



# THE MISSOURI IRA NEWSLETTER

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website at  
[www.missourireading.org](http://www.missourireading.org)

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Spring 2011

## ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***



I love warm weather! As I sit here and look outside at tulips and daffodils blooming, I have an opportunity to think about all the events coming up with the end of the school year. So much has happened this year within the MSC-IRA Council. I think for me the most exciting event has been the creation of the new MSC-IRA website. Mary Jo Barker has worked closely with the website developers and I believe our council has a wonderful resource. You can find it at our original URL <http://missourireading.org/>. I encourage you to visit the website often and see what is offered. You will find new information added regularly as it is our hope that you will have multiple opportunities to stay informed regarding the activities within our council.

Also this year, we have returned to the lake for our biannual meetings. It is nice to have a change of scenery now and then so the meetings for this year are at The Resort at Port Arrowhead. Check with your officers to see if anyone was able to attend the September meeting. There was a good representation of councils but I would love to see each local council represented at the June meeting. We will be offering the Summer Professional Development on Saturday, June 18, 2011. If you are a council officer we strongly encourage you to attend. In addition to the very short business meeting of the state council, Mary Jo Barker will provide professional development sessions to help you plan for a successful year. Your opinions and votes are necessary for

our council to continue to meet the needs of our members. If you just wish to participate in the professional development provided and want to learn more about the state council, we invite you to attend, also. In fact make a weekend of it!

The Osage Beach Premium Outlet stores are close and offer plenty of opportunities for shopping. Also, I have contracted for rooms at a reduced price if you decide to stay over. Be sure to register early to ensure you are able to secure a room. Information will be coming in the next few weeks.

Other opportunities include the IRA 56<sup>th</sup> annual convention May 8-11, 2011. The state council will be presented the Award of Excellence on Sunday. If you are planning to attend the convention please come and share in this celebration with us!

This year MSC-IRA has provided many opportunities for you to develop as a literacy professional. I have been in education for many years and in all that time there has never been a time where we as literacy professionals were more needed. Take advantage of all MSC-IRA has to offer. Be a leader in our state. We have much to offer as a professional organization. Share your knowledge with your colleagues, administrators, district personnel, and even the state. You are needed!

*Submitted by Jeanie Cozens  
MSC-IRA President*

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## A Chat with Your Coordinator

### MSC-IRA Utilizes the Internet To Offer New Services, New Features, New Tools

By Mary Jo Barker, MSC-IRA State Coordinator

Have you checked out our new website? While the address is the same ([www.missourireading.org](http://www.missourireading.org)), you will find the site new and improved with lots of features designed specifically for our members.

*Don't miss the following great features:*

- *Professional Development Articles*
- *"What's New with IRA?"* ( dates on new resources in members-only area of IRA website)
- *The Missouri Reader (MSC-IRA Journal)*
- *MSC-IRA Newsletter*
- *Local Council Newsletters*
- *State and International Conference Information*
- *Schedule of Events for Missouri Local Councils*
- *Information on MSC-IRA Awards and Contests*
- *Reviews of Speakers/Presentations*
- *Reviews of Professional Books*
- *Links to Literacy-Related Websites*
- *Links to Literacy-Related Blogs*
- *RSS Feed (available to notify you of new posts and new comments)*
- *Interactive Blogs*

While the old website provided everything you needed to know about IRA and MSC-IRA, our new website offers this and more. I think the **BIG** difference is the professional development opportunities available on the new website. As you can see above, professional development is available in many forms. But, it is also interactive. There are blog opportunities available with each of them so you can not only express your thoughts and experiences with this topic, but you can read about what others think and do with the topic as well. Additionally, you are now able to search the site for information on a specific topic that interests you. Finally, you will receive notification by email blast when new information is posted on our website (approximately once a month).

We are also launching our **Face book** page. We want to send "all things literacy" directly to your phone and computer every week. "Like" our page and learn about literacy-related events, successful literacy strategies and practices, contests, literacy conferences & workshops, and much, much more.

We know how busy teachers are and understand your need for classroom support. Our goal is to create communication tools and valued resources that will meet your needs. We hope that you will visit our website and choose to "like" our Face book page for support from a network of professionals dedicated to your success!

*Submitted by Mary Jo Barker, MSC-IRA State Coordinator*  
*barkermarvio@rockwood.k12.mo.us*

**Follow us on Facebook!**



<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/mscir>

## MSC-IRA TO BE PRESENTED THE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

MSC-IRA was notified recently that the state council will once again be presented the Award of Excellence by the International Reading Association. The Award of Excellence is presented annually by the International Reading Association to state and provincial associations that have distinguished themselves through organizing and implementing a wide range of programs and activities in their state or province that (a) serve and support councils and members, (b) contribute to education, and (c) coincide with and support the programs and goals of the Association. More information on the award can be found at [http://www.reading.org/Resources/AwardsandGrants/council\\_excellence.aspx](http://www.reading.org/Resources/AwardsandGrants/council_excellence.aspx)

Below you can read an excerpt from the notification letter. The presentation will be on Sunday, May 8, 2011. If you are planning to attend the convention in Orlando, please come and join us for the celebration.

It is our pleasure to inform you that the Missouri State Council has met all the requirements for the International Reading Association's Award of Excellence for 2010-2011. We extend our congratulations to you and all members of the council for this significant achievement and invite you to participate in a special event honoring council and affiliate leaders for their outstanding contributions to the reading profession and the International Reading Association.

The Missouri State Council is cordially invited to attend the IRA 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention's Council Award Ceremony. The award ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, May 8, 2011 at the Peabody Hotel, in Windermere W from 6:00-8:00 p.m. during the IRA Annual Convention in Orlando. A reception will immediately follow the ceremony. The Award Ceremony and Reception are non-ticketed events and open to all.



### From the Historian

*The challenge of history is to recover the past and introduce it to the present. ~David Thelen*

The Missouri State Council has a rich past and a bright present and future. As the Missouri State Council Historian, I am pleased to be a part of the Missouri Reading Council and its rich heritage of promoting literacy.

MSC-IRA Constitution and Bylaws (3-24-01) state:

*The historian shall keep all items which would be of historical value to the council including the publications and other printed material. – Constitution and Bylaws (3-24-01)*

Archives of the Missouri State Council are currently housed in the administrative offices of the Columbia, Missouri, school district. MSC is seeking an institution such as a library that would help us preserve for posterity these important records of the Council. If you are affiliated with an institution that would like to assist with archiving these historically significant documents from the Missouri State Council, please contact one of the following Executive Board members:

Glenda Nugent, Historian, [wgnugent@prodigy.net](mailto:wgnugent@prodigy.net)

Jeanie Cozens, President, [cozens-j@MSSU.EDU](mailto:cozens-j@MSSU.EDU)

Mary Jo Barker, IRA State Coordinator, [barkermario@rockwood.k12.mo.us](mailto:barkermario@rockwood.k12.mo.us)

*Submitted by Glenda Nugent  
Historian*

# Write to Learn

March 3-5, 2011 • Tan-Tar-A Resort • Osage Beach, MO

Sponsored by: Educational Solutions International, the Missouri Association of Teachers of English, the Missouri Writing Projects Network, the Missouri Reading Initiative, Missouri IRA and the MU Conference Office



"Passionate Pedagogy"

## WRITE TO LEARN CONFERENCE AT TAN-TAR-A RESORT

The Missouri State Council of the International Reading Association was one of the sponsors of the Write to Learn Conference that was held recently at the Tan-Tar-A Resort. The conference was held from March 3 through March 5, and the theme was Passionate Pedagogy.

The keynote speakers included many well-known authors such as Sharon Draper, Timothy Resins and Linda Rife. In her entertaining keynote address, Sharon Draper spoke of her years as a classroom teacher and the importance of reading in her personal life. In his presentation, Timothy Resins explained the relationship between phonics, word study, and fluency and demonstrated several effective strategies. Linda Rife, author of *Language Arts with Adolescents*, spoke about the importance of having students write about meaningful and compelling subjects. It is through this type of writing that students get to know themselves and others and grow as writers.

Lori Cokes, author of *Reciprocal Teaching at Work: Powerful Strategies and Lessons for Improving Reading Comprehension*, demonstrated ways to use this comprehension strategy. One of her sessions focused on using this strategy to improve comprehension for students in grades 1 and 2 while her second session focused on ways students in grades 3 through 5 could benefit from the use of Reciprocal Teaching. Through the use of videos showing real students using this strategy, Lori made Reciprocal Teaching come to life.

Many workshop presentations were also available at the conference and dealt with subjects from "Making Books Come Alive for Adolescent Readers" to "Making Connections: Pop Culture Poetry." Several members of MSC-IRA were presenters at the conference and many more were volunteers.

After the luncheon on March 4, Mary Piazza, a member of the Mid-Rivers Area Council, received the MSC-IRA Literacy Award in recognition of her outstanding support of literacy over the years. Currently working as an elementary school librarian, Mary has introduced hundreds of children and teachers to the world of books. Mary's thirty years in education as a classroom teacher, reading specialist, and librarian are a testimony to her commitment to promoting literacy.

The Write to Learn Conference included many speakers, great exhibits, and the chance to meet with old friends and to make new ones. Please mark your calendars for late February or early March 2012 so you will be able to participate in this wonderful professional development opportunity next year!

*Submitted by Lorene Reid  
Vice-President  
President of MRAC*



## Mark Twain Reader's Choice Award



Seems like just a few months ago I had a stack of 25 Mark Twain Award books that all needed to be read. And read them I Did. I'm sure I am not that different from any reader that has a Deadline, I sorted the books into a pile by first impressions. Just Like last year my first impressions didn't hold muster. So another Deadline has to be met, and I have decided to write about what Books I really remembered, not just the titles that made it to the Final list. Books, like fine art, are read in the moment and really great phrases and story lines are remembered four, six and even eight months later, or so I found.

Being the age I am, my memory is somewhat lacking. The fact that I remembered some books from the list I think says a lot about the books, not me! I remembered that I didn't waste any time to pick up and read *Season of Gifts* by Richard Peck, and I wasn't disappointed and neither will you. Students meet me in the hall and ask me all the time titles of good books. I know I have suggested *Secret of Zoom* by Lynne Jonell to at least six, and all have later said they L-O-V-E-D the book, that just has to mean something. The sweetest read was the little book, *Year the Swallows Came Early* by Kathryn Fitzmaurice.

The cerebral award goes to *Potato Chip Puzzles* by Eric Berlin. Being a puzzler from way back, I liked the added challenge this book gives the reader to solve the puzzles along with the characters. Not a fast read, one has to think while absorbing this plot.

*Operation YES* by Sara Lewis Holmes is a wonderful modern realistic novel about having parents serving overseas in the military. One can't help but feel some empathy once you learn what the main character is going through. All teachers need to read this one, so you can look at some of your students in a much needed newer light.

*Heart of a Shepherd* by Roseanne Parry had a story line that was hard to shake, and Patricia Reilly Giff's, *Wild Girl* won't be a disappointment, as always she intertwines a great character into a challenging situation. As one of my students once said about Patricia's writing, "You just can't go wrong with one of her books."

I'm sure the other books were the titles that other reader's probably would remember, but then they aren't writing this article, so you're stuck with my opinions. And that's just what they are, only opinions. Book lists are great ways to push you into genre, meet up with different characters or problem solve situations that you would not choose to be in given the choice. So another year is over and another list is being compiled. If you have a book that you still remember, or often suggest, or would pick up again this summer, maybe you should nominate it to be placed on the Mark Twain Reader's Choice Award.

*Submitted by Glenda Haley*  
 Mark Twain Award Chair  
 NW IRA President

Expand your knowledge. Broaden your community. Spark your inspiration.



**THE POWER OF LITERACY**

IRA 56<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION | ORLANDO  
 MAY 8-11 | 2011 | LEARN MORE AT [WWW.IRACONVENTION.ORG](http://WWW.IRACONVENTION.ORG)



## CELEBRATE LITERACY AWARD 2011

Shown from left to right are: Jeanie Cozens, MSC President; Mary Piazza, award recipient; Barbara Ryczek, Celebrate Literacy Award Chairperson

The MSC-IRA Literacy Award Committee recognizes individuals across the state who have made a major contribution to promote literacy. The recipient of the award this year is Mary Piazza. Mary's career in education spans over thirty-five years. She has worked as a classroom teacher, a resource/reading teacher, a reading specialist, and an elementary school librarian. For a short time she owned her own tutoring business called Reading Enhancement. Mary has also served as the president of the Mid-Rivers Council and worked in the community to promote the goals of the Missouri State Council with her volunteerism. Lorene Reid from the Mid-Rivers Council nominated her for this award.

The Celebrate Literacy award was presented last month at the Write to Learn Conference held at Tan-Tar-A Resort at Osage Beach, MO.

*Submitted by Barbara Ryczek*  
*Celebrate Literacy Chair*  
[barbryczek@aol.com](mailto:barbryczek@aol.com)

## Treasurer's Report

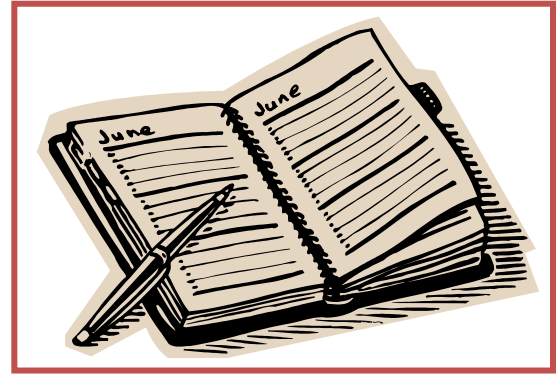
I am happy to report that after several years of pinching pennies we are finally starting to see our bank account grow! Membership has slightly decreased, but teaming up with the **Write to Learn Conference** and next fall **The Primary Years Conference**, we have saved and even earned money. MSC-IRA has always hosted great conferences, but in the previous years we were losing money due the increase in various fees. Now we are able to attend great conferences and reap the rewards. The money earned from the past two conferences has put us back in a comfortable spot financially. We can now look toward the future without having to worry about how we will be able to afford it. Thanks for bearing with us during our tough financial times. Hopefully, you are enjoying the new benefits (new and improved website) your membership has to offer.

*Submitted by Nicole Costello*  
*Treasurer*

**kids who read better do better in school and life!**

# !!!Mark Your Calendars!!!

## Summer Professional Development



Each year MSC-IRA provides a Summer Professional Development opportunity for local councils. This year it will be held Saturday, June 18, 2011 at The Resort at Port Arrowhead in Lake Ozark, MO. As you select your new officers for 2011-2012 consider this chance to receive resources for planning your next year.

The Professional Development is free for all state members and the state will provide lunch for 4 council members. Be watching as registration information will be coming in the next few weeks! We hope to see officers representing each local council!

## Remember-June 18<sup>th</sup>-See you at the Lake!

### EVERY SCHOOL A STAR: IRA and ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PROJECT

The Every School a Star literacy kit is designed to help Rotary clubs and reading councils select and implement projects that meet the literacy needs of schools in their communities and around the world. You'll find examples of successful literacy projects along with contact information, resources, and service opportunities. You'll also find tools, such as questionnaires and a teacher's wish list, to help you determine the right project for your community. Whether it's volunteering your time, providing financial support, or building awareness of literacy's importance, schools need your support and involvement. What's more, literacy projects are affordable, attainable, and successful. Working together, Rotarians and IRA members can make their school a shining star.

#### READING ACROSS the CONTINENTS MODEL PROJECT

How Rotary Clubs, both here and in the developing world, can be involved in this "Reading Across the Continents" project:

- \*Supply assigned books for kids in both countries
- \*Supply assigned books to the local library
- \*Help local US schools in your Rotary district make the connection to a developing country school by contacting both Rotary and IRA in that area.
- \*Facilitate the exchange via technology in the developing country by making links to embassies, cell phones to the developing country students to talk to US students about the books
- \*Fund the trip of the American author to the US school and the author from the developing country to that country's school
- \*Host home stays for the exchange of students and teachers in both countries if the project can afford to move beyond the technology stage to student exchanges

*Submitted by Terry Sherer  
International Projects Chair  
Vice President*

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership is very important for the achievement of our goal to promote a higher level of literacy for all citizens of Missouri. Local council incentives for individuals, schools and districts play an important role in promoting memberships. It has become increasingly difficult to schedule local council meetings because of the volume of in-service that districts throughout the state are requiring teachers to attend. This has also discouraged teachers from keeping up their membership in their local MSC/IRA council—they don't have time to attend one more meeting.

Most of our councils have seen a decrease in the number of members. The St. Louis City Council has been reactivated which is a real plus for that area. Two smaller councils—Mark Twain and South Central—have shown a slight increase in their membership.

We have implemented a new system for recording memberships. Each council has a document setup on Google for recording memberships. The Membership Director for each council will be able to view the membership for their council. Therefore, it is vitally important that the Membership Director for each council provide their e-mail address to the State Director of Membership so that this information is accessible to them. Please e-mail this information to [bhiles24@msn.com](mailto:bhiles24@msn.com) so that this information can be included on the Google site. The site address will be provided to each council as soon as all the information has been received.

As the end of the school year approaches, we know that some councils will have a spring membership drive for the new year. Instructions and report forms have been provided to each council. However, if you do not have this information, please contact Barbara Hiles (e-mail address in this article) and it will be sent to you.

If you as an individual are unsure about what council area you are in, please contact Barbara and the information will be provided. A Membership Form is available on the website at <http://www.missourireading.org/MembershipForm.pdf>

Submitted by Barbara Hiles  
Treasurer



## SHOW-ME READERS AWARD

Each year the Missouri School Librarians Association announces the winner of the **Show-Me Reading Award**. MASL created the Show Me Readers Award as a means to promote literature and literacy in Missouri elementary schools for grades one through three. The winner of the annual Show Me Readers Award is selected by *students*. Voting for their favorite books is completed by March 1<sup>st</sup>. The winner will be posted on the MASLs web site, [www.maslonline.org](http://www.maslonline.org), on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

The winner for the 2009-2010 was *Some Dog* written by Mary Casanova and illustrated by Ard Hoyt. This author – illustrator duo were featured speakers at the MSC-IRA Conference in 2007. The Missouri School Librarians Association posts the nominee lists. The lists for 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 are available now for viewing. Guidelines for voting and nominating books for the Show-Me Readers Award can be found at the web site, too. Anyone can nominate a book to be considered for the nominating list.

For the past few years, I have represented MSC-IRA as a reader for the nominee list. As a reader I have been provided a list of 24 – 30 books to read between early August and November 1<sup>st</sup>. My friend, Suzanne Thomas, helps with the task. We meet a few of evenings after school for marathon reading sessions of the selected nominee books. Suzanne is an elementary school librarian, and I am a second grade classroom teacher. One of the most enjoyable things we like about reading the nominees together is the opportunity to visit about the books selected. Each of us brings a different perspective about the nominees and we welcome each other's connections, insights, and overviews. Sometimes Suzanne will have already read a book with a group of children during her library time, and shares the children's reaction to the book.

MASL's criteria for rating each book are:

- Picture book, easy to read aloud with strong literary value
- Interest and appeal to children 6 to 10 years old in grades one to three

## SHOW-ME READERS AWARD (con't)

After Suzanne and I have completed our reading, we share how we rated the books according to the MASL criteria. We are delighted when we agree on a selected rating. If we have a difference of opinion we critique the book to each other and decide on a joint rating. Next, we submit our ratings back to the MASL Show-Me Readers Committee. The committee tallies all of the ratings from other readers across the state. Finally, the overall results for the top-ten books are shared with the readers and posted on the web site. Suzanne and I wait patiently for the results.

**This 2011-2012 finalists are:**

TITLE	AUTHOR(S)
Numbs: The True Story of a Mutt, a Marine, & a Miracle	Major Brian Dennis, Kirby Larson, & Mary Nethery
Desert Rose and her Highfalutin Hog	Alison Jackson
Finding Lincoln	Ann Malaspina
Dewey: There's a Cat in the Library	Vicki Myron & Bret Witter
Stars Above Us	Geoffrey Norman
Testing the Ice: A True Story of Jackie Robinson	Sharon Robinson
Peace Week in Miss Fox's Class	Eileen Spinelli
Twist of Fate	Chris Stuckenschneider
Itsy Bitsy & Teeny Weny	Robbyn Smith van Frankenhuyzen
Minnow and Rose: an Oregon Trail Story	Judy Young

These are the books the children will read and vote for the 2011-2012 school year.

Ironically, our top-ten picks are not always the same top-ten picks that make up the finalist for the coming year. *Tsunami!* was one of our favorites! Kimiko Kajikawa's character, Ojiisan, is based on the heroic efforts of Hamaguchi Coryoi who saved and guided his villagers to safety from a disastrous approaching tsunami. It is told in the folk tradition of a Japanese village. The illustrations by Ed Young are amazing. They are composed of cut-paper collage with exceptionally stunning details. Kajikawa has a talent for having you feel many different emotions from peace, to dismay, to gloom, to cheering.

Another of our favorites was *14 Cows for America*, written by Carmen Agra Deedy. Check out the book trailer on YouTube. The story details how a small village in Kenya shows their support to grieving America after the 9/11 tragedy. The illustrations are beautifully done by Thomas Gonzalez. Every page leaves you with a feeling of being there in Maasai as Kimeli Najyomah tells the story of America's sadness.

In *Alfred Nobel the Man Behind the Peace Prize*, I learned something new! I never knew that the Nobel Peace Prize first awarded in 1902. Author Kathy-Jo Wargin and illustrator Zachary Pullen have created a fantastic picture book that explains the creation of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Remember Jane Yolan's *Owl Moon*? Read Lois Lowry's *Crow Call*. This is a heart-touching story of a father who returns home after serving in the war only to find that he is a stranger to his own daughter. Lowry has a special way of unfolding how a strained relationship is mended one cold winter day. *Crow Call* is a beautiful example of a memoir with gorgeous realistic illustrations that will make you feel the cold of winter and the depth of the love a father has for his daughter. You can read this book on your Kindle! Do you teach the phases of the moon? Check out *Faces of the Moon* (Bob Crelin). Finally, chuckle out loud as you read *The Middle Child Blues* (Kristyn Crow). Anyone who is a middle child will connect to this corky funny read. I doubt if first through third grade children will make the connections, but the middle child in me LOL!

Thank you MASL for providing young children with the opportunity to voice their opinions about books that they enjoy reading! I always appreciate the list of quality literature to share with my children.

*Happy Reading* and share this "review" with a friend who loves reading children's books as much as you do.

*Submitted by Marie Puett  
Show-Me Readers Award Chair*

## MSC-IRA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>April 15, 2011</b>	Report Of Council Officers' Deadline (International)
<b>May 2-8, 2011</b>	Missouri Reading Week
<b>May 8-11, 2011</b>	IRA's 56 <sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, Orlando, FL
<b>June 17, 2011</b>	Executive Committee Meeting -- The Resort at Port Arrowhead, Lake Ozark, MO, 7:00 – 10:30 p.m. (For State Executive Board Only)
<b>June 18, 2011</b>	Board of Directors' Meeting – The Resort at Port Arrowhead, Lake Ozark, MO, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

### SEND NEW CALENDAR ITEMS AND ARTICLES FOR THE *NEWSLETTER* TO:

Laurie Edmondson, Editor, MSC-IRA Newsletter

**Mary Jo Barker, State Coordinator**  
**Missouri State Council**  
**International Reading Association**  
[maryjob@missourireading.org](mailto:maryjob@missourireading.org)

### MISSOURI IRA EXECUTIVE BOARD 2010-2011

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 Director of Membership: Barbara Hiles  
 State Coordinator: Mary Jo Barker

### ZONE COORDINATORS

Zone 1-Sarah Logan, Ozark Mountain  
 Zone 2-Winnie McKinley, Big Springs  
 Zone 3- River Heritage Zone  
 Zone 4- St. Louis  
 Zone 5-Carol Perry Davis, Lake Ozarks  
 Zone 6- Kansas City  
 Zone 7-Jim & Donna Bonebrake, Pony Express  
 Zone 8- Mark Twain

