

Iowa Reading Association

Board Meeting Minutes

Pizza Ranch, Ames, IA, April 6, 2019

- I. The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by President Julie Schuller at 10:12.
- II. Present were Michelle Swanson, Julie Anderson, Clark Goltz, Renae Wilkening (via Zoom until noon), Rebecca Pashek, Deb Mortensen, Mary Daughetee, Kathleen Konrardy, Julie Schuller, Nancy Wright, Marlene Reece, and Kelly Neumann. Julie Neal was welcomed as the new Executive Director of the Iowa Reading Association.
- III. Kathleen Konrardy moved and Marlene Reece seconded the minutes from our January 12, 2019 meeting. Several corrections were made regarding those in attendance.
- IV. There were no additions or corrections to this meeting's agenda. Kelly Neumann moved and Julie Anderson seconded that this agenda be allowed. All were in favor.
- V. Mary Daughetee and Kelly Neumann volunteered to read the April 6, 2019 minutes. Secretary Deb Mortensen will send them electronically for their approval.
- VI. Three local council reports were published in the Board book. It appears councils are doing well.
- VII. Regional Director and Committee Chair Reports- All were asked to reply to 3 things they, or their committee, could do to help the Iowa Reading Association be even better.
 - a.) NW Region- Julie Anderson reported her council had a program on "Global Read Alouds". Their Young Author Celebration will be held in April.
 - b.) SW Region- Renae Wilkening zoomed in to report her council had Clark Goltz on March 12 and he presented "Recipes for Reading". It was necessary for them to reschedule their Young Authors Banquet due to flooding in their region. Renae is leaving her job in Iowa and will be teaching in Nebraska next fall. She will continue with Midlands of Iowa Reading Council and continue as SW Regional Director and Merit Council chair.

c.) NE Region- Kelly Neumann had nothing to report.

d.) Merit Council- Chair Renae Wilkening said Merit Council materials are due May 1. Michelle Swanson will bring the winning councils a stipend at state conference and recipients will receive one free ticket to the banquet. Renae will send these vouchers to Michelle so payment may be made.

e.) Creative Writing Committee- Chairs Rebecca Pashek and Marlene Reece gave the board a list of winners and their schools. Corrections were made to several school names. The new Short Story chair will be Kari Straube, a high school English teacher and NEIRC President. A letter was read to welcome her to this new role. The current Creative Writing chairs would like donations for the student winner gift bags.

f.) Iowa Reading Council Growth Grants (Line item 301.02)- Nancy Wright reported that last year 3 councils applied, not receiving the \$250, the application states. The wording on the application will change to may receive up to \$250. Additional wording will include councils may reapply each year as needed.

g.) Local Council Grant (Line item 301.06)- \$125 will awarded to any councils that have 2 members present at Leadership. Mileage will be provided for one car per council. Clark Goltz has begun a folder with any updated forms as we transition to a new Executive Director.

h.) International Project- Kelly Neumann reported one donation has been received already. Each council wishing to contribute should write a check to "One Sky" by the end of June for this year's project. Carol Duehr is the new chair for our International project. Thank you, Kelly, for your years of service.

i.) Tony Pieper is interested in serving as Central Iowa Regional Director, replacing Marlene Reece. Nominations chair, Nancy White, will be organizing an online ballot for his election. We need a candidate (s) for Vice President. Once we have names, an online ballot can be prepared quickly. Should we consider a paid conference chair? Is that what is discouraging people from seeking leadership roles? How can we involve past presidents more?

j.) Awards- Chair Deb Saylor reported there were no candidates for the Iowa Reading Service award. Clark Goltz will send out a list of the other winners.

VIII. Officer Reports:

- a. President- Julie Neal was selected as the next Executive Director of the Iowa Reading Association. All board members introduced themselves. All board members were asked to check the website to make sure their information is current and correct. Several have sent in proposals to present at this summer's conference. We need more presenters for Pre K-3. On Sunday, June 23, 2019, we will have the board meeting at 5 p.m., Ames Pizza Ranch. On Monday, June 24, beginning at 9:00 a.m., will be the board retreat at the Gateway Hotel. Lunch will be on our own with Leadership registration beginning at 12:30 and the Leadership workshop beginning at 1:00 p.m.
- b. Past President- Stephanie Laird was thanked for reviewing the bylaws from the lens of an International Literacy Association board member. She will be asked to present these revisions at our May Executive Board meeting.
- c. President Elect/ State Conference Chairs- We have received 300 registrations for the conference. Keynotes have been finalized, fliers made and power point updated. A lot of discussion was held regarding t-shirt sales with the conference logo. Kathleen Konrardy suggested a single ink color with color shirt choices via an online store. Presales will happen before the conference so those purchasing can pick up their shirts at the conference. Deb Mortensen will man this at the registration area. The cost of the shirt will be \$10. Nancy Wright moved that we sell the shirts for \$12 and Becky Pashek seconded the motion. All were in favor. Several shirts will be available for participants at conference. Renae Wilkening suggested the board purchase the same color. (The board took a break at 11:55 to eat and reconvened at 12:30.) The McGraw Hill Monday night reception will be "invitation only" and held away from the conference site. 95% Group will NOT be hosting a reception this year. The Tuesday evening banquet will have a cash bar and NOT a reception hosted by a vendor.
- d. Vice President- Neither Kelsey Nilles or Erick Schroyer were able to attend. Erick would like us to avoid meeting on the first Saturday due to his Master's program. He is currently communicating via email. Their conference has the theme of "Reading: The Sport For All

Seasons". They have been in contact with several speakers for the 2020 conference.

- e. State Coordinator-Nancy Wright gave each in attendance a packet for Leadership. She would like each board member to answer the following statement: "I am a good "sport" when I _____." These quotes will be used at Leadership and then again in the program booklet in 2020. Nancy would also like us to bring 3-4 door prizes and decorations with a sports theme.
 - f. Membership- Diane Bean was unable to attend but her term ends in 2019. Diane has consented to mentor anyone interested in serving. Marlene Reece moved and Kelly Neumann seconded that Mary Daughette be the next Membership chair. Because next year is Mary's year as co-president, Diane will mentor her with Mary following, as Director of Membership Development, her term as president. Diane questioned whether her position was necessary. Clark Goltz shared that as Executive Director, he is appreciative of the personalized contact this person can make.
 - g. Treasurer- Michelle Swanson shared we have a nice deposit with conference registrations. Discussion was held about conference meal costs. A major expense that has arisen since last meeting was insurance. If you need something sent to TD and T for reimbursement, please contact Michelle and send the appropriate voucher.
 - h. Secretary/ Publications/ Correspondence- Newsletter articles are due to Deb Mortensen May 14, 2019.
 - i. Executive Director/ Book Study- Book study is underway. IASL (Iowa Association of School Librarians) early deadline is extended to April 13. A possible book study for 2019-2020 is "Who's Doing the Work?" Using Google Docs has really aided with discussion for the book study.
- IX. Old Business:
- a. June Board Meeting and Retreat- No new discussion.
 - b. President's Reception- A reception for outgoing President, Julie Schuller, will be held following the Tuesday night Awards Banquet in the Ada Hayden room at the Gateway Hotel. This will be sponsored by NWIRC.
- X. New Business:

- a. Extra Vendor Time- One vendor suggested we devote a specific vendor time. We will have a special drawing from 4:15-4:45 on the first day. Vendors will be promoted more at the conference.
- b. Barnes and Noble- They will not be in attendance this year. The company denied their request to be at the Iowa Reading Conference. Becky Pashek volunteered to purchase the books for the Young Authors. We also discussed other book vendors. Suggestions were BAM or "Books For Schools," which has books at a discounted price. Because Education Station will not be at the conference, we could move a book vendor to his spot outside Benton Hall. Perhaps 1 table could be free and the vendor could pay for another one.
- c. Awards Banquet. IASL has been sent the email which includes them if they wish.
- d. Pina Publishing, from Washington, is willing to financially promote their company at the upcoming reading conference. The CEO has sent several requests and she will be encouraged to do everything she requested EXCEPT speak for several minutes prior or following a keynote. Michelle Swanson moved and Julie Anderson seconded the motion that this be allowed at a rate of \$1,200 from the publisher. All were in favor. Clark Goltz will communicate with this vendor/author of Lindie Lou. An article will also appear in the May edition of the Iowa Reading Newsletter.
- e. Speaker Costs for 2020- We are unable to give the conference chairs a budget amount at this time. It was suggested that we have 6-8 keynotes a day instead of 12 each day, as we do currently. Kelsey Nilles and Erick Schroyer are able to change the conference schedule, if they wish.
- f. SAI Conference- A booth costs \$750. Julie Neal suggested we have a booth at the School Administrators of Iowa Conference to promote our association and its conference. Perhaps past presidents could man that booth. Julie Neal could be in charge of this in 2019 with the possibility of Wendy Hammrich assisting. This will be tabled until May. If we continue to host our conference with IASL, perhaps they could help with the booth expense.
- g. Add Conference Credit to Registration Form-Currently we have the price for credit on our conference registration form, but no link to register.

XI. Adjourn- Kelly Neumann moved and Michelle Swanson seconded that we adjourn at 2:00 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Mortensen, Secretary