

FAQs

**54th Annual Convention West
Phoenix, Arizona; February 21–25, 2009
- and -
54th Annual Convention North Central
Minneapolis, Minnesota; May 3–7, 2009**

1. Why is IRA holding co-conventions in 2009?

IRA is dedicated to providing outstanding professional development for literacy educators through all of the Association's offerings – including its conferences. In light of that, when planning for conferences, it is vital that IRA provide an excellent environment/backdrop for learning. IRA has already taken measures to prevent the meeting room overcrowding issues that had developed so significantly in recent years (e.g., ticketing for sessions, larger meeting rooms, creative scheduling of sessions, etc.).

The cities of Phoenix and Minneapolis offer terrific conference facilities. To take another significant step in preventing meeting room overcrowding, in the year 2009, both cities will host the 54th IRA Annual Convention. This will provide IRA members and convention attendees two optimum settings – at separate times of the year and in lovely parts of the U.S. – for their IRA professional development experience.

Please note that the two conventions are absolutely equal in status. Neither can be thought of as the “real” convention. So whether you attend the convention in Phoenix, the one in Minneapolis, or both, you will receive the full IRA convention experience – including General Session keynotes, the exhibit hall, the IRA Marketplace, the three traditional luncheons, the Annual Awards Banquet, the President's Reception and Dance, etc.

2. May I attend both conventions or will I be limited to just one?

You may attend both; however, the number of attendees will be limited at each (to prevent overcrowding) so, if your plan is to attend both, we suggest you register early. For the Phoenix convention, advance registration opens for IRA members on August 5, 2008 and for all others on September 3, 2008. For the Minneapolis

convention, advance registration opens for IRA members on December 2, 2008 and for all others on January 6, 2009.

3. Will the number of registrants be limited at the two conventions?

Yes. Registration will be limited to 12,000 attendees at each convention. This figure does not include exhibitors. Since slots will sell very, very quickly for each convention, IRA will continually update its website during the preregistration processes on registration status. In this way, IRA members and convention attendees will be apprised of an impending “sell-out” situation.

4. Will I receive a discount on registration prices if I attend both conventions?

Yes. You will receive a \$50 discount on the Minneapolis convention registration during the advance registration process for Minneapolis if you also register for and attend the Phoenix convention. Watch for details about this in *Reading Today* and on the IRA website.

5. Will the programs be identical?

No. The General Session keynotes, Special Featured Speakers, Featured Authors, and Featured Speakers will not be the same in Phoenix as they are in Minneapolis. Some of the regular convention sessions may be repeated, as individuals will be allowed to submit session proposals for both conventions. It is possible that the Program Committee will accept some of the same proposals for both conventions – those that are of excellent quality and are sure to be extremely popular. For the most part, however, the programs at the two conventions will be different.

6. Will the General Session speakers be identical?

No. See Question #5 above.

7. Will the traditional luncheons (Primary Literature, Young Adult, and Book and Author) be held at both conventions?

Yes.

8. Will there be an Annual Awards Banquet at both conventions?

Yes.

9. Will IRA awards be presented at both conventions?

Yes. Some IRA awards will be presented at the Awards Banquet in Phoenix and some will be presented at the Awards Banquet in Minneapolis. Watch the IRA

website for information on the awards that will be presented in Phoenix and those that will be presented in Minneapolis.

10. Will there be exhibits at both conventions?

Yes. Attendees will enjoy the full exhibit hall experience at each show!

11. Will there be a Reading Research Conference at both conventions?

Yes. At the Phoenix convention this conference will be held on Friday, February 20th. At the Minneapolis convention this conference will be held on Saturday, May 2nd.

12. Will a Delegates Assembly be held at both conventions?

Here is the one area where the two conventions will differ. There will be but one Delegates Assembly and it will be held in Minneapolis.

13. Will IRA committees meet during both conventions?

They certainly may if they have business to conduct at both. The committee chairs should discuss their plans and ideas with the IRA Executive Office in Delaware well before the two conventions are held to determine best options.

14. What about the IRA Marketplace?

IRA is excited to host its Marketplace at both conventions.

15. What is the deadline for submitting a proposal for the 54th Annual Convention West in Phoenix?

The proposal submission deadline for Phoenix is February 15, 2008. Please note that the electronic proposal submission sites for both conventions will open simultaneously. Watch the IRA website for an announcement concerning the opening of the proposal sites.

16. What is the deadline for submitting a proposal for the 54th Annual Convention North Central in Minneapolis?

The proposal submission deadline for Minneapolis is June 1, 2008.

17. May I submit a proposal for both conventions?

Absolutely. As noted in question #5 above, it is possible that the Program Committee will accept some of the same proposals for both conventions that are of excellent quality and are sure to be extremely popular.

18. Will IRA provide bus shuttle transportation between the hotels and the convention center at both conventions?

Yes!

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