

**The International Dyslexia Association  
Founded in Memory of Samuel T. Orton  
SOUTHWEST BRANCH**

**HISTORY OF THE SOUTHWEST BRANCH**

On May 9, 1984, the first meeting of the unofficial New Mexico Branch of The Orton Dyslexia Society met, and a steering committee was formed that included Sandra Dillon, Pat Tomlan, and Betty Lansdowne. A second meeting was held on September 15, 1984 at Sandra Dillon's home and plans were made to become an official branch of The Orton Dyslexia Society. Approximately twenty-five people attended and officers were elected.

**1984 - 1985**

**Officers:**

<b>Patricia Tomlan</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Sandra Dillon</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
<b>Sandra Tolman</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>Marjorie McCament</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>

**Activities:**

- ❖ Bylaws committee was formed: Jean Canavan, Bill Watson, and Marjorie McCament.
- ❖ Purposes of the branch were discussed.
- ❖ Southern Arizona and West Texas joined membership in the spring, 1985.

---

**IN JANUARY 1985, WE OFFICIALLY BECAME THE NEW MEXICO BRANCH-IN-FORMATION OF THE ORTON DYSLEXIA SOCIETY.**

---

**1985 - 1986 (First Official Year)**

**Officers:**

<b>Patricia Tomlan</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Sandra Dillon</b>	<b>President-elect</b>
<b>Denise Drumm</b>	<b>Vice President for Programs</b>
<b>Jean Canavan</b>	<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>
<b>Sandra Tolman</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>
<b>Marjorie McCament</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>

**Board of Directors:**

<b>Betty Lansdowne</b>	<b>Sandra Reinert</b>
<b>Kay Haney</b>	<b>Bill Watson</b>
<b>Maile Kane</b>	<b>Belva Whitfield</b>

**Activities:**

- ❖ Stationery was purchased and the first fundraising (selling pins) took place.
- ❖ Andy Geiser Ride Across the US Rally - Andy was peddling across America to raise money for dyslexia research.
- ❖ Nine meetings were held. Membership was 49.
- ❖ The first conference was held on March 28 and 29, 1986 at the Marriott Hotel: "The 1986 Southwest Conference." This conference was funded by the Curtis Blake

Foundation (\$10,000) and was attended by 101 people with a registration fee of \$30 for members and \$40 for non-members. Keynote Speakers included Dr. Albert Galaburda, Dr. Sylvia Richardson, and Dr. Samuel Kirk.

1986 - 1987

**Officers:**

<b>Sandra Dillon</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Betty Lansdowne</b>	<b>President-elect</b>
<b>Bill Watson</b>	<b>Vice President for Programs</b>
<b>Lori Navarrete</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>
<b>Jean Canavan</b>	<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>
<b>Maile Kane</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>

**Board of Directors:**

<b>Denise Drumm</b>	<b>Theodora Okunor</b>
<b>Jean Lowe</b>	<b>Sandra Reinert</b>
<b>Marjorie McCament</b>	<b>Robert Wengrod</b>

**Activities:**

- ❖ National includes the Phoenix area in the Branch in April 1987.
- ❖ Six meetings were held and membership reached 63.
- ❖ The conference was held on April 4, 1987 at the Sheraton Old Town Hotel: "Dyslexia: A Specific Language Disability." This was the first conference funded by the Branch. We had little money, but by doing the work ourselves and personally underwriting the cost, we did it and had a successful conference! One hundred and fifty people attended. The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Virginia Mann.

1987 - 1988

**Officers:**

<b>Betty Lansdowne</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Marjorie McCament</b>	<b>President-elect</b>
<b>Robert Wengrod</b>	<b>Vice President for Programs</b>
<b>Theodora Okunor</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>
<b>Lori Navarrete</b>	<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>
<b>Maile Kane</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>

**Board of Directors:**

<b>Jean Canavan</b>	<b>Sandra Reinert</b>
<b>Dean Carroll</b>	<b>Mary Steir</b>
<b>Sandra Dillon</b>	<b>Bill Watson</b>

**Activities:**

- ❖ Eight meetings were held.
- ❖ The Distinguished Service Award was established by Marjorie McCament, who donated the traveling plaque.

1988 - 1989

**Officers:**

<b>Betty Lansdowne</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Maile Kane</b>	<b>President-elect</b>
<b>Robert Wengrod</b>	<b>Vice President for Programs</b>
<b>Sandra Reinert</b>	<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>
<b>Theodora Okunor</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>
<b>Marjorie McCament</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>

**Board of Directors:**

<b>Jane Blumenfeld</b>	<b>Paula Lamb</b>
<b>Dean Carroll</b>	<b>Lori Navarrete</b>
<b>Sandra Dillon</b>	<b>Bill Watson</b>
<b>Denise Drumm</b>	

**Activities:**

- ❖ Six meetings were held. Membership was 82.
- ❖ We received two grants from GAMA (Greater Albuquerque Medical Auxiliary) for \$5,000 each for teacher training.
- ❖ We began a referral directory of tutors and diagnosticians.
- ❖ The conference was held on February 25, 1989 at the Holiday Inn Pyramid: "Dias de Promesa...Suenos Llenados (Days of Promise...Dreams Fulfilled)." Conference attendance was 120 and the Keynote Speaker was Dr. Drake Duane.
- ❖ Dr. Roger Kroth received the Distinguished Service Award.

1989 - 1990

**Officers:**

<b>Maile Kane</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Lori Navarrete</b>	<b>President-elect</b>
<b>Sandra Dillon</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>
<b>Paula Lamb</b>	<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>
<b>Sandra Reinert</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>

**Board of Directors:**

<b>Jane Blumenfeld</b>	<b>Denise Drumm</b>
<b>Sue Cutler</b>	<b>Betty Lansdowne</b>
<b>Bill Watson</b>	<b>Victoria Adamson</b>
<b>Linda Grace</b>	<b>Robert Wengrod</b>

**Activities:**

- ❖ Six meetings were held. Membership was 122.
- ❖ The National Speakers List was published and sent to the National Office.
- ❖ Robert Wengrod began a Scholarship Fundraising Project: the Downe Burns note cards.
- ❖ The telephone was switched from Marjorie McCament's spare bedroom to our voice mailbox.
- ❖ The conference was held on March 3, 1990 at the Holiday Inn Pyramid: "Dyslexia: Lifelong Issues." Two hundred and one people registered for the conference and an evening session was held for parents and interested people the day before the conference. The Keynote Speaker was John Rosemond.
- ❖ Louise Hensley received the Distinguished Service Award.

1990-1991**Officers:**

<b>Maile Kane</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Betty Lansdowne</b>	<b>President-elect</b>
<b>Sandra Reinert</b>	<b>Vice President for Programs</b>
<b>Margaret Bell</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>
<b>Marjorie Schmidt</b>	<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>
<b>Marjorie McCament</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>

**Board of Directors:**

<b>Victoria Adamson</b>	<b>Elwyn Hulett</b>
<b>Linda Grace</b>	<b>Christine Parker</b>
<b>Jane Blumenfeld</b>	<b>Robert Wengrod</b>

**Activities:**

- ❖ The bylaws were revised in December 1990 and approved by the membership in February 1991.
- ❖ Six programs revolving around the theme, "Educating the Dyslexic" were sponsored.
- ❖ A make-it and take-it workshop, "Creativity Takes Flight" was cosponsored with the Learning Disabilities Association.
- ❖ Membership was 144.
- ❖ The conference was held on February 23, 1991 at the Holiday Inn Pyramid: "Lift Off to Learning." There were 232 people who attended and the Keynote Speaker was Priscilla Vail.
- ❖ Dr. Jane Blumenfeld received the Distinguished Service Award.

1991 -1992**Officers:**

<b>Robert Wengrod</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Sandra Reinert</b>	<b>President-elect</b>
<b>Virginia Obenshain and Marjorie McCament</b>	<b>Vice Presidents for Programs</b>
<b>Margaret Bell</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>
<b>Kaye Vesely</b>	<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>
<b>Carol Summers</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>

**Board of Directors:**

<b>Marjorie Schmidt</b>	<b>Elwyn Hulett</b>
<b>Maile Kane</b>	<b>Victoria Adamson</b>
<b>Chris Parker</b>	<b>Mieke Baca</b>

**Activities:**

- ❖ A make-it and take-it workshop was held in October 1991.
- ❖ Program meetings were held in conjunction with the Learning Disabilities Association.
- ❖ The first four Regional Groups were established (these groups were called "Twigs"): Farmington, Las Cruces/El Paso, Carlsbad, and Arizona. Membership was 151.
- ❖ The conference was held on February 29, 1992 at the Ramada Classic Hotel: "Celebrating Diversity: Dyslexia and Learning Disabilities." The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Melvin Levine. Two hundred and ninety people attended the conference.
- ❖ Allen Floreshime received the Distinguished Service Award.

1992 - 1993**Officers:**

<b>Robert Wengrod</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Sandra Reinert</b>	<b>President-elect</b>
<b>Carol Summers and Virginia Obenshain</b>	<b>Vice Presidents for Programs</b>
<b>Kaye Vesely</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>
<b>Paula Lamb</b>	<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>
<b>Elwyn Hulett</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>

**Board of Directors:**

<b>Jean Adams</b>	<b>Christine Parker</b>	<b>Margaret Bell</b>
<b>Jean Canavan</b>	<b>Linda Perrott</b>	
<b>Jan Lewis</b>	<b>Maile Kane</b>	
<b>Marjorie Schmidt</b>		

**Activities:**

- ❖ Our name changed to The Orton Dyslexia Society Southwest Branch.
- ❖ The first multisensory training took place: *Project Read* Reading Comprehension Report Form (September 1992), *Project Read* Story Form (November 1992), and *Project Read* Written Expression (February 1993). Membership was 174.
- ❖ The Adult Support Group began at Sandia Preparatory School.
- ❖ Three hundred and ten attended the conference on February 27, 1993 at the Marriott Hotel: "Dyslexia and Learning Disabilities: Demystification, Not Humiliation." The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Betty Osman.
- ❖ Sandra Dillon received the Distinguished Service Award.

1993 - 1994**Officers:**

<b>Robert Wengrod</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Margaret Bell</b>	<b>President-elect</b>
<b>Kaye Vesely</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>
<b>Christine Parker</b>	<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>
<b>Elwyn Hulett</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>

**Board of Directors:**

<b>Jean Adams</b>	<b>Maile Kane</b>	<b>Jan Lewis</b>
<b>Mike Terrell</b>	<b>Virginia Obenshein</b>	
<b>Mary Gilroy</b>	<b>Linda Perrott</b>	

**Activities:**

- ❖ Two multisensory workshops were held: *Project Read* Phonology-Elementary and Secondary in September 1993 and *Project Read* Written Expression in June 1994. Membership was 219.
- ❖ The tenth anniversary conference was held on February 11 and 12, 1994 at the Marriott Hotel: "Putting Theory into Practice." There were 210 people attending. The Keynote Speaker was to be Jane Healy, however she was unable to attend at the last minute because of snow. Dr. Lorraine Perlmutter (one of our members) filled in and made an excellent presentation.
- ❖ Received two teacher-training grants: New Mexico Coalition for Literacy (\$1,000) and Albuquerque Community Foundation (\$2,500).
- ❖ Evelyn Wiseman and Jeanette Bowling received the Distinguished Service Award.

❖ 1994 - 1995**Officers:**

<b>Elwyn Hulett</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Kaye Vesely</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
<b>Mary Gilroy</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>
<b>Peggy Kohler</b>	<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>
<b>Maile Kane</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Morrie Adams</b>	<b>Parliamentarian (non-voting)</b>

**Board of Directors:**

<b>Robert Annett</b>	<b>Claire Romero</b>	<b>Nadelle Dachinger</b>
<b>Jean Adams</b>	<b>Mary Lynn Young</b>	
<b>Virginia Obenshain</b>	<b>Robert Wengrod</b>	

**Activities:**

- ❖ *Recipe for Reading* workshop was offered in March 1995 and a *Wilson Reading System* overview took place in June 1995.
- ❖ An Arizona Regional Group was formed in August 1994.
- ❖ Membership was 218.
- ❖ The conference was held on February 25, 1995 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel: "Succeeding Against the Odds." The Keynote Speaker was Sally Smith and 336 attended.
- ❖ Bill Watson received the Distinguished Service Award.

1995 - 1996**Officers:**

<b>Kaye Vesely</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Jenny Coffey</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
<b>Mary Gilroy</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>
<b>Peggy Kohler</b>	<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>
<b>Maile Kane</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Jean Adams</b>	<b>Parliamentarian (non-voting)</b>

**Board of Directors:**

<b>Robert Annett</b>	<b>Lorraine Peniston</b>
<b>Morrie Adams</b>	<b>Meg Porch</b>
<b>Jean Canavan</b>	<b>Charlene Hodgin</b>
<b>Nadelle Dachinger</b>	<b>Robert Wengrod</b>
<b>Elwyn Hulett</b>	

**Activities:**

- ❖ Sandra Dillon instructed the multisensory training workshop during the summer, 1996: Introduction to Specific Language Disability (40 attended) and Multisensory Teaching of Basic Language Skills (32 attended).
- ❖ Membership was 212.
- ❖ The Arizona Regional Group completed their bylaws and officially became a Branch-in-Formation.
- ❖ We hired a registered Parliamentarian to be used as needed.
- ❖ We hired someone to assist in answering our telephone hotline.
- ❖ The conference was held on February 16 and 17, 1996 at the Albuquerque Convention Center: "Inclusion: A Balancing Act." Dr. Sylvia Richardson was the Keynote Speaker and 426 attended.
- ❖ Marjorie McCament received the Distinguished Service Award.

1996 - 1997**Officers:**

<b>Kaye Vesely</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Jenny Coffey</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
<b>Mary Gilroy</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>
<b>Peggy Kohler</b>	<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>
<b>Maile Kane</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Jean Adams</b>	<b>Parliamentarian (non-voting)</b>

**Board of Directors:**

<b>Elwyn Hulett</b>	<b>Betty Cassidy</b>
<b>Morrie Adams</b>	<b>Lorraine Peniston</b>
<b>Judy Carter</b>	<b>Meg Porch</b>
<b>Jean Canavan</b>	<b>Charlene Hodgkin</b>
<b>Robert Wengrod</b>	

**Activities:**

- ❖ Arizona became a Branch. Membership was 203.
- ❖ *Process Phonics* was offered in October 1996 and *Spalding I* multisensory training workshops were held in Albuquerque and Los Lunas in the summer, 1997.
- ❖ The Branch's Display Table was updated as well as the Branch's
- ❖ Fact Sheet and Membership Form.
- ❖ The conference was held on February 21 and 22, 1997 at the Albuquerque Convention Center: "The Gifts of the Dyslexic." There were 640 in attendance and Dr. Thomas Armstrong gave the Keynote Address.
- ❖ Sandra Reinert received the Distinguished Service Award.

1997 - 1998**Officers:**

<b>Meg Porch</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Mary Gilroy</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
<b>Cathleen Tomlinson</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>
<b>Barbara Landgraf</b>	<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>
<b>Maile Kane</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>

**Board of Directors:**

<b>Jean Adams</b>	<b>Morrie Adams</b>	<b>Terri Abraham</b>
<b>Jean Canavan</b>	<b>Judy Carter</b>	<b>Kaye Vesely</b>
<b>Lysle Catron</b>	<b>Jenny Coffey</b>	<b>Robert Wengrod</b>
<b>Linda Curry</b>	<b>Elwyn Hulett</b>	<b>Peggy Kohler</b>
<b>Lorraine Peniston</b>		

**Activities:**

- ❖ We changed the name of the organization to the Southwest Branch of The International Dyslexia Association.
- ❖ The bylaws were revised and approved by the membership in February 1997. Membership grew to 220.
- ❖ We established a FAX number and a page on the IDA web-site.
- ❖ The scholarship was changed from two \$500 scholarships to one \$1000 scholarship.
- ❖ The Adult Support Group was discontinued.

- ❖ *Spalding II* and *Recipe for Reading* were offered as multisensory training workshops
- ❖ Regional Representatives were established in Hobbs and Silver City.
- ❖ We began our participation in the Coordinated Campaign for Learning Disabilities.
- ❖ The Fundraising Committee was actively reestablished. We received a Scholarship Grant from CDK Contracting Co. (\$500).
- ❖ Updated Five Year Goals were written.
- ❖ The Officers and Board of Directors met with representatives of the national organization to discuss Albuquerque hosting their conference in 2001. It was officially approved by IDA in April, 1998.
- ❖ Our conference was held on February 27 and 28, 1998 at the Albuquerque Convention Center: "Words Fail Me." There were two Keynote Speakers, Dr. Gordon Sherman and Priscilla Vail and 887 people attended.
- ❖ Jean Canavan received the Distinguished Service Award.

### 1998 - 1999

#### **Officers:**

<b>Meg Porch</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Mary Gilroy</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
<b>Cathleen Tomlinson</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>
<b>Barbara Landgraf</b>	<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>
<b>Maile Kane</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>

#### **Board of Directors:**

<b>Jean Adams</b>	<b>Morrie Adams</b>	<b>Terri Abraham</b>
<b>Judy Carter</b>	<b>Melissa Stotts</b>	<b>Sue Fitzmaurice</b>
<b>Jenny Coffey</b>	<b>Robert Wengrod</b>	<b>Linda Curry</b>
<b>Elwyn Hulett</b>	<b>Peggy Kohler</b>	<b>Lorraine Peniston</b>

#### **Activities:**

- ❖ We received funding from IDA Branch Council for regional workshops (\$1,000), from Wal-Mart Foundation for the newsletter (\$1,000), and from the State Department of Special Education for conference scholarships for administrators (\$2,000).
- ❖ PNM donated the publication of *The Dyslexia Puzzle: Putting the Pieces Together* (\$3,000). We distributed them to all principals and superintendents in the state and to all conference attendees.
- ❖ We published a poster and note cards, *Ten in Every Hundred*, by Cindy Cranfill with proceeds from the sales benefiting the scholarship fund for the IDA 2001 conference.
- ❖ Our first Delegate Assembly representatives were Sandra Dillon and Jean Canavan.
- ❖ Membership increased by 25% and reached 273.
- ❖ Changed our meeting location from Sirloin Stockade to the boardroom at the Technical Vocational Institute (TVI).
- ❖ Six events were sponsored or cosponsored by SWIDA: *Recipe for Reading* with Sandra Reinert and Pat Dean in Farmington and Silver City, *The Magic of Success*, with Diane Shepherd in Taos, *Multisensory Grammar and Written Composition* by the Neuhaus Center, *Scientific Spelling* with Kay Byrd, and the *Border's Bookstore Day for Dyslexia*.
- ❖ Our conference, "The 3 R's: Reading, Research, Remediation," was held at the Convention Center on February 5 and 6, 1999 and was attended by 1,096 people. Drs. George Hynd and Jane Healy were the keynote speakers. Special guests at the



conference were Tom Viall, IDA Executive Director, Lin Baumann, IDA Director of Branch Services, and the Branch Council Executive Committee.

- ❖ Received a Recognition Award from IDA Branch Council for our superior conference and being a branch “totally in compliance.”
- ❖ Maile Kane received the Distinguished Service Award.

### 1999 - 2000

#### Officers:

<b>Meg Porch</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Mary Gilroy</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
<b>Melissa Stotts</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>
<b>Cathleen Tomlinson</b>	<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>
<b>Robert Wengrod</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>

#### Board of Directors:

<b>Terri Abraham</b>	<b>Jean Adams</b>	<b>Morrie Adams</b>
<b>Karen Baker</b>	<b>Judy Carter</b>	<b>Jennifer Coffey</b>
<b>Linda Curry</b>	<b>Corinne DeGarmo</b>	<b>Sue Fitzmaurice</b>
<b>Dr. Elwyn Hulett</b>	<b>Peggy Kohler</b>	<b>Barbara Landgraf</b>
<b>Sherri Tull</b>	<b>Dolores Young</b>	<b>Susan Young-Prewitt</b>

#### Activities:

- ❖ Received a Materials Grant from the New Mexico Coalition for Literacy (\$500) to help reprint *The Dyslexia Puzzle*.
- ❖ Received a grant from the State Department of Special Education Unit to provide scholarships for administrators and university personnel to attend the conference (\$2,820).
- ❖ Received a Communication Theme Grant from The International Dyslexia Association (\$1,163).
- ❖ Received \$4300 in donations for publication of *The Chefs of Taos*.
- ❖ Our Display Table was updated to include the logo and dates for the IDA Conference in Albuquerque 2001.
- ❖ A Regional Representative was established in Gallup.
- ❖ The board approved allocation for four \$250 teacher-training scholarships for members.
- ❖ Seven events were sponsored or cosponsored by the branch: *Patterns for Success in Reading and Spelling* with Marcia Henry, Ph.D., *Multisensory Math* with Marjorie McCament, and Susan Hall, *What's the Role of a Parent?* and *Bringing Research into Practice*, in Albuquerque; *Multisensory Teaching* was held in Hobbs with Margaret Smith; Mary Gilroy presented *Dyslexia Programs* in Silver City; and Las Cruces provided *Alphabet Awareness* with Judy Carter.
- ❖ Established a VISA/MasterCard account and sold mugs, posters, note cards, activity books, storyteller pins, tote bags, stress balls.
- ❖ Membership increased to 302.
- ❖ The conference, “Unraveling the Mystery of Dyslexia: Science, Strategies, Solutions,” at the Convention Center on February 11 and 12, 2000 was attended by 1,136 people. Elizabeth Daniels Squire and Dr. Glenn Rosen delivered the keynote addresses.
- ❖ Kaye Vesely received the Distinguished Service Award.

2000 - 2001**Officers:**

<b>Meg Porch</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Mary Gilroy</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
<b>Melissa Stotts</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>
<b>Cathleen Tomlinson</b>	<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>
<b>Robert Wengrod</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>

**Board of Directors:**

<b>Terri Abraham</b>	<b>Jean Adams</b>	<b>Morrie Adams</b>
<b>Karen Baker</b>	<b>Ginny Beamsley</b>	<b>Judy Carter</b>
<b>Jennifer Coffey</b>	<b>Linda Curry</b>	<b>Corinne DeGarmo</b>
<b>Sue Fitzmaurice</b>	<b>Dr. Elwyn Hulett</b>	<b>Peggy Kohler</b>
<b>Barbara Landgraf</b>	<b>Sherri Tull</b>	<b>Susan Young-Prewitt</b>

**Activities:**

- ❖ There were seven multisensory training events. In Albuquerque: *Wilson Reading System Overview* presented by Barbara Wilson; *Diagnosing Dyslexia* by Terri Abraham; and C. Wilson Anderson presented two workshops, *Helping Your Struggling Student with Schoolwork at Home* and *Teaching the Subject Matter to Students Who are Struggling with Reading, Writing and Spelling*. Sandra Dillon taught *Multisensory Teaching of Basic Language Skills* in Farmington; *An Overview of Dyslexia* was offered in Silver City with Ginny Beamsley; and Bruce and Meg Porch participated in a *Dyslexia Symposium* in Santa Fe.
- ❖ The Executive Committee held a long range planning retreat facilitated by Tom Viall (Executive Director of IDA), Lin Baumann (IDA Director of Branch Services), and Diana Sauter (Branch Council Chair). A Vision Statement was added to the Mission Statement and branch goals were revised.
- ❖ Cathleen Tomlinson oversaw the editing, publishing, printing of three thousand copies of *The Chefs of Taos: Passion and Process*.
- ❖ Created a mail order process for the fundraising items.
- ❖ The Local Arrangements Committee with Linda Curry as Chairperson officially organized and began monthly planning sessions for the IDA Conference on October 24-27, 2001. They met with the Washington D.C. LAC in November and IDA staff in December.
- ❖ Reprinted the *Ten in Every Hundred* note cards.
- ❖ Established a branch e-mail address: swida84@hotmail.com
- ❖ Grants and Donations received: Charter Insurance Services (\$250); McCune Charitable Foundation (\$1,000); allocations from the State Department of Special Education for scholarships to workshops (\$4,200) and the IDA conference (\$7,000); Hospitality donations for October 2001 (\$1,400); and miscellaneous (\$150).
- ❖ The NM Legislature passed House Joint Memorial 9, directing the State Department of Education to define dyslexia and establish a continuum of services.
- ❖ Inez Estrada became the regional representative from Hobbs
- ❖ Conference: March 2, 2001 with Richard Lavoie and Marcia Henry, Ph.D., "Is Anybody Listening?" attendance was 744.
- ❖ Dolores Young was honored posthumously as the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award.

2001-2002**Officers:**

<b>Mary Gilroy</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Melissa Stotts</b>	<b>Vice-President</b>
<b>Ginny Beamsley</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>
<b>Cathleen Tomlinson</b>	<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>
<b>Robert Wengrod</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>

**Board of Directors:**

<b>Terri Abraham</b>	<b>Jean Adams</b>	<b>Karen Baker</b>
<b>Judy Carter</b>	<b>Jennifer Coffey</b>	<b>Linda Curry</b>
<b>Corinne DeGarmo</b>	<b>Elwyn Hulett</b>	<b>Peggy Kohler</b>
<b>Barbara Landgraf</b>	<b>Meg Porch</b>	<b>Susan Thompson</b>
<b>Sherri Tull</b>	<b>Kaye Vesely</b>	<b>Sybil Wertheim</b>
<b>Susan Young-Prewitt</b>		

**Activities:**

- ❖ The Southwest Branch hosted The International Dyslexia Association's 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, "The Enchantment of Literacy," October 24-27, 2001. Despite the tragic occurrences of the terrorist attack on September 11, 2800 people attended this conference, with 27% of them from the Southwest region. Donations and grants provided 42 scholarships at a cost to SWIDA of \$8,115. Over 100 local volunteers worked during the four-day event, earning this conference the reputation of being one of the best organized and friendliest. In April 2002, IDA's Branch Council presented SWIDA with an Achievement Award in "recognition of its successful hosting of the IDA International Conference...with artistic and gracious efficiency during difficult and unusual circumstances."
- ❖ The SWIDA board celebrated the achievements of the Local Arrangements Committee and honored charter members of the branch at La Posada Hotel in December 2002.
- ❖ The Multisensory Training Committee sponsored two workshops: *Prerequisites of Reading – A Slingerland Model*, taught by Beverly Wolf of the Slingerland Institute in June 2001; *The Diagnosis and Documentation of Dyslexia*, presented by Melissa Behrens-Blake of UNM in February 2002.
- ❖ SWIDA produced 3200 copies of a glossy flyer highlighting the events of 2002, and announcing the keynote speakers for the 2003 conference.
- ❖ SWIDA members worked on the Dyslexia Taskforce, an outgrowth of HJM 9 – the Dyslexia Memorial that had passed the state legislature in March 2001. The taskforce developed a handbook, and spoke on behalf of it to the Board of Directors of the State Department of Education in October 2001. They underlined the need for a continuum of services in public schools.
- ❖ SWIDA donated over 700 copies of two IDA informational booklets (part of a grant from Sappi Papers) to schools and libraries throughout the branch's region.
- ❖ SWIDA donated \$1000 worth of books on dyslexia to 11 rural libraries thanks to a grant from IDA and SWIDA.
- ❖ Immediate Past President Meg Porch was the recipient of The Distinguished Service Award for 2001, awarded at a May luncheon at Scalo in Albuquerque.
- ❖ Membership grew by 30% to a total of 400.
- ❖ Veronica Tyree (El Paso), Pat Whitney (Santa Fe), and Sue Bennett (Silver City) became regional representatives.
- ❖ Board members conducted numerous public awareness events throughout the region.

**2002-2003****Officers:**

<b>Mary Gilroy</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Melissa Stotts</b>	<b>Vice-President</b>
<b>Ginny Beamsley</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>
<b>Cathleen Tomlinson</b>	<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>
<b>Robert Wengrod</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>

**Board of Directors:**

<b>Terri Abraham</b>	<b>Karen Baker</b>	<b>Judy Carter</b>
<b>Jennifer Coffey</b>	<b>Jeannine Comstock</b>	<b>Linda Curry</b>
<b>Corinne DeGarmo</b>	<b>Elwyn Hulett</b>	<b>Kris Kinney</b>
<b>Peggy Kohler</b>	<b>Lois Rothschild</b>	<b>Louise Swartswalter</b>
<b>Susan Thompson</b>	<b>Sybil Wertheim</b>	<b>Pat Whitney</b>

**Activities:**

- ❖ SWIDA sent UNM Diagnostician Melissa Behrens-Blake as a branch representative to IDA's Multicultural/Multilingual Conference in Washington, DC, June 2002.
- ❖ The Multisensory Training Committee sponsored a major training in June 2002, providing \$200 scholarships to twenty-six teachers enrolled in *Multisensory Teaching of Basic Language Skills* (MLTI of NM). In September, SWIDA sponsored "Let K-2 Assessment Guide Your Instruction," a one-day workshop presented by Melissa Stotts and Linda Romo in September. From May 29 to 31, 2003, the Committee sponsored *Project Read's Reading Comprehension Training*, presented by Kathy Hansen of the San Marcos School District in Texas. Forty-nine participants attended this training.
- ❖ SWIDA held its annual conference, *Learning Outside the Lines*, on February 7-8, 2003. Keynote speakers were Jonathan Mooney and Susan L. Hall. Attendance was 1120. An "Outside the Lines" exhibit of students' artwork and other endeavors was a huge success. SWIDA also began its first annual photo gallery of adults with dyslexia.
- ❖ SWIDA's Regional Representatives sponsored a Feast and Forum in Farmington and in Taos. Shippen Davis became the regional representative in the Roswell area.
- ❖ Board Members presented at numerous public awareness events, addressing several college classes, Foley's OASIS tutorial group, a Parents Reaching Out advocacy group, and an Albuquerque Public Schools workshop for instructional coaches.
- ❖ DSA 2001 recipient, Meg Porch, presented New Mexico State Representative Mimi Stewart with the Distinguished Service Award for 2002 at the Conference luncheon on February 8.
- ❖ Debi Janer, a student at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, received the SWIDA Scholarship for 2002. Santa Fe student Emily Colin received IDA's Remy Johnston Award for 2002.
- ❖ In December, SWIDA published *Ten in Every Hundred: The What, Who, How, and Where of Dyslexia*, a twenty-page booklet. The booklet was in its second printing of 5000 copies by January.
- ❖ SWIDA received two Achievement Awards from IDA Branch Council: one for the article, "Dyslexia: Fact and Fiction," written by a member of the branch and published by the newsletter of the Center for Teaching Excellence, distributed to 24,000 teachers in New Mexico; the second award was for "an outstanding newsletter."

**2003 – 2004****Officers:**

<b>Linda Curry</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Cathleen Tomlinson</b>	<b>Vice-President</b>
<b>Ginny Beamsley</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>
<b>Jeannine Comstock</b>	<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>
<b>Bernard Coffey</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>

**Board of Directors:**

<b>Terri Abraham</b>	<b>Kris Kinney</b>	<b>Sybil Wertheim</b>
<b>Judy Carter</b>	<b>Lois Rothschild</b>	<b>Pat Whitney</b>
<b>Corinne DeGarmo</b>	<b>Louise Swartswalter</b>	<b>Janet Yates</b>
<b>Sylvia Dorato</b>	<b>Susan Thompson</b>	
<b>Mary Gilroy</b>	<b>Cherylee Tombaugh</b>	

**Activities:**

- ❖ The annual SWIDA college scholarship was awarded to Michelle Carroll, a junior at the University of Denver
- ❖ The Multisensory Training Committee sponsored the Project Read: Reading Comprehension/Story Form Literature Connection workshop in Albuquerque on October 10-11, 2003.
- ❖ SWIDA sent 2 delegates, Meg Porch and Cathleen Tomlinson, to the IDA Delegate Assembly in San Diego in November.
- ❖ A third printing of the information booklet, “Ten in Every Hundred” was needed by January 2004. Another 10,000 copies were printed with minor text changes.
- ❖ SWIDA was granted a Branch Council mini-grant in January 2004. Ginny Beamsley submitted a grant request for “*Development of Phonemic Awareness Skills in English and Zuni of Headstart Students in Zuni, New Mexico.*” BCEC awarded \$1600 and SWIDA contributed \$500 for supplies and the creation of a booklet of instruction.
- ❖ SWIDA’s annual conference, *Literacy Roads and Roadblocks*, on February 20-21, 2004. Keynote speakers were Nancy Hennessy and Dr. Maryanne Wolf. Attendance was 1105. A concurrent Student Conference was held on Saturday, February 21 with 86 registrants.
- ❖ The SWIDA Distinguished Service Award was presented to Dr. Elwyn Hulett at the Friday evening Speakers’ Dinner, and a newly created award, the Jane Blumenfeld Community Service Award, was given to Dr. Lance Chilton.
- ❖ Also in February, SWIDA’s website, [www.southwestida.com](http://www.southwestida.com), went live. The publicity committee, chaired by Louise Swartswalter, put hours of work into the creation of this creative and informative website.
- ❖ At the Branch Council meeting in May 2004, SWIDA was given an achievement award for *creative and innovated uses of technology for communicating with and conveying the mission and vision of the International Dyslexia Association to branch members and our constituents.*
- ❖ SWIDA co-sponsored a two-day training session by Eric Jensen with the State Department of Education, the New Mexico Coalition of Charter Schools, and the Center for Teaching Excellence on May 6-7, 2004. The training was called, “Learning With the Brain in Mind.”
- ❖ A second strand of Project Read, “Written Expression: Framing Your Thoughts” was held on June 17-18, 2004 at Asbury United Methodist Church in Albuquerque.

2004 – 2005**Officers:**

<b>Linda Curry</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Cathleen Tomlinson</b>	<b>Vice-President</b>
<b>Sue Fitzmaurice</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>
<b>Jeannine Comstock</b>	<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>
<b>Bernard Coffey</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>

**Board of Directors:**

<b>Terri Abraham</b>	<b>Merlinda Foreman</b>	<b>Louise Swartswalter</b>
<b>Judy Carter</b>	<b>Kris Kinney</b>	<b>Susan Thompson</b>
<b>Corinne DeGarmo</b>	<b>Lois Rothschild</b>	<b>Cherylee Tombaugh</b>
<b>Sylvia Dorato</b>	<b>Carol Summers</b>	<b>Janet Yates</b>

**Activities:**

- ❖ On May 9, 2004 SWIDA officially began its 20<sup>th</sup> year.
- ❖ Audrey Rose Ornelas received the 2004-2005 SWIDA college scholarship.
- ❖ SWIDA updated the tutor/therapist referral list following the guidelines of the Alliance for Accreditation and Certification of Structured Language Education, Inc.
- ❖ Jane Blumenfeld made a \$10,000 endowment to the Albuquerque Community Foundation in SWIDA's name, called the "Dr. Jane Ann Blumenfeld Fund for the Southwest Branch of The International Dyslexia Association." SWIDA will receive annually 5% of the average value of the fund at that time. The stipend will be used for a teacher scholarship to a SWIDA-sponsored event or to fill a special need, at the discretion of the SWIDA Board of Directors.
- ❖ The Multisensory Training Committee sponsored two workshops. A "Math-U-See" workshop with Dan Sinclair was held on November 19, 2004 at the Asbury Church in Albuquerque. Thirty-nine people attended. Mary Gilroy and Cathleen Tomlinson presented "The English Language from A to EIGH" on June 3, 2005 at the TVI Workforce Training Center. There were 40 people attending.
- ❖ As a result of our Membership Initiative at the 2004 branch conference, SWIDA was authorized to send five delegates to the IDA Delegate Assembly Meeting in Philadelphia.
- ❖ The annual branch conference, "The Creative Brain: Gifted, Talented, and Dyslexic" was held at the Albuquerque Convention Center on February 11-12, 2005. There was a morning symposium on Friday chaired by Thomas G. West. Malcolm Alexander was the luncheon speaker. "Meet the Creative Brains" armchair discussions were held in the afternoon, followed by a Silent Auction and a Birthday Dinner for SWIDA at La Posada Hotel. Saturday's keynote speakers were Dr. Gordon Sherman and Dearthra Rosenberg. Breakout sessions followed.
- ❖ Beginning as an offshoot of the conference, SWIDA contracted with Togi Associates to create a film documentary of "The Creative Brains." Thanks to Lois Rothschild and her committee, the result is an hour-long professional video featuring personal interviews and insights of ten accomplished people with dyslexia, each of whom have a special talent and a successful career. The filming, editing, and processing of this documentary took a year, and the completed DVDs were delivered in August, 2005.
- ❖ The 2004 Distinguished Service Award was given to Mary P. Gilroy.
- ❖ The fourth printing of the "Ten in Every Hundred" information booklet was authorized in March, 2005, and another printing of "The Many Faces of Oral Language" activity book was authorized in June, 2005.
- ❖ Meg and Bruce Porch prepared a project proposal for SWIDA to rent office space for one to two years from Dillon Properties on Carlisle Blvd. in Albuquerque, and hire an executive secretary. The proposal was discussed and unanimously passed

at the May 7<sup>th</sup> board meeting. Meg Porch will chair the ad hoc committee to oversee the project.

## 2005 – 2006

### Officers:

<b>Linda Curry</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Cathleen Tomlinson</b>	<b>Vice-President</b>
<b>Nancy Hampton</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>
<b>Carol Summers</b>	<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>
<b>Bernard Coffey</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>

### Board of Directors:

<b>Carilyn Alarid</b>	<b>Corinne DeGarmo</b>	<b>Sherrye Smith</b>
<b>Nelda Baker</b>	<b>Sylvia Dorato</b>	<b>Martha Steger</b>
<b>Olga Cabada</b>	<b>Sue Fitzmaurice</b>	<b>SusanThompson</b>
<b>Judy Carter</b>	<b>Merlinda Foreman</b>	<b>Cherylee Tombaugh</b>
<b>Jenny Coffey</b>	<b>Lois Rothschild</b>	<b>Bob Walsh</b>
<b>Janet Yates</b>		

### Activities:

- ❖ The Multisensory Committee sponsored an all-day workshop at the TVI Workforce Training Center in Albuquerque on June 3, 2005. Mary Gilroy and Cathleen Tomlinson presented “*The English Language from A to EIGH*”. Over 40 people attended.
- ❖ The *Sam’s Club* on Albuquerque’s west side presented SWIDA with a \$1000 grant “to help improve reading and literacy” in our communities. The branch voted to use this money for teacher-training scholarships within the region.
- ❖ Cami Archuletta, a sophomore at New Mexico State University, received the SWIDA college scholarship for her fall 2005 semester.
- ❖ For the second year, Governor Bill Richardson issued a proclamation that October is Dyslexia Awareness Month in New Mexico.
- ❖ On October 16, 2005 a premier screening of the film “*Creative Brains: Gifted, Talented, and Dyslexic*” was held at *The Screen* at the College of Santa Fe. Over 130 people attended. A second screening was held in Taos, NM on October 26 with more than 95 people in attendance.
- ❖ The film “*Creative Brains: Gifted, Talented, and Dyslexic*” was submitted to the Sundance Film Festival, the Santa Fe Film Festival, and the Ashland Film Festival. It was accepted and shown at the Santa Fe film Festival.
- ❖ The Multisensory Training Committee sponsored a workshop in October, 2005 called “*Profiling the Struggling Reader*” with Melissa Behrens-Blake. Thirty-seven people registered for this all-day event.
- ❖ The IDA conference in Denver included a session with Tom West on “*The Creative Brain: Gifted, Talented, and Dyslexic.*” Our film was shown to the more than 600 people who attended that session.
- ❖ The Board of Directors voted to add two new scholarships to be offered to post-secondary dyslexic students. Beginning in the fall of 2006 we will offer two \$1000 scholarships to dyslexic students who are currently enrolled in a career-technical post-secondary institution, in addition to the \$2000 college scholarship.
- ❖ The 2006 branch conference, “The New Landscape: Fostering Life-Long Reading and Writing,” was held at the Albuquerque Convention Center on February 10-11. Keynote speakers were Regina Richardson and

- ❖ The 2005-2006 Distinguished Service Award was presented to Cathleen Tomlinson. The Jane Blumenfeld Community Service Award went to Melissa Behrens-Blake.
- ❖ In March, SWIDA was awarded a \$2000 mini-grant from IDA Branch Council. This project, called “Dimensions of Dyslexia” allowed SWIDA to distribute a copy of the DVD “Creative Brains” and ten copies of the pamphlet “Ten in Every Hundred” to 51 public libraries throughout New Mexico and El Paso.
- ❖ At the May board meeting, board member Lois Rothschild was presented with a leaf in the IDA Hall of Honor in thanks and recognition of her work as producer of the documentary DVD, “Creative Brains; Gifted, Talented, and Dyslexic.”
- ❖ Rosemarie Tomasini was hired as SWIDA’s Administrative Assistant and began working part-time in the SWIDA office on June 1.

## 2006 – 2007

### **Officers:**

<b>Linda Curry</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Cathleen Tomlinson</b>	<b>Vice-President</b>
<b>Nancy Hampton</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>
<b>Carol Summers</b>	<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>
<b>Bernard Coffey</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>

### **Board of Directors:**

<b>Carilyn Alarid</b>	<b>Carla Davila-Rosales</b>	<b>Kellie Keto Odegard</b>
<b>Nelda Baker</b>	<b>Sue Fitzmaurice</b>	<b>Martha Steger</b>
<b>Olga Cabada</b>	<b>Merlinda Foreman</b>	<b>Susan Thompson</b>
<b>Jenny Coffey</b>	<b>Montine Gibbons</b>	<b>Cherylee Tombaugh</b>
<b>Kerri Cottle</b>	<b>Michael Kaczor</b>	<b>Bob Walsh</b>

**Administrative Assistant: Rosemarie Tomasini**

### **Activities:**

- ❖ SWIDA published 4 editions of NewSWIDA. Montine Gibbons was the editor.
- ❖ The Multisensory Training Committee sponsored a two-day Project Read workshop on June 15-16 at TVI (now CNM). This presentation of the phonics strand drew 40 registrants.
- ❖ The \$2000 SWIDA College Scholarship for 2006-2007 was awarded to Priscilla Brito-Rodriguez who is attending El Paso Community College. Since there were no applicants for the Career/Technical School scholarships, SWIDA awarded \$500 scholarships to three other college applicants; Aaron Vegay from El Paso Community College, Edmon Alkhas from CNM, and April Benavidez from NMSU.
- ❖ SWIDA was invited to participate in the University of New Mexico’s Disability Awareness Expo in the UNM Student Union Building on October 18, 2006. Jane Hood, a SWIDA member and an instructor at UNM, volunteered to man a SWIDA booth and distribute information on our conference and our scholarships.
- ❖ The Multisensory Training Committee scheduled a dyslexia simulation on October 26<sup>th</sup> at the Santa Fe Main Library in downtown Santa Fe. There was no charge for this event.
- ❖ The Board of Directors voted to donate \$ to the MLTI Teacher Training Scholarship in memory of Sandra Reinert, and \$ to the Jane Blumenfeld Endowment Fund in memory of Lois Rothschild.
- ❖ The annual branch conference, entitled “Reading Minds” was held at the Albuquerque Convention Center on February 9-10, 2007.



- ❖ Judy Zanotti was the recipient of the Jane Blumenfeld Community Service Award, and Lois Rothschild was the Distinguished Service Award winner. Her husband, Bill, received the award in her memory at the post-conference reception.
- ❖ The \$2000 SWIDA College Scholarship for 2007-2008 was awarded to Drew Hamblin-Hatchell of Los Alamos. Drew is a business major at New Mexico State University and is entering his junior year with a 3.19 GPA. Paul Chavez of Albuquerque is the recipient of the \$1000 Career-Technical Scholarship. He attends Luna Community College near Las Vegas, New Mexico, and is studying welding. He holds a 3.2 GPA and plays on the **Luna Community College baseball team**.

## 2007-2008

### Officers:

<b>Martha Steger</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Carilyn Alarid</b>	<b>Vice-President</b>
<b>Nancy Hampton</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>
<b>Montine Gibbons</b>	<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>
<b>Bernard Coffey</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Sue Fitzmaurice</b>	<b>Board Representative</b>

### Board of Directors:

<b>Nelda Baker</b>	<b>Montine Gibbons</b>	<b>Carla Davila-Rosales</b>
<b>Olga Cabada</b>	<b>Sarah Herndon</b>	<b>Cherylee Tombaugh</b>
<b>Jenny Coffey</b>	<b>Michael Kaczor</b>	<b>Cathleen Tomlinson</b>
<b>Kerri Cottle</b>	<b>Kellie Keto Odegard</b>	<b>Bob Walsh</b>
<b>Pam Riley</b>	<b>Merlinda Foreman</b>	

**Administrative Assistant: Rosemarie Tomasini**

### Activities:

- ❖ SWIDA published 4 editions of NewSWIDA. Montine Gibbons was the editor.
- ❖ SWIDA presented a full-day workshop June 15<sup>th</sup> at the UNM Conference Center. The workshop, *Assessment and Education of Twice Exceptional Students*, featured speakers Melissa Behrens-Blake, L. Denis Higgins, and M. Elizabeth Nielsen. Thanks to the SWIDA Multisensory Training Chair, Kellie Keto, the workshop was well received by the 40 attendees.
- ❖ July brought the Southwest Branch fully into the electronic age with our first ever online newsletter, thanks to the efforts of SWIDA Newsletter Editor Montine Gibbons and SWIDA Website chair Nelda Baker.
- ❖ The \$2000 SWIDA College Scholarship for 2007-2008 was awarded to Drew Hamblin Hatchell of Los Alamos. Paul Chavez of Albuquerque was the recipient of the \$1,000 2007 Southwest Dyslexia Association Career-Technical Scholarship for students with Dyslexia.
- ❖ Governor Bill Richardson issued a proclamation that October of 2007 is Dyslexia Awareness Month in New Mexico.
- ❖ The following mayors issued proclamations in their respective cities declaring October Dyslexia Awareness Month: the Mayor of Albuquerque, Martin Chavez; the Mayor of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, Larry P. Abraham; and the Mayor of Farmington, William E. Standley.
- ❖ SWIDA presented the *2007 Leadership in Literacy Award* to Sara Sanchez, principal at E.G. Ross Elementary school in Albuquerque.

- ❖ Through the efforts of Kellie Keto, the Southwest Branch sponsored two multisensory workshops featuring nationally-renowned speaker William Van Cleave. “Words to Works” took place on Saturday, October 22 and “Words, Words, Words” on Sunday, October 23. Both sessions were held in Albuquerque at the Hilton Garden Inn.
- ❖ On October 3, 2007 SWIDA’s Regional Representative in Farmington, Jenny Coffey, in partnership with Project Read, an adult literacy group from San Juan College, presented “Put Yourself in the Shoes of a Dyslexic,” a simulation that creates situations resembling what it may be like to be dyslexic. This free event attracted over 60 participants and was repeated on December 8, 2007 with 34 attendees.
- ❖ SWIDA’s Annual Conference, *Follow the Yellow Brick Road*, was held on February 22 & 23, 2008, at the Albuquerque Convention Center. Keynote speakers were Dr. Sylvia Richards and Dr. Anita Archer. Emphasis was on early identification and intervention. Conference Chair Cathleen Tomlinson, along with her committee, and Program Chair Sue Fitzmaurice made it all a successful event.
- ❖ For the first time ever, the SWIDA conference brochure and registration for our annual conference, “Follow the Yellow Brick Road,” became available online on our website.
- ❖ Conference Scholarships were funded by the New Mexico State Department of Education, Special Education; Albuquerque Public Schools; and the New Mexico Scottish Rite Foundation.
- ❖ Through the generosity of two Educational Diagnosticians, Marilyn Stroud and Paula Wyn Torres, a full conference scholarship was awarded to a graduate student majoring in school psychology or specializing in educational diagnosis in the memory of their friend and colleague, Francis Garmen. Because of Francis’ major interest in reading, Ms. Stroud and Ms. Torres thought this was something that Francis, a long-time educational diagnostician, would appreciate.
- ❖ SWIDA’s 2007/2008 Distinguished Service Award went to Robert Wengrod and the 2007/2008 Jane Blumenfeld Award recipient was Jeanelle Livingston.

2008-2009**Officers:**

<b>Martha Steger</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Carilyn Alarid</b>	<b>Vice-President</b>
<b>Nancy Hampton</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>
<b>Montine Gibbons</b>	<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>
<b>Bernard Coffey</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Pam Riley</b>	<b>Board Representative</b>

**Board of Directors:**

<b>Olga Cabada</b>	<b>Michael Kaczor</b>	<b>Richard Rieckenberg</b>
<b>Jenny Coffey</b>	<b>Michelle Meeks</b>	<b>Cathleen Tomlinson</b>
<b>Kerri Cottle</b>	<b>Maridell Monnheimer</b>	<b>Bob Walsh</b>
<b>Erin Folk</b>	<b>Kellie Keto Odegard</b>	<b>Marion Woolam</b>
<b>Merlinda Foreman</b>	<b>Karen Patrick</b>	
<b>Sarah Herndon</b>	<b>Maria Rieckenberg</b>	

**Administrative Assistant: Rosemarie Tomasini**

**Activities:**

- ❖ SWIDA published 4 editions of NewSWIDA. Montine Gibbons was the editor. Beginning with the fall newsletter all editions will be delivered online via E-mail.
- ❖ Governor Bill Richardson once again proclaimed October 2008 as Dyslexia Awareness Month in New Mexico.
- ❖ The following mayors issued proclamations in their respective cities declaring October Dyslexia Awareness Month: the Mayor of Albuquerque, Martin Chavez; the Mayor of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, Larry P. Abraham; the Mayor of Farmington, William E. Standley; the Mayor of Las Vegas, Tony E. Marquez; the Mayor of Las Cruces, Ken D. Miyagishima; and the Mayor of Taos, Bobby F. Duran.
- ❖ SWIDA's annual two-day conference, *Dispel the Myths... Take Action*, was held on February 20-21, 2009 at the Student Union Building of the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. Keynote speakers were Dr. G. Reid Lyon and Dale Brown. Conference Chair, Carilyn Alarid, was the brainchild behind the Jackalope theme and the Silent Auction fundraiser that earned \$3,000 toward SWIDA's scholarship program. The new venue provided a smaller and cozier space that was well received by attendees. There were about 330 attendees at the conference.
- ❖ Conference Scholarships were funded by the New Mexico State Department of Education, Special Education Department and the Albuquerque Public Schools. These scholarships were awarded to special education teachers (elementary school through college) and student teachers, ancillary staff, and parents of students with dyslexia.
- ❖ The 2008 Lois Rothschild Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Freddy Gross, a graduate of Saint Michael's High School. The SWIDA College Scholarship for 2008 was awarded to Mathew Johnson, a junior at the University of New Mexico.
- ❖ In October several SWIDA members joined with family and friends to volunteer to man phones for the local KUNM (University of New Mexico) radio station. KUNM sent SWIDA a \$50.00 certificate toward purchase of advertising time on KUNM. After discussion, it was decided that the benefit did not outweigh the cost.
- ❖ In October for Dyslexia Awareness Month students from Sandia High School in Albuquerque participated in a Service Learning Project and manufactured wooden jackalopes for the February conference, "Dispel the Myths-Take Action". Some of the students along with Carilyn Alarid were interviewed by Deanna Saucedo of KRQE for a local morning television news show. Students in 7 Albuquerque High Schools designed the

jackrabbits in a “myth about dyslexia” theme. Some of the students were chosen to paint the jackrabbits for the silent auction conference fundraiser. 63 students participated and some of the jackrabbit designs were posted in a local Barnes and Nobles bookstore, along with the facts about the myth, advertising the conference in February. The display was extended through March due to the positive response.

- ❖ In February Demi DeGarmo, a college student with dyslexia, joined Carilyn Alarid in another television interview by Deanna Saucedo on the KRQE morning news show, discussing the difficulties students with dyslexia experience in school and to advertise for the conference.
- ❖ In February an article about dyslexia and the SWIDA conference was printed in the Desert Exposure, a local newspaper in Silver City, New Mexico. The article showcased jackalopes that were painted by two local Silver City area artists, Marilyn Gendron and Barbara Jorgen Nance, and donated to SWIDA for the conference fundraiser. New Mexico artists Gregory Lomayesva, Holly Dunn, Amado Pena, David Naylor, Roark Griffin, Mary Ann Corley and Revis Taylor also painted jackalopes for the fundraiser
- ❖ Michael Boone, an 11<sup>th</sup> grade special education student at Cibola High School who painted one of the student jackrabbits, was quoted in his school newspaper as saying, “the most important thing I am doing for the community is painting the bunny for SWIDA...and never give up and always do your best because people see you through the work that you do.”
- ❖ In March the NM Legislature unanimously passed House Joint Memorial 43, requesting the State Department of Education to include dyslexia in the state definition of disabilities for the purpose of interpreting IDEA, to identify effective interventions for students with dyslexia and to establish certification criteria for specialists who assist students with dyslexia. Although this was not a SWIDA sponsored memorial, several board members and two of their children testified before the Senate Education Committee in support of the memorial.
- ❖ On June 19, 2009, SWIDA had an exhibit table at the annual conference of the New Mexico Coalition for Literacy (NMCL) at the Nativo Lodge in Albuquerque. Erin Folk, Nancy Hampton, Montine Gibbons, and Martha Steger took turns at the table sharing information about dyslexia with the conference attendees.
- ❖ SWIDA’s 2008 Jane Blumenfeld Community Service Award recipient was Bernita Davis, director of Disability Services and Testing at Eastern New Mexico University. The 2008 Distinguished Service Award recipient was Corrine DeGarmo, nine-year devoted board member and grandmother of two dyslexic children.

2009-2010**Officers:**

<b>Carilyn Alarid</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Montine Gibbons</b>	<b>Vice-President</b>
<b>Erin Folk</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>
<b>Maridell Monnheimer</b>	<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>
<b>Bernard Coffey</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Pam Riley</b>	<b>Board Representative</b>

**Board of Directors:**

<b>Olga Cabada</b>	<b>Jenny Coffey</b>
<b>Jessie Cordova</b>	<b>Merlinda Foreman</b>
<b>Corinne DeGarmo</b>	<b>Sarah Herndon</b>
<b>Cathleen Tomlinson</b>	<b>Karen Patrick</b>
<b>Bob Walsh</b>	<b>Marion Woolam</b>

**Immediate Past President:****Martha Steger****Administrative Assistant: Rosemarie Tomasini****Activities:**

- ❖ Four editions of NewSWIDA were sent to members electronically.
- ❖ SWIDA adopted six new policies to be in concert with IDA; a Nepotism Policy, Joint Venture Policy, Conflict of Interest Policy, Employee Protection (Whistleblower) Policy, Document Retention Policy, and an E-Voting Policy. A change was also made to the Delegate Assembly Policy statement. The president will represent SWIDA as a delegate at Delegate Assembly.
- ❖ SWIDA put up a display at the Southwest Conference on Disabilities at the Albuquerque Convention Center Sept 30-Oct 2. Approximately 600 people attended.
- ❖ Governor Bill Richardson once again proclaimed October 2009 as Dyslexia Awareness Month in New Mexico.
- ❖ The following mayors issued proclamations in their respective cities declaring October Dyslexia Awareness Month: Larry P. Abraham; the Mayor of Farmington, Gloria J. Chavez, the Mayor of Tijeras, NM; and James R Marshall, the Manager of Silver City, NM. An article about dyslexia was also published in the Village of Tijeras newspaper.
- ❖ Albuquerque Public Schools, Special Education department and the New Mexico Public Education Department each donated \$3,000 for Conference scholarships.
- ❖ The simulation, "Put Yourself in the Shoes of a Person with Dyslexia" was presented five times in 2009-2010; Twice by Marion Woolam and Carilyn Alarid at Sierra Vista Elementary ES in Albuquerque with 8 participants and at Santa Fe, NM Community College, with 12 participants respectively. Carilyn Alarid presented a second time at Santa Fe CC with eight participants. Jenny Coffey, the Farmington Region Representative, presented the simulation twice; once at Ojo Amarillo Elementary School in Fruitwood, NM with 36 participants; and at Escalante Middle School in Durango, Co. with 48 participants. All simulations were presented at no charge, but there was a \$100.00 donation given at Ojo Amarillo.
- ❖ SWIDA members raised \$2505 for the first National IDA Dyslexia Dash at the Conference in Orlando, Florida.
- ❖ The Fundraising Committee co-chaired by Merlinda Foreman and Erin Folk created a new SWIDA fundraising initiative, asking donors to support the annual

conference. Private donations of approximately \$12,000 helped to underwrite the conference expenses. The Fundraising Committee also asked for 100% participation from the Board to donate to a SWIDA Nucleus Fund to strengthen prospects for outside donations.

- ❖ SWIDA presented the annual conference, *“Making Sense of Reading, Putting the Pieces Together”* on February 20, 2010 at the Student Union Building on the University of New Mexico campus. Dr. Isabel Beck was the keynote. The Annual Membership Meeting was held during the luncheon with more than 70 IDA members in attendance. There was a general attendance of 337 people.
- ❖ Alana Wesolowski was awarded the Career Technology Scholarship, Kristen Jimenez was awarded the College Scholarship, and Mark Noel was awarded the Lois Rothchild Memorial Scholarship.
- ❖ The “Dyslexia Law”, HB230, was signed into law, adding the IDA definition of Dyslexia into the NM Special Education Code, as well as requiring training about dyslexia for educators, administrators, and diagnosticians. Representative Mimi Stewart introduced HJM 16, regarding improved teacher training at the higher education level.
- ❖ Robert Wengrod donated the Downe Burn’s painting, “The Many Faces of Reading” to SWIDA.
- ❖ At the IDA Branch Council spring meeting in Baltimore, Carilyn Alarid presented a commemorative quilt that was assembled from quilt squares made by many of the 48 Branches to the National Headquarters Office. The squares were put together and quilted by Cheri More, of the Busy Bee Quilt Shop in Edgewood, NM, after the squares were sent to Carilyn by the participating branches. Carilyn and Meg Porch published an educational children’s picture book, *Putting the Pieces Together, Making Sense of Reading* to celebrate the making of the quilt. The proceeds of the books were donated to SWIDA.
- ❖ Carilyn Alarid represented SWIDA as an exhibitor, setting up the SWIDA display at the New Mexico Coalition for Literacy conference on June 18<sup>th</sup> in Santa Fe.
- ❖ Meg Porch worked diligently to revise the SWIDA By-laws. For the first time the By-laws were voted on and passed by the general membership through e-mail voting. The By-laws change the fiscal year from a June 1-May 31 cycle to a calendar year cycle. As a result, this portion of the SWIDA History will include a six-month period and the next reporting period will begin on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.
- ❖ SWIDA’s 2009 Jane Blumenfeld Community Service Award recipient was Marjorie McCament. Deborah Elder, an elementary principal, was presented with the Leadership in Literacy Award. Linda Curry received the Distinguished Service Award.

**June 1-December 31 2010****Officers:**

<b>Carilyn Alarid</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Montine Gibbons</b>	<b>Vice-President</b>
<b>Erin Folk</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>
<b>Maridell Monnheimer</b>	<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>
<b>Bernard Coffey</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Marion Woolam</b>	<b>Board Representative</b>

**Board of Directors:**

<b>Olga Cabada</b>	<b>Jenny Coffey</b>
<b>Jessie Cordova</b>	<b>Margaret Chacon</b>
<b>Corinne DeGarmo</b>	<b>Merlinda Foreman</b>
<b>Karen Patrick</b>	<b>Diane Noblett-Trujillo</b>
<b>Bob Walsh</b>	<b>Marion Woolam</b>

**Administrative Assistant: Rosemarie Tomasini**

**Activities:**

- ❖ Two editions of NewSWIDA were sent to members electronically. Marion Woolam was the editor.
- ❖ The simulation, “Put Yourself in the Shoes of a Person with Dyslexia” was presented by Jenny Coffey twice. She presented at the Country Club Elementary School to a group of 30 gifted students at no charge on October 1. On October 9 she presented the simulation to college student teachers and staff at San Juan College with 40 participants at no charge.
- ❖ The Fundraising Committee again asked for 100% participation from the Board to support the Nucleus Fund. They also initiated the first annual Phone-A-Thon on October 23, 2010 to reach out to the general membership to support SWIDA. Several SWIDA Board Members phoned general members, followed by a letter asking for donations. The Phone-A-Thon resulted in donations of about \$2,400.
- ❖ Erin Folk created a “Causes” page on Facebook for SWIDA.
- ❖ Governor Bill Richardson once again proclaimed October 2010 as Dyslexia Awareness Month in New Mexico.
- ❖ Tommy Roberts, the Mayor of Farmington, NM issued a proclamation declaring October Dyslexia Awareness Month.
- ❖ Richard J. Berry, Mayor of Albuquerque, NM issued a letter of recognition to SWIDA for Dyslexia Awareness Month.
- ❖ The Albuquerque Public Special Education Department provided \$3,000 for parent scholarships to the annual conference in 2011. The Scottish Rite gave \$300 for conference scholarships.

2011**Officers:**

<b>Carilyn Alarid</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Montine Gibbons</b>	<b>Vice-President</b>
<b>Erin Folk</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>
<b>Mary Gilroy</b>	<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>
<b>Bernard Coffey</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Marion Woolam</b>	<b>Board Representative</b>

**Board of Directors:**

<b>Debbie Elder</b>	<b>Jenny Coffey</b>
<b>Jessie Cordova</b>	<b>Margaret Chacon</b>
<b>Corinne DeGarmo</b>	<b>Merlinda Foreman</b>
<b>Robin Hoberg</b>	<b>Diane Noblett-Trujillo</b>
<b>Cathleen Tomlinson</b>	<b>Dorothy Gutierrez</b>
<b>Dr. Steven Sanchez</b>	

**Administrative Assistant: Rosemarie Tomasini**

**Activities:**

- ❖ Four editions of *NewSWIDA* were sent electronically to members. Marion Woolam was the editor.
- ❖ Jenny Coffey presented the Simulation, “Put Yourself in the Shoes of Person with Dyslexia,” in Farmington.
- ❖ Following the Implementation of HB230, 4 Dyslexia Training Modules created by the NMPED, Region IX Cooperative and 95% Group were posted on the NM Blackboard training site free to All NM teachers.
- ❖ Diane Noblett-Trujillo officially resigned from the Board.
- ❖ Montine Gibbons sent out Constant Contact alerts to membership and created a SWIDA page on Facebook.
- ❖ SWIDA presented the 2011 conference, “Dealing with What’s Been Dealt,” at the University of New Mexico. Beverly Wolf was the keynote speaker. There were 354 attendees with about 75 members in attendance for the annual meeting which was presented during the luncheon.
- ❖ Dorothy Gutierrez was appointed to replace Diane Trujillo as a Board member.
- ❖ Corinne DeGarmo resigned from the Board. Dr. Steven Sanchez was appointed as her replacement.
- ❖ Some SWIDA BOD, Advisory Council, and members met at the home of Montine Gibbons to review the HBO movie, *Journey into Dyslexia*. This was the first Film and Forum event.
- ❖ Carilyn Alarid represented SWIDA for the 2011 IDA Delegate Assembly.
- ❖ SWIDA was asked to participate in the IDA Parent Pilot Program and passed out parent membership forms to help increase members in the parent category.
- ❖ SWIDA joined the Hispano Chamber of Commerce to increase networking opportunities.
- ❖ Carilyn Alarid represented SWIDA at the New Mexico Coalition for Literacy Conference in Las Cruces, on June 17, 2011, with 70 people in attendance.
- ❖ Carilyn Alarid, Erin Brown, and Marion Woolam presented the Simulation to adult tutors at the Santa Fe Community College on July 28, 2011.
- ❖ The 2<sup>nd</sup> Film and Forum was held on October 23, 2011 at the Guild Theater in Albuquerque. SWIDA’s *Creative Brains* was presented to an audience of about 50 people. Trips for Kids sponsored the event.
- ❖ The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Phone-A-Thon was held prior to the Film and Forum, inviting members to attend.



- ❖ SWIDA Board members met in October for a Strategic Planning Retreat in lieu of a regular board meeting. Mary Wennersten from the IDA BDR facilitated the meeting.
- ❖ Debbie Elder officially resigned from the Board of Directors due to professional and family obligations.
- ❖ Montine Gibbons facilitated the development of an updated website that can be self-managed by SWIDA.
- ❖ Two teacher-training scholarships were awarded to Lisa Woolery and Angelia Henderson.
- ❖ Governor Susanna Martinez, Mayor Brad Hill of Edgewood, Mayor Dan Darnell of Farmington proclaimed October as Dyslexia Awareness month. Mayor Richard Berry proclaimed October 23<sup>rd</sup> as Dyslexia Awareness Day in Albuquerque.
- ❖ Margaret Chacon was considered resigned from the Board of Directors by attrition.
- ❖ A newspaper article written by Dr. Lance Chilton appeared in the Albuquerque Journal discussing dyslexia and the 2012 SWIDA conference, “Dyslexia’s Silver Lining.”
- ❖ SWIDA’s 2<sup>nd</sup> dyslexia awareness insert was printed in the Albuquerque Journal.
- ❖ Albuquerque Public Schools again donated \$3,000 and the Scottish Rite donated \$300 for scholarships to the 2012 conference.
- ❖ The Leadership in Literacy Award for 2011 was awarded to Janet Lear and Irene Welch. The Distinguished Service Award was awarded to Bernard Coffey. Linda McMurray was chosen to receive the Jane Blemenfeld Community Service Award.
- ❖ Jessica DeSanto was given the College Scholarship and Darian Rodgers was given the Lois Rothchild Scholarship.

**SWIDA History 2012**

**Officers:**

<b>Carilyn Alarid</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Montine Gibbons</b>	<b>Vice-President</b>
<b>Erin Folk</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>
<b>Mary Gilroy</b>	<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>
<b>Marion Woolam</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Dr. Steven Sanchez</b>	<b>Board Representative</b>

**Board of Directors:**

**Merlinda Foreman**  
**Robin Hoberg**  
**Cathleen Tomlinson**  
**Dorothy Gutierrez**  
**Candace Head-Dylla**  
**Carolee Dean**  
**Martha Steger**  
**Kathleen Donalson**

**Administrative Assistant: Rosemarie Tomasini**

## Activities:

- ❖ SWIDA partnered with Sandia Preparatory, Albuquerque Academy and Monzano Day School to promote the 2012 conference, receiving funds for \$600 from each of the schools to support the 2012 conference.
- ❖ Two editions of NewSWIDA were sent electronically to members. Dr. Steven Sanchez was the editor.
- ❖ Albuquerque Public Schools provided \$3,000 for scholarships to the conference in February. Scottish Rite donated \$100.
- ❖ SWIDA partnered with Sandia Preparatory, Albuquerque Academy and Monzano Day School to promote the 2012 conference, receiving funds for \$600 from each of the schools to support the 2012 conference.
- ❖ Cathleen Tomlinson and Mary Gilroy hosted two outreach activities in Taos; one on January 7th and a technology outreach event on April 21. Erin Brown made a presentation to NM Family Network on Jan. 11. Merlinda Foreman hosted a technology training at Manzano Day School on September 29.
- ❖ SWIDA hosted the annual conference, “Dyslexia’s Silver Lining” at the Sandia Resort on February 10 and 11, 2012. IDA President Eric Tridas presented the Keynote, and Anita Archer entertained the audience during the luncheon. Dr. Tridas, Emerson Dickman, Deardra Rosenberg, Gordon Sherman, Erin Brown Maile Kane and were among the speakers.
- ❖ SWIDA celebrated our 25th anniversary at a reception before the 2012 conference and honored Sandra Dillon, Marge McCament and Maile Kane for long time involvement in SWIDA.
- ❖ Steve Barron, Superintendent of Dora Consolidated Schools was chosen to receive the 2012 Leadership in Literacy Award for sending his staff to our conferences several years in a row. Cherylee Tombaugh was chosen for the Jane Blumenfeld Community Service Award for her dedication to students with Dyslexia in the southern part of the state, as well as having been a Board member and working influence in the passage of HB230. The Distinguished Service Award was awarded to Dr. Bruce Porch for his enduring service to SWIDA and students in the area of speech and language pathology.
- ❖ Montine Gibbons, Mary Gilroy, Erin Brown, and Robin Hoberg spoke before the NM Senate Education Committee.
- ❖ In May Alexa Vavruska honored SWIDA by producing Dancing for Dyslexia and presenting SWIDA with the proceeds of about \$1200 as her senior project which was focused on dyslexia awareness.
- ❖ The Edson Foundation presented SWIDA with a donation of ten thousand dollars toward scholarships. Wilbur and Annette Sitze and Alden and Cherylee Tombaugh presented the donation on behalf of the Foundation.
- ❖ SWIDA received proclamations from Governor Susana Martinez for October as Dyslexia Awareness Month and Albuquerque Mayor Richard Berry for a Dyslexia Awareness Day in October.
- ❖ The Lois Rothchild Scholarship recipient was Nicholas Ross from Albuquerque. The College Scholarship recipient is Jessica DeSanto from Las Vegas, NM. The Career-Technical Scholarship recipients were Bryce Whitehead from Bloomfield and Selene Franco from Las Cruces. All four teacher training scholarships were awarded to Rita Pino Vargas, Albuquerque; Catherine Aragon, Magdalena; Jennifer Talik, Rio Rancho; Lisa Woolery.

## SWIDA 2013 History

### Officers:

<b>Montine Gibbons</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Cathleen Tomlinson</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
<b>Erin Brown</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>
<b>Mary Gilroy</b>	<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>
<b>Marion Woolam</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Carilyn Alarid</b>	<b>Immediate Past-President</b>
<b>Carolee Dean</b>	<b>Board Representative</b>

### Board Members:

<b>Catherine Bornhorst</b>	<b>Kathleen Donalson</b>
<b>Merlinda Foreman</b>	<b>Claudia Gutierrez</b>
<b>Robin Hoberg</b>	<b>Maridell Monnheimer</b>
<b>Katrina Radosevich</b>	<b>Dr. Steven Sanchez</b>
<b>Martha Steger</b>	

### Administrative Assistant: Rosemarie Tomasini

**Advisory Council:** Melissa Behrens-Blake, Dr. Jane Blumenfeld, Linda Curry, Sandra Dillon  
Dr. Candace Head-Dylla, Dr. Elwyn Hulett, Maile Kane, Janet Lear, Mimi Stewart

- ❖ February 1 and 2 the 26th Annual Dyslexia Conference was held at the Sandia Resort in Albuquerque, NM. Dr. Kenneth Pugh from the Haskins Laboratories at Yale University was the morning keynote speaker. William Van Cleave gave the luncheon keynote address. Mary Gilroy and Cathleen Tomlinson served as the program chairs.
- ❖ Steve Barron of Dora, NM received the 2012 IDA Leadership in Literacy Award.
- ❖ Cheryl Tombaugh of Las Cruces, NM received the 2012 Jane Blumenfeld Community Service Award
- ❖ Dr. Bruce Porch, retired UNM professor, received the SWIDA Distinguished Service Award.
- ❖ Jessica De Santo of Las Vegas, NM received the SWIDA College Scholarship
- ❖ Nicholas Ross of Albuquerque, NM received the Lois Rothschild Memorial Scholarship.
- ❖ Bryce Whitehead of Bloomfield, NM received the SWIDA Career-Technical Scholarship.
- ❖ Board members gave a presentation to the NM Legislative Education Study Committee on House Bill 230
- ❖ Film and Forum events were conducted throughout the year.
- ❖ SWIDA acquired webinar technology to enable us to provide online content via that format.

## SWIDA 2014 History

### Executive Committee:

<b>Montine Gibbons</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Cathleen Tomlinson</b>	<b>President-Elect</b>
<b>Erin Brown</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>
<b>Mary Gilroy</b>	<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>
<b>Marion Woolam</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Carolee Dean</b>	<b>Board Representative</b>

### Board Members:

<b>Mari Bauman</b>	<b>Catherine Bornhorst</b>
<b>Angelica-Cuevas Duran</b>	<b>Kathleen Donalson</b>
<b>Merlinda Foreman</b>	<b>Claudia Gutierrez</b>
<b>Maridell Monnheimer</b>	<b>Cynthia Nava</b>
<b>Katrina Radosevich</b>	<b>Dr. Steven Sanchez</b>
<b>Martha Steger</b>	<b>Michelle Wick</b>

**Administrative Assistant: Rosemarie Tomasini**

**Advisory Council: Melissa Behrens-Blake, Dr. Jane Blumenfeld, Linda Curry, Sandra Dillon  
Dr. Candace Head-Dylla, Dr. Elwyn Hulett, Maile Kane, Janet Lear, Mimi Stewart**

### Activities:

- ❖ February 7-8 the 27th Annual Dyslexia Conference was held at the Sandia Resort in Albuquerque, NM. Cathleen Tomlinson served as conference chair. Friday night SWIDA hosted a film and forum event. Susan L. Hall, Ed. D. from the 95 percent group gave the keynote address on Saturday. Ron Yoshimoto presented several breakout sessions.
- ❖ Carilyn Alarid of Tijeras, NM received the Distinguished Service Award for 2013.
- ❖ Michele Hunt of El Prado, NM received the IDA Leadership in Literacy Award for 2013.
- ❖ Dr. Anne Tafoya from Albuquerque Public Schools received the Jane Blumenfeld Community Service Award for 2013.
- ❖ Jessica Smith of Albuquerque, NM received the Lois Rothschild Memorial Scholarship
- ❖ The following people received SWIDA Multisensory Teacher Training Scholarships - Jennifer Hank, Judy Harris, Stacy Rafter, Katherine Simmons, Jennifer Talik, Annalise Zosel
- ❖ SWIDA partnered with Sandia Preparatory, Albuquerque Academy and Manzano Day School to promote the 2012 conference, receiving funds for \$600 from each of the schools to support the 2012 conference

...

## SWIDA 2015 History

### Officers:

<b>Cathleen Tomlinson/Carolee Dean</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Claudia Gutierrez</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
<b>Michelle Wick</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>
<b>Erin Brown</b>	<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>
<b>Marion Woolam</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Steve Sanchez</b>	<b>Board Representative</b>

### Board Members:

<b>Cammie Archuleta</b>	<b>Sara Blair</b>
<b>Angelica Cuevas-Duran</b>	<b>Merlinda Foreman</b>
<b>Mary Poirier Gilroy</b>	<b>Gina Hawryluk</b>
<b>Cynthia Nava</b>	<b>Tamara Ogilvie</b>
<b>Katrina Radosevich Gallegos</b>	<b>Glenda Rodriguez</b>
<b>Dr. Steven Sanchez</b>	<b>Martha Steger</b>
<b>Montine Gibbons</b>	<b>Immediate Past President</b>

### Major Activities:

- ❖ In late January, Vice-president Carolee Dean assumed the responsibility as President when Cathleen Tomlinson stepped down due to serious health concerns.
- ❖ February 20-21: Conference and General Meeting at Sandia Casino. Martha Steger was the conference chair. 368 people attended. This included about 20 students. Friday Night presentations were free to the public. They included information from Lyn Pollard about the parent advocacy group Decoding Dyslexia. *Kindling the Reading Fire* was a panel that included local authors Carolee Dean, Kersten Hamilton, and Caroline Starr Rose as well as professor Teri Lesesne from Sam Houston University in Texas. Saturday Presenters included: Parent Advocate - Lynn Pollard, Assistive Technology Specialist - Megan Shanley and Dan Shanley, Teri Lesesne, Professor of Library Science at Sam Houston State University, and Dr. Kelli-Sandman Hurley who discussed Structured Word Inquiry She also delivered the keynote address on "Dyslexia 101." President, Carolee Dean held a morning student session with Megan and Dan on story crafting. There was an afternoon professional panel for students consisting of college students and young professionals. During our Friday night Pre-conference Session on February 20, 2015, Miss Teen New Mexico, Nicolette Pacheco, spoke about her struggles with dyslexia
- ❖ Awards: Merlinda Forman was awarded the Distinguished Service Award. No other awards were given.
- ❖ The new website got up and running. Karina Armijo of Taos was the web designer.
- ❖ Carolee Dean, President, attended the Annual Branch Council Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. One of the key highlights were discussion about creating a Destiny Driven Organization. A test to certify teachers is also underway. Brad Tyra, track cyclist, gave a very motivational speech. He is dyslexic and IDA is sponsoring him for the 2016 olympics.
- ❖ May 9, 2015 Board Meeting, Tara Debuck was voted onto the board to replace Angelica Cuevas Duran.
- ❖ Carolee Dean and Montine Gibbons held a series of interviews in June and hired a new administrative assistant, Chamisa Roehrig. Rosemarie Tomasini continued to help with conference registration through February 2016.
- ❖ Chamisa Roehrig began her new position as our administrative assistant in June.
- ❖ Three Student Scholarships Were Awarded in June:
- ❖ Lois Rothschild went to Simon Blevins of Llano, NM. He will be studying agriculture and NM State University. The Career-Technical Scholarship went to Maya Stephenson, Albuquerque, who will study nursing at UNM. College Scholarship went Jacob Burge, a senior at UNM, majoring in Special Education
- ❖ Teacher Training Scholarships were awarded to Mary Jo Kelly, Kelly Campbell, Lisa Sipp and Diana Mizusawa.

- ❖ The Destiny Initiative Team, a group of IDA Board Members and Branch Presidents, came together on July 30-31, 2015 at the Historic Maryland Inn to discuss the future of the International Dyslexia Association. Carolee Dean, SWIDA Branch President attended and has been serving on this team, participating in a series of conference calls throughout the summer.
- ❖ August 29, 2015 - Rick Smith, the New Executive Director of IDA, attended our board meeting. He discussed a new nationwide fundraising initiative.
- ❖ Beloved Board Member, Cathleen Tomlinson, passed away. A beautiful memorial service was held on 8/29/15 after the board meeting at the Anansi Charter School in Taos where a new library was named in her honor. Many SWIDA members attended. Beautiful flower arrangements were sent by both SWIDA and IDA. Everyone who attended the memorial received a copy of *The Chefs of Taos: Passion and Process*, a book created by Cathleen as a fundraiser for SWIDA.
- ❖ SWIDA held a mini-conference on October 24 in Las Cruces, spearheaded by Board Member Glenda Rodriguez. This first time event was a huge success with about 70 people attending including several board members. We held our board meeting the night before at the lovely St. Clair's Winery & Bistro. Glenda Rodriguez was able to get Centennial High School as our venue. Their culinary arts department prepared breakfast and lunch. Brad Tyra, the track cyclist who is an olympic hopeful for 2016 and sponsored by IDA spoke. He drove down from Colorado Springs with his mother to attend. Erin Brown gave a session on Dyslexia 101. Judy Carter and Mari Reyes presented on Structured Literacy. Jennifer Haan discussed 505 Accommodations and Charlotte Peterson discussed Understanding Diagnostic Reports.
- ❖ December - Karina Armijo, our new web designer, resigned her post.
- ❖ \$3,508 was raised by the Cathleen Tomlinson Memorial Fund.
- ❖ Four online issues of our newsletter were issued by Newsletter Editor Carolee Dean.

## 2016 SWIDA History

### Executive Committee:

Carolee Dean  
 Claudia Gutierrez  
 Martha Steger  
 Erin Brown  
 Cammie Archuleta  
 Dr. Steven Sanchez

President  
 Vice President  
 Recording Secretary  
 Corresponding Secretary  
 Treasurer  
 Board Representative

### Board Members:

Tamara Ogilvie  
 Gina Hawrluk  
 Glenda Rodriguez  
 Steven Sanchez  
 Amy Stanton  
 Mary Gilroy

Sara Blair  
 Martha Steger  
 Katrina Radosevich-Gallegos  
 Amy Miller  
 Tara Debuck  
 Michelle Wick

### Advisory Council:

Melissa Behrens-Blake, Dr. Jane Blumenfeld, Jenny Coffey, Linda Curry,  
 Sandra Dillon, Montine Gibbons, Maile Kane, Janet Lear, Cynthia Nava, Meg Porch,  
 NM Senator Mimi Stewart

## Activities, Outreaches, and Accomplishments:

- February 9, 2016 - Amy Miller and Amy Stanton joined the board as our newest members.
- February 19-20, 2016 - Annual Conference and General Meeting were held at Sandia Casino. Mary Gilroy and Erin Brown served as co-chairs. Featured speakers were Margie Gillis and William Van Cleave. Special guest Diana H. King also attended. We held another successful student conference. There were about 325 participants total and we raised \$22,062 including \$8,500 in sponsorships. We offered 40 partial professional scholarships and 40 partial APS scholarships.
- Awards given at the conference - Distinguished Service Award Recipient was Martha Steger, Leadership in Literacy went to Las Cruces principal Julio Martinez, and the Jane Blumenfeld Award went to Rosemarie Tomasini, SWIDA's first Administrative Assistant.
- June 5 Carolee Dean, SWIDA president and Janine Johnston ran the half marathon at the San Diego Rock and Roll Marathon for TeamQuest, raising about \$1900 for both our branch and home office. \$500 went to the February 2017 conference scholarships for students/families and the rest will be put in the Cathleen Tomlinson Fund bringing the total to \$4,908
- In June three award recipients were named: Daniel Romero received the Career Technical Scholarship, Maya Stephenson received the College Scholarship, and Atyr Cederlof received the Lois Rothschild Memorial Scholarship.
- President Carolee Dean spoke at the Executive Women International Meeting in July.
- September there was a workshop/Simulation in Silver City at Western University with additional Simulations that month in Las Cruces.
- NM County Fair. Advisory Council member Meg Porch promoted dyslexia awareness through dissemination of the SWIDA cookbook, *Chefs of Taos: Passion and Process*, at the State Fair (given to chefs). The book was a collection of recipes by chefs with dyslexia
- October was DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH - Board retreat for strategic planning was held in Santa Fe, followed by multiple outreach activities. May Center teachers and SWIDA Board Members Amy Miller and Amy Stanton hosted dyslexia simulations and spearheaded an illumination of the Santa Fe Railyard water tower, lighting it up in red for Dyslexia Awareness.
- November 9: Presentation on dyslexia to the UNM-Taos class
- Information & Referral Emails & Phone Calls- Total calls and emails was 487 as follows: Conference Questions - 245, Testing and Therapy - 122, Adults seeking help with dyslexia- 10, Spanish speakers seeking help with dyslexia - 4, Inquiries about book/DVD purchases-24, Scholarships (other than conference) 23, Membership - 8, Simulations 5, Assistive Technology-9, TeamQuest - 4. Other 33.
- Social Media- Quarterly newsletter sent out through Constant Contact by our Newsletter editor, Mary Gilroy, with IDA website migration planned for spring 2017. SWIDA maintained an active Facebook Page. There were 19,475 visits to our website this year. There were 21,620 in 2015.

•