

Dear Friends,

I believe we are all trying to rethink our budgets and spending plans. FRA is in that frame of mind. We had a phenomenal conference last September! However, due to a lower than expected attendance, we suffered a significant loss in conference revenue. This is a *first* for us in more than the 12 years that I have served on the board. I thought it wise to share with members how we have made most recent financial decisions as we work to be wise stewards.

The FRA board has been working with the budget of the Florida Reading Association's funds, your funds. There have been many changes this year. To be sure we are able to still provide our membership with the services that are most essential, I'd like to share what changes have been put into place.

The most notable changes you have seen is the electronic version of *The Florida Reading Journal (FRJ)*, formerly *The Florida Reading Quarterly*. Many on the Publications Committee and other members on the board worked to create a journal that offers members research, practical applications, and publication of student work. At first, we had planned to have only one electronic issue however; budget shortfalls prompted moving to this mode for all of this year's publications. We have also moved *Teachers on the Cutting Edge* to an electronic format.

We have been able to keep are Legislative Advocate, Florence Brainerd, on a part-time basis. We greatly appreciate her flexibility in working with us during these times to keep us abreast of educational decisions made in Tallahassee. We will be sending e-mails out to you as bills and issues are presented that affect the state of reading in Florida. We do need to maintain a strong voice so we don't see funding for reading or the emphasis on reading support for educators drop to where it was 10 years ago. In the past few years, we have just begun to see such positive gains in reading growth throughout the state. What a shame it would be to see those gains decline!



Some projects were put on hold this year. However, we were able to continue with many projects that are most important to our members. Two, in particular, are the *Children's Book Award* and the *Adolescent Literacy Poster Contest*. Additionally, several of our local councils have assisted us with the funding for educational materials to Trinidad, as part of our ongoing *International Literacy Project*. Teamwork does make a difference!

As we plan for this year's conference September 10-13, 2009, we are actively seeking sponsorships so that we may be able to offer more to our attendees as an incentive for coming. I encourage you to gather a group of friends and colleagues to join and attend with you this year.

Looking forward to seeing you there,
Blessings, Pam

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Florida Reading Association Colleagues,

Change is in the air! Nancy and I have had such an awesome time contributing as editors to the FRA newsletter. We have worked together on 12 FRA Newsletters since September 2005. Whew!

In keeping with Pam's message on change, we have seen so many changes in the newsletter from paper mailing with bulk rate to electronic access on the FRA website, format changes, column changes and changes in the number of issues as well.

When we took over the newsletter, there were 3 issues a year, and then it was changed to 4 issues a year. As of the board meeting this March, we will be back to 3 published issues a year. In a concerted attempt to keep FRA news in front of you throughout the year, but to avoid those months when you may be occupied with other things, such as FCAT and school closing, the publications committee developed a new schedule for FRA publications. The new *Florida Reading Journal* will be published electronically in October, February and June. The *FRA Newsletter* will be published electronically in August, with a back to school issue; early in December; and again in April. The *Cutting Edge* electronic publication has been moved to July, with a May 25th deadline for article review submissions. In September, you will be able to receive the conference publication at the conference.

Another change which we are pleased to announce is the change in editorship for the FRA Newsletter. After 12 issues and 4 years and our continuously growing responsibilities as we literally trudge through the variety of barriers we face when we work as educators of future reading teachers, resource people and district reading leaders; we decided it was time to pass the baton. Dr. Heidi Maier, whom you know at the District 12 Director, has agreed to become the new editor of the FRA newsletter. Thank you and welcome, Heidi!

In closing, we thank you so much for your support over the last four years and the energy with which you have provided input to make this newsletter so successful.



Dr. Joyce Warner, Editor



Dr. Nancy Masztal, Contributing

PS

A reminder of a few things that have not changed:

- March 2 is dedicated to celebrate Dr. Suess' birthday through the *Read Across America* activity
- April is *National Poetry Month*.
- April 15 is the deadline for *Secondary Reading Teacher of the Year* nominations.
- May 3-7 is *IRA's Annual Conference* in Minneapolis
- May 15-16 is the annual *Secondary Reading Council of Florida Conference*
- September 10-13 is the Annual *Florida Reading Association Conference*

CONTESTS and LITERACY PROJECTS

Adolescent Literacy Projects:

Florida Reading Association's Reading Poster Contest – new deadline!

Students in middle and high schools won't have to travel "*at the speed of light*" to enter Florida Reading Association's Reading Poster Contest because the deadline for entries has been extended to **Friday, May 15, 2009!** See details for this year's poster contest at:

http://flreads.org/contest/poster_contest.htm.

This year, all posters will be exhibited, in June, at the *FRA Leadership Conference*. The top twelve posters will travel to FRA's "Reading Rockets You to the Future" Orlando Conference, September 10-13, 2009. Finalists' posters will be judged by conference attendees and fabulous prizes will be awarded.

Chairperson: Linda Gobran at lindafg@leeschools.net

These are the prizes the winners' schools received last year!



Quick Tips for Adolescent Literacy

Motivation Matters: Quick Tips for Adolescent Literacy

A new project for FRA focuses on adolescent readers:

Share your successes with your adolescent readers as **quick tips** which are placed on the FRA site. Send a short 100-200 word description highlighting your tips, which motivate adolescents to read. See [http://www.flreads.org/adolescent lit/Motivation/motivation_matters.htm](http://www.flreads.org/adolescent_lit/Motivation/motivation_matters.htm) for a sample and idea from others. Add to our list. Submit directly on line or to the editor of the FRA newsletter at heidimaier@earthlink.net.

Book Hook Project: **FRA Announces 2008 Student Book Hook Contest Winners**

For the second year in a row, Mrs. Elizabeth Darcy's students at *Sanford Middle School* in Seminole County swept all of the awards for FRA's 3rd Annual *Student Book Hook Contest*. Dr. Michelle Kelley's undergraduate students at the University of Central Florida helped judge and select the champion book hooks. The student winners are all now 7th graders. The grand prize winner was Nickolas Owens and second prize was awarded to Kyle Kratt, third place was Nikita Thomas. The book hooks were written about one of last year's Sunshine State Books. Each winning book hook is included below in this newsletter. Happy Reading!

Book Hook Grand Prize

Frosty Mystery

By Nickolas Owens

Sanford Middle School, 7th grade

How would you like to reenact Robert F. Scott's unforgettable adventure to the South Pole, where you could die a painful death of frostbite or fall into a bottomless crevasse? Well, that's what five fourteen-year-olds attempted in a breath-taking, reward-winning, action-packed reality T.V. show in 2083! This book is filled with nonstop surprises in the blank, mysterious land we call Antarctica. Before the contestants stepped aboard the ship to Antarctica, microscopic digital cameras were implanted on their eyes so that the editors could receive live footage and audio. As Steve receives and edits the film, he emotionally connects with the children.



As the story progresses, one of the contestants, Andrew, falls into a snow-covered crevasse as he walks back to camp during a blizzard. His fall awakened the walls of the crevasse as they caved in around him. Because he went out alone, it took the others a while to recognize his disappearance. Steve, realizing Andrew's trouble, illegally spoke to him using a microphone wirelessly connected to the receiver on Andrew's implant. Because of Steve's courageous actions, he will now have to face an unspeakable consequence.

If adventure stories with lots of surprises are your type of book, then *Surviving Antarctica Reality T.V. 2083* by Andrea White is absolutely perfect for you. Do you think they will survive? It's up to you to find out!

Book Hook 2nd Prize

The Lightening Thief

By Kyle Kratt

Sanford Middle School, 7th grade

What do you imagine when you think of ancient mythology? Perhaps mighty Hercules, monstrous Medusa, or powerful Zeus. What you might not have guessed is an ordinary 6th grade boy

from New York with ADHD and dyslexia. Percy Jackson wouldn't have guessed it either, nor would he have ever imagined being the lone son of Poseidon, one of the three most powerful gods in existence.

The bad thing is, since Poseidon had been framed for stealing Zeus' master lightning bolt, Percy must clear up the name of the father he never knew while fighting mythical creatures along the way to retrieve it. He and his friends must bring the lightning bolt to Mount Olympus before the summer solstice or risk being caught in a war that could end all wars.

The *Lightning Thief*, written by Rick Riordan, is a fantasy that seems to be made for all who crave ancient mythology and want to find out what happens after the tales in Greece and Rome. You can experience Percy's adventures when he crosses the U. S. A. going to New York to Las Vegas and from the underworld to Mount Olympus. One of the most exhilarating scenes from the novel is when Percy single-handedly fights off the great Minotaur.

As you can see, Percy Jackson had the odds against him, but perhaps with teamwork and help from the gods, he can succeed on his journey to retrieve the lightning bolt. For all who like Harry Potter and Gregor and the Overlanders, this is the perfect book to read.

Book Hook 3rd Prize

The Lightning Thief

By Nikita Thomas

Sanford Middle School, 7th grade

Did you know that Olympian gods are still real? Yes, and did you know that there are kids called demi-gods, who are half human and half god? In this story, Percy Jackson, a 12-year-old boy that lives in New York, just finds out that he's a demi-god right after his pre-algebra teacher, Mrs. Dodds, turns into a mythical creature and tries to kill him. *The Lightning Thief*, by Rick Riordan, is a book that you won't want to put down.

Percy Jackson has dyslexia and ADHD. He's been kicked out of many schools because of this. After his fight with Mrs. Dodds, Percy finds out about all of the mythical creatures that he never knew about. Percy's mother tries to bring him to a safe place, Camp Half Blood, but a minotaur tries to stop them and kills Percy's mother! Percy faints and awakes in Camp Half Blood. Percy then goes on a dangerous quest to try to bring his mother back and to stop a war between the gods, all at the same time. Percy is manipulated several times by very powerful gods and then has a very important choice to make. Who will he save, his mother or his best friends?

Rick Riordan creates a fantastic and imaginative setting in fantastic places, such as New York, Camp Half Blood, and the underworld. I recommend this book to anyone who likes adventure and action books, because it has a great plot and has awesome characters. The book is full of twists and turns. In the story, everything changes so quickly that you won't be able to keep up! Will Percy be able to do it or will he forever suffer the loss of his mother?

COMMITTEE NEWS!

Studies and Research Committee – seeks articles for next *Cutting Edge*

Artis Gray - chair

The theme for the 2009 *Teachers on the Cutting Edge* is **New Literacies: Integrating Technology into Literacy Instruction**. The deadline for submitting an article summary is the last week of May (week of May 25th). Anyone interested in submitting an article can contact artisgray@comcast.net to request the template for the summary format. The committee welcomes submissions!

International Projects Committee:**Vivian Posey and Peggy VanVoorhis, co-chairs**

For several years, the Florida Reading Association has been involved in a project to support literacy in the countries of Trinidad and Tobago by sending books and school supplies to a local school. This has been a very successful project and the FRA Board and members are very grateful to past committee chair, Sherida Weaver, for her efforts on behalf of the children and teachers of these island countries. This project will be concluding soon with the shipment of the final two barrels of literacy supplies. Each local council has been contacted to support the final phase of this very successful project, by contributing to the cost of shipping the supplies. Every local council who is able to participate will receive official documentation that may be included with their applications for designation as an Honor Council. District Directors were also contacted about this plan and asked to encourage their local councils to make a financial contribution to this worthy effort.

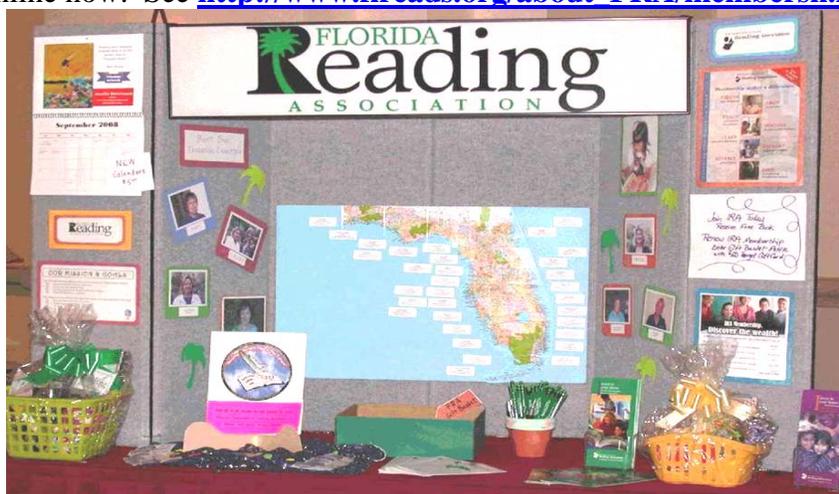
The International Projects committee is in the process of selecting a new project that will promote international literacy. A brief survey has been sent to each local council president to request suggestions and to find out if any councils are already involved in international projects. Results of this survey will be presented in March, 2009.

The International Projects committee coordinators, Peggy VanVoorhis and Vivian Posey are excited about the many possibilities to promote literacy locally and internationally and wish to thank everyone in FRA for their support!

Membership Committee:**Margaret Adams, chair****LAUNCHING OUR NEW MEMBERSHIP DRIVE!**

The countdown begins! Send an email to all of your friends. It's time for FRA membership to take off! Until May 31, each time your name is listed on the application as having referred someone to join FRA, and if you have renewed your own membership for 2009-2010, you will be eligible to win a FULL 2009 FRA CONFERENCE REGISTRATION. The drawing will be held at the FRA Leadership Workshop June 6, 2009. Winner will be notified in June. Get on board now. Don't be left in cyberspace!

The new form is online now. See http://www.flreads.org/about_FRA/membersh.htm for details!



Or for your convenience, the new membership form is on the next page. Download it, print, complete and send it in.



FRA Membership
Post Office Box 12187
Tallahassee, FL 32317-2187
www.FLReads.org

Check Appropriate Box: [] New Member [] Renewal
Name _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____
(Required to receive electronic journals and newsletter)

Mailing Address _____ City _____

County _____ State _____ Zip code _____

School or Organization _____

Occupation: [] Elementary Teacher (PreK-5) [] Secondary Teacher (6-12)
[] District/School Administrator [] College/University Instructor
[] Retired Educator [] Full Time College Student
[] Consultant/Representative [] Other _____

I am a current member of: [] International Reading Association (IRA)
[] Local Reading Council _____

Referred for membership by a current FRA member? If so, please list both

Member's name _____ Member # _____

The membership year is from July 1 through June 30. Membership applications received after March 1 will become effective immediately and extend through June 30 of the following year.

Membership Type: [] Regular with electronic Florida Reading Journal (FRJ) \$30.00
[] Regular with print FRJ \$50.00
[] Retired with electronic FRJ \$20.00
[] Retired with print FRJ \$40.00

[] Full Time Student with electronic FRJ \$20.00
[] Full time Student with print FRJ \$40.00
Faculty Sponsor's Signature (Required) College/University

Make checks payable to: FRA

[] VISA [] MasterCard [] American Express Expiration Date: ___ / ___ (month / year)

Card # _____ Signature _____

JUST READ, FLORIDA! NEWS

Just Read, Florida! is very excited about their upcoming summer professional development opportunity for reading coaches, teachers, and administrators. The Just Read, Florida! 2009 Summer Professional Development will be conducted in 27 locations during the weeks of June 8 - August 10, 2009. Special emphasis will be placed on training for the new Florida Assessments for Instruction in Reading, which many districts will be implementing for the 2009-10 school year. In addition, other tracks will be offered, including:

- Kindergarten - Grade 2 Reading Academy
- Grades 3-5 Reading Academy
- Kindergarten - Grade 2 Reading Intervention Academy
- Grades 3-5 Reading Intervention Academy
- Grades 6-8 Reading Intervention Academy
- Grades 9 -12 Reading Intervention Academy
- Novice Coach Academy
- Master Coach Academy
- Reading Leadership Team Institute
- Kindergarten - Grade 5 Assessments (Master Trainer Track)
- 6-12 Assessments (Master Trainer Track)



Most of the Summer Professional Development tracks will begin at 8:30 AM on Monday and end at 4 PM on Thursday. No training will be held on Friday. Since the venues are located throughout the state, participants will be asked to drive in each day. Just Read, Florida!, in collaboration with the Florida Literacy and Reading Excellence (FLaRE) Center and *Reading First* Professional Development (RFPD), will be providing all training materials and a minimum stipend of \$50 per day for each approved participant, unless they are on contract with their district.

Registration will occur on a first-come, first-serve basis at the following web site: <http://events.verdigre.com/>. Priority registration will take place March 23-April 3, 2009, for *Reading First* schools and Differentiated Accountability Prevent II, Correct II, and Intervene schools. Registration will be open to all other schools from April 6-April 17, 2009. After registration is complete, acceptance will be prioritized based on those districts implementing the Florida Assessments for Instruction in Reading district-wide. Notification of acceptance or regret will be provided via email by May 1, 2009.

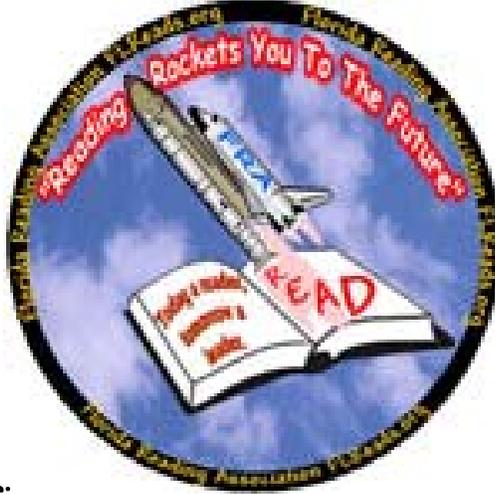
We look forward to the participation of many teachers, administrators, and reading coaches in this important professional development initiative. For information about locations or other details, please contact Cari Miller, Melinda Webster, Kevin Smith, or Laurie Lee at 850/245-0503 or at the following e-mails: cari.miller@fldoe.org, melinda.webster@fldoe.org, kevin.smith@fldoe.org, or laurie.lee@fldoe.org.

**FRA CONFERENCE NEWS!
READING ROCKETS TO YOUR FUTURE!**

Come to the conference September 10-13, 2009 at Shingle Creek Resort

FRA'S CONFERENCE 2009- Sept 10- 13

READING: ROCKETS YOU TO THE FUTURE!!!



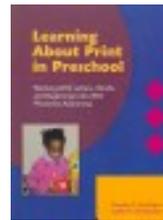
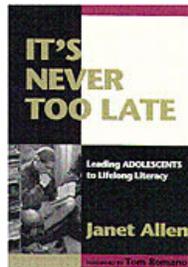
Speakers at the 2009 conference are:

Dr. Janet Allen

Dr. Dorothy Strickland

Dr. Kathy Au

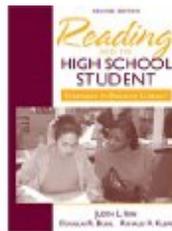
President-elect of IRA



Dr. Judith Irvin

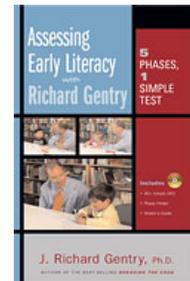
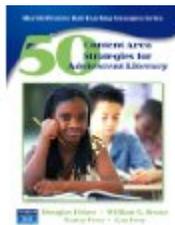
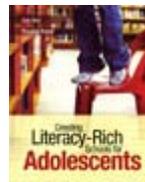
Ginny Rorby

Jerry Pallotta



Dr. Douglas Fisher

Dr. Richard Gentry



FRA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
and suggestions! From Florence Brainred

As summarized by Pam LaRiviere

March's schedule of interim meetings included House and Senate Education Committees. Florence attended Senate meetings where Reading was on the appropriations agenda. She reports:

Money is short, and Reading coaches and teachers are losing their jobs in many districts, but not in all. This year districts have 50% flexibility in reading funds, next year, it will be 100% flexibility. Moneys from the federal government that support *Just Read, Florida!* programs decreased this year and will run out next year. In Evan Lefsky's presentation, he was asked if the work of reading teachers had significant impact on the difference in the students' reading progress, as seen on test results. He said that it depended on whether or not the teachers were well trained. We all know that is true. Where Reading educators were well trained, much progress was made during the last few years. Florida is on top of the list this year for progress made in Reading.

One Senator asked a Reading teacher from Clay County what she would suggest the legislators swap out for the Reading funding. This is a serious question.

Florence made these suggestions: Perhaps the FRA members would like to contact their legislators and make suggestions. For example, (1) I would suggest the transportation budget. Go back to neighborhood schools and transport only those children who live in the country. (2) A report on the school food budget showed that only a small percent of children ate school breakfast. 30% or less eats free, and 12 percent are paying students. Could money be saved there? (3) Millions \$\$ could be saved by postponing Smaller Classrooms and Volunteer Kindergarten. These are just a few suggestions for big money savers, and probably not do-able.

Legislators are willing to listen and can use our help.

News from the Local Reading Councils

You may contact any local council through Clarkm2@duvalschools.org or access through www.FLReads.org. Click on FRA Organizations, and then click on Local Councils and Associations

District 2 – Bay
February 2009 – E. Luke
www.bay.k12.fl.us/bcra



Bay County Reading Association:

Highlights:

- Held at Gulf Coast Community College a Make -and -Take Session using selected Sunshine Books, at October meeting
- Sponsored author, Ted Scheu, (see <http://www.poetryguy.com/>) who visited schools, and presented at the council meeting
- Supported the local NIE Program contributing \$500.00 for classroom newspapers

- Contributed \$200.00 for books in a school in Honduras
- Held, on January 31, 2009, "Reading By the Bay" conference. Theme was "Reading Fiesta!"

**District 3 – Leon, Gadsden, Wakulla
February 2009 – S. Hinsley**

<http://mel25345-01.k12.fsu.edu>

Leon Country Reading Association:

Highlights:

Fall:

- *Vote for Books* Kick-off at Barnes & Noble – Large group of children and parents
 - Barnes & Noble "Book Fair" raised over \$200 in gift certificates for student prizes during year's events
- Membership Party at Silver Slipper. Sponsored by three publishers. Honored last year's Co-Presidents Debbie Warner and Dana Letson.



Winter/Spring:

- Young Authors' Writing Contest (K-12) – 400 Entries
 - Adrian Fogelin Writing Workshop for ALL participants of the Writing Contest held at the LeRoy Collins Public Library
- Big Bend Spelling Bee
- Read Across America – Updated web page with many links for teachers
- April 14 - Middle School Poetry Jam
- April 21 - Mini Conference and Banquet/Author Showcase

**District 5 – Baker, Duval, Nassau, St. Johns, Levy
February 2009 – D. N. Pedro**

duvalreadingcouncil.org

Duval County Reading Council:

Highlights:

- Participated in *The Festival of Trees* program sponsored by the Junior League of Jacksonville. Trees, representing various books, were on display at the main branch of the Jacksonville Public Library. Duval County Reading Council chose one of FRA's Children's Book Award nominees. They decorated a tree based on the book *Emma's Turtle* by Eve Bunting.
- Sponsored Hubbard House, as an annual community service project. Hubbard House is an organization that provides a safe haven for battered women and their children. The purpose of this project is to promote literacy at Hubbard House and support services provided for the children at this facility. The children who find their way into the shelter will sleep a little easier, thanks to the generosity of the Duval County Reading Council. The educators in this county responded with about 100 bags to send to boys and girls at Hubbard House. The employees there were shocked with the number of bags and delighted with their contents.
- Dr Roger Farr was guest presenter at a recent council meeting. He shared with those in attendance that if students are to improve, they need to think about what they read and explain or describe their thoughts



**District 8 – Citrus, Hernando, Pasco
February 2009 – J. Milner**

Pasco County Reading Council

Highlights:

Fall:

- September 16, general meeting held in a Middle School to support new secondary teacher members. All shared activities teachers might use to connect writing to reading while using the Sunshine State Readers, Florida Teen Readers and FRA books.
- November 19, Pearson Learning sponsored the night. Terry Mabe spoke on “Pastabilities in Writing, Reading and Math.” Members were encouraged to bring a new-looking book and be entered in a drawing. All books collected will be donated to Habitat for Humanity along with a bookshelf for a completed house.

Winter/Spring:

- Adrian Fogelin, author (see <http://www.adrianfogelin.com/>), spoke at the January Council meeting. Those who attended were able to learn how Adrian develops her characters when she writes as well as how to motivate children to write.
- Annual community event held on March 2. Members will be reading aloud to children at seven local McDonalds throughout the county and distributing a free book to each child.

**District 10 – Hillsborough, Pinellas, Polk
February 2009 – R. Sylvester**

Pinellas County Reading Council:

Highlights:

- November council members enjoyed Dr. Scott Murphy’s presentation sponsored by Pearson/Scott Foresman. He spoke on visualization techniques for math using literature that he has written. in November. Every teacher who attended received at least 2 of his books. PRC is also involved in a book drive and fund raising efforts for a women’s/children’s abuse center.
- February literacy drive, council members read stories at local sites and distributed bookmarks at local stores.

Polk County Reading Council

Highlights:

- November council members heard Becky Bone from Scholastic introduce members and guests to a plethora of k-12 nonfiction books and activities to employ in literacy instruction. Scholastic representatives surprised participants with several nonfiction books to take back to their own classrooms.
- Fill-A-Bucket a community service project - The project, held in conjunction with Polk County services, serves the needs of the homeless in Polk County during the holidays.
 - The council contributed approximately 200 books toward this project.

**District 12 – Flagler, Lake, Marion, Sumter, Volusia
February 2009 – H. Maier**

Marion County Reading Council

Highlights:

- Central Florida Community College will become a four-year college; this along with the strong community ties the Teacher Education Department has, makes this a fantastic opportunity for the future of the Marion County Reading Council projects
- Please contact Heidi Maier for further details: heidimaier@earthlink.net

Volusia County Reading Council

Highlights:

- February 17, the Council hosted a Black History Month celebration at Barnes and Noble, which included participation from local college students
- To find out more about Volusia County Reading Council and their plans for this school year, please contact President Kasey Lamb at: kmlamb@volusia.k12.fl.us

**District 13 - Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee
February 2009 - M. Callis**

Charlotte County Reading Council

Highlights:

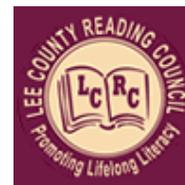
- Website: <http://www.schoolrack.com/ccrc/>
- November 14 a council meeting focusing on “Increasing Fluency with In Tune Reading” was held at the Academy at the Charlotte Technical Center

Lee County Reading Council

- Website: <http://www.leecountyreadingcouncil.com/>

Fall:

- September and October – the Board continued its strong program of Saturday Readers at the Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida and reinstated the quarterly newsletter project.
- September - event topic was “How to Build and Implement Effective Classroom Libraries” presented by Jeanette Russell and Becky Bone sponsored from Scholastic’s Library Division.
 - The event was unique as it allowed an opportunity for elementary or secondary teachers to choose which level of presentation they would like to attend.
- October - event topic was “Teaching” One Size Does Not Fit All”, a workshop on differentiating instruction, delivered by Pam Rader and Ruth Shaulis, our local Florida and Reading Excellence (FLaRE) Coordinators.
- New programs implemented by LCRC this year are:
 - “Lasting Impressions”, a program that allows a member to earn a book for their classroom library for every 300 minutes of read-alouds that teachers complete in their classrooms.
 - A scholarship program for a student pursuing their graduate degree in reading. This is a \$250 scholarship awarded to a current LRCR member who is currently carrying at least six hours per semester. The application form for this grant is available on the LCRC website, seen above.



Winter/Spring:

- February 28 – LCRC annual conference with the theme “Reading is Life’s Rainbow.”

District 14 - Broward, Miami/Dade, Upper Keys**February 2009 - V. Papier**www.dadereading.com**Dade Reading Council****Highlights:**

- **November 15** - Nanette Raska Workshop “FCAT Reading Strategies that Make a Difference.”
- **January 23** – Jane Feber, 2008 Distinguished Educator Award winner, presented a workshop on the use of fiction and nonfiction books to enhance vocabulary and to work at the application level of reading and writing.
- **February 7** - African American Read In at Southland Mall. Once again the red reading rugs were rolled out and DRC members read to children and gave away books by African American authors, illustrators, or containing African American content, as well as pencils and bookmarks. Entertainment was provided by Ms. Nancy Sale’s first grade famous singers.
- **February 21** - Melissa Forney “Primary Pizzazz Workshop.” Ms. Forney returned with a wealth of ideas to put sparkle into the language arts program. She kept teachers spellbound from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm. with her amazing hands-on activities.



Notes from Rayann Mitchell
IRA Leadership Development Associate
You may contact Rayann at readerleader@verizon.net

Ray Ann would like to touch-base with all regarding the 2009 IRA Conventions (Phoenix and Minneapolis).

Due to a reduction in our travel budgets, it was decided that only one Leadership Development Associate (LDA) would attend the Phoenix convention. As Jane already made her flight arrangements, she and Brenda facilitated the leaders' session, first timers' sessions, and CAS reception. Sarah and I wanted very much to be there with all of you who attended.

As we prepare for the upcoming convention in Minneapolis, it is our hope that you will all help us to encourage attendance in any way possible. Some ideas: link IRA to your state and local council websites, include information about the upcoming convention in your newsletters and journals, and send email reminders out to your members.

Please let me know if you have any other ideas for promoting the upcoming IRA Convention. Looking forward to seeing you all at the Council Awards, leaders' sessions, and many other events in Minneapolis.

Any support is greatly appreciated!

Leading the Way to Literacy



NEWSLETTER

AN AFFILIATE OF THE INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION VOLUME XXVI, NO. 2
Articles for the **next** FRA Newsletter should be sent to the newsletter editor:

WINTER 2009

Heidi Maier, Editor
Barry University ADSOE

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