



THE MISSOURI IRA NEWSLETTER

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Volume 27, Number 2

International Reading Association

Winter 2006

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear MSC-IRA Members,

I can't believe that it's January! I realize I'm writing this message in November to meet a December 1 deadline for a January 8 posting, but still, I can't believe almost half the school year is gone—and I have more than half of my curriculum objectives left to teach! MAP testing will be here before we know it!

It seems like only yesterday (actually last week) that I attended, "The Magic of Literacy," conference in Lake of the Ozarks. Laurie Edmondson and her crew did an excellent job. The speakers were informative and the company was great. I was especially lucky to be in the company of Marc Brown, our banquet speaker, for a few hours. It was my pleasure to drive to the Columbia airport to pick him up Friday afternoon and take him back Saturday morning. What a nice person! He is truly dedicated to children and the teachers who teach children. It isn't often that someone, especially well known "someones" like Marc Brown, acknowledges the important role we play in the lives of those we educate.

He made me feel good about being a teacher—not that I felt bad—but you know how it is. We do our jobs every day, the best we can. We wipe runny noses, dry tears, commiserate with the dumped girl friend or boy friend, feed those who forgot to eat breakfast, wake those who stayed up too late, patiently guide the misguided, attend numerous meetings, attempt to stay current with the latest professional development, etcetera, etcetera, and—oh yes—we also teach! We forget that we are educating our future. We forget how special we are, so I am reminding you that you are one of the most important people in the lives of your students and in the development of our future. You rock!!!

In closing, I also want to remind you to support your local reading council. We all need the sharing and caring support of others who do what we do. Attend the meetings. Ask what you can do to help. Get some teaching friends who aren't members to join. Local councils rock!!!

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

40TH ANNUAL MSC-IRA CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

The 40th Annual Conference of the Missouri State Council of IRA was held November 16-18 at Lodge of Four Seasons in Lake Ozark, Missouri. The conference was a huge success. We had lots of great presenters:

- Susan Zimmermann (co-author of *Mosaic of Thought and The Seven Keys to Comprehension*)
- Dr. Tim Shanahan (president of IRA)
- Dr. Barbara Walker (vice president of IRA)
- Patricia McKissack
- Lisa Campbell Ernst
- Marc Brown

We had over 300 people in attendance this year. We hope to continue to build our numbers each year, so if you weren't able to be there this year, please plan to come next year. Next year the conference will be held at the Lodge of Four Seasons and will be November 15-17, 2007.

Submitted by Laurie Edmondson
President Elect and Conference Chair
ledmondson@drury.edu

These Items Require Your Special Attention

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FROM THE COORDINATOR

With the start of a new year and the school year half over, we take stock of what we have accomplished and what we still need to do to meet our goals. Most importantly, I hope everyone had a happy holiday season and got to spend time with family and friends.

Laurie Edmondson and her committee are to be congratulated on their hard work and dedication, which made our 2006 Fall Conference a great success! Everyone in attendance went away with new ideas and strategies for helping students in their home school districts. In addition, it's always enjoyable to renew old acquaintances and meet new literacy friends each year! Please mark your calendars for next year's conference at the Lodge of Four Seasons, November 15-17.

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. (This is a Show-Me requirement.) 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.

Remember – The deadline for Honor Council (International) and the Show Me State Award materials is March 1. I know that local councils have been working very hard to meet the requirements for these awards. Be sure to double check the list of requirements and if you have any questions, please contact me or your Zone Coordinator for assistance.

Each new year always brings new challenges for each of us when trying to meet the needs of the students in our classrooms on a daily basis. The website, the publications, and the information to be gained from attending local council and state meetings, and the sharing of ideas (both the successes and the problems) with fellow IRA members across the state can be of great assistance to you in your efforts to provide quality instruction for your students.

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

*Submitted by Lou Sears
MSC-IRA State Coordinator
lousears@hotmail.com*

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

As you are all aware, Sandy Lane has been handling the management portion of the State Membership Director position for the past several years even though she retired from education and has been working in the corporate world. She has done an excellent job of keeping track of all the memberships, organizing the mailing lists, etc. and we all owe her a big "Thank You" for the work she has done.

I know that getting used to the new membership system has been frustrating for some of us. I have not been too involved with it until the past couple of weeks as I was handling the registrations for the state conference and have been trying to get all the invoices paid from the school districts and finish up that job.

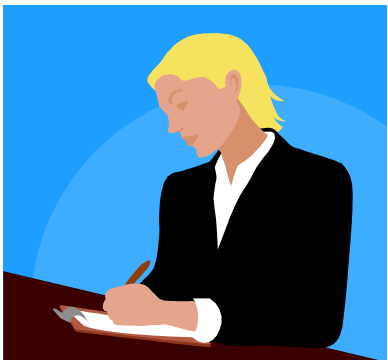
However, in working on the mailing list, I have been somewhat frustrated and am working hard with Lou Sears, the website coordinator, to get things in order so that it will work smoothly as time goes on. In talking to the officers from the Kansas Reading Association, they have been very well pleased with the web enrollment for memberships and I'm sure once we have been through the entire process, we will be happy with it as well.

If you are the person entering the memberships on the website for your council members and have collected the money for their membership, please be sure that you activate the enrollment. If you do not, it will show the membership as "pending" and that person will not be listed in the council's roster of members.

If you have any questions, please contact Lou Sears at lousears@hotmail.com or myself at bhiles24@msn.com and we will help you through the process.

*Submitted by Barb Hiles
Membership Chair*

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
debiporner@sbcbglobal.net**

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE MISSOURI STATE COUNCIL

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 on line, from local council presidents or from:

Betsy Baker, Professional Development Awards
Committee Chair
2910 Bluegrass Ct.
Columbia, MO 65201
573-214-3630 (O)
573-214-3631 (Fax)
573-449-9952 (H)
bbaker@columbia.k12.mo.us (school)
ysteb@centurytel.net (home)

Applications for each award are due by October 1, 2007

The 2006 Travel Grant recipients were:

- Lori Countryman, who teaches at Bowles Elementary in the Rockwood School District
- Chris Hulsey, who teaches at Hillside Preschool in Fenton, MO.

The 2006 Scholarship recipient was:

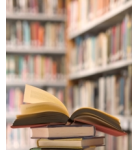
- Nicole Parke, a reading specialist at Campbell Elementary in the Springfield Public Schools

*Submitted by Betsy Baker
Professional Development
bbaker@columbia.k12.mo.us*

INTERNATIONAL PROJECT

Don't forget that the MSC-IRA supports literacy in the Philippines, so your contribution is of the utmost importance. This counts towards the Show-Me Award; so get your check to MSC-IRA Treasurer, Kit Blake, at 5006 SE Riverside Terrace, St. Joseph, MO 64507 as soon as possible! All monies are appreciated by our colleagues in the Philippines.

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



**CALL FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS
FOR THE
MSC-IRA RESEARCH IN READING AWARD
GUIDELINES FOR THE 2007 AWARD YEAR**

You are invited to share your research with the rest of the SHOW-ME State. Guidelines and directions to apply for the MSC-IRA Research in Reading Award are posted below. 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, 2007.

Mail Application to:

Dr. Willie Edwards
Missouri Southern State University
Department of Teacher Education
3950 East Newman Road
Joplin, MO 64801
edwards-w@mssu.edu

Preparing Your Application for Submission:

Applications should include a cover sheet with title, name, address, telephone number, email address, and local council. Description of your research project should be single-spaced and not exceed five typed pages. The description must include:

- 1) Approximately 250-word abstract describing the project;
- 2) Topic, research questions or problems studied;
- 3) Rationale for the study and relationship to existing body of research or previous findings;
- 4) Methodology (action research, case study, survey, etc.);
- 5) Grade levels or level focused on by study;
- 6) Results of study; and
- 7) Implications of study on practice or research; (describe what Populations will benefit.

Review Procedures:

Applications will be reviewed by the members of the MSC-IRA Committee on Studies and Research in Reading. Evaluations of proposals are conducted as a blind-review. The winner will be notified no later than October 30th 2007 by e-mail. The winning researcher(s) will be recognized for his or her work at the Awards Luncheon during the 2007 MSC-IRA Fall Conference.

Your research proposal will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Significance of topic and research questions.....4
- Rationale for research4
- Adequacy of methods5
- Significance of project impact4
- Clarity and specificity3

All areas will be ranked from 1 (low) to 5 (high) and multiplied by the weights above.

Questions?

Please 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 2006

The 40th annual IRA conference was a great success. One of the delights held every year along with the conference is the reading poster contest. Many school districts from all across the state participated through their local councils. The contest promotes the love of reading and chooses the posters that become the covers for *The Missouri Reader*, as well as, the overall winner becoming the poster for the following year.

A team of MSC-IRA members judge the entrants on freshness of theme, treatment of subject, originality, eye catching appeal, inventiveness, bold design and the genuine ability to encourage students to read.

The overall winner is Andy Chou from Bernard Campbell Middle School in Lee's Summit. Andy's winning entry will become the official MSC-IRA poster to be included in the fall conference mailing. Mrs. Pugliese, Andy's sponsor, is from the local Lee's Summit IRA Council.

Winners in the K-2 category include in first place Faith Wheeler from Clearview Elementary in Union. Annie Le, from Eastmorland Elementary in Joplin, came in second place. The third place poster for this class was designed by Daulton Barnhart from Eastmorland Elementary in Joplin, as well.

Awarded first place in the 3-5 grade division is Katie Norris from Trenton Middle School in Trenton. The second place winner is Kayla Long from Cecil Floyd School in Joplin. Katie Griffiths is the third place contender from Mark Twain Elementary in Carthage.

In the 6-8 classification, first place goes to Sarah Sunderland from Prairie View Elementary in Lee's Summit. The second place candidate is Michael Heath from Lexington Middle School in Lexington. Austin Garrison from Couch Elementary in Myrtle is the third place competitor.

The 9-12 category includes first place Ian Dickens, second place Jessica Stephenson, and third place Patrick Donahue all from the Ferguson-Florissant School District in Florissant.

All first place winners will be honored with their art becoming the covers for *The Missouri Reader*, a publication of the Missouri State Council of the International Reading Association. All champions will receive first, second and third place certificates. The first place victors and their sponsors will receive a bookstore gift certificate. All contestant participants receive a certification of participation. The turn out of beautiful children's work was amazing. It was a treat to be a part of this wonderful promotion of reading! Thank you to all who participated.

*Submitted by Paula Erdel
MSC-IRA Poster Chair
perdel@indep.k12.mo.us*

CELEBRATE LITERACY AWARD

Time has come to submit your "Celebrate Literacy Award nominees to the MSC-IRA committee to be considered for the award given at the state level.

This award may be used by your council as one of the options to qualify for Honor Council. Please see page 11-3 through 11-5 in your Leader's notebook for guidelines.

The local nominations submitted to us will be considered for an award to be given at the Fall 2007 State IRA Conference. Be sure to include the following information:

- Name, address, and phone number of the nominee;
- Description of the contributions to literacy on which the nomination is based (not to exceed three pages);
- Results of their contributions and their benefit to the community or state.



Nominations should be sent to Barbara Ryczek, Literacy Award Chairperson, 7618 N.E. 75th Terr., K.C. Mo. 64158.
e-mail barbryczek@aol.com

Deadline is May 1, 2007

MSC-IRA CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2006-2007

March 9-10, 2007	Missouri IRA Board Meeting
July 13, 2007	Executive Board Meeting
July 14, 2007	15 th Annual Summer Leadership Workshop
May 14-17, 2007	52 nd Annual IRA Convention, Toronto, Canada
November 15-17, 2007	41 st MSC-IRA Annual Conference, Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark

**SEND NEW CALENDAR ITEMS AND ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR BY
MAY 1ST FOR THE SPRING NEWSLETTER**

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lousears@hotmail.com

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