someone at home.

Pictured above is one student, Rhett, after the distribution. The newly independent first grade reader is reading to the baby."

Training the Next Generation of Read Aloud Volunteers





(Students at Roane-Jackson Technical Center show off their Read Aloud T-shirts after completing new reader volunteer training)

Jackson County Read Aloud President Janet McCauley delivered an in-person New Reader Orientation to these students.

"What a delightful group!" said McCauley. "One gal related to me how the training impacted her thoughts about screen time. She also told of observing a football player who was reading to an elementary class and told him how he could improve! I was thrilled to know that this training made such an impact on at least one person."

This winter, Read Aloud also conducted virtual New Reader Orientations for students at Independence High School in Raleigh County, Huntington High School in Cabell County, and Berkeley Springs High School in Morgan County!





We'd like to give a big thank you to Huntington High School students Nevaeh Burdette, Morgan Brenning, and Ms. Shawna Francis (pictured above) of the Grow Your Own Teacher Program at HHS. After attending a volunteer orientation, they helped us to greet families and give out books at the Super Saturday event in Huntington in March. More than 500 people, including nearly 300 children, came out for the United Way of the River Cities' event for Pre-K and Kindergarten registration. It was a great experience to meet new readers and send them home with a new book they chose.

An update on future print newsletters



Read Aloud West Virginia graciously thanks Appalachian Power and American Electric Power for printing our newsletters for free for over a decade. Sadly, AEP's print shop has closed. Our print newsletter will be on hold until we're able to find a new option. Over the years, AEP's print shop has allowed us to write about scientific studies on how reading positively affects the development of a child's brain, trends in school reading curriculum, how to prevent summer learning loss, and much more. We appreciate you!

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