

Leading the Way to Literacy An Affiliate of the International Reading Association

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXXII, NO. 4 Winter 2012/2013

President's Message

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our members for their continued support of the Florida Reading Association. Without you, we would be unable to continue to provide support to teachers and leaders across the state of Florida. I would also like to thank our passionate and action-oriented board members for their continued commitment to FRA, its members, and most importantly, the students of Florida. They continue to volunteer their time and make sacrifices to ensure FRA is Leading the Way to Literacy. I encourage all of our members and nonmembers to consider taking on a leadership role with FRA or your local reading council.

As students and the educators that serve them make final preparations for the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) and other end of year assessments, I encourage you to remain focused on your personal vision and mission for the work you do. With spring breaks just around the corner, I wish everyone a safe and restful week that rejuvenates you and your students for the last few months of the year. Take some time to reflect on all that has been accomplished this school year and all that remains to be done with the few precious months you have to support students' literacy development before summer vacation. Use these opportunities to develop students' passion for reading, writing, and learning. I hope you enjoy this issue of the FRA Newsletter.

Sincerely, Evan Lefsky, Ph.D. FRA President



Florida Reading Association Conference 2012

Dr. Andrea Rosenblatt was inducted into the FRA Hall of Fame at the 2012 Florida Reading Association's Annual Conference in October. She is remembered fondly by her colleagues for her dedicated years of service and commitment to FRA.

The Florida Reading Association honored the following at the 2012 conference:



Reading Teacher of the Year

Elementary - Cynthia Griggers, Hickory Tree Elementary School. Osceola Middle- Rowena "Dood" Wood-Griffin, Addie R. Lewis School, Okaloosa High- Carol S. Strachan, Riverview High School, Hillsborough

Reading Leader of the Year

Elementary - Sheila Lightbourne, Shalimar Elementary School, Okaloosa Middle - Sue Sparkman, Pacetti Bay Middle School, St. Johns County High- Robert J. McCue Jr., South Lake High School, Lake County

<u>The Joye Coy Shaffer Past President's Scholarship Award was given to:</u> Laura Steere, McIntosh Middle School, Sarasota County

COMMITTEE NEWS

Children's Book Award, coordinated by Jodi Vizzi and Roberta Mann

 Voting is available on the FRA website for the Children's Book Award through April 15, 2013. The winner of the 2012-2013 book award will be announced on May 1. The 2013-2014 book selections will be announced shortly after on the website.

Conference Committee, coordinated by Heidi Maier

• FRA invites you to submit a presentation proposal for our 2013 Conference. All proposals will be submitted using an online proposal form that can be accessed at http://goo.gl/fXYRM. Once you have submitted all of the information needed, you should see a confirmation message acknowledging that your information has been received.

Family Literacy, coordinated by Vicky Zygouris-Coe

 Currently, articles are submitted for the newsletter and resources for the web with links and handouts. A suggestion was made to add a Parent section to the navigation bar on our website to include information for parents about reading to a child using the CBA books. We need to make local councils aware, but we are not sure how much the information is utilized.

International Projects, coordinated by Enrique Puig

The International Projects committee is currently exploring options for a literacy project. We are considering projects in Haiti, South Africa, and other underprivileged areas. Please let us know if you have any contacts in these areas. You may contact Enrique Puig with any information on these projects.

District Directors

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 organizations 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 Ellen Supran at: **esupran@aol.com**.

Highlights from local councils:

Bay County

- The Reading Roundup kick-off breakfast was held on January 18, 2013 (teacher's record day) at Golden Corral with 178 teachers, staff, and administrators in attendance. Bay District's superintendent, Mr. Bill Husfelt, opened the event and welcomed all who were there. Elizabeth Bassford, Director of Literacy for Pearson, delivered a keynote address to the educators on Text Complexity for All Students as it relates to the Common Core State Standards. Pearson graciously funded breakfast for all attendees. In addition to the keynote address, over 65 door prizes were given away with the grand door prize being a weekend stay at a Panama City Beach Resort. Plus, there was fun and merriment with skits and songs that had a western flavor. The 29th Annual Language Arts/Reading Classic will be held on January 25, 2014, so mark your calendars now for Southern Reading!
- BCRA participated in a fundraiser in December for Bethal House, our local philanthropy; the event was organized by the Rescue Mission. Each participating organization decorated a Christmas tree which was auctioned off and the proceeds went to the Rescue Mission/Bethal House. The theme this year was "A Wonderful Life". While BCRA's Christmas tree did not place in the top 3, BCRA intends to participate again next year in the worthwhile endeavor.
- BCRA will be presenting Literacy Research Awards to a junior and a senior division student at the Three Rivers Science Fair as well as at the district level History Fair. A \$50 Books-a-Million gift card and a BCRA Certificate of Achievement will be presented to each of the junior and senior division Literacy Research winners. BCRA is glad to support Literacy in the Content Areas—across the curriculum.
- Planning is underway for the Battle of the Books Contest that tests the knowledge of 4th grade students on specific details of the books chosen from the Sunshine State Reader's list. This event will be held in the spring of 2013 at the District Media Center. Also, plans are being made to assist area public libraries with activities related to Read Across America, celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday.
- BCRA has been notified that the BCRA Council will receive the prestigious Honor Council Award from IRA for 2012!! The BCRA Council is thrilled for this recognition by IRA!!
 - For more information please contact Kathleen Fontaine at: fontakh@bay.k12.fl.us

Duval County

Programs:

- December 13 Vicki Gibson, Ph.D., is a national consultant, author, speaker, and trainer. Her latest book, Differentiated Instruction: Grouping for Success, provides research-proven effective methods for teaching and managing small- and whole-group instruction at any grade level. Dr. Gibson focused on differentiated instruction around the Common Core Standards. Macmillan/McGraw-Hill sponsored the meeting.
- January 17 Janet Allen, Ph.D., is an international consultant recognized for her literacy work with at-risk students. She has written numerous professional articles and texts related to young adult literature, teaching reading and writing, and vocabulary instruction. Dr. Allen's focus is to provide high-interest fiction & nonfiction texts to increase comprehension of students in grades 3-12. Her newest program designed for adolescent literacy is called Plugged-in to Reading. Triumph Learning will be sponsoring the meeting.

- February 21 Henry Cole has written and illustrated numerous works including Three Hens and a Peacock; Livingstone Mouse; Unspoken; Bad Boys; and A Nest for Celeste. He discussed his latest works and described the life of an author/illustrator. A selection of Henry's books was sold at the meeting.
- Our next meeting will be held on March 21 with Dr. Tahira Dupree Chase. Her presentation will be "Understand the Change... Be the Change! A Close Read on 21st Century Standards for 21st Century Learners."

Membership Strategies:

- Our Membership Director has created an email distribution list for all members and sends meeting reminders and a colorful flyer for each meeting. We have also partnered with the University of North Florida, a local university, to bring in speakers. The DCRC plans to target more community members this year (i.e., parents, business partners, organizations, etc.).
- DCRC is supporting the Clay County Reading Council as they reinstate. Their newly elected board members have met with the DCRC board and will officially begin their roles in the 2013-2014 school year. DCRC board members will continue to support the Clay County Reading Council as they build their membership and plan events for the upcoming year.

Literacy Projects:

- "Little Red Bookshelf" The Little Red Bookshelves will be placed in high traffic areas of town where children most likely will accompany their parents (grocery, hair salon, etc.). The Board has not determined the exact locations for placement. Members will donate children's books to be placed on the shelves with a message to families that the Little Red Bookshelf is a place for children to borrow, trade, and share rich children's literature.
- "Bags for Hubbard House" We collect gift bags at our December general meeting to take to Hubbard House for the children. Hubbard House is a shelter for abused women and their children. The Duval members look forward to providing gift bags with books, toiletries and other necessities for families who must leave their homes and go this haven for moms and children. The bags are distributed to children in need throughout the year.
- "Dollars for Magazines" We provide children's magazine subscriptions, such as Ranger Rick, for two agencies; Hubbard House and Ronald McDonald House. Members donate "dollars" at one or two general meetings to fund this effort.
 - For information please contact Robert Kelly at: kellyjrr@duvalschools.org

Hillsborough County

- We just completed our Winter Dinner where we had about 250 participants. We recognized our Reading Leaders of the Year and our schools with 100% membership. We were able to also give out 10 \$50 Barnes and Nobles Gift Cards to our members.
- In the next few months, we will be attending the Strawberry Reads (a new initiative in Plant City), present Literacy Awards, and provide multiple Literacy Grants to help increase classroom libraries.
- We will be conducting a classroom makeover project to assist with building a stronger classroom library.
 - For more information, please contact Jessica Hessler at: jessica.hessler@sdhc.k12.fl.us

Lee County

- November 2012 LCRC hosted Joe Curran from Achieve 3000 at PL Dunbar Middle School for an informative workshop. Attendees were very excited to learn about some additional reports that can be used to extrapolate data that will help to drive instruction.
- December 2012 LCRC hosted Trudy Johnson from National Geographic at Ray Pottorf Elementary School. Trudy was, as always, a dynamic presenter with LOTS of door prizes. She gave attendees several new ideas to use with the new Common Core Standards.
- January 2013 LCRC hosted Sheila Bolduc and Mark Simpson, two professors from Florida Gulf Coast University, for a technology workshop that was held at the Lee County Public Education Center. Attendees learned how to incorporate online book publications into the curriculum using Storybird and how to create interactive posters using Glogster.

Upcoming Events:

- March 2013 LCRC will have a booth at the Southwest Florida Reading Festival that will be held in downtown Fort Myers on March 16. This event is sponsored by the Lee County Public Library System and is a free event with something for the entire family. We are planning to have some kind of activity for the children to do at the booth. Attached is additional information about the event, along with a list of authors scheduled to participate. For more information, go to <u>www.readfest.org</u>.
- April 2013 Our end of the year banquet will be held at Olive Garden. We will celebrate the reading teachers of the year! We are currently searching for a keynote speaker. Ongoing Programs:
- Saturday Readers: This continues to be one of our strongest community service projects. Teachers that are involved in reading to the pediatric patients have intertwined other club projects with ours! One teacher got her book club involved and donated \$135 worth of books to the program. Another school had a Build a Bear community service project over the holidays and decided to give the bears to LCRC so that we could deliver them in conjunction with the reading.
- RAP Read Aloud Program We continue to try to publicize this program to get more members to participate. Members are encouraged to read aloud to their students and color in a book on the RAP form for each 15 minutes. Once the form is completed, the form is sent to our RAP Coordinator, who, in turn, sends the member an age appropriate book for their classroom library.
 - For more information, please contact Shannon Barone at: shannonmb@leeschools.net

Leon County

- Book Fair Leon County in conjunction with Barnes and Noble hosted a book fair in November that features student performances and administrator read alouds. The Book Fair was successful.
- January 10, 2013 LCRC sponsored the District-Level Scripps Spelling Bee. Forty-four elementary and middle school contestants gathered at Leon High School for a contest that lasted a record three hours and a total of twenty-rounds.
- Marilyn Sharp Membership Challenge This challenge will recognize the school with the greatest number of members (calculated as a percentage). The traveling challenge trophy will be awarded to the winner as well as two tickets for the March 2, 2013, Storybook Breakfast. The contest deadline is February 28th.

- The 2nd Annual Storybook Breakfast on March 2nd will be held at Applebee's from 8:00-10:00. Live music will be performed by Hot Tamale. There will be a story corner and door prizes. All youth writers are encouraged to attend the Young Authors Writing Conference. Children may bring their writing plans or drafts for the up-coming Young Author's Writing Contest. Local published authors will conference with children individually on their work.
- All nominations for Literacy Awards are due by April 1st.
- April 13th Poetry Jam for secondary students will be held at Florida State University Schools. There are two categories: oration of an original work and oration of a published work.
- April 30th 11th Annual Young Authors Writing Contest Awards ceremony at the Leroy Collins Library from 6:00-8:00 P.M. All submissions for the contest are due by 12:00 noon, March 14th.
- May 2nd LCRC Spring Assembly, Election, and Membership Awards at El Jalisco.
 - For more information, please contact Kathy Hall at: hallk@leonschools.net

Palm Beach County

- Our December 3rd meeting had 43 attendees. Debra Crouch presented strategies for informational reading and writing in conjunction with Okapi Publishing. Members were provided opportunities to network and share ideas with colleagues.
- April 27 April is for Authors. This event is held at Palm Beach Gardens High School from 9:00 3:00 p.m. 25 authors are planning to participate. We will be hosting the Hospitality Room for the authors.
- May 23 Installation Dinner

Literacy Projects

- ICU Care: This is a new project for us as a way to care and reach out to the community by providing toiletries and books to read for families and friends who wait for their loved ones to recover in critical care units in the hospital.
- Habitat for Humanity: A continued project where we bring a bookcase filled with books as families move into their new Habitat for Humanity homes.
- Poetry Contest: This is held in conjunction with the April is for Authors event. Students in grades K-12 are invited to submit a poem based on the theme, "Reading and Me"
 - For more information, please contact Darlene Staley at: darlene.staley@palmbeachschools.org

Pinellas County

- PRC continues offering professional development workshops for teachers. In December, Barry Moffatt of Scholastic Classrooms sponsored our first webinar on "Unlocking the Secrets of Informational Text." Attendees enjoyed free resources along with a boxed dinner from Panera Bread. Teachers were even able to participate at their school site.
- Read to Me onesies are available on the website under projects, then baby fashion. They make great gifts or look great on a teddy bear for students to read to.
- One PRC member, Cher Gauweiler, made a service-learning trip to Negril, Jamaica with preservice teachers. As an international project and to support their endeavor, the council donated funds to assist in providing uniforms to students in Negril.
- The next PD event, at Ruth Eckerd Hall, is scheduled for February 28 sponsored by Jeff Guerra of HMH. Shane Templeton will speak about vocabulary. A few members will share their

experiences from attending the FRA conference. Scholarships will be offered to attend the IRA conference in May.

- Visit the Pinellas Reading Council website at http://pinellasreadingcouncil.wetpaint.com.
 - $\circ \quad \mbox{For more information, please contact Margaret Adams at: moonchild@tampabay.rr.com.}$

Sarasota County

- The SRC held a Wine & Cheese mixer at Selby Gardens in Sarasota. http://www.selby.org/
- At this event we tried a few new things:
 - Wine tasting with an actual vineyard/winery
 - o Silent Auction
 - We had publishers present and they were generous and offered many giveaways

Upcoming Events

- April 4, 2013: Author Chat and Chew, Southside Elementary School 5:30 7:30
- April 19-22, 2013: International Reading Association Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX
- May 3-4, 2013: Poetry Life Weekend, Florida Studio Theatre
- May 2013: Cinco de Mayo Banquet and Celebration
 - For more information, please contact David Schatz at: david_schatz@sarasota.k12.fl.us

Affiliated Networks

Florida Literacy Coaches

The FLCA website is undergoing some changes to make it more user friendly and up-to-date. Please visit our newly improved website at <u>www.floridaliteracycoaches.org</u>



Also, we are in the process of organizing our Reading

Coaches Conference which is expanding to include instructional coaches in other content areas as well. The conference is scheduled for May 20, 2013 at UCF. We are scheduling excellent keynote speakers and breakout session presenters. The Institute will culminate in a panel discussion immediately followed by a networking social. Please plan on joining us for a great day centered on coaching.

Secondary Reading Council of Florida

The Secondary Reading Council of Florida (SRCFL) is working diligently this year to continue to provide outstanding professional development opportunities to educators throughout Florida. We will be hosting the 19th Annual Spring Conference at the Sanibel Harbour Marriot Resort on May 10-11, 2013. We are now accepting proposals for the conference. For additional information, please visit the SRCFL website at <u>www.srcfl.org</u>.

Reading Supervisors of Florida

The Reading Supervisors of Florida have been working diligently to support their districts in the transition to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Many supervisors have served on state level work groups focusing on the standards, formative assessment item banks, and college and career

readiness as well as investigating the changes to the ninety-minute reading block. Additionally, the elementary supervisors have been involved in the adoption of new core and intervention reading materials that are aligned to the CCSS.

We are excited to be meeting with the Florida Council of Language Arts Supervisors in May. We will be working together closely as one of the benefits of the CCSS is the "re-marriage" of reading and language arts. The two organizations are committed to working together efficiently and sharing resources in order to better support our teachers and literacy coaches and therefore impacting student achievement to a greater degree. For more information, contact Patty Adams at adams.pat@brevardschools.org.

UCF Morgridge International Reading Center

The Morgridge International Reading Center was established to be a resource for professional learning to improve the art and science of literacy acquisition and instruction. Pre-service teachers, in-service teachers, school and district administrators, parents, researchers, policymakers, non-profit organizations and others interested in the education of students can visit the Center on-line (mirc.ucf.edu) and on site to investigate and share successful instructional practices for assisting students in becoming literate.



Based on many recommendations from focus groups held with various stakeholders to establish the vision and mission of the Center, the Center collects and distributes information on successful instructional practices used nationally and internationally. Grounded in the work of titans in education, the Morgridge International Reading Center serves as a conduit of information at a national and international level with the sole purpose of improving literacy acquisition and instruction in all languages. As a conduit of information the Center, free of political affiliation, provides all stakeholders the opportunity to share breakthrough research and instructional materials in the area of literacy acquisition and instruction to better serve third millennium teachers and students.

Using technology and inter-university articulation, the Center is a catalyst for relationships among major PK-20 stakeholders. The relationship building started at the state level with inter-university literacy representatives meeting to learn and share on a variety of topics from state and national policies to international research. In addition to state university representatives meeting, the Morgridge International Reading Center collaborates with a group of distinguished professors to serve as advisors to guide the evolving form and function of the Center from a university perspective. Teachers, school district personnel, and state administrators were sought as well to complete the network of professionals. The wealth of knowledge and experiences from all these stakeholders make the Center a unique, synergistic and constantly evolving enterprise that fulfills a global need for communication to improve literacy acquisition and instruction.

HOT Topics

Interactive Environmental Text

by Robert Kelly, Jr.

In my past role as a district literacy specialist, I supported many elementary schools in the large urban district where I live and work. Upon adoption of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), schools across the district, as well as the country, scrambled to learn more about these new standards, interpret the meanings, and determine ways to implement the CCSS in the classroom. Through the commotion, I heard a few disturbing "interpretations" of the CCSS made by teachers and administrators. Here are a few comments:

"I am already doing this in my classroom." "I am so glad we don't have to teach phonics now." "My principal said we don't have to use word walls anymore."

After talking with colleagues around the country, I found that these comments are not isolated to Florida. Many teachers and administrators have a variety of interpretations about literacy instruction and the elements of the CCSS.

The CCSS focuses largely on demonstrating deeper understanding of text through speaking and writing, a skill that is truly paramount. Vocabulary is another spotlighted feature of the CCSS; research supports the idea that understanding word meanings in context contributes to higher fluency and comprehension. While all of these literate behaviors are desired, they are difficult (if not impossible) to achieve without knowledge of how words work in the English language.

In February, I attended the National Reading Recovery & K-6 Classroom Literacy Conference in Columbus, Ohio. Threaded through the many excellent sessions at the conference was a common theme. Yes, you guessed correctly – the CCSS. The discussion topics varied from close reading to writing, but a session rarely ended without some attention given to "words." The message was clear. Teachers must support students in building a processing system that allows for successful word and sentence level decoding while sustaining comprehension during and after reading. This type of system requires a *balanced* approach to literacy instruction. In a time when many are throwing out the baby with the bathwater, an optional perspective to word study is needed, especially in the intermediate classroom. We must acknowledge that low-progress readers need instruction that incorporates word solving strategic actions, not just comprehension skills found on the FCAT. In order to think about and discuss grade level text and above, students must be able to access the words first.

One approach to promoting students' attention to words that supports an efficient processing system is to create authentic interactive environmental text in the classroom. Taking root in the primary word wall, interactive environmental text allows students to acquire words/word parts and solidify word use through three learning orientations: visual, auditory, and kinesthetic. By using words and phrases that students hear through read alouds, discover while independently reading, or create in writing or literacy activities, teachers can construct a more meaningful interactive text experience. When paired with explicit instruction around word work, interactive environmental text can support students in successfully processing more complex text, which is a desired objective outlined in the CCSS.

Below are photographs from an intermediate classroom that demonstrate the use of interactive environmental text.



These are just a few ideas that promote word awareness and interest in the classroom. Remember, the words used above were taught and explored with teacher guidance before being placed on the classroom wall.

As you work toward implementing the CCSS in your classroom, be a savvy consumer of the information floating about in the name of Common Core. Question and analyze your current instructional practices closely and compare each to the demand of the Standards, determining which practices to sustain, which to adjust, and which to abandon grounded in students' strengths and needs. We can decide now to make this transition to the CCSS an experience that will transform our students for career, college, and citizenship— the future.

Robert Kelly, Jr. teaches 4th grade at John Love Elementary in Jacksonville, FL. Please e-mail any questions or comments to <u>kellyjrr@duvalschools.org</u>.



The Common Core State Standards and Instruction in K-12 Grades



Join us for a day of professional development, fun, and learning that will focus on celebrating literacy and learning more about: The Common Core State Standards and Instruction in K-12 Grades, quality reading instruction, literacy in the disciplines, reading and writing, vocabulary and comprehension, coaching, literature, assessment, literacy leadership, and technology for students in grades K-12.



Date:	Friday, April 5, 2013
Time:	8:00 AM to 3:30 PM
Location:	The UCF College of Education (Gymnasium) (http://map.ucf.edu)
Register:	8:00 AM to 8:30 AM in the Education Complex Gymnasium
	OR Online at: http://education.ucf.edu/litsymposium/register.cfm

Join us on April 5th

for a day of

learning and fun!

FREE Admission for

ALL Educators!

Keynote Speakers



Timothy Shanahan

Timothy Shanahan is Professor of Urban Education at the University of Illinois at Chicago where he is Director of the UIC Center for Literacy and past president of the International Reading Association. He was director of reading for the Chicago Public Schools, serving 437,000 children, and has authored or edited about 200 publications including the books, Developing Literacy in Second-Language Learners, Teachers Thinking—Teachers Knowing, Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Literacy, Reading and Writing Together, and Understanding Research in Reading and Writing.

Symposium Topics:

- * Common Core State Standards in Grades K-12
- * Quality Reading Instruction
- * Literacy Development
- * Disciplinary Literacy
- * Vocabulary and Comprehension
- * Working with ESOL/ELLs
- * Assessment
- * Response to Intervention
- * Technology
- * Literacy/Instructional Coaching
- * Literacy Leadership
- * College, Career, and Workforce Readiness

Sponsors

- * Toni Jennings Exceptional Education Institute, UCF's Academy for
- Teaching, Learning and Leadership (http://academy.ucf.edu/)
- * The Morgridge International Reading Center at UCF, College of Education (http://education.ucf.edu/mirc/)
- * Brake Educational Media, Inc. (http://brakeeducational.com/)

If you have additional questions please contact Ms. Jasmin Alvarez, Event Assistant (jasmin_alvarez@knights.ucf.edu) or Vicky Zygouris-Coe, Ph.D., Symposium Organizer (Vassiliki Zygouris-Coe@ucf.edu).



Join or renew today!

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Referred for m	nembership	by a current FRA member?	If so, please list both		
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Make checks payable to: **FRA** □VISA □ MasterCard □American Express Expiration Date: ___ / ___ (month / year)

Card # _____ - _____ - _____ Signature ______



NEWSLETTER

Leading the Way to Literacy

An affiliate of the International Reading Association.VOLUME XXXII, NO. 4WINTEArticles for the next FRA Newsletter should be sent to the newsletter editor:

WINTER 2012/2013

Robert Kelly, Jr. Duval County Public Schools, John Love Elementary

E-mail: kellyjrr@duvalschools.org

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

FRA Newsletter

Published by the Florida Reading Association, an affiliate of the International Reading Association

Deadlines for Upcoming Newsletter Issues:

Issue Spring: April/May **Deadline** April 10