LEADERSHIP
CONNECTION
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A Newsletter for IRA Council and Affiliate Leaders

“The mission of the International Reading Association is to promote reading by continuously advancing the quality of literacy instruction and research worldwide.”

MEMBERSHIP PROMOTION VIDEO CONTEST

The Council Advisory Team is excited to announce that for the second year in a row we are accepting submissions for the IRA Membership Promotion Video Contest.

IRA is interested to see what our councils and affiliates have done to promote their organizations mission and IRA membership in their communities. We would like to see participation at any council/affiliate special events, meetings, or community programs where IRA membership is being promoted. The winner will receive a free IRA Conference registration and the opportunity to have their video showcased during the conference and on the IRA website.

Video Contest Details:
1) Length: 2-Minute Maximum.
2) Content: Council and IRA Membership Benefits, Affiliation with IRA, Connection to Community and Schools, Innovative Programs and Projects, etc.
3) Deadline for Entries: January 31, 2014 to councilfeed@reading.org.

NORTH AMERICAN COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

Over 250 Kansas educators gathered to celebrate “A Golden Opportunity for Change in Literacy,” at the 50th Annual Kansas Reading Association Conference held on October 14, 2013 in Wichita, Kansas. Featured speakers included Maureen McLaughlin from IRA, speaking about the Common Core Standards, and Mary Casanova, recipient of the Bill Martin Jr. Picture Book Award, for her children’s book, The Day Dirk Yeller Came to Town. Educators across Kansas presented sessions geared toward conference strands including Culturally Responsive Pedagogy, Connecting Community and School, Connecting Learners to New Literacies, and the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards. Additional highlights included an exhibition hall featuring Kansas authors, and the KRA Research and Studies Awards presented to Dr. Carolyn Carlson for her published manuscript, and Karen Bates, PhD for her unpublished research work.

In the above photograph, conference attendees thoroughly enjoyed participating in Reader’s Theater led by Mary Casanova based on her award-winning book!

NORTH AMERICAN COUNCILS

As part of the Council Transformation Program, the Council Advisors have been hosting the first training webinar, Nonprofit 101, with our pilot councils. One of (continued on page 2)

COUNCIL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

July 10-13, 2014

Join the International Reading Association for this intensive multi-day program, designed to provide Council Leaders with training in the areas of governance, finance, advocacy and strategic planning. The skills obtained at the Academy will equip Council Leaders and their organizations with the tools necessary to achieve optimal council success.

STATE/PROVINCIAL POSTER SESSION ENTRY

Deadline: DECEMBER 9, 2013

Reminders
GOU Update
GOU Staff participated in the 2013 Asian Literacy Conference held in Bali, Indonesia, on September 5–7. This conference brought together 200 literacy professionals from around the world under the theme of “Literacy, Culture, and Technology: From Local to Global Perspectives.” IRA Executive Director Marcie Post and IRA Board Members Heather Bell and Maryann Manning attended the conference along with GOU staff, and participated in plenary and panel presentations. This year’s Asian Literacy Conference was unique in that it brought together a coordinating collaboration amongst Indonesian Reading Association (PBTM) leadership in multiple locations as well as teachers and Master Trainers from IRA’s Global Literacy Professional Development Network (GLPDN) Project.

Other staff also conducted a site visit to the Active Teaching and Learning Approaches in Schools (ATLAS) Project in Sri Lanka in the month of October. The program has been quite successful in training teachers in the Batticaloa region of Sri Lanka and has vastly improved the quality of teaching and learning in the participating schools.

GOU Affiliate Spotlight
XII Latinamerican Congress for the Development of Reading and Writing (CLDyE-IRA) and IV Iberoamerican Forum of Literacy and Learning (FILyA) Puebla, México, September 11th – 14th, 2013

Consejo Puebla de Lectura A.C. (CPL), in collaboration with Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (BUAP) hosted this year’s XII Latin-American Congress for the Development of Reading and Writing that gathered 2,070 participants from Mexico, Spain, Portugal, United States and Japan, in Puebla, México, from the 11th to the 14th of September of 2013. The Latin-American Congress for the Development of Reading and Writing is the result of a joint effort of various organizations: Red de Cultura Escrita y Comunidades Discursivas (RECECyD), a group of colleagues from Spain, Portugal and Brazil that form FILyA and with the International Reading Association (IRA).

The event focused on creating awareness on a central topic in cultural and educational political agendas: written culture. It allowed for possibilities of encounters, conversations and construction of joint work amongst promoters, librarians, teachers, researchers, educational authorities, students, editors, books sellers and other reading and book professionals, as well as State representatives and of the general public interested in the various topics.

The variety of topics and the characteristics of presented papers, both from research and undocumented experiences, made this encounter a singular opportunity for exchange. Comparative with the topics that were present in 2002, two areas were quite relevant: reading in early childhood and the work of bebetecas (baby and toddler libraries) on one hand; and academic reading and writing on the other.