



THE MISSOURI IRA NEWSLETTER

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Volume 27, Number 1

International Reading Association

Fall 2006

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear MSC/IRA Members,

It was a dark and stormy night...don't you just love stories that start out that way? Actually, it was a hot and steamy afternoon as I made my way to the mailbox at the curb. I sorted through the pile I had pulled from the box as I quickly headed back to the air-conditioned cool of my house, spotting something that sent chills up my spine in spite of the hot and the steamy afternoon. It was THE LETTER! You know—the one that comes on school letterhead and starts out innocently enough—

“Dear Staff Member,

and ends with

“See you on August 16 at 8:00 a.m.”

After the initial shock of realizing summer is almost over, I settled into the idea that our lives—those of teachers and students—have come full circle. We are at another “beginning of the school year.” Beginnings are always a little scary, but good. We begin the rituals that define us as “teachers” and “students.” Teachers prepare materials and classrooms. Students begin gathering supplies and wardrobes. It's time to go back to school!

It's also the beginning of another year for MSC/IRA members. We have come full circle. Leadership was held in Springfield on July 15. Local council leaders gathered materials and information for beginning another year of professional development and camaraderie with their members. Laurie Edmondson and her committee are working magic! “The Magic of Literacy” Fall Conference, November 16-18, will be here before we know it.

Attend your local council meetings and get a friend or two to join. Begin your year knowing you'll have professional support and backup from your local, state, and international reading associations. It's time to go back to school!

Clover Noack, MSC-IRA President

cnoack@charter.net

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Here we are once again at the start of a new year. We sincerely hope this will be your best year ever. The conference theme this year is “The Magic of Literacy”. This is also a fun topic to use for your membership drive. We will have the same membership contest as last year with the membership chairs who have the highest percentage increase in membership in each of the three size categories receiving a free registration to the Fall Conference 2007. The council in each size category with the highest increase will also receive a free international membership.

As you are aware, we will be changing our membership enrollment process starting in September. Therefore, it is recommended that you not send in any new memberships until after the September Board Meeting.

In the new procedure, each member (or prospective member) will be able to enter their own membership in their council on the website (www.missourireading.org). They will either print out a receipt to give to you with their check or they will be able to pay on-line with Pay Pal. Our webmaster will be attending the Fall Board of Directors Meeting in Springfield on September 23, 2006. Arrangements are being made so that we will be able to go to the computer lab at Drury College and have this process explained in detail at that time. Therefore, it is very important that the local council membership director plan to attend this meeting if at all possible.

This new process will make membership enrollment and record keeping much easier once everything is in place and we have all become familiar with it. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Barbara Hiles, Director of Membership

bhiles24@msn.com

Sandy Lane, Asst. to Director of Membership

slane@dfamilk.com

These Items Require Your Special Attention

Call for Research Projects	p. 5
Poster Contest	p. 6
Community Service Award	p. 6
MSC/IRA State Conference	p. 7
Media Awards	p. 7
Professional Development	p. 7

FROM THE COORDINATOR

LEADERSHIP RETREAT – “The Magic of Literacy”

The eighteenth annual Summer Leadership Workshop was held July 15, 2006 at the University Plaza Hotel in Springfield. Local council officers from fifteen local councils along with members of the State Executive Board attended the workshop. The workshop is designed to share information about IRA at all levels with incoming council presidents, president-elects (or vice presidents), and membership directors (or treasurers) in order that these new or returning local council officers will be better prepared for their upcoming responsibilities.

The workshop was opened with a get-acquainted activity designed to have people meet each other and find out about some important resources in MSC/IRA. Next, everyone participated in a carousel brainstorming activity using questions relating to problems many councils deal with every year. Council Presidents were emailed the responses to the questions listed on each of the ten posters to help with ideas for local council planning. Everyone learned about the latest changes coming to our Missouri IRA Website (www.missourireading.org) this fall. Please see the Website Coordinator and the Membership Director's articles for all the details!

Job alike sessions gave officers an opportunity to meet with those from other councils holding the same office and share successes and solutions to problems encountered. Two potpourri sessions offered a wide variety of subjects such as; student councils, brand new council leaders, awards, newsletters/communications, and Robert's Rules for meetings. Zone Coordinators met with councils from their zones during lunch to discuss activities and concerns for the coming year. As in the past, participants learned as much from each other as they did from the presenters – and new friendships were formed in the process.

Everyone's time is valuable and those who gave up a part of a summer weekend to attend and participate will enable MSC/IRA to have a great year with informed officers who have established a network with their fellow officers across the state. Additionally, we appreciate your input and feedback letting us know how we can best serve local councils.

I urge you as you make plans for the 2006-07 year, to schedule your election of new officers soon after the first of the year. This will ensure that you will have your officer list ready for submission before the due date of April 15, 2007. It will also give newly elected officers the opportunity to work with the current officers to learn the responsibilities of their office and how to make the new council year a successful one.

Please let me know if you have any questions. My contact information is listed below.

Lou Sears, MSC/IRA State Coordinator
lousears@hotmail.com

TEACHERS AS READERS

Why Jane and John Couldn't Read-And How They Learned by Rosalie Fink, *Teaching for Deep Comprehension: A Reading Workshop Approach* by Linda Dorn and Carla Soffos, and *Building a Knowledge Base in Reading* by Jane Braunger and Jan Lewis – what do all these titles have in common? They were the basis for my (Tammy) professional reading. You might want to consider some of these books as selections for a future Teachers As Readers (TAR) group in your council. Forming a TAR group is easy:

- invite interested members to come together to discuss a book of choice. It could be an author study, a recent IRA publication, or a book on a current topic of high interest;
- select someone to act as facilitator. This role can change at each session; set up an agreed upon date(s) and time(s);
- establish what approach the group will take in reading the materials- chapter by chapter, topic by topic, or at the conclusion;
- set norms for the group so that everyone has an opportunity to share in the discussion;
- but most of all – read and enjoy sharing reflections with your colleagues.

At the September MSC/IRA meeting the TAR group will meet to decide on the book that we will read for the coming year. Please come with a title, author, and a brief description so we can make a decision. Also, at this meeting we will discuss the works of Marc Brown and Patricia McKissack as featured authors at the Fall MSC/IRA conference. Bring along any of your favorite books by these authors along with any teaching tips that you might want to share with the group. Happy Reading!

Tammy Rhomberg, Teachers as Readers Co-Chair
coasl@rockwood.k12.mo.us

Sally Minnick, Teachers as Readers Co-Chair
sminnick@greenhills.net

LITERACY HELP COLUMN

No one submitted anything for this column, but I'm sure many of you have topics on which you would like to have some assistance.

For example, appropriate software for building reading comprehension, excellent educational websites, managing literature groups, etc.

Be sure and send in these requests to me by December 1, 2006 for the winter issue.

Dodie Barnes, MSC/IRA Newsletter Editor
dodiejb@aol.com

WHAT IS FAMILY LITERACY?

There really is no single definition for the term “family literacy” but generally family literacy is best described as ways that families develop and use literacy in day-to-day tasks and activities. It involves the reading, writing, speaking and listening that parents do with their children or other adults.

Research has shown that family interaction has a great impact on how easily children learn to read and write later when they begin school. It is clear that literacy begins in the family and parents and other caregivers is a child’s first and most important teacher.

There are several types of programs to promote family literacy. These include parents and children both being taught literacy skills. Parents are taught literacy skills directly in ways to help their child at home, parents are asked by schools to participate in their child’s literacy learning in specific ways and parents and children participate in the community such as story time at the library. Over the next few issues of our newsletter a series of activities to promote family literacy will be presented. It is hoped by providing these activities; our members will be able to pass this knowledge on to families of children in their own classroom. If you have any activities that you would like to include, please email me at debiporter@sbcglobal.net. Whether you are involved in a family literacy program or you are just looking for ways to develop family literacy within your community, it is hoped that these articles will help you on your way.

USING JERRY PALLOTTA’S BOOKS TO PROMOTE LITERACY

One of my favorite activities to do with parents is to introduce families to author Jerry Pallotta. Through *Hershey’s Kisses Subtraction Book and Addition Book*, families can enjoy solving a variety of math problems. I encourage parents to read the book as they complete the problems. Using the kisses with the new colored wrappers is a creative way to solve problems and provide concrete experiences for children. For older children *The Hershey’s Milk Chocolate Fractions Book* will expose children to the idea of fractions along with introducing vocabulary needed to comprehend the concept.

Other books by Jerry Pallotta that promote family literacy include *Twizzlers Shapes and Patterns* and *Reese’s Pieces Count by Fives*. Jerry also writes a variety of alphabet books that are extremely well written and include a multitude of topics ranging from flowers to animal skulls.

If these ideas are new to you, then I hope you enjoy passing them on to your families and if you have used them in the past, let me know what additional activities you have done to promote family literacy.

Debi Porter, Family Literacy Chair
debiporter@sbcglobal.net

Pallotta, Jerry. *The Hershey’s Kisses Addition Book*. New York: Scholastic, 2001.

Pallotta, Jerry. *The Hershey’s Kisses Subtraction Book*. New York: Scholastic, 2002.

Pallotta, Jerry. *The Hershey’s Milk Chocolate Fractions Book*. New York: Scholastic, 1999.

Pallotta, Jerry. *Reese’s Pieces Count by Fives*. New York: Scholastic, 2000.

Pallotta, Jerry. *Twizzlers Shapes and Patterns*. New York: Scholastic, 2002.

FROM THE EDITOR

Well, we have completed one year of sending you the state newsletter via your email and as with all new adventures, we have had a few glitches or mess ups. We are hopeful that everything will run smoother this year, but if you have any concerns, please email me and I will try to address your issues.

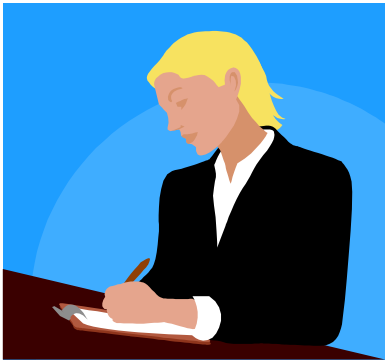
Ask your colleagues if they have received their newsletter and if not, have them contact me at dodiejb@aol.com. If you have an email address change, contact Sandy Lane, membership director, at slane@dfamilk.com.

We incorporated into the newsletter a literacy help column. If you have any requests to assist you in your teaching and promotion of literacy, please email me and I will include it in the Winter Newsletter.

If you have any suggestions on ways to improve our newsletter, please email Dodie Barnes.

Submitted by Dodie Barnes, Newsletter Editor
dodiejb@aol.com

WANTED MSC/IRA OFFICERS



**Recently Involved in
MSC/IRA and IRA
Activities,
Is Organized and Knowledgeable
in the Area
Of
Promoting Literacy.
These wanted individuals were
last seen at MSC/IRA local
association meetings portraying
the role of officers in their local
council.**

**If you have seen anyone that fits
this description,
email at once to
debiporter@sbcglobal.net**

WEBSITE COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Changes are coming! This fall we will have several new features with our Missouri IRA Website that you will need to check out!

The first and most important feature will be the Membership Database. Everyone who is a member or wants to join Missouri IRA will join on-line. This will allow each member to monitor and make changes to their own information. For those who do not have access to the Internet, your Local Council Membership Chair can enter the information for you on-line. Joining on-line allows not only your information to be updated and current, but provides numerous possibilities for your Local Council and for the Missouri State IRA. Various reports can be created using the database and members will receive an automatic email notice when it's time to renew. Members will also have access to our MSC/IRA Yearbook, materials, and information that are for "Members Only" when you log on using your user name and password.

There will be two ways to pay for your membership using the on-line feature. The first way is to simply click "Pay by Check" and the member can mail a check to your Local Membership Chair or if you prefer, you can click "Pay Pal" and pay on-line.

Not only will you be able to join Missouri IRA on-line, but you can also register for the fall Conference on-line as well! Members simply fill out a few fields in the registration form and click which way you prefer to pay – by check/purchase order or by using PayPal.

We are excited about the changes coming to our website and know that you will enjoy the convenience of the new on-line capabilities. Please do not hesitate to contact your Website Coordinator listed below or your Local Council Officers if you have any questions.

Lou Sears, Website Coordinator
lousears@hotmail.com

**CALL FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS
FOR THE
MSC/IRA RESEARCH IN READING AWARD
Guidelines for the 2006 Award Year**

You are invited to share your research with the rest of the SHOW-ME State. The MSC/IRA Research in Reading Award is awarded annually to the member who designs and carries out research focused on reading, writing, spelling or any other aspect of literacy.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

- All applicants must be members of the Missouri State Reading Council.
- Studies may be undertaken using various research approaches or methods, including teacher-research or action-research.
- Studies conducted in conjunction with advanced degrees (Masters, Specialist or Doctorate) are eligible.
- Projects developing new programs or instructional materials are not eligible.

DEADLINE

- Applications must be postmarked by October 15, 2006.

MAIL APPLICATION TO:

Dr. Willie Edwards
Missouri Southern State University
Department of Teacher Education
3950 East Newman Road
Joplin, MO 64801

Additional information, requirements, and the application form are on our website at www.missourireading.org. Contact Dr. Willie Edwards at 417-625-9626 or edwards-w@mssu.edu if you have any questions or need technical assistance in preparing your application.

POSTER CONTEST

Our 40th Annual Conference for the International Reading Association will be here before we know it. All Missouri students are encouraged to plant their ideas and talent into a reading poster. That means it is time for all hard working sponsors to fertilize their students' growth in creativity for our reading poster contest!

The guidelines and procedures for the poster contest can be found on the MSC/IRA website www.missourireading.org. Please take the time to visit the website and print the forms for entering the poster contest.

Every year there are some wonderful posters on display at the fall conference and we want the display this year to be even bigger and better.

Paula Erdel, Poster Contest Chair
perdel@indep.k12.mo.us

A MESSAGE FROM THE HISTORIAN

ATTENTION COUNCIL LEADERS!

It has recently been brought to my attention that there is some confusion as to where and how to send your council news and photograph items.

If you have a photograph of a council event or council news that you wish published on the website, forward all of the information to Lou Sears, our website coordinator, at lousears@hotmail.com. This is not placed in the state newsletter, but in a separate section of the website.

If you have council news or photographs you wish to have placed in the MSC/IRA Historian's album or if the item is part of the Honor Council or Show Me Award requirements, then mail it to me: Kathleen McDonnell, 445 Nantucket Drive, St. Charles, MO 63301.

Kathleen McDonnell, Historian
kmcdonne@mail.win.org

NEWS FROM THE PHILIPPINES

During the summer, I was pleased to hear from Dr. Felicitas E. Pado, president of the Reading Association of the Philippines (RAP). She would like to thank the Missouri State Council for the contributions we have sent to the Philippines to further literacy there.

Dr. Pado states: "RAP is very busy doing its share in improving the literacy of the Filipinos, especially the school age children and youth through teacher training and a campaign for readership. There is a great problem in education, such as lack of classrooms, teachers, facilities, which result in overcrowded classrooms, and therefore, poor quality of education. These are all due to budgetary constraints. RAP helps the Department of Education by 'retooling' the teachers on how to read effectively through in-service training. We conduct RAP-on-Wheels (R-o-W), a customized training program delivered to schools to address their particular needs on reading education. The donations from the Missouri Reading Association in the previous years were spent on the R-o-W in order to free the schools of the burden of transportation and other incidental costs for this training."

Dr. Prado continues to share information about the two regular Reading conventions that are held in April and October in Manila, and her vision for literacy in her homeland. She concludes by stating, "RAP can do these projects, and hopes to do more, with the help of generous associations like yours. Thank you very much Petro for your generosity and we in RAP wish you more success."

Thanks to all councils that have participated in this project, because it is your generosity that is making the difference in a part of the world that strives to increase literacy, and, in doing so, has an enormous need for funds. As you plan for this year, please remember the Philippines and send your contribution to our MSC/IRA State Treasurer, Kit Blake, 5006 SE Riverside Terrace, St. Joseph, MO 64507.

My goal for this year is to once again exceed \$1,000.00. I know we can do it!

Petro Branson, International Projects Chair
lbranson@kc.rr.com

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Calling all Presidents, executive committees, members, and reading enthusiasts! Get ready to plan a Community Service Project for your local council to work on this year. The Community Service Project should encourage literacy development in children and/or adults in your community. Some successful council projects have included book bags for babies, books/materials for family shelters, reading to homebound students/adults, reading and giving books to preschoolers or young readers, or create a new project tailored to fit your council members and community! Your council could be awarded \$200 for your outstanding efforts! Additionally, projects may be used for the Show Me State Award report and the Honor Council report (International) in the spring.

The Community Service Award guidelines, application information, and an optional application form are online at the MSC/IRA website:

www.missourireading.org or contact the Community Service Chair. The application is due June 1st, 2007, so mark your calendars now and don't forget! There is ample time to get as many members as possible out into your community to help promote literacy.

Linda McGlothlin, Community Service Award Chair
mac_read@yahoo.com

CELEBRATE LITERACY AWARD

The MSC/IRA Literacy Award Committee recognizes individuals across the state who have made major contributions to promote literacy.

The recipients of the award this year are Val Garton, Language Arts Coordinator for the Columbia, Missouri Public Schools and Reeds Spring Primary School.

The awards will be given to the winners at the Fall Conference in November.

Barbara Ryczek, Celebrate Literacy Chair
barbryczek@aol.com

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Missouri State Council offers two different professional Development awards annually for local/state council members. Scholarships in the amount of \$250 each are available for graduate coursework in the areas of reading or areas related to reading. Missouri State Council Conference Grants in the amount of \$250 each are available for first-time attendees who might not otherwise have the opportunity to attend an MSC/IRA State Conference. Application materials are available on the website (www.missourireading.org) or from:

Betsy Baker, Professional Development Awards Chair
2910 Bluegrass Ct.
Columbia, MO 65201
573-214-3630 (O)
573-214-3631 (fax)
573-449-9952 (H)
bbaker@columbia.k12.mo.us

Applications for each award are due October 1, 2006

BROADCAST AND PRINT MEDIA AWARDS

It's time again for members to look and listen for potential nominees for the Broadcast Media Award and the Print Media Award. MSC/IRA would like to recognize those who do an outstanding job of promoting literacy. The forms can be downloaded from the website, www.missourireading.org. The deadline for nominations is October 1, 2006 and the winners will be recognized at the MSC/IRA conference in November.

Faye Crow, Media Award
fcrow@readywork.com



November 16-18, 2006

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND PLAN TO ATTEND

If you have any questions, contact Laurie Edmondson – ledmondson@drury.edu or Marie Puett – mlpuett@ccp.com
Visit our website for more details www.missourireading.org

40th MISSOURI STATE COUNCIL
 IRA CONFERENCE
 LODGE OF FOUR SEASO
 LAKE OZARK, MISSOURI
 November 16-18, 2006

Barbara Hiles
 Registration Chair
 312 SE Gingerbread Lane
 Blue Springs, MO 64014



REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Email Address _____

IRA # _____ Local Council _____ State _____ On Membership Card or IRA Journal

Full-time Student Institution _____ Student ID# _____

() Please check if, under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you require specific aids/services during the conference.

() Please specify if you require any special dietary considerations.

REGISTRATION FEES

PRECONFERENCE INSTITUTE:(Thursday, November 16th: Two hour extended workshops on a single topic & General Session I)				
IRA Members	\$75.00	Full-time Students	\$50.00	
Non-members	\$100.00	Retired Members	\$50.00	\$ _____
FULL CONFERENCE: (Includes Thursday General Session I, all Friday & Saturday sessions and exhibits, MEAL FUNCTIONS NOT INCLUDED)				
IRA Members	\$125.00	Full-time Students	\$65.00	
Non-members	\$155.00	Retired Members	\$65.00	\$ _____
Friday or Saturday CONFERENCE ONLY (ONE DAY RATE):				
Friday, November 17 (General Session II, sessions, and exhibits), OR Saturday, November 18 (General Session III and sessions)				
(MEAL FUNCTIONS NOT INCLUDED)				
IRA Members	\$75.00	Full-time Students	\$50.00	
Non-members	\$100.00	Retired Members	\$50.00	\$ _____
MEAL FUNCTIONS:				
Friday Breakfast with the Authors		\$15.00	\$ _____	
Friday Box Lunch		\$15.00	\$ _____	
Friday evening Banquet (Marc Brown, Speaker)		\$35.00	\$ _____	
Saturday Author Luncheon (Lisa Campbell Ernst, Speaker)		\$25.00	\$ _____	\$ _____
				Total Conference Fees \$ _____

Please make checks payable to MSC/IRA Conference 2006. Thank you!

Refund policy: Telephone cancellations will not be accepted. Refunds will be made upon receipt of a written request postmarked no later than October 15, 2006. Substitutes accepted. A processing charge of \$20.00 will be withheld. Refund checks will be issued after the conference. Payment must accompany registration. Please submit Check/ Money Order/ Purchase Order.

Note: ¼ sleeve shirts with “The Magic of Literacy” logo will be for sale.

MSC/IRA CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2006-2007

September 22, 2006	State Officers and Executive Board Meeting University Plaza Hotel, Springfield, MO
September 23, 2006	Board Meeting University Plaza Hotel, Springfield, MO
November 16-18, 2006	40 th Annual State Conference, Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark
March 9-10, 2007	Missouri IRA Board Meeting

**SEND NEW CALENDAR ITEMS AND ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR BY
DECEMBER 1ST FOR THE WINTER NEWSLETTER**

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Lou Sears, State Coordinator
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Ann Porter-Gifford, River Heritage
Teresa Krigbaum, Mark Twain

