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

**MARCIE’S MESSAGE**

As we move forward with the Council Transformation program, we must ask council leadership, “What is your purpose, and what is your mission? And how do they align to the purpose and mission of IRA?” Our ultimate goal is for our councils to become a stronger network so the work to promote and improve literacy moves forward. As part of the Transformation Program, our strategic planning for councils will entail providing a greater range of resources and support, including the development of web-based, easy-to-use online tools to streamline management tasks, facilitate the sharing of information, and simplify management reporting to IRA. These tools are being developed from a needs-based assessment, and are intended to help councils address a wide range of common struggles and problems. Of course, this is not a “one size fits all” situation. We are approaching this planning very organically. We will be inviting representatives from the pilot council groups to IRA as well as visiting others this fall. As we work side by side with our Pilot Councils, we will be creating a model that will definitely help sustain IRA and its council network for years to come.

**NORTH AMERICAN COUNCILS**

IRA is excited to announce its Council Transformation Program! As you may know, IRA has been undergoing improvements within our organizational structure including: centralizing council requests, updating IRA bylaws, reviewing financial practices, sharing of information, and council and IRA accountability. We recognize many of our councils are facing the same issues that are affecting IRA. We have been developing a strategic plan which provides a stronger relationship and support system. This plan will include in-depth training around priority areas such as membership, governance, finance. We are also developing a new

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**Reminders**

**IRA COUNCIL MENTOR PROGRAM**

We are still looking for council leaders willing to become mentors or be mentored. If you are interested in being a part of the IRA Council Leaders’ Mentor program, please contact councils@reading.org for more information.

**INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY**

International Literacy Day will be celebrated on Monday, September 9, 2013. Send us photos of your council celebrating the event to tsears@reading.org

**2014 COUNCIL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

Save the Date
July 10–13, 2014
Location TBD

**INVENT YOUR FUTURE**
GOU Update

In August and September, IRA’s Global Operations Unit focused on our international regional conferences. In August, we attended the 8th Pan-African Conference on Reading for All, held in Nairobi, Kenya from August 12–16th. Immediately preceding the conference, we organized a 3-day Literacy Leaders Meeting. We gathered 40 literacy leaders representing 17 countries in Africa and focused on capacity building and community advocacy. We also facilitated a discussion on the post-2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), with a focus on incorporating learning outcomes into the next set of UN Goals, in addition to access. For more information about the MDGs and post-2015 discussion, please follow the link in the resources section. In September, we took part in the Asian Literacy Conference on Literacy, Culture and Technology held in Bali, Indonesia from September 5–7, and the XII Latin American Congress for the Development of Reading and Writing and IV Iberoamerican Forum of Literacy and Learning held in Puebla, Mexico from September 11–14, 2013.

Introducing the Kilimanjaro Literacy Association

The Kilimanjaro Literacy Association (KLA) is a new IRA affiliate in north-central Tanzania, serving Kilimanjaro and Arumeru Districts, and Arusha City—in an area where teacher professional organizations are few and far between. KLA was formed in April 2013, and has gained 54 members in only three months, including primary through secondary teachers working across all content disciplines. KLA is a member organization, providing a network and clearinghouse for literacy information, but also is a professional development organization—with affiliate members providing formal professional development to one another in each monthly meeting. Topics to date include: grant-writing, pre-reading literacy strategies, literacy technologies, and student-teacher relationships in literacy. KLA will be represented this year in the Pan-African Literacy for All Conference in Nairobi, Kenya; participating in the pre-conference ministry meeting, and presenting on their early work with developing a professional learning affiliate. For more information, contact KLA President, Meyasi Mollel: meshilieck@gmail.com

NORTH AMERICAN COUNCILS (continued from page 1)

organizational/business service model that will be available to councils with a proposed launch within the next fiscal year. If you are interested in being a part of the Councils Transformation Program, please contact councils@reading.org.

SHARING RESOURCES

- Teachers and Pinterest
- International Literacy Day Information
- http://www.cloudy-movie.com/literacy/

"The hardest part is starting. Once we get that out of the way, we’ll find the rest of the journey much easier." ~ Simon Sinek