

MSC-IRA NEWSLETTER



www.missourireading.org

President's Report

By Jeanie Cozens, PhD

I am surprised when I look at the calendar and see that it is already fall! This is one of my favorite times of year with football games, trips to the lake to see the foliage, and, of course, a lot of good books to read while I am there! The academic year is also underway. At this point, most of us are now comfortable with the rhythms of our daily schedules including all the rewards and challenges that come with the year. Many of these may be similar to what we encounter each year; however, there are also the many changes currently taking place in education. Each of you is in a position to contribute in a significant way as our profession makes these transitions.

MSC-IRA is also in transition as we continue to explore ways that our organization can stay current with the needs of our membership. This fall the executive committee is experimenting with using a webinar which is being held instead of a face-to-face fall meeting. Many councils are struggling with membership and the expense of attending an additional meeting is a hardship. The webinar is one way to take care of our business more efficiently allowing more resources available for summer leadership. The annual summer leadership will once again be held in June at The Resort at Point Arrowhead in Lake Ozark, MO. We hope to provide assistance and additional resources to enable councils to attend. I would like to encourage each of you to make plans now to send a group of representatives to attend.

You also have an opportunity to participate

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Report	1
Supporting New Members with New Services	2
Coordinators' Reports	2
Website Directory	2
Read Any Great Books Lately?	3
Save the Date	4

in two excellent professional development opportunities with The Missouri Early Learning Conference (formerly known as the Primary Conference) in November and Write to Learn Conference in March. Both of these are being held at Tan Tar A Resort in Osage Beach, MO. Both have an amazing group of presenters who will provide suggestions for implementing effective literacy practices. We are very fortunate to have this level of quality speakers in our state. Perhaps you can look into attending one of these.

As you can see, MSC-IRA is working diligently to provide you with the tools you need to be a leader in literacy education. Be sure to actively support your local council as well as your state council. Each of you has an important voice in what happens in our organization. This is an exciting time to be in education. Let's make sure MSC-IRA's voice is heard!

Jeanie Cozens, PhD
President



MSC-IRA Supports Members with New Services, New Features, New Tools

By Mary Jo Barker, MSC IRA State Coordinator

A major goal of the Missouri State Council is to provide research-based professional development opportunities and materials. We are working to meet this goal by creating communication tools and valued resources to meet the needs of our members. Because we know how busy teachers are and understand your need for classroom support, we are sending our support directly to your inbox in the form of our e-newsletter and have designed our website to be "one-stop" professional development. From our Facebook page to yours comes strategies and tips to make your job easier. All these resources provide support for you from a state-wide network of professionals dedicated to your success!

It all began with the launch of our new website less than a year ago. While the address is the same (www.missourireading.org), the site is new and improved with every feature designed with you, our member, in mind. We strive to meet your professional development needs with new information posted at least twice a month. Our website directory is evidence of the wide variety of information available and the many opportunities for professional development.

Coordinator's Reports

By Carol Davis,

I can report about West Central. We are finally up and running for the year with our first meeting on Sept. 29 at the Monserrat Winery outdoor deck. It was a lovely afternoon and a kdg. teacher from Holden, Kristi Gudde, gave a very informative and interesting talk about Writers Workshop in her classroom. Our Scholarship Award was presented to Susan Fluharty to assist her in attending Missouri Early Learning Conference. Books were donated for distribution to a school or Doctor's office. It hadn't been decided yet. The calendar for the year was decided. There will be 5 meetings during the year: Sept., Nov. (Daily 5, Holden), Feb. (Newspapers in Education, Crest Ridge), Mar. (Young Authors stories read by the Young Authors that will go to the YA Conference in Warresnburg), and April, our spring banquet. So far, West Central has 16 members.



Website Directory:

- *Professional development articles*
- *"What's New with IRA?"* (updates 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*
- *Reviews of books for your classroom*
- *Links to literacy-related websites*
- *Links to literacy-related blogs*
- *RSS feed (available to notify you of new posts and new comments)*
- *Interactive blogs*

Additionally, you receive notification by e-newsletter when new information is posted on our website (approximately twice a month).

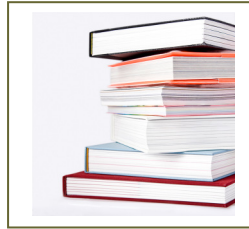
Finally, we launched our Facebook page last spring. We want to send "all things literacy" directly to your iPhone and computer. Our Facebook team shares new information every day with posts that will appeal to an audience of educators from preschool through middle school. "Like" our page to learn about literacy-related events, successful literacy strategies and practices, contests, literacy conferences & workshops, and much, much more.

We are passionate about supporting our members with the professional development to make your job easier, improve your instruction, and increase student achievement! We hope you find our efforts beneficial.

Mark Twain Council

By Terry Sherer

Culver-Stockton College and Mark Twain Reading Council is "on-track" for launching a digital anthology that will feature both fiction and non-fiction from and about the Tri-State region - northeast Missouri, west-central Illinois, and southeast Iowa. The first phase will include naming the anthology and training CSC library staff and anthology editors. Submission information will be distributed in January for the first edition. Quincy, Illinois East Rotary will launch discussions of their Summer Reading Partnership in January. The partnership will seek to have a major impact on promoting summer reading, encouraging planning and promotion with schools and public libraries, getting books, e-readers, technology into the hands of children and young adults who have the least access to reading materials, and creating programs that are sustainable throughout the school year. Partners will include Culver-Stockton College, Quincy University, the Kroc Center/Salvation Army, Canton Public Library, Quincy Public Library, Keokuk, Iowa Public Library, the GAMM project, Rotary Clubs in the tri-state area, and private foundations that are interested in promoting literacy. The "Partner Offensive" is a continuing activity of the Quincy East Rotary. All are welcome to contribute talents, ideas,



Book ideas!

money, and energy!

Mark Twain Reading Council also has an active student group this year that has done a "Book Giveaway" this past summer (over a \$1000.00 worth of new books for kids K-8) at the local Food Bank. Students and teachers are involved with the January launch of a digital anthology that will focus fiction and non-fiction from K-12 as well as adults in the northeast Missouri, southeast Iowa, and west central Illinois region. The anthology will be based at Culver-Stockton College. A new partnership with Habitat for Humanity will put a bookcase and a customized collection of books in each new house

Please see *Mark Twain Council* on page 4

Read any Great Books Lately?

By Terry Sherer

DYSTOPIAN: Books about the Future

Mockingbird by Walter Tevis (a cross between Brave New World, Superman, and Star Wars)
 Divergent by Veronica Roth (everyone must select a "faction" that reflects their psychological and political attitude)
 Brave New World by Aldous Huxley (classic)
 Little Brother by Cory Doctorow (growing up in the near future...companion for George Orwell's 1984)
 1984 by George Orwell (classic)
 The Hunger Games by Susan Collins (only for accelerated readers 8th and beyond)
 Feed by M.T. Anderson
 Birthmarked (Birthmarked Trilogy) by Caragh M. O'Brien
 Ship Breaker by Paolo Bacigulupi (Printz Award

2011)

Delirium by Lauren Oliver

After Harry Potter?? Try these:

Fablehaven Series by Brandon Mull
 The Beyonders by Brandon Mull
 The Last Olympian by Rick Riordan (very popular)
 Sabriel by Garth Nix
 Heroes of the Valley by Jonathon Stroud
 The Black Cauldron by Lloyd Alexander (a "tried and true" series that is always a great read about growing up)
 The Earthsea Trilogy by Ursula LeGuin (also immensely readable - good transition lit)

SAVE THE DATE

By Jeanie Cozens

Summer Leadership at
Resort at Port Arrowhead
Executive Committee

Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, June 21, 2012

Summer Leadership
Friday, June 22, 2012

Mark Twain Council from page 3

constructed in the area. We are excited about our involvement with Reading Plus which is designed to ensure high-success reading experiences for struggling developing readers who need effective reading practice to become proficient. Structured activities are individualized for each student's needs to ensure development of the "unseen and unheard" literacy skills that are taught the least and tested the most. "As a tool, technology can help teachers provide needed support for struggling readers, including instructional reinforcement and opportunities for guided practice." - Reading Next Report (2004) Culver-Stockton College Department of Education, Reading Plus, and Mark Twain Reading Council have teamed up with Canton R-V and Lewis C-1 School Districts for a two year research study, "The Bridge to Proficiency," that will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the Middle School and High School Intervention via Reading Plus. The college is also collecting data on its students 13-16.