Newsletter article

Advocacy Report January 2023

A Legislative Advocacy presentation was conducted by Gerri Settoon, Advocacy Committee Chairperson and LRA State Coordinator, at our recent January 14th LRA meeting in Marksville, LA. Gerri did a PowerPoint presentation on *the Legislators Back to School Program.* The America’s Legislators Back to School Program is a national bi-partisan civic education effort sponsored by the National Conference of State Legislatures (NSCL). The program encourages state legislators to visit students and teachers in the classroom, bringing civics to life, giving young people an opportunity to meet personally with their elected state lawmakers, and letting the young citizens know their ideas count. Students learn about the pressures, conflicts, and difficulties encountered by legislators dealing with public policy problems. Legislators get a first-hand look at what it is like for students and educators in local schools. This visit can help establish a bond of support for schools, educators, and students.

Begun in 1999 as a one week focus on civic education across the nation, the America’s Legislators Back to School Program is now a year-long effort.

The America's Legislators Back to School Program is making a difference in Louisiana. A simple visit by one of the Legislators to a classroom a couple of years ago resulted in a new state law pushed by students that created the nationally recognized Louisiana Legislative Youth Advisory Council.

For more information on the program, go to  <https://lco.legis.la.gov/civic-education>. The [School Visit Form](https://form.jotform.com/211024168071141) is on this page as is a coloring book, activity book, and kids page. Click on the booklets at the bottom of the page to obtain some interesting and fun knowledge and activities to share in your classroom.

To schedule a classroom or school visit is very simple. Any teacher, or student can request a school visit from their local legislator by visiting the LCO website above and filling out the School Visit Form or calling a Legislative Communication Office Officer at 225-342-9737. Please let Gerri Settoon know if you schedule a visit as the information will be submitted to the International Literacy Association as part of our annual Advocacy Award Grant for the LA Reading Association.