



Northeast Arkansas Reading Council (NEARC) has the privilege of being located along side the mighty Mississippi River. It is the second largest river system in the United States. This river system is responsible for the development and expansion of America as we know it today. As with the Mississippi River, NEARC is the oldest council in Arkansas. It has expanded and developed since its inception in 1969. Many officers have been responsible for this beginning with the first list of officers as follows: President Lillian T. Faulk, West Memphis; Vice President Julia Penn, Blytheville, Arkansas; and Secretary/Treasurer Wilma Piper, West Memphis, Arkansas. And continuing with the 2010-11 officers: **President Caroline Self, Blytheville, Arkansas; Vice President Viola Snow, Lake City, Arkansas; Secretary Sally Cooke, Blytheville, Arkansas; and Treasurer/Membership Director Marvel Dickerson, Gosnell, Arkansas.**



As with the river, NEARC has led the way for reading development in providing professional opportunities, family literacy, and individual literacy. The council promotes literacy on all levels, thereby instilling lifelong reading habits. Touching all lives as the river continues to do, the council provides reading materials through appropriate magazines for a local women’s and children’s shelter. Internationally, the council sponsors a child through the Teri Clark Ministries. This child lives in Uganda and the council provides necessary items for her to go to school where she lives.



Like the river, we bring community together for the African American Read-In Chain for the last eleven years. We provide a continual flow of reading education with activities such as a review of the Charlie May Simon and Arkansas Diamond award nominees; newspapers in education; and technology. We keep information moving and recognize leaders through the Celebrate Literacy Award. Therefore, Reading on the River for the NEARC cover the character as well as the history of the river. NEARC is as mighty as the Great Mississippi River.



Photos: Top- NEARC Officers; Middle- Members and Caroline Schenk at Newspapers in Education Workshop; Bottom Left- Linda Williams assists a young reader during the AARIC and Bottom Right- Caroline Self recognizing Teresa Lawrence with the Celebrate Literacy award in Education.