

Learn to Read Council

Spelling Bee March 10

February 22, 2018
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Director Rhonda Andrews presents the 2017 winning plaque to Reliance Bank representatives Betty Christopher and Tanya Carter. Reliance Bank will be back this year with their new game "Trustmark Bank." (see more on page 2)

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Spelling Bee 23 will be held March 10, at 10:00 a.m. in the cafeteria of Athens High School. We are looking forward to another intense competition. Teams to date include The A-Team, Asahi Kasei, Department of Human Resources, 1st Methodist Church, Athens Rotary Club, St. Paul Catholic Church, Athens High School Beta Club, Limestone Veterinary Clinic Trustmark Bank, and the Athens Lions Club. Spectators are welcome to watch the

competition.

Last year's fund raiser saw Reliance Bank taking the top honors with second place going to the Limestone Veterinary Team. Reliance team members correctly spelled "subboreal" and "nephoscope." Other participants were: Athens Rotary, Athens High School Beta Club, Athens Lions Club, Department of Human Resources, First Methodist/Renaissance, Quadplex, and St. Paul Catholic Church.

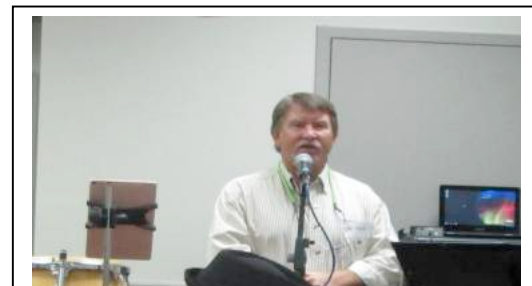


The 2017 2nd place plaque went to Limestone Veterinary Team Sponsor Dr. Robert Pitman (pictured far right) and staff (from right to left) Janet Shireman, Jessica Newell, Jorge Acosta, Crystal Clark, Ginger Hightower with "Willie", and Julie Welcher

It's All About the Goals!

Many adults come to LTR to try to obtain their GED, which often requires different steps for different students. The first step is usually to gain reading and math skills to pass the GED evaluation in order to attend the classes provided by the local Adult Education Program, headquartered at Calhoun Community

College. One of our students, Steve Pendergrass, recently did that on his very first try! Steve attended LTR classes many years ago, dropped out for a short time, and then returned. He has worked steadily and decided it was time to take that step. He is now attending GED classes at Athens State University. (see picture to right)



Steve says he appreciates what LTR did for him. The classes helped build his self-esteem and confidence, and increased his knowledge. He is enjoying the classes at ASU and we hope to hear he has passed his GED soon! Here is he at the Christmas dinner In December telling us about his good news!

More pictures from the 2017 Bee



Great spellers for Reliance's Bank Win: Kathy Burns, Melissa Allaway, and John Siota.

First time spellers Frances Andrews and Wanda Fry, with team captain, Deb Kohlhase, made up the Quadplex team.



Taking the 2nd place honors for Limestone Veterinary: mother/son duo Vicki and Will Stevenson. (In the background is Richard Blakeslee, one of our great photographers for the day!)



It's always enjoyable to see the smiling faces of Athens High School Beta Club Members! This year's team: Ramsey Scott, Maryssa Hill, Molly Kilpatrick, and Jon Lewis Kiep.

Twenty-two years, 3 wins, 1 co-win, and 4 2nd place finishes, Athens Rotary Club always goes the rounds. This year's team members were Ruth Whitten, Doug Logan, and Allison Mathews.



Spelling runs in the family for Athens Lions Club members Myra, Paul, and Cody Loggins.



First Methodist/Renaissance team members Jennifer Sallee, Leigh Boulineau, and Allison McCormick made a welcome addition to this year's bee.

Gina Garth, Sarah Gilbert, Pattie Reinhardt, and Tracy Miller (not pictured) are the lovely ladies from the Department of Human Resources.



St. Paul Catholic Church team members Ruth Hart, Yvonne Dempsey, and Gary Howard are also great spellers. LTR appreciates all the teams and spellers that take part in our competition.

2017 Report

Learn to Read had staff changes in 2017. Susan Bailey's last month with us as a TARCOG worker was January. The new TARCOG worker, Patsy Johnson, began in June. In June Barbara Cox resigned and LTR hired Susan as the Computer Lab Assistant.

February 2, CAS Cares representatives Sharon Trioli and Teresa Goodman came by Wednesday afternoon to present a generous grant check which will help provide materials and funds to maintain the computer lab for our Basic and ESL students. Dollar General awarded three grants to us this year: one for the adults and two for the children.

The 22nd Corporate Spelling Bee was held March 4, 2017. The winner was Reliance Bank and second place went to Limestone Veterinary Clinic.



On March 24, LTR hosted a Community Meeting for our ESL students. Chief Floyd Johnson and Maria Taylor were the speakers.

The After School Tutoring Program Party was held May 4 for the end of school year 2016-2017. In June, a workshop was held for the SYLP and the party for this program was held at Chuck E. Cheese.

LTR is very grateful to the Athens State Work Study Program for

providing the following students to tutor and work at our office: Lydia Malone, Joy Shepard, Tevin Terry, Meagan Barnette and Brandon Pickett.

On August 30, an Ice Cream Social at the Revival Building celebrating 30 years of service. Kreme Delight provided the ice cream.



On September 1, TV-WZDX aired an article on one of LTR students, Steve Pendergrass, who wanted to enter the GED Adult Education Program. Steve was able to announce at the Christmas dinner that his goal had been reached!

Lori Wilson and Ola Steele attended the State of Education address at ASU Ballroom on September 6.

United Way Day of Caring was September 22. Two of our board members were honored as retired teachers.



On September 28, Rhonda attended the "Work Smarter, Not Harder" presentation by the Dekko Foundation at the library.

Maria Taylor, instructor, began Conversational Spanish classes on October 2.

Mini workshops for tutors were held different times through the year. New tutors for the adults include Mia Alvarez, Susan Anderson, Nathan Brackeen, and Roberta Ress.

On October 27, LTR had a booth at the Senior Fun Fest hosted by Limestone County Foundation for Aging. Rhonda met a former student who said he obtained his GED through a private school.

Thanks to Maria Taylor, LTR was able to have a tree in the North Pole Stroll.

LTR representatives attended Greater Limestone County Chamber Coffees and Family Resource Step Up Meetings throughout the year.

2017 DONATIONS/ ALLOCATIONS:

United Way
 Combined Federal Campaign
 City of Athens
 Limestone County Commission
 CAS Cares Foundation
 Dollar General Foundation
 Walmart
 Steelcase
 Dekko
 Corporate Spelling Bee
 Athens Lions Club
 Asahi Kasei
 Individuals
 Coca-Cola matching
 Dominion matching
 Conversational Spanish
 Belk Charity Day Sale