



St. Louis Suburban Council of the INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION



Recipient of the Honor Council & Show Me Awards

Spring 2009

Message from the President

Spring is here and the 2008-2009 St. Louis Suburban IRA year is coming to a close. It has been a pleasure and honor to serve as your president this year. I have especially enjoyed getting to know our members through the meetings, summer workshops, book study groups and literacy conversations groups. I am continually impressed with our members' professionalism and commitment to meeting the needs of their students no matter what the cost in time and effort. I have felt so proud this year to be a teacher and your president.

This year, we implemented two new goals for our organization that were reflected in our programs. Those goals were to provide our members with **ongoing professional development** and **variety in professional development formats**. We hope that we enabled you to extend your learning beyond our four formal meetings/ presentations by participating in one of our two book studies or one of our literacy conversations groups, which followed up two different general meeting topics. We were striving to provide you, our members, with multiple opportunities (on a single topic) to learn together and share new ideas.

Earlier this year, I wrote to you about our Executive Board's strategic planning work from last summer. It reiterated for us that the primary goal of our organization is to provide service to you, the member. I hope that our speakers and formats have proved beneficial for you. We have heard from the Missouri S.T.A.R.R. Teachers on Marzano's High Yield Instructional Strategies, Lori Oczkus on Reciprocal Teaching, and Pat Wolfe on Brain Research. We will close out the year with Vicki Grove, a Missouri children's author, who will speak at our spring banquet on writing with children.

In this newsletter, you will also find a list of proposed officers and board members. At our spring banquet/general meeting on April 29, we will be voting on the slate of officers. I am very excited about next year's board. Jody Rozbicki, from Ladue School District, is running for President. She is filled with great ideas and boundless energy. There will also be two new board members with fresh ideas on how to serve you better and how to make St. Louis an even stronger presence supporting literacy in our area. Come meet them and show your support by attending the spring banquet.

Finally, I want to thank you for an incredible year for St. Louis Suburban IRA! We have set records this year for membership (42% increase) and attendance at general meetings that we have not come close to achieving in many, many years. So, thank you for gathering together with us, learning together with us, and celebrating together with us as we continue to live what we in the Greater St. Louis area know – that **READING is the GATEWAY TO SUCCESS!**

Mary Jo Barker

President – St. Louis Suburban Council
of the International Reading Association
barkermaryjo@rockwood.k12.mo.us

Executive Board	Board of Directors	
President - Mary Jo Barker, Rockwood	Alyssa Barker, Ritenour	Donna Kloeppe, Publisher's Rep.
President Elect - Jody Rozbicki, Ladue	Sam Bommarito, Fontbonne	Vicky Gonzalez-Rubio, Retired
Treasurer - Barbara Magrosky, NESI	Mitzi Brammer, SSD	Kathleen McDonnell, Retired
Recording Secretary - Marcie Burkemper, Affton	Catherine Cassy, SLPS	Carla Nieman, Publishers' Rep
Historian/Publicity - Sandi Coleman, Affton	Candace Chiburis, Miriam School	Tamara Rhomberg, Rockwood
Membership - Carol Kemper, Missouri Baptist	Cindy Clausen, Webster U. Student	Dan Rocchio, Maryville
Past President – Lillian Katzenmeyer, NESI	Courtney Coleman, Northwest	Marjy Schneider, Bayless
Newsletter Editor – Deb Dickerson, Hazelwood	Tom Cornell, Webster University	Betty Porter Walls, Retired
	Lin Heater, Lindbergh	

Poetry Blooms in these Fine Picture Books

By Cindy Clausen

Picture books of poetry usually take one of three approaches: anthologies of poems built around a theme; biographies of a single poet and his/her work; or illustrated versions of a single poem.

Steady Hands: Poems About Work by Tracie Vaughn Zimmer is a fine example of the former, and useful in a broad range of age and curriculum categories. The pictures, by Megan Halsey and Sean Addy, are sophisticated mixed-media creations that will inspire the interest of upper elementary and middle school students. The poems are a nice mix of simple to complex, with vocabulary both academic and contemporary: *maelstrom*, *podcast*, *attire*. The occupations include a mix of professional, labor, and teen-oriented workforce positions. Themed anthologies with only one writer are often marred by some real clunker poems, so I was very impressed with the overall quality and intriguing nature of these 36 poems, about WORK, no less. (Upper elementary, middle school.)

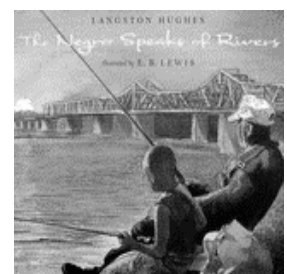
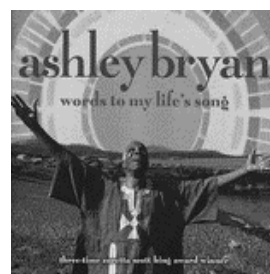
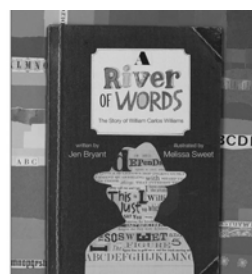
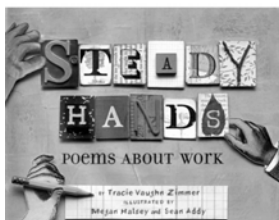
In January, the Caldecott committee recognized Jen Bryant's *A River of Words: The Story of William Carlos Williams* as an honor book, and tiny Wm. B. Eerdman's Publishing Co. of Grand Rapids, Mich. had anything but a quiet, little poetry book on its list. Every page of this book sings the words of this lifelong poet who was also a physician. Melissa Sweet's art fills the pages, but the art somehow never overwhelms the story or the poetry excerpts with which it shares space. The many artistic details inspire readers to pore over the pages or return to them again, often. End matter is exceptional with biographical notes synched with poem publication dates and world events, and wholly interesting author's and illustrator's notes. (Upper elementary through high school.)

Ashley Bryan (*Beautiful Blackbird*) has illustrated 34 children's books, most of which he

has written or co-written. Bryan's new autobiography, *Ashley Bryan: Words to My Life's Song*, explores his relationship with art and writing as it evolved from childhood, through art school, and today. Bryan's subjects are often inspired by folktales or song, so his language is always rich with imagery. He attributes this in part to his early education in PS 2, the Bronx: "Each morning, class would begin with poetry recitations by two or three students. This understanding of poetry as a performance art has never left me. It is at the heart of all my work." (Middle school, high school.)

Finally, illustrated versions of single poems can be tricky. Rhythm is key to reading a poem, and page breaks often leave too much time between the lines. It is essential that the book includes the poem written out on one page, and that the reader practice reading the whole poem to better understand its intended cadence before reading page by page. Langston Hughes' *The Negro Speaks of Rivers* gets a beautiful treatment by E.B. Lewis (*The Other Side*). The jacket cover is a golden-hued view of the Mississippi River from the vantage point of two intergenerational fishermen, but the most beautiful picture turns out to be a self-portrait of the artist. The picture is all the more powerful after reading Lewis's end note describing his near drowning as a child. Lewis writes, "In many ways, my life is like this poem: water almost ended my life; but now, through my watercolors, it has cultivated the spring of it." (Upper elementary through high school.)

Publishers save their blockbuster children's books for fall holiday release, but in the loamy soil of spring, when schools celebrate African American history, women's history, and especially National Poetry Month, quieter books get a chance to unfold and bloom.



Legislative Update

Mary-Eileen Rufkahr, Legislative Chair

The election signs have long been taken down and government officials have been using the past few months to get down to business. Action at both the state and federal legislative levels has been brisk.

Bill Summaries/Updates

House Bill 96 enacts numerous provisions regarding school safety. This lengthy bill makes a number of changes designed to increase employee liability protection, improve school safety precautions and improve notice and reporting of acts of school violence by students.

House Bill 242 allows school districts to change to a four-day-per-week school calendar.

The House Budget Committee has eliminated state investment in professional development programs for teachers in **House Bill 2**.

House Bill 689 makes criminal background checks for teachers and other school personnel valid for one year, even if they move from one district to another or there is a change in the type of teacher certification.

Senate Bill 64 addresses charter schools. The bill makes several changes regarding charter schools, including allowing charter schools in unaccredited and provisional districts and any district with performance evaluations consistent with such classifications.

Senate Bill 175 requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to produce and distribute a guidance document known as "The Parents' Bill of Rights" for parents of children with an individualized education program.

Senate Bill 79 modifies the definition of "bullying" as used in school district antibullying policies to include cyberbullying and electronic communications.

Missouri House of Representatives Elementary and Secondary Education Committee:

Maynard Wallace, Chair; R. Schad, Vice Chair; J. Aull; S. Dieckhaus; G. Dusenberg; L. S. Hughes; G. Kingery; S. Lampe; C. McNary; L. Scavuzzo; T. Shively; R. Stream; T. Swinger; M. Thomson.

Web access at:

<http://house.mo.gov/content.aspx?info=/bills091/commit/com455.htm>.

Missouri State Senate Representatives Elementary and Secondary Education Committee:

Rob Mayer, Chairman; D. Pearce, Vice Chairman; N. Champion; G. Nodler; S. Rupp; K. Schaefer; F. Barnitz; R. H. Days; Y. Wilson.

Web access at:

<http://www.senate.mo.gov/09info/comm/educ.htm>.

For access to legislative issues and representative contact information log onto

<http://capwiz.com/nea/mo/state/main/?state=MO>

Federal Updates: On March 10, President Obama gave his first major speech on educational issues. Obama called for tying teachers' pay to student achievement and expanding innovative charter schools. He also suggested longer school days and years for America's children in order to help them better compete in the global marketplace.



**St. Louis Suburban Council
of the International Reading Association
Summer 2009**



Announcing two dynamite events that you won't want to miss. We thank The Booksource for creating these **second annual summer workshops**. While the workshops are free, we are charging \$5 to reserve your place in the workshop. At the workshop, you will receive a coupon for \$5.00 off any purchase.

**NONMEMBERS:
Join now to
enjoy these
summer events
AND membership
for 2009-2010.**

Workshop choices:

**Fresh Reads for Fall—New Books for the New School Year (Grades K-8)
Tuesday, June 9 at 2:00 pm**

Looking for some new books to use in your classroom this fall? Booksource is hard at work sifting through the new and upcoming books to pick out the ones that will be essential for you to know about and use next school year. (Books will be available for purchase with a 30% discount.)

**New Books to Support 6+1 Trait Instruction (Grades K-8)
Thursday, June 11 at 2:00 pm**

Come learn about the best new books to model and highlight the 6+1 traits: ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions, and presentation. Suggestions will be presented for both fiction and nonfiction. (Books will be available for purchase with a 30% discount.)

TO REGISTER:

Detach this completed form and mail to:

Jody Rozbicki, 16735 Highland Summit, Wildwood, MO 63011.
Enclose \$5 per selected session. Make checks payable to St. Louis Suburban IRA.
Registration deadline is MAY 30, 2009.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

SCHOOL DISTRICT _____ GRADE/SUBJECT _____

FRESH READS FOR FALL (Grades K-8) _____ June 9

NEW BOOKS TO SUPPORT 6+1 TRAIT INSTRUCTION (Grades K-8) _____ June 11

I am a member of St. Louis Suburban IRA for 2008-09. _____

*IF NOT A MEMBER FOR 2008-09, PLEASE ADD ADDITIONAL \$5 PER WORKSHOP. _____
If you pay the additional \$5 per workshop and decide to become a member at the workshop, the \$5 (per workshop) will be applied to the cost of your membership.*

**FOR MEMBERSHIP INFO, CONTACT CAROL KEMPER.
CONTACT INFO: 636-561-3114 OR ckemper46@aol.com**

Questions?
Please contact Jody at 636-458-0004 or jrozbicki@ladue.k12.mo.us.



The Maryville University School of Education invites you to a professional development opportunity featuring **Dr. Tim Rasinski** on the topic of:

Motivating Struggling Readers
through integrating phonics, fluency, comprehension and authentic text.

When: Tuesday, July 7th, 2009

Times: 3:00 PM to 6:30 PM

Where: Monsanto Auditorium-Library

Please arrive at 2:30 PM for refreshments and registration.

Timothy Rasinski is a professor of literacy education at Kent State University. He has written over 150 articles and has authored, co-authored or edited over 15 books or curriculum programs on reading education. His scholarly interests include reading fluency and word study, reading in the elementary and middle grades, and readers who struggle.

Who should attend? This advanced workshop is designed for elementary, middle school and high school teachers who work with struggling readers. We encourage attendance by teams of teachers from a district or school. Teams might include reading specialists, special education teachers, ELL teachers, literacy coaches and administrators. Teachers who have heard Dr. Rasinski before will have the opportunity to explore reading strategies in greater depth.

Space is limited. Register early! RSVP by May 1st, 2009.

**For more information contact: Joan Marsanick • 529.9486 • FAX 314.529.9921 •
jmarsanick@maryville.edu •**



Branson, Missouri

SAVE THE DATE !

35th Plains IRA Regional Conference
The Voice and Vision of Literacy
November 4-6, 2009 Branson, Missouri

Mark your calendars and plan your 2009 professional development around this terrific opportunity.

To date we have such outstanding speakers such as:

Ellin Keene

Timothy Rasinski

Pam Munoz Ryan

Lori Oczkus

Mary Jo Fresch

Georgia Heard

Patricia Edwards

There will also be speakers and presenters exploring conference strands of adolescent literacy, early childhood literacy, literacy coaching, literacy strategies, reading and writing across the curriculum, and technology in literacy education. The conference is being held at the Branson Hilton and Convention Center located just a step away from the Branson Landing on Lake Taneycomo.

Registration opens May, 2009.

**The call for proposals is May 15, 2009 and proposals
can be downloaded from www.reading.org or www.missourireading.org.**

St. Louis Suburban membership includes your membership to Missouri State Council of International Reading Association.

St. Louis Suburban Council of the International Reading Association August 2009 - August 2010

Does not include membership in International Reading Association

Regular individual membership \$18.00 each person

Partners membership \$15.00 each person

2-4 individuals join together - Checks and applications from partners should be mailed in together.

Literacy Team membership \$12.00 each person

5 or more individuals from one school join together - Checks and applications from all team members should be mailed in together.

Student or Retiree membership \$8.00 each person

Save \$3.00 each!

Save \$6.00 each Or \$30.00 per team!

St. Louis Suburban Council IRA Membership Application August 2009 – August 2010

All information with an * is required! If you do not have an email address, please indicate that on the form.

Last name* First name* Middle initial*

Home address* City* State* Zip code*

(____) (____) _____
Home phone* Cell phone e-mail address* or check: I do not have an email address

(____) _____
School District if not retired* School name if not retired* School phone if not retired*

Position (Check any that apply)*
 _____ Pre K/Elementary Classroom Teacher _____ Classroom teacher _____ College Teacher
 _____ Jr. High/Middle School _____ Reading Specialist _____ College Student
 _____ Secondary _____ Literacy Coach _____ Retired
 _____ Administrator _____ Librarian _____ Other _____

Check Membership category and dues*
 _____ \$18 Regular Individual Membership
 _____ \$15 Partners Membership
 _____ \$12 Literacy Team Membership
 _____ \$ 8 Full time student or Retiree

New Member*
(2009-2010 membership year)

Renewal*

New Address*

Are you a member of the International Reading Association? _____

If yes, please indicate your **IRA Membership number*** _____ Expiration date _____

If no, would you like to receive information about International Reading Association membership? Yes No
(Please circle)

Please make checks payable to **St. Louis Suburban IRA**

Mail to: 

Carol Kemper
IRA Membership Director
778 Cypress Knoll Dr.
O'Fallon, MO. 63368

Please join today!

ATTENTION
 _____ Please check if you would like to receive your newsletter by e-mail rather than by U.S. Mail.
 E-mail address to which you would like your newsletter sent:

St. Louis Suburban Council Meeting, January 26, 2009

By Cathy Cassy

St. Louis Suburban IRA hosted Pat Wolfe, renowned educator on brain research for the past 25 years for the January 26 dinner meeting at Ladue Middle School. She has authored two books: Brain Matters: Translating Research into Classroom Practice, and Building the Reading Brain, PreK-3. Pat now lives in Napa Valley, California but is originally from Kansas City, Missouri.

During Pat's presentation: "*Brain Research: Translating Research To Classroom Practice*", she stressed the importance of educators becoming more informed about brain research. She stressed that in order to be able to prepare students for the skills they are going to need in the future, educators need to become a scientific profession which understands brain structure and functions. For the most part we now know what parts of the brain control which human activities resulting in four major findings that have application to the classroom. The first is that the brain is the only organ in the body to be sculpted by experiences. The neurons of a blind person can actually change from visual to aural based on experiences. Secondly, the brain seeks meaningful patterns in order to make meaning.

Students must have some experience with the concept in order to make connections. If no connection is made, the information is dropped and no meaning occurs. It is important to use many modalities (tactile, visual, aural) to make information meaningful to students. Find out something they already know about the concepts or skills and create an experience with them or link their previous experience to the present—make connections.

The third major finding is emotions are a primary catalyst in the learning process. Emotions can be a positive or negative factor in learning. If the learning experiences evoke positive emotions then learning is actually enhanced while negative experiences inhibit learning.

The fourth major brain-based research finding is that there are two types of memory: procedural and declarative. Procedural memory requires a lot of repetition and memorization. Declarative memory involves the ability to recall and make connections. Activities that work best to develop declarative memory include: hands-on activities, reciprocal or peer teaching, using metaphors and analogies, problem-based learning.

St. Louis Suburban Council Reading Poster Contest

Kathleen McDonnell, Poster Contest Chairman

On January 26th, approximately 115 posters were received for judging in three categories: K-2nd, 3rd-5th, 6th-8th grades. There were no entries in the 9th-12th grade category this year. Judging was completed by each member as they entered the meeting. Each member received an envelope with three colored pieces of paper. They voted for their favorite poster in each category.

The first, second, and third place winners in each category were announced at the end of the meeting. The winning posters have been submitted for judging on the Missouri State IRA Council level. All other posters were returned at the end of the meeting. Each student who participated received a certificate of appreciation.

All winners whose posters were submitted for judging on the state level received a certificate of recognition. The winners were:

K-2nd grade:

- 1st place – Tyler Canada, 1st grade, Meisner Primary School, Afton School District
- 2nd place – Citlali Campos, 1st grade, Meisner Primary School, Afton School District
- 3rd place – Hope Daugherty, 2nd grade, Mesnier Primary School, Afton School District

3rd-5th grade:

- 1st place – Kruz Higginbotham, 4th grade, Truman Elementary, Lindbergh School District
- 2nd place – Indiana Janich, 4th grade Truman Elementary, Lindbergh School District
- 3rd place – Lauren Curtis, 4th grade, Truman Elementary, Lindbergh School District

6th- 8th grade:

- 1st place – Yoav Kodan, 6th grade, Ladue Middle School, Ladue School District
- 2nd place – Nha Noan, 8th grade, Ladue Middle School Ladue School District
- 3rd place – Sarah Lakew, 6th grade, Ladue Middle School, Ladue School District



St. Louis Suburban member voting for her favorite posters at the Reading Poster Contest. January 26, 2009

**St. Louis Suburban Council of the International Reading Association
2009-2010 Slate of Officers and Board of Directors**

The following slate of officers and board members for the St. Louis Suburban Council of the International Reading Association will be submitted to the general membership for a final ratification vote at the Spring Council Meeting.

Executive Board

President – Jody Rozbicki, Ladue
President Elect – Betty Porter Walls,
University of Missouri
Vice-President – Mitzi Brammer, SSD
Past President – Mary Jo Barker, Rockwood

Treasurer – Barbara Magrosky, NESI
Membership – Carol Kemper, Missouri Baptist University
Historian/Publicity – Sandi Coleman, Affton
Recording Secretary – Marcie Burkemper, Affton

Board of Directors

Alyssa Barker, Ritenour
Sam Bommarito, Fontbonne University
Catherine Cassy, St. Louis City Liaison
Candice Chiburis, Miriam School
Cindy Clausen, St. Louis Community College
Courtney Coleman, Northwest
Tom Cornell, Webster University
Deb Dickerson, Hazelwood (Newsletter Editor)

Lillian Katzenmeyer, NESI
Donna Kloepfel, Publisher's Rep
Jill Lauman, NESI*
Kathleen McDonnell, Retired
Carla Nieman, Publisher's Rep
Tamara Rhomberg, Rockwood
Dan Rocchio, Maryville University
Marjy Schneider, Bayless
Sarah Valter, Lindbergh*

*Indicates new board member nomination.

Write-in Candidate: _____

Membership Report: Who we are!

Carol Kemper, Membership Chair

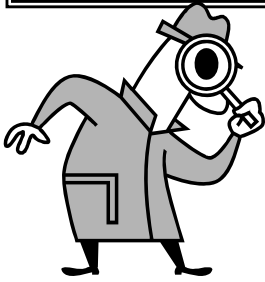
What a great year! Last year our membership was an impressive 361. This year, however, our final membership was 514! This is a significant increase and is due in great part to the commitment of our members in reaching out to colleagues and to our council leadership which plans high quality and relevant professional growth opportunities.

Our council represents reading specialists and literacy coaches, classroom teachers, special educators, teachers of English Language Learners and gifted students, librarians, counselors, administrators, university faculty, and representatives of publishers. We represent over 30 school districts, including the St. Louis Public Schools, the St. Louis Archdiocese and other parochial schools, private schools and literacy resource personnel, the Special School District, and faculty and students from seven universities. Of our 514 members, over 390 are members of over 45 school teams and 45 are members of smaller partner groups. There are over 200 members who are new to St. Louis Suburban Council this year and over 20 who are retired but remain literacy-active. What a wonderfully diverse group of colleagues who have in common a real dedication to the development of literacy from the earliest stages through adult competency.

Our members have supported our community and international literacy projects; attended our general meetings; participated in smaller group, less formal meetings; and joined follow-up study groups. Next year we have an energized leadership team—again! They have planned programs that will meet the needs expressed by our members. They continue to be interested in hearing about other ideas you have for future programming!

I particularly want to thank each St. Louis Suburban member for your support and your thoroughness in submitting membership forms, as well as reservation forms for meetings. (An extra pat on the back for the individual on each school team who collects and mails the forms!) Please encourage others interested in literacy to consider membership and let's expect another year of growth! Can you say 600? How great would that be?

Membership forms for next year may be submitted any time. Membership will include the remainder of this year, including the Spring Banquet, and will grant you active membership for all of 2009-2010. Look for the membership form in this newsletter or contact me at 636-561-3114 or by e-mail at ckemper46@aol.com. I'll see you all at the Spring Banquet and next year!



Take a “peek” at the
2009-2010 Calendar
for the
St. Louis Suburban
Council of IRA

May 3-7, 2009

**IRA’s 54th Annual Convention North Central
“Reading, Writing & Conversations”
Minneapolis Convention Center**

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

The Booksource (2:00-3:30 pm)

**“Fresh Reads for Fall-New Books for the New
School Year” (Grades K-8)**

Looking for some new books to use in your classroom this fall? Booksource is hard at work sifting through the new and upcoming books to pick out the ones that will be essential for you to know about and use next school year. (Books will be available for purchase with a 30% discount.)

**Sponsored by The Booksource & Carla Nieman,
Publisher’s Representative**

Thursday, June 11, 2009

**The Booksource (2:00-3:30 pm) “New Books to
Support 6+1 Trait Instruction” (Grades K-8)**

Come learn about the best new books to model and highlight the 6+1 traits: ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions, and presentation. Suggestions will be presented for both fiction and nonfiction. (Books will be available for purchase with a 30% discount.)

**Sponsored by The Booksource & Carla Nieman, Publisher’s
Representative**

Tuesday, July 7, 2009

**Maryville University School of Education
workshop (3:00-6:30 p.m.) “Motivating
Struggling Readers”**

Presenter: Tim Rasinski, professor of education at Kent State University. This advanced workshop is designed for K-12 teachers who work with struggling readers. Maryville encourages teams of teachers to attend: reading specialist & literacy coaches, special education teachers, librarians, ELL teachers, literacy coaches and administrators.

Sponsored by Maryville University

July 13-16, 2009

**Fontbonne University Literacy Conference
Parkway High School District**

Presenters: Dick Allenton, Jeffery Wilhelm and Carol Giles. Major price breaks in fees for conference compared to 2008 (TBA)

Sponsored by Fontbonne University

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Council Meeting, Maryville University, 5:00-7:30

Presenter: *Dr. Cynthia Tyson* is senior author of Multicultural Literature at Zaner-Bloser Publishing besides a Social Studies & Urban Education Specialist. Her research interests include the development of cultural competence in teacher education and the use of literature when teaching social justice. She has worked in a consulting capacity with school districts throughout the United States, as well as with educators from the United Kingdom and in Mali, West Africa. She has published articles in *Educational Researcher*, *Theory and Research in Social Education*, and the *Journal of Literacy Research*. Dr. Tyson is currently serving as an Associate Professor in Social Studies and Global Education at Ohio State University. **Sponsored by Zaner-Bloser Publishing & Sandy Cotton, consultant.**

Saturday, October 10, 2009

**Big Read Clayton High School (9:00 a.m.-5:00
p.m.) Mark Twain Circle & Topton Way**

The Big Read festival, presented by Centene Corporation, features publishers, book-sellers, national authors, book signings, panel discussions, and an interactive children’s area with readings, costumed characters and projects that engage the young reader. St. Louis Suburban Council volunteers at children’s area booths. Contact Jody Rozbicki to volunteer for the event.

October 2009

Wine and Wisdom at Maryville University Metropolitan St. Louis Alliance of Black School Educators. Meet with St. Louis area authors and illustrators from diverse cultures and backgrounds to discuss the craft of writing for publication. This multi-cultural group will meet with small groups and share thoughts on their inspiration for writing, techniques, genres, editing, and submitting proposals. Literacy in diverse communities will be discussed. **Delores Malcolm, former President of the International Reading Association will facilitate the session.**

November 4–6, 2009

35th Plains International Reading Association Regional Conference
The Voice and Vision of Literacy
 Branson Convention Center, Branson, Missouri

Thursday, November 12, 2009 Council Meeting
Location & Time TBA

Presenter: Dr. Timothy Rasinski, professor of Literacy education at Kent State University. He has written over 150 articles and has authored, co-authored or edited over 15 books or curriculum programs on reading education. His scholarly interests include reading fluency and word study, reading in the elementary and middle grades, and readers who struggle. His research on reading has been cited by the National Reading Panel and has been published in journals such as *Reading Educational Research* and numerous best selling books with Shell Education. **Sponsored by Scholastic & Nancy Holt-Paulus, Publisher's Representative**

February 23, 2010 Council Meeting
Location & Time TBA

Decoding Intervention: A System for Developing Word Recognition and Fluency in an RtI Model presentation by Kelly Stuart, Developmental Study Center National Consultant, and Mitzi Brammer, SSD Literacy Area Coordinator. Mitzi will address the vision for RtI in suburban St. Louis and how to take information from the universal screening tool and decide appropriate interventions. She will also discuss what is working currently with RtI. Kelly

(February 23rd Council meeting continued) will address how schools can meet the RtI requirements for Tiers II and III with a systematic approach to teaching phonemic awareness, phonics, sight words, polysyllabic decoding and spelling at various age levels. SSD literacy coaches and Mitzi Brammer will present intervention strategies for RtI. **Sponsored by Development Study Center and Carla Nieman, Publisher's Representative**

Tuesday, April 27, 2010 St. Louis Suburban Spring Banquet at Maryville University *"RtI in the Classroom: How do They go Together?"*

Presenter: Dr. David Cooper, Professor of Education and Director of Reading at Ball State University. He has served as consultant for the Department of Education in Washington, D.C., authored several professional books:

Literacy: Helping Students Construct Meaning, Literacy Assessment: Helping Teachers Plan Instruction, and The Struggling Reading: Interventions that Work. Dr. Cooper has been actively involved in developing an upper-grade intervention program.

Sponsored by Houghton Mifflin, Harcourt, Shelby Bach & Donna Kloppel, Publisher Representative

May, 2010

Meeting the Needs of Reluctant Readers in the K-8 Classroom! Location: TBD (2:00-4:00)

Let Scholastic pamper you at the end of the school year giving you time to relax, celebrate, and plan for the new school year! We will present information on how to encourage and motivate your most reluctant readers while sharing the newest titles from Scholastic! Receive free samples to take back and use in your classroom. Choose from one of two sessions: "Boys and Books: Find the Key to Motivation in Reading", and "You are What You Think: The Power of Think Aloud during Read Aloud"

Sponsored by Scholastic Classroom & Library Group & Nancy Holt-Paulus, Account Executive

St. Louis Suburban Council Spring Banquet Information



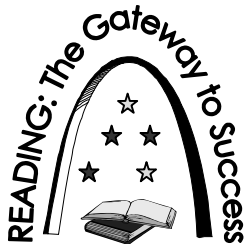
Excavations of the Heart

Vicki Grove is an author who loves to work with teachers and students of all grade levels to improve student writing. **Her ideas about writing are appropriate for all levels.** She will share writing techniques that are “tried and true” for helping students of all ages write and write well. But, Vickie is more than an author. She is an inspiration! Her presentation, “*Excavations of the Heart*”, will focus on you and your students as writers. She will speak from the standpoint of answering two basic questions:

- How to figure out what to write about based on who you are?
- How to figure out who you are from your writing?

Vicki has written for magazines ranging from *Twilight Zone* to *Reader’s Digest*. Altogether, she’s published about 300 articles and short stories. Eight of Vicki’s eleven books are middle grade or young adult novels for Putnam. Her most recent are Rimwalkers, Crystal Garden, Reaching Dustin, The Starplace, and Destiny. Reaching Dustin and The Starplace were School Library Journal Best Books of 1998 and 1999. Destiny was published in June, 2000.

Vickie lives in a 100-year-old farmhouse on a few acres of land outside of Ionia, Missouri (pop. 118). Her son and daughter, Michael and J.D., attend college, and her husband Mike is a music teacher and directs a bell choir. They have lots of cats and a goldfish pond teeming with bossy, headstrong goldfish. Sharing the pond with that rambunctious crew is one gentle red-eared turtle, Yertle. Behind the house grow three cherry trees, three apple trees, a corn patch, grape vines, and on a good year, enough strawberries for Vicki to make a dozen jars of jam.



When: Wednesday, April 29, 2009
Where: Maryville University
 Monsanto Room, Library Building

Please RSVP by April 27th!

Menu:

- * Chicken Parmesan
- * Baked cheese manicotti
- * Fresh vegetable medley
- * Italian salad
- * Warm breadsticks
- * Dessert
- * Ice tea, water, and coffee.

Agenda:

- 4:30-6:00 -- Registration and networking
- 5:00-6:00 – Dinner
- 5:30-6:00 – Business meeting
 - Mini Grant Winners announced
 - Planned 2009-2010 programs
 - Installation of Officers and Board of Directors for 2009-2010
- 6:00-7:00 – Vicki Grove, author
- 7:00-7:15 – Closing and Door Prizes

Wednesday, April 29, 2009 St. Louis Suburban Council Meeting and Spring Banquet Reservation Form

Last name	First name	Middle Initial
Street	City	State/Zip
Home phone	School phone	
E-mail address		District and School

I am a member and plan to eat dinner.	\$ 7.00 _____
I am a non-member and plan to eat dinner.	\$15.00 _____
I am a non-member attending without dinner.	\$ 5.00 _____
I am a member, but not eating dinner.	\$ 0.00 _____

NOTE: \$8 of the dinner is subsidized by your membership to St. Louis Suburban Council of IRA.

All reservations must be received by April 27th, 2009.

For reservations or questions contact: Carol Kemper at 636-561-3114 or ckemper46@aol.com

Mail completed form and check payable to St. Louis Suburban IRA.



Thanks!

Send to:

**Carol Kemper
 778 Cypress Knoll Dr.
 O’Fallon, MO 63368**

St. Louis Suburban Council of the
International Reading Association
1194 Summit Meadows
Fenton, MO 63026



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Please note the continuing professional development opportunities that follow each general meeting!

**We'll see you at the St. Louis Suburban Spring Banquet
on April 29th at Maryville University!**