

IOWA READING ASSOCIATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING VIA ZOOM
SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2020

Secretary's note: The first portion of this meeting was discussed as though we were holding a Leadership Workshop and State Conference, 2020. As we met and since we've had this meeting, many scheduled events have had to be cancelled due to the safety of our members because of Covid 19. Discussion changes * when we decide to cancel the State Conference 2020 and hold Leadership Workshop virtually.

- I. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Presidents Kathleen Konrardy and Mary Daughetee.
- II. Roll call was taken and the following were present: Deb Mortensen, Michelle Swanson, Renae Wilkening, Julie Anderson, Kelly Neumann, Sheryl Dales (IASL), Julie Schuller, Erick Schroyer, Deb Saylor, Laurie Weekly, Diane Bean, Dani Woodman, Barbara Carroll, Becky Pashek, Mary Daughetee, Kelsey Nilles, Julie Neal and Nancy Wright. Kari Straube and Nancy White joined us at 10:30.
- III. Approval of January 11, 2020 minutes- Erick Schroyer moved and Julie Schuller seconded the January 11, 2020 minutes as written. All were in favor.
- IV. Approval of April 18, 2020 agenda- Kelly Neumann moved and Diane Bean seconded the agenda as written. There were no additions.
- V. Committee to approve April 18, 2020 minutes- Diane Bean and Michelle Swanson volunteered to read these minutes. They will be sent to them to read and approve/correct electronically.
- VI. Director Reports
 - a.) NE Region- Kelly Neumann reported no meetings are scheduled at this time.
 - b.) SE Region- Barbara Carroll shared several ideas for membership. There are no councils in the Burlington Area or SE region. She would like to possibly connect with Literacy Coaches. She will encourage them to come to conference. Her aim is to get 10 members per county. Julie Neal said we currently have 290 members in the state of Iowa. Discussion followed as to getting people to join. Kelly Neumann encouraged others to take the online class. This course was very applicable. Kathleen Konrardy asked if Title II funding could be used? This state funding is for ongoing professional development. Julie Neal suggested we write a personalized letter to Literacy Coaches. If the draft was a Google Doc, we could all add to it.
 - c.) Central Iowa Region- Becky Pashek shared concern over asking Literacy Coaches. They have so many duties in their respective schools already. Michelle Swanson wondered if we should look at council promotions. Diane Bean said that

including a “themed” token draws attention to our printed promotions. Julie Neal, Kathleen Konrardy and Barbara Carroll will work together to draft a letter.

d.) NW Region- Julie Anderson said spring meetings/ young author celebration had to be cancelled due to Covid 19. Booklets and certificates to local councils will be mailed. NWIRC is still looking to fill a slate of officers.

e.) SW Region- Renae Wilkening said Midlands last meeting was on “mindfulness” and was a great meeting.

VII. Committee Reports

a.) Awards- Deb Saylor reported there was only 1 nomination for Awards this year. Discussion was held to possibly extend the deadline to May 1 to nominate others. “Reading Teacher of the Year,” “Administrator of the Year” and “Iowa Service Award” nominees need to belong to the Iowa Reading Association. The “Celebrate Literacy” nominee does not need to be a member.

b.) Local Council Grants- Nancy Wright had no report at this time.

c.) International Project- Chair Carol Duehr had no report.

d.) Merit Council- Merit Council materials are due to Renae Wilkening by May 1. She mentioned the requirement that states “councils must have 4 meetings” will be difficult to achieve due to Covid 19. After some discussion, we decided that this will be waived this year. Renae will contact council presidents and let them know of the change.

e.) Nominations- Nancy White reported we need a Vice President. She also wondered if we did not host a conference this year, could officers stay the same? Board members were encouraged to ask leaders in their councils to consider being state officers. Mary Daughetee was approved as Membership chair beginning July, 2020.

f.) Short Story/Poetry Contest- Kari Straube said all contest entries have been judged and winners selected. Committee plans to mail out award certificates to winners. A letter will also go out to the teachers of those winners. Discussion was held about whether local councils should hold virtual celebrations or wait until fall to recognize their local winners.

g.) Technology and Literacy- 3 educators were awarded this year. This link will need to be removed from our website as this award will not be budgeted for in the future. Chair Renee Thomas thanked the board for their dedication to furthering literacy.

VIII. Officer Reports

a.) President’s Report- Concurrent speakers for state conference have been organized.

b.) Past President’s Report- Julie Schuller has made several changes in Bylaws, Policies and Procedures. More details will be shared in May. She is working on the conference booklet. It may be printed at her school, Sibley-Ocheyden. Julie is inviting

others via the Iowa Reading Association webpage. She is always looking for social media ideas.

c.) President-Elect Report- Erick Schroyer and Kelsey Nilles have been contacting speakers. Many speakers are willing to present virtually considering many events are being postponed or cancelled due to Covid 19.

d.) Vice President Report- Dani Woodman and Laurie Weekly are preparing a video presentation of speakers for 2021.

e.) State Coordinator- Nancy Wright has contacted the Gateway Center. If we need to cancel Leadership, they are willing to reschedule. If anyone has things to share via social media, feel free,

f.) Membership- Diane Bean has sent out letters to those who did not renew. She has extended an invitation to Iowa City Corridor, to possibly form a council, but nothing materialized. She won't be able to attend the 2020 conference due to health concerns. Diane would need to send Membership materials with someone else. She reminded all of us if there is no council in your region, to join "State Only". Diane needs to exchange membership materials with incoming director, Mary Daughetee.

g.) Treasurer- Michelle Swanson shared the financial spreadsheet. \$3,000 has been sent to author Barry White as half payment for speaking at the 2020 conference. Why was that speaker prepaid for his speaking engagement? Is there a reimbursement policy?

h.) Secretary- Deb Mortensen shared her "Reading: A Sport For All Seasons" t-shirt. Newsletter articles for the May Edition of the newsletter are due May 15.

i.) Executive Director- Julie Neal said Early Registration has been extended to May 15. Insurance does not cover cancellation due to Coronavirus. ILA has cautioned about a virtual conference as it can be very expensive.

IX. Old Business

a.) Writing Contest- There were no "State Only" entries this year. Barbara Carroll was to judge these. Kari Straube reported no councils sent the maximum entries. Most high school categories only had 3 entries. Several grade levels did not even have three state winners. Barbara Carroll will replace Marlene Reece as poetry chair next year. Considering digital submission next year vs. the three hard copies submitted now. Because this is a committee, the chairs were directed to make decisions they deem necessary for this committee.

***We took a short break and returned for discussion on Leadership Workshop and State Conference 2020.**

X. New Business

a.) Conference Update- Erick Schroyer opened the discussion asking "Is face to face even an option?" There was concern with rescheduling to later in the summer as

schools may begin earlier in August. Michelle Swanson moved; we do not have a physical conference in June due to health concerns. Diane Bean seconded the motion. Majority voted that we NOT have a physical conference in June, 2020. Discussion following included, if we move the conference to the fall, finding substitutes might be a problem. Revenue from exhibitors, ads for the booklet, event brite registration money could be lost if we cancel altogether. Lots of people will need to be contacted. If the conference is virtual, registration costs will need to be greatly reduced. Because so many educators are teaching via technology right now, will they want that same format in the summer? Julie Neal will ask vendors to put their paid fees toward next year's conference. Erick will contact speakers about any expenses they may have already incurred. Nancy White wondered if the 2020 conference could be moved to 2022 with Erick and Kelsey in charge? 2021 plans are underway. Julie Neal will contact vendors and those registered to ask if they want refunds or wish to put those funds towards the 2021 conference. Kelly Neumann moved the 2020 conference be rescheduled to June, 2022. This motion was seconded by Julie Schuller. All were in favor. Kathleen Konrardy will contact concurrent speakers. Maybe they would like to record their sessions and these could be in the "Members Only" link of our website. Maybe these recorded sessions could be programs for next council year? Nancy Wright and Julie Neal are administrators for the Iowa Reading Association website so our expenses with IROC have been reduced.

What would happen with the terms of Erick and Kelsey if their conference would be rescheduled for 2022? If we don't have a conference, how do we handle awards? There was only one entry this year. Michelle Swanson moved and Kelly Neumann seconded we recognize the 2020 winner with a certificate sent by chair Deb Saylor. There will be no new deadline for further nominations as mentioned earlier in the meeting. This winner will be physically recognized next summer at the 2021 conference. Deb Saylor will also send the winners nomination and photo for the May edition of the newsletter to Deb Mortensen. Encourage others to nominate now when we have this time to acknowledge literacy leaders in Iowa.

What about Leadership Workshop? We could host a "Zoom meeting." More people may participate because they can participate wherever they are. Michelle Swanson made a motion to host an online Leadership Workshop, Monday, June 22. Barbara Carroll seconded the motion. All were in favor. Nancy Wright will contact all involved with time and schedule for the day. We will need to have Delegates Assembly during the meeting to approve affirmation of dues and the Bylaw changes from Past President Julie Schuller. Nancy will also share how all members of the Board can participate. Kelsey Nilles and Erick Schroyer will contact all committee chairs to ask if they wish to serve

again. We will need a new Merit Council chair. Any changes in forms will need to be sent to Nancy Wright and Julie Neal electronically so they can be linked to our website.

What about the terms of Kelsey Nilles and Erick Schroyer because the state conference will not be held in June, 2020? The 2022 conference chair will not have to plan a conference as President- Elect, but could assist Kelsey and Erick. Kelsey Nilles and Erick Schroyer will serve as Co-Presidents beginning June 23. Dani Woodman and Laurie Weekly will become Co-President Elects/Conference chairs at the same time.

b.) Room assignments do not need to be discussed as there will be no physical conference in 2020.

XI. Announcements

May 16, 2020 Zoom Meeting, Executive Board

June 22, 2020 Leadership Conference via Zoom

XII. Adjournment- Diane Bean moved and Michelle Swanson seconded that we adjourn at 1:05 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Mortensen, Secretary Iowa Reading Association

XIII.

XIV.

XV.

XVI.

XVII.

