



LITERACY PROMOTION COMMITTEE

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I am honored to serve as the ASDAR Literacy Promotion Committee State Chair, and I look forward to working with the many chapters of Arkansas. Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions you may have, as the sharing of ideas will certainly contribute to the overall strength of this Committee.

As we know, reading is fundamental to our daily lives. Arkansas students continue to fall below the national average for reading proficiency, and it has been shown that these statistics are even greater when a child grows up in a household with a parent (or parents) who struggles to read. I hope that your chapters will support tutoring events and activities aimed at honing skills and instilling the love of reading. Book drives and reading to local elementary school students are a great start, but we can do much more to boost youth and adult literacy in our communities.

My goals for the Committee are:

- Ensure each Arkansas chapter has a committee for Literacy Promotion and provide the educational information, ideas and resources necessary to promote literacy efforts in the chapter's surrounding area
- Partner with organizations whose goal is to improve literacy in Arkansas such as the Adult Learning Alliance of Arkansas, which is the statewide non-profit that provides structure and support to the county literacy councils. There are 50 Arkansas counties with literacy councils and 25 counties without a program. If your county is without, why not help to establish this important resource?
- Honor those members and chapters who dedicate their time to promote literacy through the Outstanding Service Contest. Chapter submissions due to State Chair by January 5, 2021.

Here are some wonderful literacy dates to celebrate throughout the year!

- February 14: Library Lover's Day
- March 2: National *Read Across America Day*, celebrated annually on Dr. Seuss's birthday
- April 27: National *Tell a Story Day*
- May 21: Harry Potter Day
- July 30: Paperback Book Day
- August 9: Book Lover's Day
- September 8: International Literacy Day
- November 1: National Family Literacy Day
- November: National Literacy Month
- December: Read a Book Month