



THE MISSOURI IRA NEWSLETTER

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International Reading Association

Fall 2005

From the President



**Our President, Debi
Porter, In 1st Grade**

What an honor it is to serve as president of the Missouri State Council of the International Reading Association. One of my first duties was to attend the International Leadership Conference in Toronto. What an experience it was! I met so many leaders from all over the world. We all shared visions of promoting literacy within our state or province. It was truly an inspiring time.

One of the sessions was presented by our dear friend and author, Steven Layne. He revealed to us that during his illness he thought about the people in his balcony who were cheering him on. He was so thankful for these individuals and feels they made a difference in his recovery. It made me think about the people in my balcony who have supported me throughout my life.

One of the people in my balcony would have to be Mrs. Daugherty, my first grade teacher. Mrs. Daugherty was tiny and very attractive. I remember mostly that she cared about me and supported my developmental growth in that first year of school. Because I was so very young, I needed extra time in the classroom to develop the skills to become a confident reader. I had a very positive experience that continued throughout my school years.

I am hoping someday I will be sitting in someone's balcony. I hope I can make a difference in a child's life by understanding their needs like Mrs. Daugherty did for me. As educators, it is always our goal to make a difference in a child's life, but sometimes we become so involved in the process that we lose sight of the child. If we step back and take a look at the big picture, we can better understand our visions and the actions it takes to reach them.

As a member of MSC-IRA, I would like for you to think about someone in your balcony. Does your balcony include family, friends and colleagues? But more importantly, are you included in someone's balcony. As the new school year approaches, what are your visions and what actions will you need to take to achieve them? MSC-IRA has many opportunities for educators to achieve their visions. It has been our mission to promote a higher level of literacy for all citizens of Missouri. Through our involvement with the community we continue to strive for this goal.

In closing, MSC-IRA has been in my balcony for the past several years. I have developed an appreciation for my fellow colleagues and the work they continue to provide in the name of literacy. If you haven't looked in your balcony, please do so. I hope MSC-IRA is there cheering you on and supporting you in your journey of promoting literacy.

Have a wonderful school year,

Debi Porter, MSC-IRA President



**Mrs. Daugherty, Debi's
1st Grade Teacher**

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From the Coordinator

The seventeenth annual Summer Leadership Workshop was held July 9, 2005 at the Best Western Inn in Columbia. Local council officers from nineteen local councils along with members of the State Executive Committee 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.

Kay Hays, Leadership Development Associate for the Plains Region, gave the councils ideas on how to add "LIFE" to councils that are experiencing problems with membership and obtaining council officers. 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, new council leaders, international projects/state awards, newsletters/communication within your council, legislation, Honor Council/ Show Me State Award, Young Author's conferences, and how to organize committees/committee responsibilities.

Kerri Bruce, Director of Membership Development, Springfield Council, shared ideas with everyone for a successful membership campaign.

Zone meetings were held Saturday afternoon, which gave councils an opportunity to meet as a group with their Zone Coordinator and 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.

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 of idea-sharing with their fellow officers across the state.

Next year's retreat is tentatively scheduled for June 24, 2006. **MARK THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR AS SOON AS YOU READ THIS ARTICLE** and don't miss this opportunity to learn about your responsibilities, share ideas with others, and make new friends with similar interests.

I also urge you, as you make plans for the 2005-2006 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, 2006. 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.

*Submitted by
Barbara Hiles
State Coordinator*

From the Editor

This is our first newsletter for the new school year and we are trying to be innovative and send out the newsletters over the internet. Since this is our first attempt at using e-mail to notify our members about the newsletter, we may encounter a few problems. Please be patient and we are confident that we can address all of your concerns by our next issue.

Some of the newsletter changes are:

- > Council news will no longer be included, because this will be on the website and updated periodically.
- > Pictures from meetings and conferences will also be on the website and not in the newsletter.
- > State Conference information and application forms will be on the website.
- > Other forms online are: poster contest, print media award, community service award, professional development award, etc.

The Missouri State Council Executive Committee decided to post the newsletter on our website in order to save money in printing and postage. They also wanted to encourage our members to utilize the website and discover all of the interesting items that are located there.

All members who have e-mail service will be notified via e-mail when a newsletter is published. If a member does not have e-mail or would prefer a printed copy, the newsletter will be mailed to them.

A postcard has been mailed where you can indicate your choice of receiving the newsletter by mail or e-mail. If you have not returned your postcard, please do so as soon as possible or e-mail Lou Sears at lousears@hotmail.com and inform her of your choice.

The committee hopes that you will appreciate their efforts in trying to save money for the MSC-IRA by receiving the newsletter online.

If you have any suggestions on ways to improve our newsletter, please e-mail Dodie Barnes at dodiejb@aol.com.

*Submitted by
Dodie Barnes
Newsletter Editor*

Membership Development

Our theme this year is Building Bridges to Literacy! We are excited about the 2005-2006 school year! We currently have three contests for membership in local councils. They are as follows:

Largest Percent Increase in Membership (Three size categories)-One paid registration to the 2006 MSC Fall Conference for the winner in each size category.

The Most New IRA Members (Three size categories)- A free one journal IRA membership to the winner in each size category.

Reach Your Council's Membership Goal for the Show Me State Award and Submit By February 1, 2006-A special weekend getaway to a fabulous local resort.

Don't forget to reach out to new teachers and try to recruit recent members to come back to IRA. If you want to become a member online, visit our website at www.missourireading.org.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Laurie Edmondson at ledmondson@drury.edu or Sandy Lane at slane@dfamilk.com. We will continue to build bridges together!

Submitted by
Laurie Edmondson
Sandy Lane
Membership Development

TREASURER TIPS



Have you filed your council's 990 EZ yet? Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax, must be completed and returned by the fifteenth day of the 5th month after the close of your fiscal year.

The International Reading Association is a nonprofit corporation that is exempt from federal income tax under the Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), as an association organization and operated exclusively for educational purposes. IRA councils are also exempt from federal income tax as a result of a group exemption obtained by IRA for subordinate organizations affiliated with the Association.

Retaining this tax-exempt status requires some paperwork from you. If you have not received Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax, from the Internal Revenue, download a copy of the 990EZ from the web site at www.ira.gov.

Councils whose gross receipts are *less than* \$25,000 for the year must sign and return the form after checking the appropriate box above part 1 (box J) and completing the top portion of the form parts A through K. We are a 501 (c) organization. Outgoing presidents should sign the form. Councils whose gross receipts *exceed* \$25,000 must complete the form as indicated on the directions before signing and returning. Councils with gross receipts less than \$100,000 and total assets less than \$250,000 can file 990EZ.

You will need two numbers when completing the form, an Employer Identification Number (this is different for each council) and the Group Exemption Number (1737). If you are unable to locate your EIN number, I will be glad to assist you with locating the information.

Upon completion of the 99-EZ, mail it to Internal Revenue Service Center, Ogden, UT 84201-0027.

Remember, it is better to file late, than not at all.

Submitted by
Marie Puett
Treasurer
mlpuett@ccp.com

AWARDS AND CONTESTS

Community Service Award

The Community Service Award recognizes local reading councils for outstanding service in promoting and encouraging literacy in local communities. Although some professionals may just “talk the talk,” Missouri reading councils take ACTION! And it is time to ACT in your community with a Community Service Project! As your local council plans the 2005-2006 year, include a Community Service Project that encourages literacy development in children and/or adults in your community. The main objective is to get your council and your community involved in encouraging literacy! Some successful council projects have included book bags for babies, books/materials for family shelters, initiating and carrying out a family literacy fair, reading to homebound students/adults, reading and giving books to preschoolers or young readers. You may want to create a new or redesigned project tailored to fit you council members and community!

Projects may also be included as part of the Show Me State Award and the International Honor Council reports, as well as, for the MSC Community Service Award.

For easier access MSC-IRA will have the Community Service Award guidelines, application information and forms online at the MSC-IRA website: www.missourireading.org -- or contact the Community Service Chair at mac_read@yahoo.com.

The deadline is June 1, so there is plenty of time to complete your project and application for the Community Service Award.

*Submitted by,
Linda McGlothlin
Community Service Chair*

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 for this year are Lou Sears and the West Boulevard Elementary School Staff.

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

*Submitted by
Barbara Ryczek
Celebrate Literacy Chair*

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD

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 Travel 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 packets are available from local council presidents or online at www.missourireading.org or bbaker@columbia.k12.mo.us. Applications for each award are due by Sept. 16, 2005.

*Submitted by
Betsy Baker
Professional Development Awards Chair*

POSTER CONTEST

Our 39th 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 those hard working sponsors to fertilize their students' growth in creativity for our reading poster contest! Along with that growth comes a little pruning and if you follow the regulations outlined on the MSC-IRA website, you can cultivate those posters into show pieces.

Poster guidelines and forms can be located at www.missourireading.org. All posters are due by November 11 to Deborah Pearson or can be brought to the state conference at the Lodge of the Four Seasons on November 18th. If you have any questions, contact Deborah Pearson at 417-223-2507 or dhayusa@yahoo.com.

*Submitted by
Deborah Pearson
Poster Contest Chair*

Exemplary Reading Award

The Exemplary Reading Program Award is sponsored by the International Reading Association. The purpose is to recognize outstanding reading and language arts programs at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. There are many outstanding programs in schools throughout the country and it is the goal of IRA to honor those schools for their efforts.

The program has five objectives: (1) to improve literacy in our society, (2) to recognize school staffs who demonstrate excellence in reading and literacy programs, (3) to encourage the development and refinement of exemplary reading/language arts programs, (4) to report to the public noteworthy efforts to improve reading/language arts, and (5) to disseminate specific information about high-quality programs so that other professionals can use it to improve their own instructional efforts.

All public, private, and parochial elementary and secondary schools are eligible for the award if the school has at least one IRA member. The school must apply with its entire reading program, not just one segment. The application form must be fully completed, and signed by the chief school officer (e.g., superintendent). The winning program should serve as a model for other schools and teachers.

Applications must be postmarked by November 15, 2005 to be considered in this spring's competition. Site visits by the Missouri State Exemplary Award Committee will be completed by February 1, 2005. Application forms may be downloaded from the Missouri IRA Website www.missourireading.org or may be found in the Leadership Packet that Council Presidents are given at the Leadership Workshop. In addition, you may contact the Exemplary Reading Chair for a copy of the application at lousears@hotmail.com.

*Submitted by
Lou Sears
Exemplary Reading Chair*

PRINT MEDIA AWARD

It's deadline time again! If you have found great nominees for the MSC-IRA Print Media Award or the Broadcast Media Award for Television or Radio, now is the time to give them the application forms so that they can be submitted before October 1. Details about the qualifications are given on the forms. You can download the applications from the MSC-IRA web site at www.missourireading.org or e-mail fcrow@mchsi.com.

*Submitted by
Faye Crow
Media Award Chair*

Nomination Committee

Would you like to become more involved in the Missouri State Council of the IRA? We are looking for a few good people (men or women) who care about literacy to consider being nominated for an officer's position at the state level. We are always seeking Vice Presidential nominees each year and sometimes have openings for other positions as well.

Please consider serving in a position in this very worthwhile organization. We are always looking for enthusiastic, caring individuals who would like to further their own leadership experiences. I have often said that it's because of the leadership roles I have had in IRA that I have been able to take advantage of leadership opportunities in my district and in the state.

Please contact me at the email address listed below if you are interested in becoming a leader in MSC/IRA.

*Submitted by
Lou Sears
Nomination Committee Chair
lousears@hotmail.com*

Teachers as Readers

At the April MSC-IRA Board of Director's meeting, the Teachers as Readers group discussed the book – *Improving Classroom Questions* by Kenneth R. Chuska. More and more is being written about the importance of asking high quality questions in order to get high quality answers. The fall TAR session will continue this focus on questioning strategies. Participants are encouraged to bring a copy of the book for further discussion, as well as, questions used in their classrooms (with student responses) as a way of exploring action research and as a stimulus for discussing the types of responses to different levels of questions. In September, the group will decide on the resources/ topics for future discussions.

All MSC/IRA members are welcome to attend the sessions. Make plans to join in one or all of the TAR group discussions this year.

*Submitted by
Tammy Rhomberg &
Sally Minnick
Teachers as Readers Chairs*

MISSOURI READING WEEK

November 13th marks the beginning of this year's annual Missouri Reading Week which is held in conjunction with the National Children's Book Week. This is an opportunity to showcase our passion for reading to and with students!! This year's theme for Children's Book Week is "Imagine". What better way to celebrate books than by "imagining" all kinds of ways, both old AND new, to share the joy of reading with others.

To help spark your imagination about ways in which to celebrate Missouri Reading Week, we have some resources to share with you. For those planning to attend the Board Meeting in Columbia on Sept. 24th, there will be a packet of materials for you to take back to your local councils. You can run off copies and distribute them to all members prior to Nov. 13th. In addition to this resource packet of activities, materials, etc., here are some websites which will enable you to get a head start on ideas for this exciting and celebratory week in our Missouri schools:

- > www.cbcbooks.org website of the Children's Book Council
- > www.time4teachers.com
- > www.readingrockets.org

A letter has been sent to Governor Blunt asking him to officially declare the dates of Nov. 13th – 19th as Missouri Reading Week. Start thinking NOW of ways in which to honor readers and reading!

If you have ideas you are willing to share with other MSC-IRA members, please feel free to email them to Susan Jaggi at sjaggi@mail.stcharles.k12.mo.us no later than Sept. 10th for inclusion in our resource packet. Please include your name, school, and district so that we can properly acknowledge your contribution.

*Submitted by
Susan Jaggi
Missouri Reading Chair*

From the Website Coordinator

Dear Local Council Leaders,

As you probably already know, for the past year we have been expanding our Missouri State Council Website <http://www.missourireading.org/> and providing more information to our members than ever before. You may also know by now that with this issue, we are planning to post our Newsletter on-line rather than mailing it out in hard copy. Hard copies will be available by request through the Website Coordinator for those who are not able to access the website.

Because of this change, we are going to be approaching how we handle council news differently than we have in the past. Instead of sending your articles to the MSC-IRA Newsletter Editor for publication, we will be having the local council news on our website. Your news will be posted in a special section of our website dedicated to local council news. We currently have Northwest Council's news posted on our website and you can access it by going to the website and clicking into "Local Council News".

We will post your news as soon as you are able to send it to me as an attachment. If you have photos that accompany your article, our Webmaster, Theresa Watson, will do her best to include the photos. The news can be updated as the year continues. You may consider including your meeting dates and places for the year. This could be a valuable resource for you and your local council members.

Please contact me at the email address or phone listed below and I will try and answer any questions you may have.

Thanks for all your hard work and dedication!

*Lou Sears
MSC-IRA Website Coordinator
Phone: 913/236-5029
Email: lousears@hotmail.com
Missouri IRA Website:
<http://www.missourireading.org/>*

Literacy at the Lake 39th Annual Conference MSC-IRA November 17-19, 2005

It's time to get excited and registered! We have a great lineup of speakers and authors with something for everyone--from early childhood to teacher preparation. This year, we will have plenty of exhibition space, along with a refreshment and meeting area for conference attendees in the Lodge's great exhibit hall. Look for the conference mailing after Labor Day or go to our website, www.missourireading.org for more information or contact Clover at cnoack@charter.net.

*Submitted by
Clover Noack, Pres.-Elect
Conference Chair*

MSC-IRA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2005-2006

September 23, 2005	Executive Board Meeting, Columbia
September 24, 2005	Fall Board Meeting, Columbia
November 13-17, 2005	Missouri Reading Week/Children's Book Week
November 17-19, 2005	39 th Annual State Conference, Lodge of the Four Seasons, Lake Ozark
March 31, 2006	Executive Board Meeting, Columbia
April 1, 2006	Spring Board Meeting, Columbia
May 1-5, 2006	51 st Annual IRA Convention Chicago, Illinois
June 24, 2006	13 th Annual Summer Leadership Workshop

Send New Calendar Items and Articles to the Editor by December 1, 2005 for the January Newsletter

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Sandy Lane, Membership Development – Management
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