

IOWA READING ASSOCIATION

Board Meeting Minutes

Pizza Ranch, Ames, IA

April 9, 2016

- I. The meeting was called to order by President Nancy White at 10:10 a.m.
- II. Present: Nancy White, Deb Mortensen, Clark Goltz, Michelle Swanson, Megan Benson, Julie Ortner, Nancy Wright, Wendy Matson, Tammy Hoppe and Debra Wake.
- III. Approval and/or additions to the agenda- Julie Ortner moved and Wendy Matson seconded approval of the agenda as presented. All were in favor.
- IV. Nancy Wright and Megan Benson volunteered to read the April 9, 2016 minutes. Deb Mortensen will send the minutes to them electronically for their approval before putting on the Iowa Reading Association website.
- V. Approval of the January 16, 2016 minutes. There were no additions or corrections. The motion was made by Debra Wake and seconded by Julie Ortner that we approve these minutes. Motion carried.
- VI. Local Council President Reports- State President Nancy White felt local council responses for October and January were good but lacking this time. If President- Elects Debra Wake and Heidi Stangl wish to continue with this practice of receiving reports from local council presidents regarding council activities, that is up to them.
- VII. Zone Director Reports: Director Tammy Hoppe (Zone A) shared that 200 people are planned to attend the Northwest Iowa Reading Council Awards Banquet. A spaghetti dinner will be held with author Debbie La Croix speaking. They are also proud to have our newly elected Vice President, Julie Schuller, from Zone A. Director Marlene Reece (Zone B) submitted a written report. Director Julie Ortner (Zone C) shared some concerns over the extra work required for graduate credit. Director Megan Benson (Zone D) shared that Quint-County Reading Council will assist with Storm Lake Elementary's "Family Fun Night" scheduled for April 26, 2016. Director Becky Pashek (Zone E) was unable to attend due to a death in her family. A sympathy card was signed by all Board members present at the meeting. Director Wendy Matson (Zone G) shared that author David Nieves is coming to their Awards Banquet with one more Midlands of Iowa Reading Council meeting in May. She feels the success of their council is that President is a two year term and that their council's governing body is a core group of people. Both Director Lois Van Houwelingen (Zone H) and Director Renee Thomas (Zone I) were unable to attend but submitted written reports.

Committee Reports:

1. Awards- Kathleen Konrardy, chair, shared the committee has met to decide the winners. The Awards Banquet will be held Tuesday, June 28, 2016, with a social beginning at 6:00 with the meal beginning at 6:30. President Nancy White will write the agenda for the evening.
2. Creative Writing/Poetry- Chairs Becky Pashek and Deb Saylor expressed some concerns with the co-author category. It will be more costly as we will have to purchase more books and provide more meals at state conference for winners. Discussion was held as

to what to do with co-authors in the future. Option 1 was to go back to the way we did it in the past and not have co-authors in the future. Option 2 was to have those entries written by co-authors judged with other grade level, single authored entries. If an entry written by a co-author won at the state level, we realize that more books/meals would need to be purchased. Option 3- Judge co-authors separately, like this past contest. Michelle Swanson moved that we consider all three options. Debra Wake seconded the motion and discussion followed. Michelle Swanson moved that we go with Option 2, and was seconded by Debra Wake. All were in favor. This will be presented at Summer Leadership. A new state poetry chair will need to be appointed as Deb Saylor does not wish to continue.

3. International Project- Kelly Neumann, chair of the project, ipour life, asks that all funds be sent to Clark by June 1, 2016, so one check can be sent to the project. Make checks out to ipour life, not the Iowa Reading Association. Debra Wake and Heidi Stangl are considering a girl's school in Africa (with author Ken Stamatis) as the 2016-2017 International project.
4. Karla Bronzynski Scholarship award- Chair Lori Vicker reported that there are 6 applications for the award. Committee member, Julie Ortner will visit with the committee about possibly expanding the award to veteran teachers at the Bronzynski family request. A member of the family will be at the June 28 Awards Banquet to assist with the presentation of this award.
5. Merit Council- Merit Council criteria are due to Lois Van Houwelingen by May 1, 2016.
6. Nominations- Elected electronically this past month were Marlene Reece (Zone B Director), Mary Daughtee (Zone C) and Megan Benson (Zone D). Also elected were Vice President, Julie Schuller (Northwest Iowa Reading Council). They will begin their terms June 29, 2016 (the board meeting following state conference). Executive Director, Clark Goltz, reported that 10% of our members participated in the election electronically. Deb Mortensen will send letters of "congratulations" to each of these new/returning board members. We will need to appoint someone to assist with vendors (with Lindsey Helmers), as Julie Schuller currently holds that role and we will need to continue encouraging members to be Vice President of the Iowa Reading Association. Our most active councils are READ, Hardy, Midlands, Northeast Iowa Reading Council, Eastern Iowa Reading Council and Northwest Iowa Reading Council.

VIII. Officer Reports:

- a. State President Nancy White gave all present a "mint" treat. Diane Bean and Nancy White were to attend the UNI Early Literacy Conference but it was cancelled due to the illness of keynote Laura Numeroff.
- b. President-Elect/ Conference Chair Debra Wake said there will be 11 concurrent speakers during each of the three daily breakout session. There are currently 300 registered for the state conference, June 28-29, 2016. She asked if we could consider an app for scheduling called "Sched". This app tells about a speaker, their website and has 24/7 tech support. The setup fee is \$125.00 and webmaster Cori Peterson could help set it up. Deb Mortensen suggested we use both a print program and app and eventually host a paperless conference. The conference committee is working on a metal bookmark or some other memento for conference attendees and those that return evaluations. Clark shared that

\$1250 has been received for print ads thus far. Debra Wake reviewed council responsibilities and we discussed roles yet to be filled. A printout of conference responsibilities will be sent out prior to May's Executive Board meeting.

- c. Vice President's Report- Stephanie Laird was unable to attend. She submitted a written report that stated Beth Daniels from Booksource, is working with the Iowa Reading Association for conference 2017. Lori Oskus' Reciprocal Teaching at Work will be the book study. Nancy White also shared a bookmark she found with Stephanie's conference theme "Dive Into Reading". Nancy Wright may order these for Leadership from Scholastic.
- d. State Coordinator's Report- Nancy Wright reported that Iowa received the "Award of Excellence" from ILA. Hardy Council and Eastern Iowa Reading Council also received "Honor Council" status. All three groups will be recognized at ILA's Awards Recognition on July 8, 2016, in Boston. Other events at the International Literacy conference include an all-day Leadership Training, Literacy Night at the Ballpark, and a 5K/ Fun Run. Nancy Wright would also like us to record all local council meetings attended from July 1, 2015- June 30, 2016, for next year's "Award of Excellence" criteria. Local council officers should be completing forms online. Paper copies need to be sent to Nancy Wright. ILA has a program called "30 Under 30" recognizing leaders in literacy under 30 years of age. We were encouraged to nominate someone who is advancing literacy in Iowa. ILA Twitter chats are held the 2nd Thursday of the month.
- e. Membership Director's Report- Diane Bean submitted a written report in her absence. Clark Goltz reported we currently have 548 Iowa Reading Association members. We need to promote ourselves more as an organization.
- f. Treasurer's Report- Michelle Swanson will be presenting 2 budgets at our June Board Meeting.
- g. Secretary/Publications/ Correspondence Report- Deb Mortensen, newsletter editor, shared May newsletter column assignments. These are due to her by May 1, 2016 in Word format, including any photos or clipart the writer wishes to use.
- h. Executive Director/Book Study Report- Clark Goltz thinks this year's book studies have gone well. He wishes to write the syllabus and coordinate it again next year.

IX. Old Business

- a. Bylaw Changes for Treasurer and Secretary terms- We plan to change the treasurer's term to three years which will require a bylaw (Article 4) change. Deb Mortensen moved that we make the treasurer and secretary 3 year terms beginning with treasurer in the summer of 2016 and secretary in the summer of 2017. Wendy Matson seconded the motion. All were in favor. Deb Mortensen will revise the bylaw/policy changes necessary to make these term changes. All bylaw/policy changes will be presented at our May Executive Board meeting.
- b. Updated Zone Director Expectations- Diane Bean has revised these expectations and all board members were encouraged to visit the councils in their zone at least once a year.

*Our meeting recessed for lunch at 12:20 and reconvened at 1:05.

X. New Business

- a. Iowa Reading Election Results- Clark Goltz will send an email regarding online election results.

- b. Appointment of Treasurer- Debra Wake moved (seconded by Julie Ortner) to appoint Michelle Swanson as treasurer of the Iowa Reading Association. Her term will run from July 1, 2016- June 30, 2018. Motion carried Michelle was thanked for her service to the Association. If the above mentioned Bylaw is passed at Delegate's Assembly, we vote again to change to the three year term.
 - c. Leadership Workshop- The theme for the June 27, 2016 event is the 2017 conference theme "Dive Into Reading". Nancy Wright reported author Buck Wilder will be speaking during lunch. Stephanie Laird will conduct an ice breaker activity. Diane Bean suggested we allow at least 30 minutes during the workshop for council planning. 95% Group will host a reception at the Gateway Center following the Leadership workshop. Each board member was asked to bring 4 door prizes and wear summer beach gear (bright colors). We will be creating a book mural. All present were given registration materials. All board members will be asked to lead a portion of the Monday workshop and complete the following quote, "To dive into reading, I _____". Submit this to Nancy Wright by April 20, 2016.
 - d. Local Council President Expectations- Diane Bean and Lois Van Houwelingen have developed this criteria. They will add contact names and information for those local council leaders to correspond with if a question arises.
 - e. Kick Start Grant- Diane Bean and Nancy White would like to offer a financial incentive to struggling councils. This will replace the "Iowa Reading Council Growth Grant". \$100 will be offered to those councils that apply and are approved. It is our hope that these funds will initiate programming for councils and assist with printing costs of programs, publicity etc. The Kick Start Grant will be initiated at Leadership, 2016.
 - f. Other ideas to consider- Tammy Hoppe shared a great website storyboardthat.com a creative site to write/ sequence a story with children.
- XI. Announcements:
- a. Executive Board Meeting, Sunday, May 15, 2016, 1:00 p.m. Pizza Ranch, Ames
 - b. Board of Directors Retreat, Sunday, June 26, 2016, 3:00 p.m. Pizza Ranch, Ames
 - c. Board of Directors Meeting, Sunday, June 26, 2016, 5:00 p.m. Pizza Ranch, Ames
 - d. Leadership Workshop, Monday, June 27, 2016, 10:00 a.m. Gateway Hotel, Ames
 - e. Iowa Reading Association Conference, June 28-29, 2016, ISU, Scheman Conference Center, Ames, IA
 - f. International Literacy Association Convention, July 9-11, 2016, Boston, MA.
- XII. Debra Wake moved that the meeting adjourn at 1:35; Wendy Matson seconded; and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Mortensen, Iowa Reading Association Secretary

