

**Iowa Reading Association
Full Board Meeting Minutes
Via Zoom, January 11, 2020**

- I. The meeting of the Full Board of Directors was called to order by Co-President Mary Daughetee at 10:14 am.
- II. Present were Michelle Swanson, Julie Neal, Kelsey Nilles, Tony Peiper, Diane Bean, Rebecca Pashek, Julie Anderson, Julie Schuller, Mary Daughetee, Kathleen Konrardy, Dani Woodman, Laurie Weekly, Eric Schroyer, Renae Wilkening, Nancy Wright
- III. Diane Bean moved and Michelle Swanson seconded the minutes from our October, 2019 meeting.
- IV. There was one addition and no corrections to this meeting's agenda. Diane Bean moved and Michelle Swanson seconded that this agenda be allowed. All were in favor.
- V. Diane Bean and Tony Pieper volunteered to read the January 11, 2020 minutes. Secretary Pro-Tem Julie Schuller will send them electronically for their approval.
- VI. Regional Director and Committee Chair reports - all were asked to share a challenge for the Iowa Reading Association and a bright spot.
 - A. **NE:** Kelly Neumann, NE Regional Director - Challenge: Time and people involvement. Bright spot: This is not a bright spot. I have been missing in action due to my mom being ill. She passed away New Years Eve. I will not be attending the zoom.
 - B. **SE - no report**
 - C. **NW:** Julie Anderson - NW Region Director - Recent Activity: The NWIRC had three meetings this fall. "Stories of Inspiration" was presented by Diane Gubbels (the inspiration for her beautiful quilts). Julie Neal visited our council in October to share what's current with Reading in Iowa. Carrie Campbell and Jill Brown presented their "Let's Talk About Books" program in November. Our Creative Writing deadline was Friday (January 10, 2020), so we will be working to get our entries judged. Recent Expenses: None. Challenge: Membership numbers. Our numbers have slowly decreased over the past few years. Bright spot: I had the opportunity to attend the ILA Conference in New Orleans for the first time! What an inspiring and motivating experience!
 - D. **SW:** Renae Wilkening, SW Regional Director, Recent Activity: I was not able to attend Midlands meetings held in October or November. At this time, Midlands has 20 members, which is a decrease of 10 from the 18/19 year. Recent Expenses: No Expenses. Bright Spot: Going to be a new grandma. Unfortunately that means I won't be at the conference.
 - E. **CENTRAL:** Rebecca Pashek - Central Regional Director - Recent Activity: On Sept. 11 I attended the first Boone Story Reading Council meeting in Ames. Clark Goltz was the motivational speaker for the evening and supper was provided by the council. The officers of this council are hardworking and trying new things to bring in members but they are beginning to feel defeated. Several notes have been sent out, personal invitations are made, providing supper at meetings, etc. but they feel like it's always the same people doing the work. The next meeting that I plan to attend is Jan. 15 at the Ames Library. They have a speaker, Rae Haws, coming in to talk about literature and they will also be collecting and sorting the creative writing entries. This council

always seems to have a great turnout of entries! On Oct. 21st I attended the Three Rivers Reading Council meeting in Pella. The Reading Strategies Book by Jennifer Serravallo was being discussed. This council is using this book to get AEA credit. Lois Van Houwelingen is the facilitator. I plan to attend the Jan. 27th meeting. This council is doing smaller activities this year and not bringing in paid speakers to help with the budget. This council is also struggling but wanting to be able to get a credit and enter in the creative writing contest. Dallas County Reading Council met informally at the beginning of the school year. They are using teachers to present the meetings, like sharing teaching tips, great books, integrating books into curriculum, etc. Our next meeting is Jan. 10. One of the members found out about the state submission of creative writing entries. I know it will be discussed to use this next year instead of having a council. :(Recent Expenses: Mileage to the council meetings. Challenge: Keeping our local councils alive and active. Bright spot: I loved the Three Rivers Meeting. Everyone there is so welcoming to me and they share ideas with each other freely.

F. Awards: Nothing to report

G. Grow a Local Council Grant/ Local Council Grant: Nothing to report

H. International Project: Nothing to report

I. Merit Council: Renae Wilkening, Merit Council Chairperson. Recent Activity: No Activity.

Recent Expenses: No Expenses. Additional Information: After much thought, I have decided to resign my position as Merit Council Chairperson at the end of this Conference. Thank you for the opportunity to serve on the Iowa Reading Association Board. I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience! Respectfully, Renae Wilkening (Eric & Kelsey will need to find a new chair)

J. Nominations: Looking for Vice President candidates. Asking the board to invite people to via for the position.

K. Short Story/ Poetry Contest: Kari Straube, Short Stories Chair - Recent Activity: We are currently gearing up for our deadlines, which are in January and February. I'm looking forward to participating in the first year! Recent Expenses: None. Challenge: Not writing council related, but as a local council president, I would say participants. For one of our reading council meetings we asked a local education professor to come and speak about trauma in the classroom. She was amazing. In talking to her afterward, she noted that on-campus students will not attend events put on by the campus, whether for education or fun. We're seeing fewer and fewer new teachers involving themselves with our local council. Bright spot: Working with Marlene has been wonderful. She's taken me on board with so much grace and help to understand my role. She will be missed moving forward! A brief update regarding state-only members this year: This year has been a bit of a struggle to get our footing regarding including state only members in the writing contest. These are a few examples of things we've encountered as bumps in the road: 1) We've had multiple non-members use the website to send entries directly to Marlene or I, which we've then had to look up, see if they were members, email to encourage them to join, and manage the correct place for those to go. It might be beneficial to make it very clear on the website that the contest is members-only. 2) We've had a difficult time communicating guidelines and answering questions regarding state membership and local councils. It seems people have different ideas of what those guidelines mean. We've tried to make consistent rulings, but since the deadlines span such a length of time it's been difficult. We may need to firm-up some of the guidelines about who can enter. 3) Local council contests have a guideline that only one teacher at the school must be a member to enter the contest; the state contest rules state that it must be a state member. Since contest deadlines vary and the state deadline is the latest, this has posed a problem for entries and timeliness. It has also made it difficult to know where to send entries directly sent to Marlene or myself since we aren't sure about membership. 4) I have been cross-checking membership through the Google Doc Julie Neal sent me, but I'm not sure that's the best method for keeping organized. With Marlene retiring and Kari being new, it might be an opportunity to think about the writing contest and how we want to manage it moving forward. It's an excellent opportunity for students/teachers, but logistics

are becoming difficult to manage. It may also be time to consider online submissions to make it easier to participate for our members. (Eric & Kelsey will need to find a new chair) (guidelines need to revamped for State-only)

- L. **Tech Grant:** Renee Thomas, chairperson Recent Activity: Final report, committee/grant no longer exists. Recent Expenses: \$0

VII. Officer Reports

- A. **President Report:** Kathleen/ Mary - Recent Activity: Have started receiving proposals already! Wrote an article for the winter newsletter. Recent Expenses: none. Challenge: Conveying the value of belonging to our organization. Bright spot: (Kathleen) I am headed to Jamaica in 17 days!!!!!!
- B. **Past Pres Report** - Julie Schuller, Past-President - Recent Activity: Reading through the Bylaws, Policies, and Procedure Handbook. Suggested corrections, word/policy additions, and clarifications. Will present paper copy for Full Board next meeting to vote to send to Delegate's Committee. Contacted AEA & local print shop about ballpark program pricing. Will present figures next meeting. Recent Expenses: \$0. Challenge: Reaching more educators. Bright spot: On Monday a student (his mother is a hairdresser) asked me if I'd done something different to my hair. I answered, not really, just a little extra heat on the blow dryer. He gave me a strange look. I asked him if it was a good different or bad different. He answered "Meh, at least you combed it today". HA. Many other students and staff throughout the day complimented my new hair dew. Again, not a new dew at all and I can comb my hair all I want it will just go back looking 'uncombed' in 30 minutes. I'm not sure what was so different. **FB messages - getting sessions with Iowa Legislators to ask about educator issues - Kathleen will check into this.**
- C. **Pres Elect Report:** Kelsey Nilles & Eric Schroyer: reviewing contracts & getting together a timeline for conference
- D. **Vice President Report** - Dani Woodman and Laurie Weekly, Co-Vice Presidents. Recent Activity: Speakers for 2021 are all in place. Recent Expenses: -0-. Challenge: Getting more people involved seems to always be a challenge. Bright spot: Emailing authors and speakers and having such a great response! Nobody was mean when I tried to bargain with them! **Theme for 2021 Conference: Adventure Awaits...Just Turn the Page! Conference Dates Thursday, June 17, 2021 Speakers:** Ellin Keene - Morning - \$4,000 plus expenses; Ellin Keene - After Lunch; Denise Fleming - After Lunch - \$2500 plus expenses; Matt Glover - End of Day - \$4000 inclusive; Pernille Ripp - End of Day - \$3000 plus expenses **Friday, June 18, 2021 Speakers:** Lucy Calkins - Morning - \$6,000 inclusive; Jack Gantos - After lunch - \$3000 inclusive; Dr. David Kilpatrick - After lunch - \$3000 plus expenses; Sarah Brown Wessling - End of Day - \$1500 plus mileage from Johnston; Dr. David Kilpatrick - End of day. We have a commitment from Beth Daniels for \$1000 from BK Ed. That leaves us with \$5 :) Discussion about 'all inclusive' vs 'plus expenses', looking into book study.
- E. **State Coordinator Report** - Nancy Wright: award of excellence is submitted. Other states are having the same membership struggles. Nancy will be trained to add photos to our new websites.
- F. **Director of Membership Report** - Diane Bean, Membership: Recent Activity: I recently mailed out 148 letters and class information to all of last year's members who hadn't renewed! I also wrote an article for the Winter Newsletter. Recent Expenses: Right around \$100-I haven't had a chance to add it up but I got a really good deal on printing so the biggest expense was postage. If we get only three people to respond to this, it will cover the expense. Challenge: Getting our name out there, especially in the reading council deserts in the state. Bright spot: Having a chance to spend quite a bit of time with a two-year-old great nephew makes me often have a positive attitude adjustment when I'm around him! I love to look at things through the eyes of a toddler!

- G. **Treasurer Report** - Michelle Swanson: Since November our deposits and expenses almost equalled out. Challenge: **Figuring out how to reach new/younger folks interested in becoming members.** Bright spot: **Am accepting having EMPTY NEST SYNDROME attending a movie at the theater by MYSELF.**
- H. **Secretary/ Publications/ Correspondence Report:** No report. Deb Mortensen was not able to attend today's meeting.
- I. **Executive Director-** Julie Neal: Julie will be trained to update our new website without having to always go through IROC services. Conference exhibitor registrations have started to come in. Julie has been sending out emails promoting conference. There are 28 signed up for book study this year. Julie shared a document with the last decade of conference speakers. Conference T-shirts will be available. Julie will send out info to Barnes/Nobles to encourage them to come to conference. A discussion was held about the group discount. It was decided that this information needs to be stated on the conference registration sheet. The conference registration form is different this year; the meal is included in the registration price.

VIII. Old Business

- A. **Conference Committees** - looked at document that splits up the conference duties.
- B. **Merit Council requirements for Int'l Membership** - currently all officers need to be members of International members. Proposed new revision - At least one officer of a local council needs to be member of International - Diane motioned, Becky second, motion stands for 2020-21.
- C. **Website** - see previous discussions

IX. New Business

- A. **Appoint Mary D. as new Membership Director (3 yr term):** Michelle Swanson made the motion to appoint Mary Daughetee as Membership Director for July 1, 2020 - July 1, 2023, Eric second, motion passed.

- X. **Adjourn** - Mary Daughetee moved and Diane Bean seconded that we adjourn at 12:25 pm. All were in favor.

XI. Future dates:

- A. April 18th- 10:00am- Pizza Ranch, Ames- FULL BOARD
- B. May 16th- 10:00am- Pizza Ranch, Ames- EXEC BOARD ONLY
- C. June 21st- Board Retreat- Pizza Ranch, Ames- FULL BOARD
- D. June 22 - morning, Meeting, Gateway- FULL BOARD
- E. June 22 - afternoon, Leadership Mtg
- F. June 23-24th- Iowa Reading Conference
- G. June 24th- 4:30pm- ISU Campus- FULL BOARD

**Iowa Reading Association
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
Via Zoom, January 11, 2020**

- I. The meeting of the Executive Board of Directors was called to order by Co-President Mary Daughetee at 12:38 am.
- II. Present were Kathleen Konrardy, Mary Daughetee, Diane Bean, Nancy Wright, Michelle Swanson, Dani Woodman, Laurie Weekly, Julie Neal, Eric Schroyer, Kelsey Nilles, Julie Schuller
- III. Eric Schroyer moved and Diane Bean seconded the minutes from our October, 2019 meeting.
- IV. There was one addition and no corrections to this meeting's agenda. Diane Bean moved and Michelle Swanson seconded that this agenda be allowed. All were in favor. Leadership Workshop added to agenda.
- V. Diane Bean and Tony Pieper volunteered to read the January 11, 2020 minutes. Secretary Pro-Tem Julie Schuller will send them electronically for their approval.
- VI. Old Business
 - A. Conference programs- AEA pricing- Julie Schuller. Julie checked into a local professional printing company for pricing on reduced size and reduced number of programs. The local company was a cost well above budget. Still waiting for AEA pricing.
- VII. New Business
 - A. Resignations
 1. Renae Wilkening- Merit Council - Renae was thanked for her time served on the committee. Eric & Kelsey with need to fill these positions. Briefly discussed VP nominations, some names were brought out - Mary & Nancy will reach out to potential candidates.
 2. Marlene Reece- Poetry Chair - January 5, 2020 Dear Nancy White (Nominations Chair) and Members of the Iowa Reading Association Board, After much thought and careful deliberation, I am submitting my resignation as the Poetry Chair for the Creative Writing contest. My term will end at the close of this summer's conference. Kari Straube, Short Story Chair, is aware of my decision. Please inform the board of this change prior to the January ZOOM meeting. I will NOT be available to participate in that meeting. When my mother (age 92.5) returns from her winter home in March, I usually spend 2-3 days a week helping her live independently in her Marshalltown home. This is a stage of my life where I must prioritize my commitments, and withdraw from several of them to devote more time to family. I know many of you have already been through this experience, and will understand the reasoning behind my decision. I feel the Board should have as much time as possible to open the position to other Iowa Reading members. It would be very helpful for this transition to have the replacement person work alongside me through the spring process of judging, communication with the winners/parents/teachers, printing of letters, certificates, etc. and preparation for the Celebration of Young Authors at

the summer conference. Opening the contest to State Only members has been quite a challenge, as we have needed to confirm whether the sponsoring teacher is (or is not) a current member of our organization. There seems to be much confusion about whether the rules and guidelines are the same, etc. Our gratitude to Barbara Carroll for stepping up to do the "State Only" judging prior to submission to the state contest, as if they belonged to a separate local council. Everyone should be aware that the deadline for State Only entries to be postmarked to Barbara is no later than February 1, 2020! When I was asked to finish Karla Bronzynski's term as a zone director in late 2014, I was honored to do that in memory of my friend. Starting in 2016, I also partnered with Becky Pashek as co-chair of the writing contest for three years. Working with Kari Straube this year has been a delight. She is a strong upcoming leader in Iowa Reading, and will bring along a new person with her open enthusiasm! It has been such a JOY to make friendships while serving on the board and as writing chair that will last far beyond my years of service. Discovering the rich writing done by K-12 students across the state of Iowa as poetry chair has been an experience I will treasure forever. Iowa Reading Association is in good hands for the future! Respectfully yours, Marlene Reece

- B. The board was asked to review the Nebraska Reading Association e-newsletter. This was emailed to the board on Monday, Jan 6, 2020.
 - C. The board reviewed a document listing specific board positions and duties for the Full Board and the Executive board. Members were asked to review the list and update any additions or corrections. Who is on the exec board/ board of directors?
 - D. Julie Schuller presented recommended Bylaw changes. The board reviewed and discussed proposed changes. She will present these in paper copy form at the next board meeting.
 - E. Leadership workshop was discussed. The ½ day format that was introduced last year was deemed a success. We will follow the same format for the 2020 conference. The board retreat will be Sunday evening with a board meeting on Monday morning.
 - F. Co-President Kathleen Konrardy can not attend the May meeting as it is set. It was decided to keep the date and Mary Daughetee will conduct the meeting.
- VIII. Future dates:
- A. April 18th- 10:00am- Pizza Ranch, Ames- FULL BOARD
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 - F. June 23-24th- Iowa Reading Conference
 - G. June 24th- 4:30pm- ISU Campus- FULL BOARD
- IX. Adjourn - Diane Bean moved and Kelsey Nilles seconded that we adjourn at 1:10 pm. All were in favor.