



Mary Ann Clark

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*The Board of the Florida Reading Association extends warmest wishes for a healthy and peaceful holiday season.*

*Make friends with a book!*

*Enjoy these photos from our 44<sup>th</sup> annual conference.*



Enjoy the beginning of another year of learning!



### IN THIS ISSUE . . .

. . . A note from the editor

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**NOTE FROM THE EDITOR .....**

Hi, Everyone,

Well, here it is back to school time and we are all deeply immersed in the fall semester! By the time you receive this newsletter you will be back in school; have celebrated, my favorite holiday, Thanksgiving; and are racing toward the December break. Whew! For me, the first few days of the new school year have always been filled with the nervousness that all things new bring to the anticipation of starting over. What a wonderful gift we as educators have to begin afresh every year. Enjoy and keep up the good work! Below, please find website reviews from my Barry graduate students and other goodies.

Websites of interest:

Gerri Atkinson, Barry University Graduate student:

<http://www.readwritethink.org>

- A familiar site worth repeating
- Partnership of International Reading Association, National Council of Teachers of English, and the Marco Polo Educational Foundation resource site for teachers
- **Large** collection of lesson plans for K-12 students organized by grade levels for **easy searching**
- Student materials available online for **interactive use** or for teacher to copy
- **Links reviewed by web resource panel**
- Good source for all language arts teachers

Marcia Bedasse, Barry University Graduate student

<http://library.thinkingquest.org/2626>

- Site sponsored by the Oracle Education Foundation that links to writing site geared toward learner
- **Interesting writing links** where students can illustrate, and add endings to stories
- **Colorful and attractive** site that is appealing to users
- Free **national and international writing contests**

Kerry Emery, Barry University Graduate student

[http://www.cooper.com/alan/homonym\\_list.html](http://www.cooper.com/alan/homonym_list.html)

- Alphabetical list of homophones
- **FUN** list!
- Use with **students!**
- **Easy** to navigate

Looking forward to hearing from you! Happy Holidays to you all!

Thank you,

Joyce V. W. Warner, Editor

..... COMMITTEES .....

**SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS**

Pam LaRiviere, Chairperson

**Marilyn F. Sharp Classroom Action Research Award**

Congratulations to Shannon! With the help of a *Marilyn F. Sharp Classroom Action Research Award*, Shannon Ayrish, a second-grade teacher at DeSoto Trail Elementary in Tallahassee, will be conducting a research project this year. Shannon hopes to learn if establishing an effective classroom library based on the research of Reutzel and Fason will impact students' reading scores. Shannon will receive \$500 for her study. We look forward to Shannon's presentation on her findings at the 2007 FRA Conference.

For more information about and an application for the *Marilyn F. Sharp Classroom Action Research Award*, check our web site at [www.flreads.org](http://www.flreads.org); click on "Scholarships and Awards"; click on *Marilyn F. Sharp Classroom Action Research Award*. Please submit applications by December 31, to be reviewed at the January FRA Board Meeting.

- Submit a proposal for the Marilyn F. Sharp Classroom Action Research award. If all you need is help to implement your idea, a little bit of courage and a few hundred dollars, this award is for you! Details can be found on the application that is posted on the FRA web site, [www.FLReads.org](http://www.FLReads.org). Click on *Scholarships and Awards*. If you still need help, contact the *Newsletter* editor and she will put you in touch with a committee person who can help you.

**Children's Book award list for 2006-07**

*Over in the Ocean in a Coral Reef* by Marianne Berkes

*Catching the Moon* by Crystal Hubbard

*Dad, Jackie, and Me* by Myron Uhlberg

*Our Tree Named Steve* by Alan Zweibel

*Groundhog Gets a Say* by Pamela Curtis Swallow

*Too Many Frogs* by Sandy Asher

*Wild About Books* by Judy Sierra

*Three Silly Billies* by Margie Palatini



Action Research Award Winner Shannon Ayrish

If your school would like to be part of the award process please register on-line. All forms are available at [www.flreads.org](http://www.flreads.org). Votes can also be submitted on-line through April 15. The 2006-2007 winner will be announced on the website by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

### IRA Awards

Visit the FRA website to learn more about IRA's awards: <http://www.flreads.org/Scholarships%20&%20Awards/scholars.htm>

or

Go to the IRA's website link: <http://www.reading.org/association/awards/teachers.html>

## *CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD, 2006*



*Children's Book Award Winner Jane Monroe Donovan*

The Florida Reading Association was delighted to present Jane Monroe Donovan with the Children's Book Award at the annual conference in October 2006. Children around the state of Florida voted for their favorite picture book and they picked *Winter's Gift* from the eight nominated books.

## ..... ANNOUNCEMENTS .....

### *ADOLESCENT LITERACY AND CONTESTS*

Ellie Somers, Chair

#### **SECOND ANNUAL FRA READING POSTER CONTEST FOR 2006-07**

Students in middle and high schools in Florida are invited to create and submit a reading poster to be exhibited and judged at the Secondary Reading Council (SRC) State Conference to be held in Daytona Beach, April 2007. See <http://www.flreads.org/> FRA Annual Reading Poster Content for details. (*Deadline: April 2nd, 2007*)

**SECOND ANNUAL FRA STUDENT BOOK HOOK CONTEST FOR 2006-07**

Students in upper elementary and middle schools in Florida are invited to participate in the annual *Book Hook* contest. See <http://www.flreads.org/> FRA Annual *Book Hook* contest details. (Deadline: January 31, 2007)

<b>STUDIES AND RESEARCH</b>
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Judy Moore, Chair
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**Teachers on the Cutting Edge**

“Comprehension: Responding to Content Literacy” is the topic for next year’s *Teachers on the Cutting Edge* publication. Members of the FRA Studies and Research Committee are gathering articles and books about the topic and are reviewing them for Volume 19 of *The Cutting Edge*. The upcoming volume will follow the same content format as in the past which includes articles on applications for the classroom. **The 2007 issue, Volume 19, is scheduled for distribution to all FRA members in April 2007. If you have a “hot topic” you would like to see featured in a future *Teachers on the Cutting Edge*, please let us know. Contact any of the FRA Board members.**

.....**REQUESTS & NOTICE**.....

<b><i>Desperately Seeking</i></b>
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We are specifically seeking copies of the *Cutting Edge* issue on *Literacy Leadership*, Volume 18, published in May 2006. If you have extras, please contact Judy Moore at [moore222@earthlink.net](mailto:moore222@earthlink.net). In addition if you have extra copies of Volumes 1-4, years 1989-1992, and Volumes 7-9, years 1995-1997, please contact Judy. We are hoping to build the archives. Thank you!

.....**CONFERENCE CORNER**.....

<b><i>Upcoming Conferences for Spring 2007</i></b>
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**Two conferences coming up in the spring**

- Secondary Reading Council Conference in Daytona on April 20-21, see <http://www.flsrc.org/>
- Florida Branch of the International Dyslexia Association Conference in West Palm Beach on April 22-23, see <http://www.idafla.org>

<b><i>FRA Legislative Update from Florence Brainerd...FRA's Legislative Advocate</i></b>
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Florida will begin 2007 with a new Republican Governor, Charlie Crist. Additionally, over one-fourth of the House will be new legislators, due to either term limits (24), running for other offices (at least 7), and forced resignation (Representative Ralph Arza, House Education PreK-12 Committee Chair). The 2007 Legislative Session will again host a Republican majority in both the House and Senate.

If all goes according to plan, the leadership of the House and Senate will be Representative Marco Rubio of House District 111, and Senator Ken Pruitt of Senate District 28. At the 2007 Legislative Organizational Session on November 21, legislative members will confirm the two. The two leaders will appoint chairs of designated committees between now and the first of the year.

In reorganizing the departments of government, Charlie Crist has indicated he may keep three department heads, one being Education Commissioner John Winn. Governor Elect Crist wishes to continue Governor Bush's education legacy, therefore, little change is expected at this time.

### **2007 DOE Budget**

The Department of Education (DOE) has developed its \$26.7 billion education budget for 2007-08, an increase of about \$63 million over the 2006-07 budget. DOE will present its budget to the legislature during the 2007 Session that begins March 6.

- VPK Early Learning - \$448 million
- K-12 - \$13.6 billion
- Community College/Workforce - \$1.9 billion
- Other Education - \$665 million
- Student Financial Aid - \$572 million
- Board of Governors - \$3.9 billion
- Fixed Capital Outlay - \$5.6 billion
- Total \$26 billion

The House and Senate will formulate their own budgets during the session, and begin negotiations for a final budget. The State Budget is the one bill the legislature must pass.

### .....FRA CONFERENCE UPDATE .....

## FLORIDA READING ASSOCIATION – 44TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE – 10/19-22/06

Highlights prepared by Debra Wellman, 44<sup>th</sup> annual conference chair: Borrowing from the young, upbeat anchors of *The Daily Buzz*, a morning TV news show, syndicated nationally, but filmed in Orlando, who give the news in unique ways; Debra highlights news of the 44<sup>th</sup> FRA conference modeled from the *Buzz's* segment called, "By the Numbers." The anchor calls out a number and then explains to viewers the reason for the number. She decided this method would be a good way to highlight the key features of this year's conference. Presenting, "By the numbers" FRA style:

- 1427 = The number of people who attended the conference.
- 1078 = The number of steps from my (Debra's) room to the conference center.
- 548 = The number of people that attended the opening gala where over \$10,000 worth of mashed potatoes, Caribbean kabobs, lemonade, and ice cream were consumed.
- 350 = The estimated value of the tanzanite ring, given away in the exhibit room drawing.
- 281 = The number of people that enjoyed one of the four Book and Author luncheons.
- 120 = The number of booths in the exhibit hall.
- 117 = The number of book titles in the FRA Book Store.
- 88 = The number of concurrent sessions held each day.
- 36 = The number of people that came from another state to speak at our conference.
- 12 = The number of childrens' book authors and illustrators that gave a presentation and spent some of their time autographing their books.
- 3 = The number of International Reading Association Presidents that were General Session speakers.
- 1 = YOU !

FRA hopes to see every one of you next year September 6 – 9 at Shingle Creek Resort for the next conference. Mark your calendars, now!

As Chair of the 2006 conference, Debra Wellman sends this note: I want to thank all the board members and FRA members who volunteered to make this conference run so smoothly. Although many of our members have no idea of the sacrifices, dedication, and hard work you put into making this conference. I do and I thank you!



### Collectible Prints:

James Ransome, one of the illustrators that spoke at the luncheon, painted a picture especially for the FRA conference to fit the theme of "Take Reading to Heart!" The collectible prints were on sale at the conference and will be sold through FRA's web page until they are sold out. Five hundred copies of the prints were made. James kept 100 and the other 400 are for sale for \$25 each. These posters look amazing when framed and would be a great addition to any school.

### *FALL NEWS FROM THE LOCAL READING COUNCILS*

You may contact any local council through [shirleyJG13@aol.com](mailto:shirleyJG13@aol.com)

#### **District 1 — Okaloosa and Santa Rosa September 2006 — V. D. Yelder**

The Okaloosa County Reading Council held a "Curious George Party" on September 16, 2006 at the Holiday Inn Sunspree in Fort Walton Beach. Curious George was in attendance, and a hot breakfast was served. The council provided activity centers for teachers with reading components to add to their classrooms. Each teacher received a FREE Curious George book as well as great door prizes.

The Santa Rosa County Reading Council held its first Board Meeting on September 27 at Pea Ridge Elementary School. The purpose of the meeting was to reestablish officers for the board and discuss activities for the upcoming year. Some suggestions discussed were having Houghton Mifflin and Scholastic representatives return and ask the FLARE Coordinator to present vocabulary strategies. The council is well on its way to a roaring new year!

#### **District 3 — Leon, Gadsden, Wakulla September 2006 — S. Hinsley**

### **Membership Drive Underway**

The Gadsden County Reading Council has invited the elementary school reading coaches to join.

The Wakulla County Reading Council has established contact with Medart elementary.

# FLORIDA READING ASSOCIATION 44<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE





# FLORIDA READING ASSOCIATION 44<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE



The **Leon County Reading Council** membership drive began in August.

“Vote for Books” workshop series”planned for this year’s eight FRA nominated K-2 picture books.

- **Newsletters:** LCRC published a fall edition and is planning a spring edition. The current and past editions are in PDF format and can be viewed over the internet on our web site:

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

- Held meeting at a Leon County Heritage establishment. Refreshments were served and all materials were ready for our reps. Gave away three FRA memberships to deserving Building Reps.
- Membership Party – Capitol Building, 22<sup>nd</sup> floor September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006
- Spring Conference – April 21<sup>st</sup> at Chiles High School

**District 5 — Baker, Duval, Nassau, St. Johns  
September 2006 — D. N. Pedro**

The **Duval County Reading Council** began its year of professional development by adopting, as its theme, some words of wisdom from Florida Reading Association, “Take Reading to Heart!” As in past years, outstanding speakers and authors have been invited to give informative and engaging presentations on a variety of topics.

Adrian Fogelin was our opening presenter. She shared with us the importance of finding one’s voice and writing down one’s experiences. Ms. Fogelin guided us through the process by informing us as to how we might get our students started as well as ourselves.

Duval County has a strong base of elementary school building representatives. We are pleased to report that we now have building representatives from six middle schools as well as representation from six high schools. By our first meeting in August, 16 schools had reported 100% membership. Our goal is 2,007 members in the year 2007. In addition, nine educators became members of FRA and five individuals joined IRA.

Duval County’s Reading Council Board exceeds all standards for how a board should operate. There are 24 active members and each does their job efficiently and effectively as well as contributes willingly to group tasks. We have recently added the position of Webmaster. For more information about our Council, please visit our new website at [duvalreadingcouncil.org](http://duvalreadingcouncil.org).

\*If anyone has any contact information for these counties, please email the information to [pedrodn@hotmail.com](mailto:pedrodn@hotmail.com). All assistance is appreciated.

**District 6 — Alachua, Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy  
September 2006 — S. Gibson**

The **Alachua County Reading Council** is planning to become active in 06-07. A leadership team of five people will work together to build membership and rejuvenate ACRC. If you are interested in learning more about Alachua County Reading Council, please contact Nancy Logan at [logannl@sbac.edu](mailto:logannl@sbac.edu).

**District 8 — Citrus, Hernando, Pasco  
September 2006 — J. Milner**

The **Pasco County Reading Council** has had an exciting start to the 2006-2007 year. In September, Valerie Ellery, IRA author of *Creating Strategic Readers*, shared a variety of strategies for classroom teachers to use to instruct students in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Teachers in attendance also participated in a dessert bake off sponsored by Pearson Learning. Jeanne Paratore spoke at the October meeting and challenged educators in the area of guided reading. Scott Foresman provided dinner at the Heritage Springs Country Club. At this time the Pasco County Reading Council increased their membership from last year and currently has over 300 members.

**District 9 — Brevard, Orange, Seminole  
September 2006 — S. Gibson**

The **Brevard County Reading Council** will continue working on rebuilding this year. For additional information please contact Sheryl Finch at Brevard county public schools.

The **Orange County Reading Council** ([www.orangecountyreadingcouncil.org](http://www.orangecountyreadingcouncil.org)) is planning another productive year. They will continue participating in the Apopka Christmas parade and will hold the book and author luncheon in January, as well as their awards brunch in April. For additional information about OCRC, please contact Enrique Puig at [epuig@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:epuig@mail.ucf.edu).

The **Seminole County Reading Council** ([www.scps.k12.fl.us/src/index.html](http://www.scps.k12.fl.us/src/index.html)) will hold its membership drive this fall and plans to continue with a variety of meetings for both elementary and secondary teachers. The November meeting will feature Becky Bone who will speak on Comprehension. For information on SRC contact Taylar Clements at [Taylar\\_Clements@scps.k12.fl.us](mailto:Taylar_Clements@scps.k12.fl.us) or Analexis Kennedy at [Analexis\\_Kennedy@scps.k12.fl.us](mailto:Analexis_Kennedy@scps.k12.fl.us).

**District 10 — Hillsborough, Pinellas, Polk  
September 2006 — M. Adams**

The **Hillsborough County Reading Council** led by Liz Giles, President, began the year with a membership drive with the theme "Read...it's magic!" They are offering scholarships to the Tampa Bay Area Writing Project fall conference on Sept. 30 and the FRA conference in October to their members. Their fall dinner will be on October 19 at the Temple Terrace Golf and Country Club with two "Battle of the Books" authors, Tom Birdseye and Roland Smith. The dinner theme will be "Reading is Magical" to tie in with their membership drive. For an international project they are coordinating with a Vietnam veterans group to provide books to begin libraries in Vietnam. They have added a new board position-private school liaison.

The **Pinellas County Reading Council** led by Pat M. Jones and Alison Hubbard, co-presidents, began their year with a "Tea" for building reps to kick off their membership drive. Reps attending received a tote bag and an autographed book written by Debra Frasier. They included a Three Musketeers (One for all, all for one) to encourage PRC, FRA & IRA memberships. The membership has been asked to participate in the Hispanic American read-in in September. They are accepting applications from their membership for scholarships to attend the FRA conference in October. Their "Read to Me" baby t-shirt sales continue with donations of the t-shirts and books to five local hospitals in February. On September 30 PRC will be donating over \$900 worth of books for the libraries at the Ronald McDonald House and All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg, made possible by donations from last spring's fundraiser.

**District 12 — Volusia, Marion  
September 2006 — M. Adams**

The Volusia County Reading Council membership drives have begun in the school system. At the kick-off meeting on August 2<sup>nd</sup> for elementary and secondary teachers, there were three winners who won memberships to VCRC. Those included Sandra Grundmann, Joy Eastes, and Feryl Tyner. The membership drive continued through September 1<sup>st</sup>. A wine and cheese membership drive was held in DeLand on Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. The teachers were encouraged to bring new members. Sue Johnson, District 12 representative, spoke about the importance of FRA and IRA memberships. VCRC continues to be committed to supporting our existing projects—Bryan Center and the Book Nook Hospital Project.

The Marion County Reading Council once again has an active reading council. We will hear more from this group as the year progresses.

**District 14 — Miami/Dade, Monroe  
September 2006 — K. MacDonnell**

The Dade County Reading Council's theme for the year is "Literacy Lights the Way." There are many events planned for the upcoming academic year. For more complete information on DRC events, check out their website at [dadereading.com](http://dadereading.com). In addition to the calendar, you will find the *Dade Dispatch*, DRC's newsletter, which is now published online.

The first event of the year was the "Books With Wings Workshop." This was open to everyone. BWW is a children's book writing contest. Deadline for entry is December 20. "Books With Wings" will culminate in the spring when student books will be displayed and student authors will be honored at a conference for parents and children.

On September 16, a mini conference was held at Royal Palm Elementary. This mini conference was free to members only and featured grant writing and authors. September 27<sup>th</sup>'s event was Networking for Novices: Classroom Management, and is open to all. October 14 was the Hispanic Heritage Read In at Southland Mall.

The Upper Keys Reading Council held, on November 3, the Celebrity Reading Day event at Key Largo School. Members of the Florida Marlins will read to the students during the celebration.

**Two special requests for District Directors, Councils and Council members:**

We'd like to share your wonderful speakers and your local reading conference and workshop information in the newsletter. Please make recommendations for author speakers and provide the dates and locations of your local reading conferences.

Please send your information to the newsletter editor, Dr. Joyce Warner, at [jwarner@gate.net](mailto:jwarner@gate.net) or [jwarner@mail.barry.edu](mailto:jwarner@mail.barry.edu).

When you send in your District Director Report to the newsletter editor, please send it electronically on the report form to the newsletter editor at [jwarner@gate.net](mailto:jwarner@gate.net).

*Ideas for your teacher bag of tricks*

*Websites and Journal Articles worth previewing:*

**Fun with Vocabulary websites**

**<http://www.wolinskyweb.com/word.htm>**

Wordplay! This site keeps moving around, but it is worth hunting for. It includes links to numerous other sites and offers an acronym finder, a translator, a mnemonics page, a site called American Slang (learn to talk like the locals) and games.

**<http://www.clever.net/quinion/words/wordlinks.htm>**

Weird words. Learn why 'humdudgeon' means "an imaginary illness" and read Michael Quinion's essays on popular language (British emphasis).

Retrieved from

[http://college.hmco.com/instructors/ins\\_techtech\\_foundations\\_module\\_vocdev.html](http://college.hmco.com/instructors/ins_techtech_foundations_module_vocdev.html)  
1/25/06

**Fun with word building**

Mountain, L. (2002). Flip-a-chip to build vocabulary  
*Journal of Adolescent and Adult literacy*, 46, 62-68.

**<http://www.seussville.com/>**

Dr. Seuss page - games and more galore

**[http://www.abcteach.com/directory/fun\\_activities/crossword\\_puzzles/](http://www.abcteach.com/directory/fun_activities/crossword_puzzles/)**

Crossword puzzle generator for all grades. Samples:

- Colors
- "ing" words
- Rain Forest Animals
- Spanish Numbers

**<http://www.shelsilverstein.com/indexSite.html>**

Shel Silverstein official website for kids.

**<http://www.reading.org/Library/Retrieve.cfm?D=10.1598/RT.60.3.6&F=RT-60-3-TeachersChoices.html>**

The Reading Teacher presents:

Teachers' Choices for 2006

Five pages of great book selections

# **FRA's 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

*Shingle Creek Resort  
September 6 - 9, 2007*





FRA Membership
Post Office Box 12187
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Check Appropriate Box: [ ] New [ ] Renewal

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County \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Zip Code + 4 \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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Work Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Country \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code + 4 \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

Preferred Mailing Address: [ ] Home [ ] Work

I am a current member of: [ ] International Reading Association
[ ] Local Reading Council \_\_\_\_\_

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 \$25 [ ] Retired \$10 [ ] Full Time Student \$10
Faculty Sponsor's Signature (Required) \_\_\_\_\_ College/University \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: FRA

[ ] VISA [ ] MasterCard Expiration Date: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ (month / year)

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

FOR GIFT MEMBERSHIP ONLY:

Compliments of \_\_\_\_\_



*Leading the Way to Literacy*

AN AFFILIATE OF THE INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION	VOLUME XXVII, NO. 1	FALL 2006
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Articles for the next *FRA Newsletter* should be sent to the newsletter editor:

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**NOTE: E-mailing articles allows the editor to cut and paste your information directly into the *FRA Newsletter*.**

*FRA Newsletter*

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**Deadlines for Upcoming Issues**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Spring 2007	February 28, 2007
Summer 2007	July 1, 2007

**FLORIDA READING ASSOCIATION**  
**1037 Paddington Terrace**  
**Lake Mary, FL 32746**

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