



IRARI SIG



INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION
IRARI SIG Newsletter

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
Volume 4, Number 3

April, 2011

Hello, Fellow IRARIans,

This is my last message as Chair of the IRARI Partnership's SIG. It has been my very great privilege to establish and develop our SIG and I have enjoyed my role immensely. A lot of water has passed under the bridge between IRA and Rotary International since the inception of the SIG in Toronto, May 2007. I believe that we have made a difference in a number of ways – encouraging Local Councils to partner with Rotary Clubs to undertake collaborative literacy projects; supporting Rotary Clubs as they promote literacy in their communities at home and in developing countries, and developing – courtesy of the IRA Washington Office – a range of resources to assist in the creation of literacy projects under the aegis of both organizations.

These resources, including *Every School a Star: A Project Ideas Book for Rotary Clubs*, and *Sharing a Common Goal*, are becoming more and more well known. They offer myriad ideas for joining or emulating literacy projects in various parts of the world. Further, Rotary International's Project Link (www.rotary.org/projectlink) is a searchable database that lists Rotary Club and District Community Service projects in need of funding, volunteers, donated goods, and/or partners, and completed projects that can be used as examples of best practices.

Sadly, natural disasters plague many parts of the world, especially around the Pacific Rim. Recent extensive floods and a devastating cyclone struck large areas of Australia; two successive & extremely destructive earthquakes rocked Christchurch in New Zealand, and parts of northeast Japan were wiped out by a killer earthquake and tsunami. Volcanic eruptions, lesser earthquakes and widespread landslides hit

Indonesia and Chile. Loss of life is countless. IRARIans share in the distress and grief following these disasters, but what can we do?

One practical form of help that members of the IRARI Partnership SIG could offer is for Local Reading Councils, partnering with their local Rotary Clubs, to put together 'school kits' for children in the affected disaster zones, so that normality in schools may be restored as quickly as possible after a destructive event. 'School kits' could comprise a collection of assorted writing materials and tools, including crayons, colored pencils and markers; rulers and erasers; tape; coloring books, comic books, 'ageless' picture books along with a messages to the recipients from a class of students. As well, Reading Councils could negotiate with Rotary Clubs to help fund the transport of such kits to target destinations.

Finally, Judy Backlund succeeds me as SIG Chair at the end of the Convention. I know that under Judy's leadership, the IRARI Partnership's SIG will thrive in multi-directional ways. My very best wishes go to her and her administrative team of Garth Brooks, Secretary, and Larry Pennie, Newsletter Editor, for their terms of office. And if you can recruit other members of your Local Council to become IRARIans (there is no membership fee), our strength will be assured. I wish you all the very best for continuing IRARI collaborative endeavours.

Dr. Nea Stewart-Dore
Chair, IRARI SIG

**IRA CONVENTION EARLY BIRD
REGISTRATION ENDS APRIL 8.
REGISTER NOW AT reading.org**
IRARI SIG session – Tuesday, May 10
9:00 – 11:45 am, Room W306a, West Bld.

IRARI PARTNERSHIP SIG SYMPOSIUM

Tuesday, May 10

9:00 – 11:45 am, West Building, Room W306a

IRA and Rotary Global Partnerships Help to Realize the Power of Literacy

The focus of the symposium is to review and develop information about the origins and nature of the IRARI Partnership's SIG activities. It will present illustrative accounts of some Rotary-IRA collaborations and explain their significance.

Among the Symposium presenters we welcome Sam Andema.

Sam is Chair of the International Development Coordinating Committee (IDCC). He will talk on the topic of how IRARI Partnership's SIG members and those of the IDCC can work together to enhance literacy development, especially in economically developing countries.

Further, we look forward to greeting Albert Ang the Past President of the Rotary Club of Mandaluang, Manila, Philippines. He is a keen supporter of Rotary funded Concentrated Language Encounter (CLE) literacy projects in the Philippines. It is understood that Rotary Clubs in the Philippines will sponsor IR memberships for teachers involved in the CLE Program.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THIS EXCITING & INFORMATIVE SESSION.

HELP IS NEEDED TO STAFF THE COMBINED SIG BOOTH AT IRA.

Booth 1242 has been reserved for IRA SIGS to display information about their activities. IRARI will display literature about the partnership. We need volunteers to help staff the booth during the convention. Time slots are 1 – 1.5 hours in length. Help is needed on Monday from 10:30 am – 5:00 pm, & Tuesday & Wednesday from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. If you can help, please notify Dr. Chhanda Islam, Chair of the IRA Special Interest Group Committee at chhanda.islam@coe.murraystate.edu. Include your name, day and time available to help. This is a great way to help publicize what IRARI is all about and recruit new members.

IRARI LEADERSHIP

Chair – Nea Stewart-Dore

colnea@byterocky.net.au

Chair-Elect – Judy Backlund

backlundju@cwu.edu

Secretary/Membership – Garth Brooks

gbrooks@codecan.org

Newsletter Editor – Larry Pennie

pennierotary@comcast.net

We are still seeking articles and photos of projects in which Reading Councils and Rotary Clubs have worked together. Please send them to:

pennierotary@comcast.net

BUILDING LIBRARIES IN SOUTH AFRICA

Dorothy Kennett, a retired librarian from Illinois State University had a vision of starting a library in South Africa after she retired in 2004. Little did she know that that vision would come into being and multiply at a rapid pace.



Dorothy Kennett

That starter library has blossomed into 10 libraries over the last 6 years. Dorothy now has people coming up to her asking how they might get a library in their community. She even had an elementary school principal tell her he wouldn't retire until they got a library in the school. All of the libraries are similar but each shows the individuality of the community and those who support the library. Funding for the libraries comes from not only Rotary Clubs, but from individuals as well. Book donations have come from individuals and Reading Council members as well. Dorothy is a member of the Bloomington/Normal Sunset Rotary Club.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO NEA FOR HER LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT AS IRARI CAME INTO BEING. HER VISION BECAME THE REALITY!!