

What committee members do: Linda Wihl, who developed the tutoring curriculum Making Sense of Language Arts, retired in 2023. Community volunteers now run the afterschool program using the MSLA curriculum, and WCC members can tutor up to three afternoons a week, along with additional community volunteers. WCC members sit on the MSLA board.

After being trained (a commitment of a few hours annually), tutors continue to use multi-sensory learning techniques like songs, touch, games, visualization of stories, and movement to help the children gain the ability to express themselves through language arts. Over the course of the school year, each tutor meets with the same child after school. Tutors follow an easy-to-use lesson plan from the basic curriculum but adapted each week to meet their children's learning styles and progress.

More information on the tutoring program at <http://www.makingsenseoflanguagearts.com>

How to get involved: Information about tutoring next school year will be available sometime during the summer.

Members interested in analyzing policy, working on projects, and planning programs about education may contact Sarah Gideonse for more information and to volunteer.

Achievements:

Most children have the capacity to learn. However, many children lack expressive ability for a variety of reasons, including those associated with poverty (lack of parental time to read and play with their children and funds to buy toys and books, etc.). Most of the children who entered the tutoring program begin with below-average language arts skills. Each year, 80-100% of the children left the program with average or better language arts skills. The improvement in expressive ability and letter and word skills has been significant, to very significant! Because literacy skills are often a determining factor for children in school and career success, the program can change their outcomes for a lifetime.

Other achievements:

- Analyzes educational issues and made recommendations for action. The EAG analyzes Ohio House of Representative Bills banning "devisive" topics, which the WCC Board of Trustees adopted. EAG opposed the state's new universal voucher program, which subsidizes virtually all children to attend private schools, and the Governor's transferring all substantive roles from the State Board of Education that included mostly elected representatives, to his office.
- In cooperation with the Program Committee, EAG presents forums on educational topics, often in collaboration with other organizations: programs presenting school board candidates, a panel on Cincinnati Public Schools community learning centers, and a forum on Ohio charter schools. In the fall of 2022, WCC held a forum, "Teaching the Truth: Our Kids Deserve It," about proposed legislation to ban critical race theory and related topics from being taught in publicly funded schools and colleges. In winter 2024, WCC held a forum on the recent controversial actions by the Ohio General Assembly,

universal vouchers and reassignment of most duties of the Ohio Board of Education to the Governor's office.