

## Coronavirus Update

While I do not wish to write this article, nor the circumstances that have led us to this point, it is a necessary document. The coronavirus (COVID-19) has interrupted all of our lives and how we will do business over the next several months. While we have dates of March 30<sup>th</sup> and April 6<sup>th</sup> as the end of the emergency measures, few people truly believe that this will be the case. Therefore, the Literacy Council is forced to take a look at the current situation and try to give a best guess to the future date to be able to reopen our doors.

At the present time we are following the lead of the Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS). We had postponed all activities at our location until March 30<sup>th</sup>. However, as a result of a meeting with the Non-Profit Center management on March 16<sup>th</sup>, we were informed that for all intent and purpose that building will be closed to all outside individuals, including part time workers, volunteers and clients. We will have limited access to the building and you must present a “White Access Card” to enter - **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

In order to protect our employees, tutors and students, we are cancelling all tutoring effective immediately. We will, of course, reopen our tutoring functions as soon as possible after the emergency situation has passed.

Further, I ask all staff to please refrain from using the facility at this time. While the building staff is doing everything in its power at this time to maintain a safe and clean environment, the very nature of the nonprofits who utilize this center tends to be those requiring medical assistance and who may be carrying the virus. Tutors, students and other parties may contact us by direct phone, email, or leaving a

message at the office phone number. Your health and well being are our primary concern at this time.

**Given all of the information, the Spelling Bee Committee has decided to forego the program scheduled for April 23<sup>rd</sup> and will attempt to reschedule for later in the year.** This was not an easy decision but again a necessary one.

All events that we have intended to participate in have been cancelled or rescheduled for later this summer. These include the Veterans Program (tentative for late May or June), Seniors of the Go (July 8<sup>th</sup>), and a Volunteer Program at the Finksburg Library (no date).

All Board Meetings are cancelled. Any emergency actions will be handled electronically or by phone calls. All committee meetings are cancelled. Committee work can and should continue via electronic communications. Planning for activities prior to June 1<sup>st</sup> should include a “rain date”. All training for tutors is cancelled. Heidi White may issue special information to the current tutors regarding new programs that are becoming available and any changes that will be made to our tutoring schedules and or locations.

We will continue our day to day functions such as completing reports, filing grants, and keeping everyone posted as to the current status of our operations.

I thank everyone for their understanding and cooperation during this trying period. Please be cautious and safe. Stay healthy!!!

Sam Greenholtz

Executive Director