

President's Message

I hope you are taking advantage of these cooler nights and curling up with a warm book to read. FRA's Children's Book Award has some suggestions for you to use with your class or your family. The Sunshine State books are very entertaining. I have read quite a few under the guise of encouraging students in my class to read them. ☺ The quality is great and they are fun!

Our website <http://flreads.org> has a list of books written with our sunshine state as their setting. The project is the Florida Teen Book Map Project for Adolescent Literature. You can even go there and add a few new ones to share with others.

Now that we are in 2011, I encourage you to sit and delve into a few of our FRA journal articles. Our editors carefully select these articles with you, the FRA readership in mind. Share your articles and your ideas with other teachers. We as educators must be proactive and search out solutions that positively impact our students.

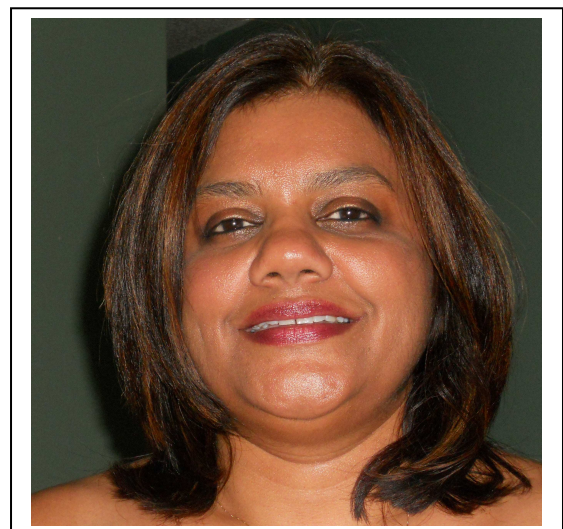
Be sure to sign up as soon as possible for our 2011 conference, "Reading.... Unlocking Hidden Treasures". At the conference there are many opportunities to hone your craft and network with other teachers from around our state.

Thank you for being dedicated to our profession. All of the people who work in education are special. We have answered a calling and we are happiest making differences in children's lives.

Sincerely

Sherida Weaver

Your FRA President



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Florida Reading Association Colleagues,

Welcome to our winter, 2011 issue. We hope this finds you all well, and happily reading! This issue contains update on our affiliates; information on membership and our 2011 Conference; and some exciting legislative news!

Please send suggestions for articles, or your own articles for the next issue by the deadline of April 1. Any questions may also be directed to me at heidimaier@earthlink.net.

With best wishes;

heidi

Dr. Heidi Maier, Editor

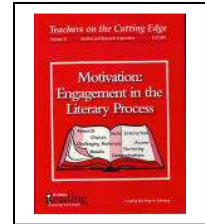


COMMITTEE NEWS

Studies and Research Committee

Artis Gray – chair

The Studies and Research Committee is currently working on articles for the next edition of *Teachers on the Cutting Edge*. The topic of this upcoming edition is *RTI: Response to Intervention*. Articles of interest from prek through grade 12 are welcome.



Anyone wishing to submit an article summary for this edition can contact Artis Gray at artisgray@comcast.net for more information and a copy of the template used for *Teachers on the Cutting Edge*. Reading professors are invited to involve their students in this writing process by including this as an assignment in the class syllabus.

Florida Reading Association's Fall Conference

“Unlocking Hidden Treasures”



FRA 49th Conference
Shingle Creek Resort
September 8-11, 2011

Membership Committee:

Margaret Adams, chair

Get ready! It's almost time to renew your Florida Reading Association (FRA) membership for the 2011-2012 year. Beginning March 1, you can log on to www.flreadsmembership.org and complete an application.

Once again, we will be awarding one lucky member a basic IRA MEMBERSHIP from those who have joined or renewed between March 1 and June 1. Also, refer a new member and get a second entry. FRA gives you the resources to "Unlock the Hidden Treasures in Reading". If you have not received your complimentary forms, please email flreadsmembership@yahoo.com.

Below is a membership form...pass it to a colleague!



FRA Membership
11909 92 Way N.,
Largo, FL 33773
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 \$60.00
[] Retired with electronic FRJ \$20.00
[] Retired with print FRJ \$50.00

[] Full Time Student with electronic FRJ \$20.00
[] Full time Student with print FRJ \$50.00
Faculty Sponsor's Signature (Required) College/University

Make checks payable to: FRA

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

Card # _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Signature _____

Regional Coordinators

The previous title of *District Director* has been replaced with the new, more comprehensive title of *Regional Coordinator*. The new title is reflective of the more encompassing responsibility of these individuals to act as the FRA liaison to specific geographical areas of Florida.

Local Reading Councils enhance the IRA/FRA experience by providing:

Connection. Joining a diverse group of professionals who share a passion for literacy, instruction, and student achievement, can expand professional relations and transform formal and informal learning opportunities.

Leadership outside classroom walls. Teaching can be an isolation career, but volunteer-led professional organization develop and grow leadership skills that can be applied to a variety of areas.

Community building for a literate future. Councils engage whole communities in literacy awareness campaigns through recognition programs, community service, and special projects.

For the Regional Coordinator for your specific area, you may directly contact any local council or access them through www.FLReads.org. Click on FRA Organizations, and then click on Local Councils and Associations. Alternately, contact the IRA Coordinator Mary Ann Clark at:

Clarkm2@duvalschools.org.

Regional Highlights:

Region 5: Denise Pedro, Coordinator

- Duval County: duvalreadingcouncil.org
Duval County Reading Council is on the move with their various events and activities. One such event was called “Sip, Snack, and Shop”. This was an evening to mingle with friends, munch on refreshments, and help fill bookcases for Ronald McDonald House and Hubbard House, a shelter for battered women and their children. Barnes & Noble was present at this event selling children's and professional books for educators to keep or donate to the Build a Bookcase project. Gift bags were also collected filled with toiletry items, word puzzles, games and, of course, a book.

This county was excited to kick-off their 2010-2011 International Service Project “Pennies for Peace”. Last year these educators realized that, by participating in this worthwhile endeavor, they made a positive impact on a global scale, one penny at a time.

Duval County Reading Council was fortunate to have Lester Laminack as a presenter. He discussed the importance of Read Alouds. Michael Opitz was also a presenter. He discussed Do-Able Differentiation as it pertains to guided reading.

This council 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 the book *Dewey, There's a Cat in the Library!* by Vicki Myron and Bret Witter. Their tree was located in the Children's Department.

It was decorated using cat collars, catnip pillows, fish bone ornaments, play mice, bows, tiny books about trucks and pigs, and a large tabby cat tree topper. The cat items were donated to the Humane

Society after the holidays. Teachers read to children at the library, participated in a scavenger hunt and made pet frame ornaments.

Duval County has a strong base of building representatives. Presently, there are 143 schools represented. At the present time, 12 schools have reported 100% membership.

- For information on Baker, Nassau, and St. Johns Counties, please contact Denise Pedro: pedrod@duvalschools.org

Region 10: Ruth Sylvester, Coordinator

- Hillsborough County
Hillsborough is an honor council of the FRA and IRA. In October, the council worked with a group of school media specialists to kick off this year's Battle of the Books at *Temple Terrace Reads*. *Temple Terrace Reads* is a literacy festival held in a suburb of Tampa. Schools and literacy organizations are invited to set up a tent or table and have book related activities to get students excited about reading. In November, our council was lucky enough to have author Michael Dahl speak at the Council's annual dinner on the research of using graphic novels to reach reluctant readers. It was a night of laughter and learning.

In December, the council sponsored a fund raiser at bookseller Barnes and Noble to help support the local Battle of the Books event. In January, we selected the Celebrate Literacy winners to be announced at our annual luncheon on Thursday, February 24, 2011. We also plan to sponsor a list of books for summer reading that will be distributed to all students in Hillsborough County as well as continue our relationship with Lewis Yard School in the Bahamas. All of these literacy related events have occurred with the passion and help of this year's board.

EMERGENT / EARLY LITERACY

According to a press release by The Children's Campaign, degreed Pre-K teacher legislation has again been filed in the Florida House.

The Children's Campaign (www.iamforkids.org) website provides the following:

“Sponsored by Representative Jeanne (D- Ft. Lauderdale) in one of his first pieces of filed legislation and long time children's champion Sen. Rich (D-Miami), HB 519 and SB 564 and will put degreed teachers in Pre-K Classrooms by 2013. The bills have been referred to committees and HB 519 is now in the House K-20 Innovation Subcommittee.

The Children's Campaign has worked tirelessly to make this legislation a reality because research shows that the quality of the teacher directly impacts the quality of the educational experience and the importance of a high quality early learning experience to future educational outcomes.”

I'll be following this very exciting piece of legislation very closely!

dr heidi

Leading the Way to Literacy



NEWSLETTER

AN AFFILIATE OF THE INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION.... VOLUME XXXI, NO. 2

WINTER 2011

Articles for the **next** *FRA Newsletter* should be sent to the newsletter editor:

Heidi Maier, Ed.D
College of Central Florida, Teacher Education

E-mail: heidimaier@earthlink.net

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 Newsletter Issues:

Issue	Deadline
Fall: October/November	October 1
Winter: January/February	January 3
Spring: April/May	April 1
Summer: August	July 1

Florida Reading Association's Fall Conference, 2011



"Unlocking Hidden Treasures"

More information for the 2011 Conference available soon
Check <http://www.flreads.org/Annual%20Conference/annual.htm> for details