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

**Important Dates**

- IRA Council Achievement Intent to Participate Form (poster session and/or award submission intent) due—**December 15, 2014**
- IRA Council Achievement Award submission due—**April 15, 2015**
- IRA Annual Conference will be held **July 18–20, 2015** in St. Louis, MO

**NORTH AMERICAN COUNCILS SPOTLIGHT**

**IRA COUNCIL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

Information regarding the 2015 IRA Council Achievement Awards is now live on the IRA website. We would like to thank those council leaders that were able to join us for the conference call in regards to the IRA Council Achievement Awards on October 22nd. We know that not everyone interested was able to attend, so we prepared an FAQ based on questions raised on the call. Also, we have added the [IRA Council Achievement Awards](#) info to the award page so that all councils interested in submitting for these awards can easily access these materials. Please note that some councils may want to participate in the Council Poster Session and not submit for the IRA Council Achievement Awards, but an [intent to participate form](#) will need to be filled out and submitted by all councils in either situation by December 15th.

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**Happy Holidays!**

One of the greatest joys of the season is the opportunity to say thank you to our council and affiliate leaders and to wish you all the very best for the New Year.

Happy Holidays from the Council Advisory Team and Global Operations Team
EFFECTIVE MEETING GRID
Thank you to Brandie McNabb, President of Louisiana Reading Association, for sharing this handy grid for use during meetings. Share with your leaders at your next Board Meeting!

WISCONSIN AND ILLINOIS COME TOGETHER FOR PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES
Kathy Galvin, President of Wisconsin State Reading Association, and Tammy Potts, Immediate Past President of Illinois Reading Council, knew they had a friendship brewing when they met at the IRA Conference’s leadership training in Orlando, Florida. Since then the duo has met on a regular basis to compare notes on state council issues, literacy consulting, and family.

Their conversations recently have been centered on a shared WSRA and IRC strategic plan. Both Wisconsin and Illinois state councils are focusing on value added for members. As a result Wired Wednesday Webinars became a collaborative effort.

Focusing on the Listening and Speaking Standards in the Wisconsin Academic Standards and the Illinois Learning Standards (CCSS) these two state councils are extremely excited and proud to offer a series of webinars by leading experts, including Jeff Zwiers, Doug Fisher, and Harvey Daniels. Please check out their state council websites for more information on this exciting collaborative effort: www.wsra.org and www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org.

“ It is every man’s obligation to put back into the world at least the equivalent of what he takes out of it.”

~ Albert Einstein