

Education Collaboration

Fall, 2010
Bulletin #1

Diana Vericella
12203 Arron Terrace
Trinity, FL 34655
727-372-1585
dianav@tampabay.rr.com

Literacy is the ability to read and write. It is also the ability of people to function effectively in today's world. Most of our clubs do not think about this as an issue in the United States, however, more than 32 million adults in the U.S. have low literacy skills.

- . Women in the U.S. who have little formal education are more likely than educated women to be in abusive relationships.
- . 60 percent of America's prison inmates are illiterate and 85 percent of all juvenile offenders have reading problems.
- . Illiteracy costs American businesses more than 60 billion dollars every year in lost productivity and health and safety issues.
- . According to the U.S. Census Bureau, workers 18 and over with a bachelor's degree earn an average of \$51,206 a year, while those with a high school diploma earn \$27,915; those without a high school diploma average \$18,734. (1)

It is the goal of the GFWC to improve literacy and education awareness and to encourage our clubs to be aware of self improvement programs. One of the easiest ways is for club members to join the ESO. No, it does not stand for English Speaking Other Languages; it is Epsilon Sigma Omicron. This is an honorary educational sorority for Florida clubwomen who desire to continue their education with planned reading. It is a non-secret and non-social society with culture as its main goal. Membership is individual and consists of members of per capita paying clubs in the GFWC Florida who earned four certificates. A certificate is earned by reading five books in a category. Upon completing reading in four categories, a certificate of membership in ESO is awarded. Members pay five dollars annually and read and report on books they have read in specified areas. Many clubs have reading groups that discuss ESO books. There is a special certificate of merit for clubs that participate in this manner. Any one who is interested can contact Susan Heath at seheath43@comcast.net.

In2books.com

This is a wonderful on line program recommended by our own webmaster Sara Castelli and several members of the GFWC CyberFlorida. It is a way to encourage young students to read and the whole process takes place on line. Significant reading improvement has already been noted by the students who participated in this program. Personal e-mails are never exchanged. Initially you will write a letter to your student (sample forms are available on line.) All communication takes place through the website and the teacher reviews all letters prior to the students receiving them. When the teacher announces the book to be read, you and your pen pal(student) will read the same book and you and the students will each write a letter about the book. There is a five dollar fee for a cursory background check. This is a very effective program and is one that can be done by someone who is at home. Check out www.in2books.com.