



# Town Hall Meeting: ProLiteracy Reports

**Peter Waite, PhD.**  
**Vice President**  
**Programs and Professional Services**

## Ground Rules

- Unscripted
- Respectful dialogue
- Interactive
- Facilitated responses

## Objectives

- State of Adult Literacy
- What ProLiteracy Is Doing About It
- Discussion

## State of Adult Literacy

- Over 800 million adults around the world who cannot read, write, or do basic math
- Reaching less than 5 percent of the people in need in the U.S.
  - 30 million U.S. adults below basic literacy
  - 56 percent of Arkansans (1.1 million) struggle with daily literacy tasks
- Cost to society is many billions

## State of Adult Literacy (continued)

- Threat to U.S. Economy Globally
- Inadequate Public & Private Sector Response
- Too Few Resources/Ineffective Public Policy
- Lack of Public Awareness
- Failure to Connect Low Literacy to Other Social Problems
- Lack of Constructive Anger!

## What ProLiteracy Is Doing About It

- Repositioning the Organization
- Improving Communications
- Strengthening Policy Advocacy
- New Strategic Plan, Programs
- Building Grass Roots/Adult Learner Partnerships

## What ProLiteracy Is Doing About It (continued)

- Listening to You & Retooling Membership Services
- Unifying the Organization
  - One ProLiteracy, domestic programs & international programs united
- Strengthening the ProLiteracy Brand
  - Use of ProLiteracy Name, Logo
- Partnership with COABE

## Strategic Plan

- Revitalized Mission Statement
- New Vision & Values
- New Tag Line
- New 3-Year Goals



## Mission Statement

- ProLiteracy champions the power of literacy to improve the lives of adults & their families, communities, & societies.

## Vision

- ProLiteracy envisions a world in which everyone can read, write, compute, & use technology to lead healthy, productive, & fulfilling lives.

## Improving Communications

- Raising the profile of adult literacy
- New Web site
  - CapWiz
  - Member surveys
  - President's blog?

# New Web Site!



ProLiteracy ? Improving lives and communities through adult literacy - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Search Favorites Home

Address http://capwiz.com/proliteracy/home/


Google Go Links

Go Bookmarks 86 blocked Check AutoLink AutoFill Send to Settings


Become a Member

**Practitioner Resources**

- Annual Conference
- Talent Certification
- Professional Development
- Publications
- Classroom Materials
- Adult Basic Education
- English as a Second Language
- HeadStart/Lowcost Intervention
- GED Preparation
- Weekly Newspaper for Adult Learners




**Become a Member**



**Classroom Materials from ProLiteracy's Publishing Division, New Readers Press**

**Precede support literacy programs!**



Welcome to our **Legislative Action Center**

You can make a big difference in just 5 minutes. That's all it will take to learn the issues and send an email to your elected officials. The actions of our government have an enormous impact on the lives of you and your family, and we hope you'll use this site to learn about things that matter to you.

**Please take the following actions:**

1. Join our Action Network and we'll send you important updates regarding our issues and how you can speak out on important issues.
2. Register to Vote make your voice heard - start by registering to vote.
3. Send an email to your elected officials and tell them to pass important legislation that you can follow right here.

**FEATURED ALERT**

Contact ProLiteracy Communications

**Get your Advocacy Message out now!**

Contact ProLiteracy's Communications and Public Policy department to find out how to send out your latest advocacy message.

**Take Action**

Contact your legislators

Ask Members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Education for their support

**It's time to encourage legislators to make adult education and literacy a priority...**

Take Action

**Find Your Officials**

Search by ZIP code

Zip Code  GO

Search by State

AK  GO

**Policy Tools**

- Issues and Legislation
- Find Media Contacts
- Find Election Info and Candidates
- Capitol Hill Basics

Discussions Discussions not available on http://capwiz.com/

start Disconnect... Inbox - Mic... 2 Micro... ProLiteracy ... ProLiteracy ... Microsoft Po... 9:47 AM



## Public Policy Principles

- A fundamental human right
- A continuum of services
- Learner centered
- Widest possible access to federal & state funding mechanisms
- Federal & state interagency councils needed

## Public Policy Principles (continued)

- Ensure a variety of delivery systems through direct federal funds & reward programs that serve learners as they move through the system
- National & local training & technical assistance grants to build capacity



## Discussion

- What can ProLiteracy do for you?
- Do the public policy principles speak to your local concerns?
- What should define ProLiteracy member benefits?

“What’s past is prologue”

-- William Shakespeare, The Tempest

"it shall be the duty of [government]  
...to cherish...the interests of literature...  
and all seminaries of them”

-- John Adams, The Constitution of the Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts, 1780



Thank you, volunteers, program  
directors, educators, and adult learners!