



IOWA READING ASSOCIATION

A COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION

● SPRING 2009 ONLINE NEWSLETTER ●

<http://www.iowareading.org> ●



2009 Conference Countdown

By Lindsey Helmers
2009 Conference Chair



The countdown has begun!! Have you sent in your registration? Do you have your hotel booked? Are you ready to be inspired by great speakers, glean new ideas for your classroom from other Iowa teachers, and hear authors share about their books and writing experiences? It won't be long and we'll all be gathering in Des Moines for the Iowa Reading Conference. I am so excited and can hardly wait to see all of you there!! I've had some questions as to who will be speaking on

which day, so let me share that with you.

Thursday will start off with **Linda Gambrell**, past president of International Reading Association. Ms Gambrell will share many ideas that you will be able to take back to the classroom and put to use right away. She will also inspire you to continue to touch lives in the important role you have as an educator. The afternoon keynote address will be given by **Marcus Conyers**. Mr. Conyers shares a wealth of knowledge dealing with how the brain learns the best. You will walk away with a new understanding of the way the brain takes in and retains the information we are teaching our students.

I'm sure you will want to dine with the authors. Thursday's two luncheon speakers will be **Mary Casanova** and **John Archambault**. **Mary Casanova** returns to Iowa to share some of her latest releases. *Chrissa Stands Strong*, *The Klipfish Code* and *The Dog Watch Series* will be sure to be on your list of books to have your students read after hearing this outstanding author. (www.marycasanova.com) **John Archambault** says "melody and song carry words along" and he will definitely delight you with his way with words. Children never tire of John's book *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*. *Boom Chicka Rock* will have you tapping your toes as John shares his classic rhythm and rhyme with you. John will be at the conference both days. (www.johnarchambault.com)

Friday will be the day of The Sisters! **The 2 Sisters, Gail Boushey and Joan Moser**, authors of *The Daily Five* will present two featured sessions. Their morning session will cover the *Daily Five* and their afternoon session will deal with *Literacy Café*. These are definitely "must see" sessions if you are involved in the teaching of reading.

Friday's two luncheons will feature **Trinka Hakes Noble** and a panel of **Carol Gorman, Jenni Reeves and Sharron McElmeel**. If you have ever read any of **Trinka Hakes Noble's** books, you will not want to miss this luncheon. Trinka's storytelling from the heart will touch your heart. Some of her books include *The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash*, *The Orange Shoes*, *The Scarlet Stockings Spy* and *The Last Brother*. (www.trinkahakesnoble.com) Research: *Stories Untold* is the title of our panel of three, **Carol Gorman, Jenni Reeves, and Sharron McElmeel**. These ladies will share from their experiences of writing, illustrating and promoting literature. A few of their books are **Games: A Tale of Two Bullies**, **Dork**, **Lizard Flanagan series**, **The Girl Who Struck Out Babe Ruth**, **Kenya**, **Mike Fink**, **Authors In the Pantry**, and **Authors In the Kitchen** are a highlight of some of the works of these talented women. This will be a fun and enlightening luncheon to attend. (www.carolgorman.com, www.mcbookwords.com, www.jennireeves.com)



Continued...

There will be several speakers at the conference both days. Author **Shelley Gill** will have you ready to hit the Iditarod trail with her tails from the trail. This Alaska author will share her many books and ideas of how to use them in the classroom. (www.shelleygill.com) **Brad Tassell** speaks about his book *Don't Feed the Bully* and shares tips for teachers on bully prevention. Des Moines author **Carol Bodensteiner** will give tips on how to use her book, *Growing Up Country*, as a teaching tool in the classroom. Other yielding sessions will be by Michael Carey (writing), Kelly Carey (storytelling), John Trayser (parent involvement), Deb Mortensen (Beg, Borrow, or Steal), author Lori J. Ferris (*Discover Iowa with Pippy the Pig!*), Randall Klein (intervention games and activities for beginning and struggling readers), and many, many more.

If you have any questions about conference or need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me, Lindsey Helmers, at jlhelmers@evertek.net. I look forward to seeing you at conference! YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS IT!!



From Our President

By Lynn Kilpatrick
Iowa Reading Association President

As I write this letter, the sun is shining and the snow is slowly melting... and, in my mind's eye... setting the stage perfectly for this year's Iowa Reading Conference, "Cultivating Literacy"!

The vast field of featured speakers and authors that Lindsey Helmers, conference chair, has prepared for us will provide top yielding resources! I know many will harvest bushels of useful knowledge from this impressive line-up! Another highlight of our annual conference is the Young Authors Awards, recognizing the state winners of Iowa Reading Association's Poetry and Creative Writing Contests. These K-12 authors and poets are recognized and honored with a reception Friday afternoon following the awards ceremony. Trinkia Hakes Noble (K-4), Shelley Gill (5-8) and Iowa's own, "Farmer Poet" Michael Carey (9-12) will be the presenters and offer a book signing opportunity during the reception.

If you haven't already, make sure you get your conference registration in to Clark Goltz (on or before March 3rd for the "early-bird" discount). If you need lodging, the Renaissance Savery Hotel is offering a reduced rate for Iowa Reading Association's Conference attendees (*you will need to make these hotel reservations before March 11th*). And then, get ready to cultivate information and helpful strategies from the amazing crop of speakers and authors in Des Moines, April 2-3, 2009!

As I near the end of my term as Iowa Reading President, I am in awe that the past three years have gone by so quickly and so much has happened! Iowa has launched exciting changes in education with its Core Curriculum. Many have survived devastating floods and violent tornados. With incredible resilience, Iowans keep moving forward! As it is with Iowa Reading, we must keep moving forward. We want to hear from you... how can Iowa Reading best fit your needs? Please share your thoughts with us!

With this position, I have the honor of designating a recipient of the Iowa Reading Sustaining dues fund. Carey Elementary School in Waverly, Iowa, will receive this donation for their library, destroyed by flood waters.

In closing, I thank the Board, and all those who had faith in me, when I was considered for this position... it has been an amazing journey! I have enjoyed every minute... and grown both professionally and personally. God Bless.



New Vice-President

Carol Ann Duehr



The election for Iowa Reading Association's Vice-President is complete. Carol Ann Duehr from Dubuque is the newly elected official. Carol is involved in the R.E.A.D. Reading Council in Zone C. She has a BS in Education from the University of Dubuque and a MA in Reading from Clarke College. She earned her National Board Certification in 2001.

Carol has worked in the Dubuque School District for 21 years. Her current position is librarian/reading and writing reinforcement teacher at George Washington Carver Elementary in Dubuque. Elementary students are not the only level she teaches. She has taught many classes for teacher professional development through Keystone AEA and classes at Clarke College for seven years.

Carol has been married for 37 years, with three sons, one daughter, and eight grandchildren with another due to arrive in May. It is no surprise that Carol has a hobby of collecting children's picture books.

We welcome Carol to the Executive Board and look forward to her leadership and expertise.

A Chat With Your Coordinator



by Deb Mortensen
State Coordinator

As I've told Conference chair Lindsey Helmers before, I love her theme "Cultivating Literacy". The reason I like it is two-fold: 1) I grew up on a farm and married a farmer and 2) I love gardening (when I'm not reading!) in the summer. I looked up "cultivate" in the dictionary and found several definitions that can be applied to us as members of the Iowa and International Reading Associations.

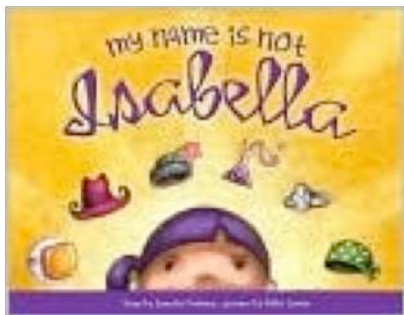
Definition #1 states "to prepare and work on in order to raise crops". Have you begun cultivating those new local council leaders? Are you electing officers so they can be invited to our state leadership training in June? If you are new as an officer, this will be a wonderful opportunity for you to network with others holding the same office as yourself. As a state board we truly want you to be prepared for this very rewarding role.

Definition #2 states "to promote or improve the growth of (a plant, crop) by labor and attention". Have you enjoyed some great programs this year? Has your council grown due to some new ideas? Being a member of the Reading Association does require labor and attention. Are you reading something professionally that is making a difference in your classroom?

Definition #3 states "to devote oneself to". I know that we as state officers are trying some new things to accommodate your busy lifestyles. Do you like seeing the newsletter online? What would you like to see included in the newsletter? Have you visited our website at www.iowareading.org? I know that I try to make my affiliation with the Reading Association a priority. It helps me as a professional as well as personally. Do you feel that if you were absent from a local council meeting that you would be missed?

Definition #4 states "to seek to promote or foster". Are you planning to attend state conference April 2-3, 2009? We have one of the best conferences there is. It features authors of books kids adore and opportunities to learn new reading strategies and meet vendors that offer the newest and most researched based materials.

Finally, definition #5 states "to seek the acquaintance or friendship of". I must honestly say that being a member and eventual officer in the Iowa Reading Association has given me an opportunity to meet some of the greatest people there are. Recently we received a donation from the Louisiana Reading Association for a flood stricken school or library in Iowa. The Iowa Reading Association decided to donate this money to the Cedar Rapids Public Library to replace their children's books that were destroyed in the June 2008 flood. I remember when Iowa sent a donation to Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina for recovery efforts. Reading Association members truly wish to help those in need. Educators are caring people and educators that promote literacy are easily life long friends. Thanks again, Lindsey, for such a wonderful conference theme. What are you reading right now? What are you "cultivating" in your literacy life?



Book Talk

by Ed Starkenburg
member of
Northwest Iowa
Reading Council
and Zone A
Director



Jennifer Fosberry has written her first children's book, and it's a good one for teachers and parents to know. *My Name is NOT Isabella* is a short picture book which helps introduce children to several women who have made an impact in our world. These change agents include Sally Ride, Annie Oakley, Rosa Parks, Marie Curie, and Elizabeth Blackwell. Do you know what is historically significant about the lives of each of these women?

The storyline of this book is very common to teachers and parents. The main character, Isabella, is pretending to be someone else throughout the day as her mother encourages her to do several tasks that children like to avoid. Mike Litwin's illustrations bring the story alive with a variety of colors and textures.

The book doesn't provide a lot of information on each of the women it highlights. Like many similar books, there are some factual details summarized in the back. But the book can serve to raise questions that will encourage readers to investigate further. How did these individuals impact society? Who else has served to make our lives better and more interesting? There are enough "holes" in the day captured by the book that other heroes can be inserted into the story.

Who do you see as influential in the world today? Which individuals and groups have established our cultural literacy? *My Name is NOT Isabella* can set readers thinking and investigating. Those are pretty good jobs for a story!





Membership Matters

By Lynette Kruger, Director of Membership Development

The fact of the matter is: Membership in Iowa Reading is closing in on 1,000 members. Talk to your librarians, administrators, student teachers, and colleagues. This is our time to shine and demonstrate to our state legislators we are serious about our profession and improving our skills. Iowa Reading Association has been in existence for forty years making differences in education. It feels good to know our dollars towards membership go towards programs and projects that benefit children. Some educators have gladly joined Iowa Reading even if they know they can't attend local council and/or state programs. They know their dollars are being used to promote literacy where it is needed. This support is greatly appreciated!

An interesting fact of the matter is: For years, the Conference is attended mostly by nonmembers of Iowa Reading. Those of you who take advantage of the State Conference and your local council events know there is a lot offered for so little. Wouldn't it be great if at least half the members could attend the Iowa Reading Conference in April? Start talking to your administrator. Yes, times are tough but it is not a good time to forego inexpensive, helpful networking.

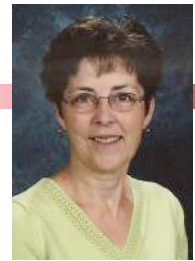
An important fact of the matter is: Iowa Reading Association recognizes there has been significant change in educators and their needs. Iowa Reading wants to help meet those needs. An online survey for you to complete will help us in meeting those needs. Your input is greatly needed! As we look ahead to the future of educators and their needs a Long Range Membership Planning Committee has met and brainstormed some ideas. If you have any suggestions please fill out the survey and/or let me know your ideas at lkruger@george-ir.k12.ia.us.

More facts of the matter: Networking with other educators from around the state is invigorating. Staff development offered in-house and/or by local AEAs is fine but there is nothing like branching out regionally and nationally to really get those neurons fired up. Sessions with authors and illustrators along with other literacy dignitaries open minds into a whole different arena than what we have locally.

Membership at the International level is another opportunity to support literacy but at a national level. My first experience attending an International Reading Conference last spring was overwhelming. It was so much more than I had expected. My hope is for everyone to experience an International Conference at least once.

I hope you can join in on the fun at the Iowa Reading Conference in April. Stop by the membership booth to pick up some freebies and to register for door prizes including an Author's Chair which will be autographed by the authors presenting during the Conference. I look forward to seeing you there!

Council Corner



Quint County Reading Council

By Candace Booth

Member of Quint County Reading Council and Zone D Director

As we focus on Quint County Reading Council, we see an active council due to committed leadership. The officers and building representatives take their jobs and creativity energetically to keep the council thriving.

Quint offers and encourages creative writing and poetry entries -- often with state winners. Quint selects adult literacy award winners -- often securing winners at the state level. The council has supported the International Literacy Project in Nakungi, Tanzania, Africa with monetary support or supplies. This year the council selected supporting libraries damaged by the Iowa floods of 2008.

For the past few years, this council has offered the meetings for college credit due to the efforts of Deb Mortensen. This year meetings have recruited Iowa authors to share experiences and expertise.

The current Quint President, Peggy Neubaum, keeps all members informed with a newsletter called "Quint Quotes". As members attend meetings they each choose a free children's book. Those attending get an opportunity of being selected for door prizes, a free international membership, or a monetary scholarship.

Quint leaders have worked hard to keep the council active and to recruit members. Literacy remains very important to them.





New Zone A Director

Sara Youngers

Iowa Reading Association is pleased to announce Sara Youngers as the new Zone A Director. She follows Ed Starkenburg, who faithfully served the past two terms. She will serve on the state board as a liaison between the state officers and the local councils of her zone.

Sara has been a literacy consultant at Northwest AEA for the past five years. She works primarily out of the Sioux Center office but serves across the Northwest area. She has a Masters in Education. Sara serves mostly at the secondary level. She is currently finishing an ELL endorsement and adding ELL responsibilities at the agency.

Sara has spent over twenty years teaching a variety of grade levels from first through eighth grades, all in northwest Iowa.

We welcome Sara to the Iowa Reading Association Board and look forward to ideas she has to offer. We thank Ed for his dedicated service the past six years.



Book Review

*EVERY **monday** MATTERS*

By Lynette Kruger,
Member of Northwest
Iowa Reading Council and
Director of Membership
Development

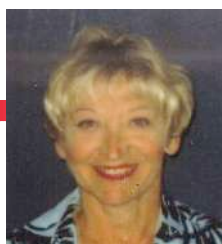


It's Monday and I'm reading my Every Monday Matters book thinking this is too good not to share. I hope you don't mind being the audience for another 'matter' to consider!! Mondays can be a drag if we let them and this book helps us to realize that we can make a positive difference in 52 down-to-earth ways. This book's goal is to change the image of Monday and make Mondays matter!

I bought the book originally thinking it would be a great lift-me-up type of read. It has done that but even more. As it says in the Introduction: *If you're like most people, you want to contribute, and have a positive impact, but, maybe you don't know **what** to do, **where** to go, and **when** the "right" time is, or **how** to get others involved.* It is a little book meant for ordinary people to do extraordinary good. The authors Matthew Emerzian and Kelly Bozza took into consideration the busy lifestyles we all have acquired as they developed the concept and ideas for each Monday.

Also impressive is the website everymondymatters.com and the information it provides. All profits from the sales of items from their store go to a charity of your choice that include hunger relief, clean water, the environment, justice, health, education, disaster relief, and animals. Plus, a portion of each book sale goes to worthy charities around the world.

Look for this book at your nearest bookstore or online. OR maybe you might win your own copy at the Iowa Reading Conference!! Each day of the conference one will be given away so stop by the Membership Booth April 2 and 3 to register!! See you there!



New Zone E Director

Lori Vicker

Congratulations to Lori Vicker as the new Zone

E Director. Lori currently serves in the Des Moines Public Schools as Reading Recovery and Reading Specialist. Lori has been an adjunct instructor for Viterbo University for the past 14 years. Besides teaching students reading, she also has taught a variety of reading classes at various AEA's.

Lori has authored *Poetry Parade* and *One Minute Passages for the First Grade*. Lori's credits include serving on several DOE committees, 1996 Iowa Reading Teacher of the Year, 2003 Elementary Teacher of the Year for the Des Moines Public School and many more professional honors. She has presented many sessions at Plains Regional Reading conferences and Iowa Reading conferences.

Lori is not new to the Iowa Reading Association. She has served three terms as President of the Dallas County Reading Council, chaired the council's writing contest 2008-09, and served as Director at Large and Secretary of Iowa Reading. Lori's experience will be valuable to the Board and the Reading Association.



Strategy Corner

by Rick Bartosh
Zone E Director



Since this issue of the Iowa Reading News is an electronic version, this would be a good opportunity to explore one electronic resource <http://www.readwritethink.org/>
ReadWriteThink.org is sponsored by the International Reading Association, National Council of Teachers of English and Verizon. It provides a wide selection of standards based activities, lessons, and ideas for classroom teachers.

The resources are grouped as Lessons, Standards, Web Resources, and Student Materials. The Lesson planner allows you to select a grade band (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12) and a literacy strand. The Standards gives information about IRA/NCTE Standards for the English Language Arts. Web Resources allow you to select for specific grade bands or all grade levels. The Student Materials section has interactive tools and links to specific lessons. You can also create your own lessons using the tools.

To give you a flavor for the site, I invite you to try some of the links as you begin to explore ReadWriteThink.org.

Animal Inquiry – A graphic organizer for collecting information on an animal http://www.readwritethink.org/student_mat/student_material.asp?id=20

Buzz! Whiz! Bang! Using Comic Books to Teach Onomatopoeia http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=867

Fact or Fiction: Learning About Worms Using *Diary of a Worm* http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=778

Is this the right book for me? http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=916

Instructional Resources for Grades 3-5 <http://www.readwritethink.org/resources/index.asp?wsgrade=2&webresource=1&display.x=33&display.y=11>



News from the Executive Director

Clark Goltz

With Apologies (for a third time) To Dr. Seuss

One fish, two fish, red fish, blue fish!
I better stop rhyming or they'll give me a big swish.
I wanted to tell you what's going on near and far
At Spring Conference in Des Moines if you go there by car.

You'll hear lots of speakers on topics you'll like.
One of them, Linda Gambrell, will come up to the mike.
She'll talk about International Reading I really am sure
'Cause she's a past president who knows reading teachers can cure.

The "2 Sisters", one called Gail Bushey and the other Joan Moser,
As word musicians you'll see they are quite the composer
About the "Daily 5" which they know like the back of their hand
I am sure what they say will be just perfectly grand.

Let's not forget Marcus Conyers and his work on the brain
Which all of us knows is where we have much more to gain.
There's an author there, like John Archambault, so don't go and get
blue
You've heard of his "Chicka Chicka Boom" books to name just a
few.

Mary Casanova is another you don't want to miss
She writes about "Klipfish Codes" that thing and this.
Another one coming is the author Shelly Gill
Who books on bears, danger and cats will give you a thrill.

We won't forget Trinka Hakes Nobel who books are so great
Include some about Jimmy's boa's adventures that can't wait.
And finally there's Gorman and Reeves and McElmeel
When you read their books you just have to let out a big squeal.

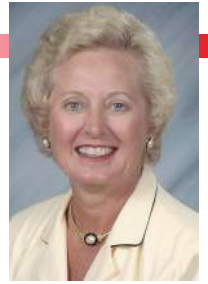
Beside just the conference there's other news too
About some of the people getting a special award; one or two.
So if you have questions about conference or more
Just give me call and I'll help you explore.

We can get the answers you need about reading and such
Memberships and scholarships; we can help you with much!
I'm as close as a phone call for whatever you need.
Just dial me up and you won't have to plead

Dr. Seuss says, "Today is gone. Today was fun".
I have to agree, but I've got to run.

Clark Goltz, Executive Director
Iowa Reading Association
P.O. Box 16
Ossian, IA 52161

Bylaws, Policies and Procedures Calendar



MARCH

- March 1 deadline for submitting Honor Council and Merit Council books
- March 1 deadline for Award of Excellence to International
- March 10 deadline for Merit Council Committee to evaluate books
- March 5 Awards Committee notify councils of winning nominations
- President invites new board members to attend board meeting before conference
- Vice-President selects new parliamentarian
- Budget Committee recommends auditor
- Select Membership Director every three years

APRIL

- Board meeting
- President should thank committee chairpersons
- Treasurer holds budget hearing at State Conference
- Coordinator assists membership director with membership booth

MAY

- Secretary term begins odd years; past secretary is to train and mentor
- President and Executive Director set meeting dates for Board and Executive Committee meetings

Mark
Your
Calendar