Transformation is defined as making a complete change in something or someone. The International Reading Association is currently transforming as an organization. As difficult as change is, we must continue to analyze where we currently are and make adjustments to move in the direction we know we need to go. IRA has always been a leader in research based literacy education. We publish valuable journals and books that are used on a daily basis in thousands of classrooms around the world. We have some of the most well-known education professionals available at conferences and workshops. We are literacy educators’ go-to organization! With that being said, we still need to reevaluate where we are right now as a membership organization and reevaluate the value we are providing to our members. IRA recently announced the Council Transformation Program. We have spent hours working to develop a strong program designed to provide intense training to state/provincial council leaders in the areas necessary for strong council management. Our goal is to provide councils with the tools and training needed for building capacity and sustainability within the council. This program will take all state councils through rigorous modules designed to build knowledge surrounding organizational management.

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATES

This summer, two members of the GOU staff attended 8th Pan African Conference held in Nairobi, Kenya on August 12-16, 2013. The theme for this years Pan African Conference was Literacy for all: Leading the way to literacy excellence. A Literacy Leaders workshop was also held prior to the conference at the East Land hotel in Nairobi. A total of 35 educators from all over Africa attended this important meeting whose aim was to discuss the Millennium Development Goals, their value, achievements and barriers to achieving the (continued on page 2)
LEADERSHIP CONNECTION
A Newsletter for IRA Council and Affiliate Leaders

LEARNING AND LEADING TOGETHER

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATES (continued from page 1)
goals. Also discussed were literacy practices in Africa and how to improve the quality of teaching, proposal writing and IRA grant opportunities and affiliation procedures. The International Development Coordinating Committee in Africa also held its biennial meeting and discussed the future of the IRA affiliates in Africa and directions towards improving the activities and networks within Africa. Elections were also held and Dr. Chinwe Muogudomu from Nigeria was elected as the next chair of the IDC Africa committee. Her term will begin immediately after the IRA Convention in New Orleans.

SHARING RESOURCES
• United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
• http://www.reading.org/annual-conference-2014
• Race for Relevance: 5 Radical Changes for Associations (ASAE/Jossey-Bass Series)
  Harrison Coerver & Mary Byers
• The End of Membership As We Know It
  Sarah Sladek
• The Story of Gregory Goose - video clip

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATES

Council & Affiliate Spotlight
Indiana State Reading Association
Indiana, like other states, has been in the process of redefining what it means to be educated and what it means to be literate. In the state’s last election, Indiana voters decided to elect a NBCT (National Board Certified Teacher)/media specialist over the incumbent, “progressive” Tony Bennet. Indiana, like other states, have been trying to redefine their departments of education to catch the wave of teacher accountability, Common Core State Standards, and other educational reforms. But, now State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Glenda Ritz, made as one of her campaign promises to make literacy as a centerpiece of her administration, fulfilled a major part of that promise this summer in partnering with many organizations, such as the Indiana State Reading Association (ISRA), to promote reading during the summer months as a way to begin to restore the state’s emphasis on literacy.

Chris Judson, President of ISRA, was invited to share with the initial committee back in January 2013, how IRSA could partner with this new state initiative. Judson was asked to stay on the Family and Community Literacy committee. In the end, the summer reading initiative was a success with the intent that the reading partnerships would continue to evolve throughout the school year and into the next summer session.

International Affiliate Spotlight
New Challenges – New Literacies was the theme of the 18th European Conference on Reading, held in Jönköping, Sweden, August 6–9, 2013. The conference was arranged by the Swedish Council of International Reading Association in cooperation with School of Education and Communication, Jönköping University, the International Reading Association’s International Development in Europe Committee and Federation of European Literacy Associations.

Plenary speakers were Elsie Anderberg, Professor of Education at School of Education and Communication, Jönköping, Sweden; Donald Leu, Professor of Education at University of Connecticut, USA; Jackie Marsh, Professor of Education, Sheffield University, UK, and Stefan Samuelsson, Professor of Education at Linköping university, Sweden. More than 300 participants from over 30 countries found their way to the beautiful city of Jönköping to meet colleagues and friends, take part in the discussions and enjoy the long Scandinavian summer evenings. Most European countries were represented, as were the US and Canada, and some had travelled from as far away as New Zealand, Australia, China, Japan, South Africa, Jamaica and Brazil. The combination of a high professional standard and a very friendly and positive atmosphere made the conference a great success.

A collection of presentations can be found at www.literacyeurope.org. Next 19th European will be held in Klagenfurt, Austria, 14–17 July 2015.

Directions are instructions given to explain how. Direction is a vision offered to explain Why.
~ Simon Sinek