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

IT’S OFFICIAL: IRA’S COUNCIL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY TO BE HELD IN TAMPA, JULY 10TH -13TH

The International Reading Association is pleased to announce the location for the 2014 Council Leadership Academy: Sheraton Tampa East Hotel in Tampa, Florida. As we continue to build upon the work that began in Minneapolis last year, at the 2013 Council Leadership Academy, we remain committed to providing our councils with more detailed, hands-on training to assist each council with operating more effectively and efficiently. That is what you will find with the schedule of events to be held at the 2014 Academy this coming July. All state/provincial/local/student/special interest council leaders and members are highly encouraged to attend this extensive training event. Detailed program and registration information for the Academy can be found by visiting the CLA site. We also recommend including the CLA logo and link to the CLA site on your council website in order to assist in promoting this exciting event. Please contact the Council Advisory Team for more information on obtaining these resources.

NORTH AMERICAN COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

The Kansas Reading Association’s first professional book study is underway! One hundred forty-two educators throughout the state are engaged in reading Notice & Note: Strategies for Close Reading by Kylene Beers and Robert Probst (2012, Heinemann). Past-president Donita Shaw organized and planned the first of what we hope will be many book studies. Book study groups are required to join the Kansas Reading Association, attend each session, and log fifteen hours of contact time before summer 2014. A benefit for study groups will be an invitation to attend a special conference session with the authors at the October 2014 KRA annual conference in Emporia, Kansas. Book study requirements and questions for discussion are posted on the KRA web site.

JOIN IRA FOR ITS NEXT TWITTER CHAT

Our next chat is scheduled for March 13th at 8PM. The hashtag for the chat is #IRAtchat. The topic for March is Motivation and Engagement Through Book Clubs. The topic for April 10th at 8PM is Stopping the Summer Slide (Preparing for Summer Now). If you follow @IRAToday on Twitter, or follow the hashtag, you’ll get more information.

NEW COORDINATOR SELECTION PROCESS BEGAN JANUARY 1ST

Please be sure to submit the application and recommendation at your earliest convenience. If you have questions regarding this process please contact councils@reading.org.
**GOU and Affiliate Spotlight**

**GOU Update**

2014 has already been a busy time for IRA’s Global activities. In January, IRA Executive Director Marcie Craig Post, IRA Board Members, and Global staff attended the International Development in Europe Committee’s winter meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia. We helped to facilitate a leadership workshop focused on strategic planning and goal setting for our European affiliates. More details can be found in this newsletter’s spotlight. In addition, IRA participated in UNESCO’s Mobile Learning Week in Paris, France. This conference focused on projects and research in the area of mobile learning, with plenary sessions and individual project presentations highlighting the successes and challenges at the intersection of technology and education. IRA presented on our Global Literacy Professional Development project currently taking place in Indonesia and Bangladesh. Of particular note, UNESCO will be releasing a report in spring 2014 on mobile learners. Initial findings were presented in Paris and highlighted the high amount of reading performed by women in developing countries when given access to mobile library resources. We encourage all of our colleagues to read more about the conference and check back for the report on the UNESCO website listed here under resources.

**Affiliate Spotlight**

**Interacting, Brainstorming and Networking at the European Leadership Seminar**

The modern world is thought to be about globalization and new concepts. To keep up with the development in information technology and with the changes in people’s attitudes towards organizational participation we are trying to work out a new understanding of membership and to use new technologies in our everyday work. In January 2014, The European Leadership Seminar gathered together International Affiliates of the International Reading Association from more than 20 different countries to Ljubljana Slovenia. The purpose of the Seminar was to support established and emerging National Affiliates and their officers in their endeavors to develop the knowledge and ability needed to run a voluntary, professional organization. The three sunny days we spent in Ljubljana were not solely about the 12 parallel sessions and workshops that dealt with membership, publications, conferences and the role and task of the IRA leader etc., but also about inspiring one another and giving ideas, strategies and tools to achieve our goals in terms of “SMART” goals. To read more information about the European Leadership Seminar, please see the next issue of Reading Today for the full article.

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**SHARING RESOURCES**

- Fast Break for Reading Program
- UNESCO Education site
- 59th Annual Convention Reading Today Online Articles
- Reading Today Online: Councils, SIG’s and Affiliates Highlights
- Reading Today Online: Council Leader as Member of the Month

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"Those who believe what we believe offer their blood, sweat and tears. Those who don’t believe what we believe demand more money or glory."

— Simon Sinek

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**CONVENTION UPDATES**

- Council and Affiliate Awards Ceremony and Reception Friday, May 9th 6:00 – 9:00 pm ET.
- Convention Housing and Registration Is Now Open! To register click here!

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**INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION 59TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Reading...The Teachable Moment