



THE MISSOURI IRA NEWSLETTER

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Volume 26, Number 3

International Reading Association

Spring 2006

From the President



Dear MSC-IRA Members,

It was February, 2003 when I received a call from Tom Cornell. I quickly recognized the name as the past president of the Missouri State Council of the International Reading Association. I thought to myself, "Why would I be getting a call from him?" Little did I know what path I was about to travel upon. Over the past three years, I have become a manager, politician, accountant, planning executive, traveler, marketing executive, speaker, negotiator, writer, editor, publicist, and yes, even dabbled in some law! The many hats of the MSC-IRA president are ones I have been proud to wear. The experiences I was privileged to face will be a large chapter in my own book of life. How could I forget meeting prestigious educators who have dedicated their lives to literacy? When would I have met famous children's authors who inspire the love of reading? Who would I have networked with to improve and enhance my own teaching skills? Why would I feel overwhelmed when I had so much support from all the members? Finally, what would I have ever done if I had not been part of this wonderful and enriching organization that boosted my desire to be a better educator? It sounds as if I am going to retire into the sunset, but that is not the case. As past president, I will continue as a board member on the executive board and serve on a few committees. The newly elected officers are ready to serve and have made a commitment to provide our organization with the leadership skills that are necessary to continue the legacy of all of our dedicated past presidents. So it is with a little sadness, but great pleasure that I pass the baton on to President-Elect Clover Noack, the newly elected officers, and state coordinator Lou Sears. They have pledged to serve as your officers for the next three years. I welcome them aboard and as they wear the many hats of their jobs, I hope they will encounter the same experiences that I had the pleasure to face along with the gratification I have profited from as part of MSC-IRA.

Debi Porter, MSC-IRA President
debiporter@sbcglobal.net

MSC-IRA International Project

The need for funds to support literacy in the Philippines is great, but I am happy and proud to let you know that, because of you, we have met and exceeded our goal of \$1,000.00. Councils that contributed to our International Project are: Columbia Council, Independence-Fort Osage Council, Jasper County Council, Lee's Summit Council, North Central Council, Northwest Council, and St. Louis Suburban Council. Thank you very much for your diligence and generosity. Thanks also go to those who have contributed at MSC-IRA Board Meetings in Columbia. I know these monies will be put to good use on behalf of educators and students in the Philippine Islands.

I will be attending the IRA International Convention in Chicago where I will attempt to meet with the Philippine attendees to get an update on how our funds are being used in their homeland. I hope to have news to share when I return.

Once again, thank you all very much for your contribution to the MSC-IRA International Project – promoting literacy in the Philippines. Please let your members know how much their efforts are appreciated.

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

These Items Require Your Special Attention

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From the Coordinator

I am writing this article as one of the last duties I will complete as State Coordinator. My term is expiring and I feel both sad to be leaving the position, but happy to be handing over the responsibilities to Lou Sears, the new State Coordinator. Because of her leadership the past few years as President, Vice President, President-Elect, Past President, and Conference Chair, as well as, her successful work in establishing our state website, I know the Missouri State Council will continue to be a viable and successful organization. I know that she will receive the same tremendous support and cooperation you have given me the past seven years.

In working with the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors and the local councils of MSC, I have made many professional and personal friendships. I look forward to continuing these associations and friendships as I move into the position of Director of Membership Development.

Councils Honored at the International Convention and the State Board of Directors Meeting

Local council members and officers in Missouri have continued their hard work on a wide variety of literary projects and activities during this past year. Their hard work was recognized on two recent occasions.

Congratulations are in order for the following eight councils that were recognized as Honor Councils at the Council Awards Celebration at the 51st Annual IRA Convention in Chicago, Illinois:

Columbia – 24	Northwest Missouri – 11
Independence – 22	Springfield – 24
Jasper County – 11	St. Louis Suburban - 22
Lee's Summit – 23	NORCO – 17

The number following the name of the council designates the number of years the council has received this honor. The Columbia and Springfield Councils have received this honor every year that the program has existed at the International level (23 years).

Congratulations are also in order for the following nine councils that received the Show Me State Award. They were announced at the Spring Board of Directors Meeting in Columbia in April.

Columbia	Lee's Summit
Springfield	Independence-Ft. Osage
NORCO	St. Louis Suburban
Jasper County	Northwest

In addition to certificates, each council received a complimentary International journal membership to be given to a member of their local council. Councils receiving both the Show Me State Award and Honor Council will receive two International journal memberships.

These councils deserve a big round of applause for all the time and effort these awards represent. Council officers, committee chairs, and members must carefully document the required and optional items for these awards. Zone coordinators provide support, encouragement and needed answers throughout the yearly process. The real winners, however, are the children and adults in our state who receive the benefits of everyone's hard work to improve literacy education. Keep up the good work!!

Submitted by Barbara Hiles, State Coordinator
bhiles24@msn.com

\$\$ Treasurer Tips \$\$

Has your Council filed their 990 EZ with the Internal Revenue Service? IRA councils are exempt from federal income tax as a result of a group exemption obtained by IRA, but this does not exempt councils from completing and filing the 990 EZ annually.

Where do you get a 990 EZ? It's easy! Directions and a copy of the 990 EZ can be downloaded from the Internal Revenue's web site www.IRS.gov. Type 990 EZ in the search field. You will be able to print the form. ☺

Do you need to contact a CPA to assist with completing the filing of the 990 EZ? Not really. Completing the 990 EZ is simple. Councils whose gross receipts are less than \$25,000 must sign and return the form after checking the appropriate box above part one. This year's outgoing President should sign the form.

How do I locate my council's Employee Identification Number (EIN) and Group Exempt Number (GEN)? If you cannot locate your EIN or GEN numbers, contact Marie Puett, MSC-IRA Treasurer. ☺

When do I need to file the 990 EZ? File your 990 EZ now. Most council's operate with a fiscal year of July 1 to June 30. You actually have until the fifteenth day of the 5th month after the close of your fiscal year. But why wait? ☺

Where do I send the form? Mail your completed and signed 990 EZ to Internal Revenue Service Center Ogden, UT 84201-0027

Good Luck! Let me know if I can be of any assistance.

Marie Puett, MSC-IRA Treasurer
 PO Box 8042
 St. Joseph, MO 64508
mlpuett@ccp.com

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

This has been a difficult year for councils to retain and recruit members. This year's total membership is down by 229 members, but we do have some councils that have increased their membership significantly. In our membership contest we have three size categories. The winners in each category are listed below, with the Membership Chair receiving a certificate to cover the registration of one MSC member at the MSC/IRA Fall Conference.

Small Councils: Truman Student Council-Donna Rhinesmith

Medium Councils: Lakes Country Council-Becky Landers

Large Councils: Springfield Council-Kerri Bruce

This year we had a drawing of the Membership Chairs who turned in their Show Me State Award information on time and who reached their targeted membership goal. The winner of this drawing received a weekend stay at Lodge of Four Seasons. The winner is Kerri Bruce of the Springfield Council.

Congratulations to all our winners!

The theme for the 2006 MSC/IRA Fall Conference is "The Magic of Literacy". Membership Chairs may want to start thinking of ideas around this theme for their membership drive in the fall. This should be a fun theme.

Laurie Edmondson has accepted the position of President-Elect, and I have resigned as Co-Director of Membership Development. Barbara Hiles will be taking over these duties next year. However, since she is in charge of the registration for the 2006 Fall Conference, I will continue updating the mailing list until after the conference. We will work closely together this next year to keep the records updated and to make the transition as smooth as possible. I have served as Director of Membership for 10 years and have enjoyed getting to meet and work with so many wonderful teachers. I feel that I have grown a lot through my work with MSC/IRA and will continue to support this outstanding organization.

Submitted by:

Sandy Lane & Laurie Edmondson

slane@dfamilk.com

ledmondson@drury.edu

From the Editor

We hope you have been pleased with the format of our newsletter and the transmitting of it to you through your email.

Since our last newsletter, it was brought to my attention that many of our members were not receiving the newsletter via their email. I sent Sandy Lane a list of updated emails and I hope with this issue more of our members will receive the newsletter. 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 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 Fall Newsletter.

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

Submitted by Dodie Barnes, Newsletter Editor

LITERACY HELP COLUMN

Hello Reading Friends,

I need some ideas or information on scoring guides for Reader's Workshop; especially how to score the independent reading time. I also would like to have some suggestions from primary grade teachers on what type of rubric guides they are using for response journals.

Thanks for your help!

Marie Puett

mlpuett@ccp.com

Conference Memories

As I sit down and prepare to write this article about my experiences with the

39th Annual Conference
Literacy at the Lake,

I can best describe my thoughts as a Power Point presentation at high speed! Instant-long slides of me at my computer emailing speakers, me at my computer emailing my faithful committee members, me at my computer emailing the printer, me at my computer emailing the Lodge—you get the picture.

As I fast-forward to the conference itself, I see hundreds of smiling people, excellent speakers anxious to share their expertise and experiences, more smiling people with encouraging words, faithful committee members helping me and conference attendees, and beautiful fall weather as I move between the Lodge and the exhibit hall.

Of course, not all my slides are Kodak moments. I see a speaker not showing until the last minute, me carting hundreds of books to the lodge because the vendor is packing to leave and the authors' books won't be available for signings and "teachers-behaving-badly" at a give-away—yikes! But then my slides move on to a hundred more happy memories. Dinner with Elfrieda Hiebert, finding a sandwich for Richard Allington and a Danish for Lesley Morrow, conversations with A. LaFaye, Dorinda Nicholson, Carol Crane, Trisha Hakes-Noble, and those state committee members attending the President's Reception on Thursday evening.

I can now join the ranks of those who have gone before me, past conference chairs who dedicated a year or more of their lives to providing the best professional development opportunity available in the state of Missouri for literacy educators. I have walked in their shoes and I thank them from the bottom of my heart for all their hard work. I thank all of you—those who attended and those who worked alongside me for the experience. It was worth it!

As Laurie Edmondson and Marie Puett proceed with their conference plans over the next year, I offer them my thanks and my help. Give them a call or an email and offer your help or an encouraging word—they deserve it!

Submitted by Clover Noack, President-Elect
cnoack@charter.net

Website Coordinator's Report

According to our records, our website is receiving more and more visitors with a significant rise just before conference time. We have discussed with Theresa Watson, our Webmaster, future possibilities for our website. She provided a quote regarding costs involved to set us up for paying on-line for Membership and for Conference Registration. She also shared with us what the Kansas Reading Association is currently doing with their website, involving a Membership Database and Pay-Pal connection. The Membership Database helps with tracking membership information at the state and local council levels, provides reports, and many other features.

It was recommended to the Executive Board to go with the plan to create a Membership Database and have the ability to pay for Membership and the annual Conference on-line through Pay-Pal. This plan was approved by the Executive Board and is in the beginning stages of development.

Theresa, our Webmaster, continues to be efficient and timely with posting any changes or articles on our website. It was mentioned that it is important to make updates quickly especially regarding contact information for officers and chairs so that when people click into the names on the website, it does not get sent back to them as undeliverable. Please contact Lou Sears at lousears@hotmail.com with any changes to your contact information to help with this process.

More and more local councils are sending in articles for posting on Council Newsletter pages on our website. Hopefully, providing more information at our Board Meetings and in our Newsletter regarding this feature, we will continue to have more participation from the local councils. Please send articles for posting to Lou Sears at the above email address.

It is also important to have the website address www.missourireading.org prominently displayed on any document sent out by our State Council and by Local Councils. It takes time for people to get into the habit of going to the website to check for information and the more we make the website address available, the easier it will be for people to remember it and access it.

Submitted by 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.

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 the IRA to honor those schools for their efforts.

This year's Exemplary Award winner for Missouri is Veterans Elementary in Hannibal, Missouri. Veterans Elementary uses a "Comprehensive Literacy Model" which includes school embedded professional development in the areas of reading and writing, book studies, model classrooms, buddy lessons, Literacy Coaches, and Reading Recovery training. Their commitment to literacy was evident during the Exemplary Award Committee's visit.

Veterans Elementary will be honored at this year's IRA Conference in Chicago and again at this fall's Missouri IRA Conference. Congratulations to an outstanding staff and school!

I would like to thank Barbara Hiles and Laurie Edmondson who served on this year's Exemplary Reading Award Committee. They gave of their personal time and talents to this process and it was very much appreciated!

If your school is interested in applying for the Exemplary Reading Award for next year, application forms may be downloaded from the Missouri IRA Website, www.missourireading.org, or may be found in the Leadership Packet that Council Presidents will be given at this summer's Leadership Workshop. In addition, you may contact the Exemplary Reading Chair for a copy of the application.

Submitted by Lou Sears, Exemplary Reading Chair
lousears@hotmail.com

Missouri State Council Receives Award of Excellence

The Missouri State Council received the Award of Excellence at the International Conference in Chicago, Illinois on April 30. This award represents the dedication and hard work of the State Council leaders, as well as, support from the local councils on various projects in which the state is involved.

The State Council must complete a set of requirements that include service to councils and members (the summer leadership workshop, visitation by a state officer to all local councils within a two-year period, a newsletter to all members, support to local councils as they become Honor Councils for the current year, support of local membership recruitment, support of the work of the state coordinator, and three optional items); service to education and to the state (conduct a reading conference, implement a special project to promote reading within the state, and two optional items); service to the International Reading Association (appointment of committees and committee chairpersons, promotion of IRA during the state conference which includes staffing a membership/publication booth, and carrying out an international project outside the United States and Canada).

The entire Executive Committee is involved in completing these various requirements and projects but receive many helping hands from the local council officers and members across the state. The honor belongs to all Missouri State Council members. Congratulations to all!!!

Submitted by Barb Hiles, State Coordinator
bhiles24@msn.com

Community Service Award Deadline Approaching

The Community Service Award applications are due June 1st. It is time to recognize councils for their efforts in encouraging literacy in the community! Winning councils will receive \$200. The guidelines and application are readily available at www.missourireading.org. Click on "Awards and Grants" then "Form" beside Community Service Award. Print, complete, and submit by June 1st!

Submitted by Linda McGlothlin, Community Service
mac_read@yahoo.com

Nominations Committee Report

We have been hard at work coming up with a list of excellent nominees for this year's ballot for MSC/IRA officers. A special thanks to Debi Porter, Marie Puett, and Kit Blake in helping with this process. Following the resignation of Anna Cline, Laurie Edmondson was approved by the board to fill the position of Vice President at the January 2006 Executive Board Meeting. In accordance with the By-Laws, she was included on the ballot for approval by the MSC/IRA Board.

Congratulations to the following people who were elected as MSC/IRA Officers for 2006-07:

President-Elect: Laurie Edmondson
Vice President: Marie Puett
Treasurer: Kit Blake
Assistant Treasurer: Julie Hendren
Recording Secretary: Deb Dickerson
Corresponding Secretary: Michelle Gautz
Historian: Kathleen McDonnell
State Coordinator: Lou Sears

*Submitted by
The Nominations Committee*



November 16-18
Lodge of the Four Seasons

Conference Highlights:

THURSDAY NOV. 16 PRE-CON & OPENING SESSION	FRIDAY NOV. 17	SATURDAY NOV. 18
Preconference Session Susan Zimmerman Co-Author of Mosaic of Thought Comprehension Strategies	Am General Session- Tim Shanahan/IRA	General Session
Preconference Session Kristen Painter from Heinemann	Featured Speaker	Featured Speaker Carla Soffos
	Featured Speaker- Alane Ferguson & Gloria Skurzynski	Author Luncheon Lisa Campbell Ernst
General Session Susan Zimmerman Co-Author of Mosaic of Thought	PM General Session- Patricia & Fredrick McKissack	
	Banquet Marc Brown Author of Arthur books	

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.

CALL FOR PROGRAM PROPOSALS

Missouri State Council of the International Reading Association 40th Annual Conference

Lodge of Four Seasons Lake Ozark, Missouri November 16-18, 2006

"The Magic of Literacy"

1. Person submitting proposalDr. Mr. Mrs. Ms. _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Institutional Affiliation _____ Position/Title _____

Mailing Address _____ Address is _____ Home _____ Work _____

(City) (State) (Zip) Phone (H) _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone (W) _____

I am a member of IRA and my membership # is _____ I am not a member at this time. _____

Local Council _____ I am/am not a member. _____

2. Presenter(s) List on an attached page names of colleagues who will be presenting with you. Include biographical information about all presenters that may be used by the chairperson when making introductions3. Title of Presentation (As you want it to appear on the program.) _____4. Description (In 20-25 words, describe your presentation as you want it to appear in the program.) _____5. Presentation Summary Please attach a brief program summary that in 250 words or less addresses the following:

A. Objectives B. Content of the Presentation C. Methods of Presenting (lecture, discussion, hands-on, etc.)

6. Topics Please indicate the topic(s) of your proposal.

_____ Assessment	_____ Family Literacy	_____ Technology Literacy
_____ Adolescent/Adult Literacy	_____ Multicultural Topics	_____ Reading/Writing Technology
_____ Balanced Literacy	_____ Parent Involvement	_____ Phonics/Phonemic Awareness
_____ Content Area Study Skill	_____ Poetry	_____ Literature Study
_____ Emergent Literacy	_____ Reading Strategies	_____ Integration/Thematic Study

7. Appropriate Grade Levels

_____ Early Childhood	_____ Primary	_____ Intermediate
_____ Middle School	_____ High School	_____ Teacher Education
_____ Adult Education		

8. Intended Audience

_____ Classroom Teacher	_____ Reading Teachers	_____ Administrators/Supervisors
_____ Special Education Teachers	_____ Librarians/Media Specialists	_____ Parents
_____ Teacher Educators		

9. Please assign a chair for my session _____ or my chairperson will be _____.

10. Presentation Preference I have no day/time preference. _____

If possible, please schedule my presentation:

_____ Friday, November 7th, A.M. _____ Friday, November 7th, P.M. _____ Saturday, November 8th, A.M.

11. I will need an overhead projector. _____ Yes _____ No (All other equipment must be provided by Presenters.)12. If you plan to use music in your presentation, please list separately titles of all musical scores.

Copyright requirements mandate this information be sent to IRA headquarters.

13. I understand that I must register and pay conference fees by September 15, 2006.14. Please mail proposal postmarked by July 15, 2006 to:Laurie Edmondson
2245 E. Claiborne
Springfield, MO 65804
ledmondson@drury.edu(H) 417-877-0612
(W) 417-873-7569
Fax 417-873-7269

MSC-IRA CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2006-2007

July 14, 2006	State Officers and Executive Board Meeting University Plaza Hotel, Springfield, MO
July 15, 2006	13 th Annual Summer Leadership Workshop University Plaza Hotel, Springfield, MO
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

Send New Calendar Items and Articles to the Editor by
August 1st for the Fall Newsletter

Dodie Barnes, Editor MSC-IRA Newsletter, 7417 Meadow Valley Lane, Shrewsbury, MO 63119
dodiejb@aol.com

Barbara Hiles, State Coordinator
Missouri State Council
International Reading Association
312 S.E. Gingerbread Lane
Blue Springs, MO 64014

Missouri State Council

Debi Porter, President
Clover Noack, President-Elect
Laurie Edmondson, Vice President
Michelle Gautz, Corresponding Secretary
Debra Dickerson, Recording Secretary
Marie Puett, Treasurer
Kit Blake, Assistant Treasurer
Kathleen McDonnell, Historian
Lou Sears, Past President & Web Site Coordinator
Carol Kemper, Legislative
Debi Pearson, Parliamentarian
Cathy Barr, State Dept. Rep.
Dr. Phyllis Wilkinson, Missouri Reader
Dodie Barnes, Missouri IRA Newsletter
Sandy Lane, Membership Development



Zone coordinators

Winnie McKinley, Big Springs
Hortense Burr, Kansas City
Carol Perry Davis, Lake Ozarks
Tamara Rhomberg, St. Louis
Judy Wampler, Ozark Mountain
Sally Minnick, Pony Express
Ann Porter-Gifford, River Heritage
Teresa Krigbaum, Mark Twain