

Iowa Reading Association Board of Directors

April 7, 2018

Pizza Ranch, Ames, Iowa

- I. Call to Order- President Stephanie Laird called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
- II. A written roll call was taken. Those in attendance were Deb Mortensen, Debra Wake, Stephanie Laird, Diane Bean, Rebecca Pashek, Marlene Reece, Clark Goltz, Kelly Neumann, Julie Anderson, Julie Schuller, Mary Daughetee, Barbara Carroll, Michelle Swanson and Nancy Wright.
- III. Approval of January 13 minutes- Mary Daughetee moved and Diane Bean seconded these minutes as written. All were in favor.
- IV. Addition to the April 7 agenda- Added were New Business F. Burlington Area Reading Council transition. Marlene Reece moved and Debra Wake seconded that we accept the agenda as amended. All were in favor.
- V. Approval of April 7 Board of Director's minutes- Debra Wake and Diane Bean volunteered to read these minutes. Diane Bean also passed around a map for all to view and revise so new regions can be better defined before presenting to local council leaders at Leadership workshop.
- VI. Regional Director reports- A) NE Regional Director Kelly Neumann attended the EIRC meeting and liked how they organize their class. Nancy White is the instructor. Nancy is willing to help other council's organize their council meetings as a class. Jill Esbaum was the author that presented that evening. April 19 will be NEIRC's Writer's banquet. B) SE Regional Director Barbara Carroll, stated Burlington Area is struggling with membership and interest in the writing contest. There seems to be no support. Barbara will continue to promote the state conference. C) NW Regional Director Julie Anderson, told that Beth Bellinghausen presented "Speed Book Dating" at their March meeting. The Noisy offering was passed for the International project. D) SW Regional Director, Renae Wilkening, was unable to attend. A written report was submitted. E) Central Regional Director, Marlene Reece told of Hardy's "Lit Camp". Those that attended gleaned a lot though the event was of no cost. She wrote an article about this event for the spring Iowa Reading Newsletter. Marlene won the "Author's Chair" at the 2017 state conference. She will give it to a member of her council that contributes to the "Pencils

of Promise" International project. Becky Pashek, Central Iowa Regional Director, attended Boone-Story Reading Council's meeting. Their main concern is finding leaders for next year. Becky will attend the Three Rivers Reading Council's Young Authors reception. Dallas County Reading Council has submitted stories for the Writing Contest and is also looking for leaders to take offices for the coming year.

VII. Committee Report

- a. Awards- Deb Saylor has submitted the winners for the four state awards. She is grateful for their service to the Iowa Reading Association and looks forward to recognizing them at the Awards Banquet in June.
- b. International Project- Kelly Neumann shared that funds are beginning to come in for the "Pencils of Promise" project. Please send monies (checks made to Pencils of Promise) to Clark Goltz, Executive Director, by June 30, so one check may be sent from the Iowa Reading Association.
- c. Long Range Planning- Diane Bean reviewed the map for restructuring our state. We will be asking Cori (our webmaster), if it is possible to have a clickable map on our website. When someone clicks an area of the state, all the council information will pop up.
- d. Merit Council- Current chair Lois Van Houwelingen, was thanked for her years of service on this committee. SW Regional Director, Renae Wilkening, has expressed an interest in chairing this committee for the coming year.
- e. Creative Writing/Poetry- Next year's deadline will be moved to February 14, 2019. 72 poetry entries and 73 short story entries were received for this year's contest. We are looking for someone in central Iowa to work closely with current Creative Writing chairs. Debra Wake moved that our committee chairs discuss some areas of concern and report next meeting. Julie Schuller seconded the motion. All were in favor. All board members are asked to bring 30 "school type" things for the winner's goody bags. Each state writing winner will also receive a "Literacy Landmark" t-shirt.
- f. Technology and Literacy- Renee Thomas had no new news to report. Julie Schuller will contact Renee to ask if she is interested in chairing this committee again next year. Funding for this project will continue.
- g. Nominations- Nancy White is looking for candidates for Vice President. This person or persons would chair the 2021 state Reading Conference.

- h. Bylaws, Policies and Procedures- Nancy Wright, Heidi Stangl and Debra Wake met to review the Bylaws, Policies and Procedures so they coincide with our transition with ILA. These will be reviewed by Executive Board at our afternoon meeting. This document should reflect what we currently practice. The committee was glad this is handled by the Past Presidents, rather than the Vice President. Once the changes have been approved, the new document will have to replace the old one on the Iowa Reading Association website. It would be helpful to have a template for local councils to review their Bylaws and Policies.

VIII. Officer Reports

- a. President Stephanie Laird said all local council reports are in the "Board Book" for this meeting. She also gave a "shout out" to a member from each local council, recognizing them for their service and promotion of literacy. Discussion was held about the statewide book study. 32 concurrent sessions will be offered at the state conference. The number is down from year's past and represents no one from the Iowa Association of School Librarians.
- b. Past Presidents Debra Wake and Heidi Stangl, were congratulated along with State Coordinator, Nancy Wright, for their work on the Bylaws, Policies and Procedures.
- c. President Elect/Conference Chair, Julie Schuller, has been in contact with all keynotes. She would like to acquire one more Iowa author. We discussed the Awards Banquet. There will be a lot of vendors at state conference. The Author signing table may be moved to the second floor of the Scheman. IRA the Dog will be returning. He has been LOVED by the students and staff at Hudson Elementary. Carmen Stickford won IRA at the 2017 state conference. 200 have registered prior to the April 1 early deadline.
- d. Vice Presidents- Kathleen Konrardy and Mary Daughetee have secured several keynotes for the 2019 conference.
- e. State Coordinator, Nancy Wright, said it will now cost to attend council leader sessions at ILA. Honor Council awards will be given to Hardy Reading Council (34 years) and Eastern Iowa Reading Council (how many years, Diane?). The Iowa Reading Association will pay any fees for councils wishing to apply for these awards. This is the final year ILA will provide a stipend for the State Coordinator and Director of Membership. Nancy sent an email to all local council presidents, thanking them for their service and "Save the

Date" cards were sent for Leadership, to all 2018-2019 council leaders and committee chairs. She would also like all board members to send her meetings attended from July 2017- June 2018 for the ILA "Award of Excellence". All board members participate in Leadership. All committee chairs will present. On June 24, we will begin with our Board Retreat at 3:00. Our board meeting will begin at 5:00. Both events are at the Pizza Ranch, Ames. After looking at the Bylaws, and due to our tight budget, mileage will not be paid for the Board of Directors to attend these meetings and the conference. According to Article 10, Policy 10 on page 31 of our Bylaws, Policies and Procedures, half of a hotel room is paid for Board of Directors. If you wish to have a single room, you will be in charge of the other half of the room. There will be NO Monday night meal so all can attend the IASL sponsored author event at the Scheman. We reviewed the Leadership schedule. Nancy is looking for "fun" activities. All Board members are asked to email her as to how they wish to be involved.

- f. Director of Membership Development, Diane Bean, inquired as to her role might change in the ILA transition. Diane is asking all to bring slightly used books to the membership table to be sold for \$1.00. Volunteers are always welcome to work at the membership booth.
- g. Treasurer, Michelle Swanson, shared the association's checking account and savings/money market balances. We need to be cognizant of spending. Deb Mortensen moved and Kelly Neumann seconded that we take \$15,000 from our savings/money market account to cover some immediate expenses. All were in favor.
- h. Secretary/Publications Chair, Deb Mortensen, said articles for the May newsletter are due May 13. The spring edition should be coming out next week. She thanked all that contributed to the newsletter. A "thank you" note was read from Julie Schuller.
- i. Book Study, Clark Goltz- Many felt the book study Strategies at Work, was a lot of work for one graduate credit. Because there are so many chapters to reflect on, we should do a book like this over a 2 year period. We don't want people frustrated by the book study experience. Our meeting adjourned at 12:25 to eat.

IX. Old Business

- a. State Board of Directors should belong to the International Literacy Association. We discussed whether local council officers should belong to ILA. It was decided that at least two local officers should belong to ILA so they have someone to communicate with. President Stephanie Laird mentioned that ILA dues can be deducted from taxes.

X. New Business

- a. Award of Excellence- Iowa received this honor.
- b. Election results- 62 people voted for Kelsey Nilles and Erick Schroyer as co-Vice Presidents. Michelle Swanson moved and Mary Daughetee seconded that we accept these election results. All were in favor.
- c. 2019 book study/speakers- Several possible speakers and their books were discussed. Jeff Anderson (Patterns of Power 2017), Anita Archer (Explicit Instruction 2010), authors of "Who's Doing the Work" (2016). Nancy Wright commented this book was an easy read and that the authors are dynamic speakers. Clark will report on this in May.
- d. Discussion of the Regions and local council alignment- this discussion was held earlier in the meeting.
- e. State Coordinator term and nomination- Nancy Wright is completing her 6th year (2- 3 year terms) as State Coordinator. Mary Daughetee moved and Julie Schuller seconded that Nancy Wright continue in this vital role on the board. She will serve a three year term with possible renewal in 2021. All were in favor. Thank you, Nancy, for your service and willingness to continue as State Coordinator as we go through this transition period with ILA.
- f. Burlington Area Reading Council transition- Barbara Carroll will try another year to get this council more active.

XI. Adjourn

Kathleen Konrardy moved and Diane Bean seconded that the meeting adjourn at 1:30 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Mortensen, Secretary

Iowa Reading Association