

Minnesota Reading Association

Spring Leadership Meeting

Date: 4/3/2012

Location: Maple Grove Community Center

Invitees Attend:

Pat Hanson
Deb Peterson
Jolitta Falknor
Linda Snowburg
Cory Stai
Leah Bird
Jessica Crooker
Jen McCarty-Plucker
Scott Voss
Kate Kelly
Stephanie Brondani
Julie Scullen
Terry Betlewski
Maren Wallenburg
Tonya Person
Jill Maxe
Kari Ross
Cindy Blagg
Cindy Whaley
Barb Polzin

1. Welcome – Scott

- a. Poem: “Miracle Fair” by Wislawa Szymborska
 - i. What do you notice? Why is this important? One thing you have to celebrate?
 - ii. Share around the room what you have to celebrate.
 - iii. Sharing the ‘commonplace miracle’ events MRA sponsored this year.
-

2. Local Council Reports

- a. SWMRC – diminished numbers, but working on finding ways to make it work for their group; spring symposium coming up; looking into honor council status through IRA
- b. TCRC – setting up elections and events in spring

Minnesota Reading Association

- c. Arrowhead – achieved honor council status; have focused on Daily 5; working on building membership through regular events
 - d. SRIC – 4 events this year (3 regular events and the MN Native American text symposium; 2 events remaining)
 - e. MAR – held policy event in January (will become annual event – Wed Jan 9, 1-4 at St. Thomas); grown in membership; adding new members to executive board
 - f. Central – held successful ELA Standard event in November, plus several local events including Daily 5 discussion; Joyce Sidman is coming to an event in April; hold honor council status
-

3. Officer Reports

- a. Treasurer (Joletta)
- b. Membership (Cindy, Stephanie)
- c. Secretary (Kate)
- d. IRA Coordinator (Scott in place of Debbie Sauer)
 - i. Honor council submission deadline has passed (Mar 1)
 - ii. Everything is online now to apply
 - iii. IRA would like us to get more members to convention this year
 - iv. Planning to hold MRA social event at IRA on Monday evening of the convention
- e. Celebrate Literacy and LiRN (Julie)
 - i. Celebrate Literacy
 - 1. High attendance (120 people) this year
 - 2. Thanks to Senator Franken's office for sending a representative to Celebrate Literacy event last night
 - 3. Book sale was a hit – next year contact Linnea Robinson (Scholastic Rep for MN)
 - 4. Made over \$400!! on silent auction
 - ii. LiRN
 - 1. Huge success – 95 paid attendees, 190 in all (with guests)
 - 2. Advisory board already planning for next year (MCRR, MDE, MRA)
 - 3. From survey data – everyone wants it to continue
- f. Conference Update 2012
 - i. *Flying Blind*, Cris Crutcher (read aloud by Jen)
 - ii. Theme: Transforming Readers and Writers (focus on boys, knowing that this helps girls too!)
 - iii. Thursday, August 9, Continue Ed & Conference Center at UMN; joint discount for MCRR and MRA conference attendance
 - iv. Speakers – Cris Crutcher, Ralph Fletcher
 - 1. 2.5 hour keynote and workshop
 - v. Not having breakout speakers – change this year

Minnesota Reading Association

- vi. Cost is same as last year (\$150 members, \$185 non-members, \$85 student (newly added student rate), \$7 parking)
- vii. Volunteers
 - 1. Exhibits (Jessica and Scott)
 - 2. Hospitality - thank you tokens for volunteers and keynotes – **talk to Gail Jordan**
 - 3. Registration (Julie)
 - 4. Registration table (Julie, Kate, Scott)
 - 5. Programs (due August 1) Stephanie will work on this
 - 6. Signs (Arrowhead)
 - 7. Possible Authors (Stephanie)
 - 8. Publicity (Jen and all)
 - 9. Keynote liaisons (**need these**)
 - 10. IRA materials (Debbie Sauer)
 - 11. Hotel stuff (Jessica) Radisson Roseville (\$94 rooms + tax and fees), shuttle available to conference site
 - 12. Door prizes (have some, but councils could donate something for a door prize as publicity for their councils)
 - 13. Partnership with MCRR (Deb Peterson)
 - 14. Conference folders (Kate)
- viii. Leadership retreat
 - 1. Dinner – Thursday, August 9th night of the conference at Axel's; looking for sponsors; please register for dinner and retreat
 - 2. Retreat – Friday, August 10th, 8-4
 - 3. Expect one person from each council's leadership team to attend (great way to use funds is to cover expenses for the retreat – lodging and mileage)
- g. Conference Proposal 2013
 - i. Craguns contacted us about holding 2013 conference there
 - ii. Jessica shares cost breakdown of Craguns v. UMN Continuing Ed
 - iii. Proposing Thursday full day + Friday half day
- h. Partnering with Reading Recovery (Jen, Maren, Tonya)
 - i. Currently have 7 Reading Recovery teacher leaders in the state, and they work with 1-10 districts; would like to have opportunities for teacher leaders to get together and network
 - ii. Looking for ways to reach out to elementary teachers and build more membership in MRA with elementary teachers

Additional Discussion Points:

- Holding the 2013 conference in a northern area, could support reactivating NW council
- Talk to Craguns to see if it would be possible to offer conference rate for entire stay if folks want to continue to stay through the weekend
- Will likely lose people who cross-register for MCRR & MRA conferences

Minnesota Reading Association

Decision(s):

1. Move forward for conference at Craguns, but will hold off on voting for a few weeks so leadership can go back to councils and see if there are concerns
-

4. MDE Update, Kari Ross

- a. Revisiting parts of Reading Well statute (including deadline extension possibility)
 - i. Data submission template will be available this week (grade, school, district level data only)
 - ii. Perhaps MRA could develop something to help districts build capacity with their Reading Well plans (districts are looking for support and are reaching out to vendors that are looking to make a profit on plan development; MRA could work on develop a series of symposium for where to start in the coming years)
 - b. Focus next year will include Race to the Top (funds have been earmarked; one-time money that will last 5 years); NCLB waiver (lowest performing schools (Priority Schools) will be identified for intensive support, and schools with low performance in a category will be identified as Focus Schools, allocating resources appropriately to make AYP in all areas; schools making it off AYP list will be identified as Celebration Schools)
 - i. 3 Centers of Excellence will be created to support schools not making AYP including Reading, Math, Special Ed, EL, and Implementation Specialists to support instructional leadership and classroom instruction
 - 1) ND border to Lake Superior: Thief River Falls will be the fiscal agent
 - 2) Brainerd to Wheaton down to IA border to Mankato: St. Cloud
 - 3) Metro, Rochester, SE corner: Rochester
 - ii. see MDE website for page for more information about the waiver:
<http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Welcome/AdvBCT/NCLBWaiver/index.html>
 - iii. Feb 29 was Leap Into Reading Day, launched statewide year-long reading initiative
 - iv. Last webinar will be on Monday, April 16 with Kathryn Au
 - c. Hamline holding Summer Literacy Institute, July 16-19
 - d. Look to <http://www.oercommons.org/> for Common Core Alignment resources
-

Minnesota Reading Association

5. Leadership Discussion

- a. Filling positions in Exec and Local Councils
 - i. Suggestion (Cory): Large events are most fulfilling for members, but having a hard time recruiting new leaders at these events, and small events don't attract new members – perhaps we need to consolidate in the metro (because there is TCARC, SRIC, MAR, and Exec Council)
 - ii. Advice from Arrowhead, Central, SW: end up recycle leaders, trying to recruit college student teacher candidates, delicately recruit new members through events
 - iii. Suggestion (Deb): Eliminate vice-president and elect co-presidents (or other co-positions)
 - iv. Send suggestions to exec board if there are other ideas
 - b. Continue using the website for events and other resources
 - c. Closing (“It Is I Who Must Begin” by Vaclav Havel)
-

Minutes prepared by: [Kate Kelly, 3/31/12]

Minutes Approved: [Stephanie Brondani 3/31/12]