

FRA Newsletter



Leading the Way to Literacy

AN AFFILIATE OF THE INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION

VOLUME XXV, NO. 2

SUMMER, 2004

President, Janey Adams, Reports on the IRA Conference And FRA's Leadership Conference

The opening ceremony at the International Reading Association's (IRA) Annual Conference is usually impressive. This year, it was especially rejuvenating, as the IRA staff and board members were presented carrying the United States Flag. As I watched the procession with goose bumps forming on my body, I was quite proud to be an American and a member of IRA!

President Leslie Mandel Morrow inspired all in attendance with her proactive leadership by "taking us to the table in Washington, DC." What a proud day for all educators as the Nevada Governor, Kenny C. Guinn, a former educator, spoke from his heart about children. Not to be outdone, James E. McGreevey, New Jersey's Governor, spoke to us via tape about IRA, children, and education. This was a wonderful beginning to a very impressive conference.

All of us waited with bated breath as Henry Winkler, "The Fonz," joined us to share his educational story of learning to cope with dyslexia. What a wonderful example to share with children and parents. He is truly a delightful speaker, one who can hold you in the palm of his hand and touch your heart. If you were unable to attend this year, please mark your calendar for 2005 IRA Annual Conference in San Antonio in May.

FRA President, Janey Adams

As I pondered IRA, FRA's Leadership in May came to mind. Shirley Gibson, IRA Coordinator, put together another wonderful Leadership for us. She and her team insisted that we all be "cowhands" dressed in denim and boots. If you forgot your own hat, Peggy Harris had an ample supply for all of us. The speakers were great, and the fellowship was beyond compare. Coming soon is Roma Carlisle's "Reading Roundup" Conference at the Wyndham in Orlando, October 14-17, 2004. Please join us there!

In this issue...

~ Application for the 2004 FRA Conference

~ Legislative Update

~ Pictures from FRA Leadership

~ Local Council News

FRA's May Leadership Conference Served to Energize Local Council Leaders for 2004-2005

FRA held its annual Leadership Conference Saturday, May 15, 2004 at the Hawthorn Suites Hotel in Orlando. The theme for the day was **"Saddle Up For Leadership,"** tying into the theme of FRA's Annual Conference, **"Reading Roundup."** Along with sessions and roundtables, participants had time to network with other reading leaders and to work on plans for 2004-2005, especially during a one-hour time slot that was set aside for councils to plan.

Topics for this one-day event ranged from ideas to help councils improve services to their members to sessions for professional development. In keeping with the theme, participants dressed in western attire, wearing cowboy hats, scarves, and shiny sheriff's badges. Local councils showed their creativity by making centerpieces with a "western" or a "cowboy" theme that later were given away as door prizes. Local councils were also asked to bring items they would like to share—anything from a display board to a scrapbook to copies of brochures, newsletters, or membership applications. Additionally, some councils offered items "for sale"

in a special area set aside for this purpose. FRA showcased their publications that included the *FRA Newsletter*, the *Florida Reading Quarterly*, and the research publication, *Teachers on the Cutting Edge*.

Those arriving Friday evening were invited to attend the FRA Board meeting, while the programs for Leadership began Saturday morning with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and the opening session at 8:00 a.m., led by Kay Hayes of IRA. Lunch was provided, and the day concluded at 3:00 p.m. when councils received recognition, awards, and door prizes. Fifteen councils received FRA Honor Council recognition. Participants left, filled with ideas and enthusiasm.

The FRA Board, as well as the FRA Council Development committee and IRA State Coordinator, Shirley Gibson, hope that Leadership served to energize local council leaders as they begin the 2004-2005 year. For information about local councils in Florida, please contact, Shirley Gibson, 1-800-201-0418, Pin 7343 or at shirleyjg13@aol.com.

Kay Hayes leads the Opening Session for the May Leadership Conference.

Shirley Gibson and Janey Adams look at table decorations devised by local councils for Leadership.

***FRA's Children's Book Award Chairs Announce
the Eight Books Nominated for the 2004-2005 Award***

With the school year beginning soon, FRA invites those teaching Pre-K through Grade 2 to participate in FRA's annual Children's Book Award. Last year, children throughout the state cast over 100,000 votes. The book, *Bark, George* by Jules Feiffer, won by a landslide. Honor books were *Pi-Shu, the Little Panda* by John Butler and *Stand Tall, Molly Lou Mellon* by Patty Lovell.

Children's Book Award Nominees for 2004-2005 include the following:

Marsh Morning

Berkes, Marianne. (2003).

Illustrated by Robert Noreika.

Brookfield, CT: The Millbrook Press.

Boxes for Katie

Fleming, Candace.

Illustrated by Stacey Dressen-McQueen.

New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

The Man Who Walked Between the Towers

Gerstein, Mordecai.

Brookfield, CT: Roaring Brook Press.

My Hippie Grandmother

Lindbergh, Reeve. (2003)

Illustrated by Abby Carter

Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press.

How I Became a Pirate

Long, Melinda (2003)

Illustrated by David Shannon

Orlando, FL: Harcourt, Inc.

Mr. Peabody's Apples

Madonna. (2003)

Illustrated by Loren Long

New York: Callaway

The Perfect Thanksgiving

Spinelli, Eileen

Illustrated by Joann Adinolfi

New York: Henry Holt and Company

Up the Learning Tree

Vaughan, Marcia. (2003)

Illustrated by Derek Blanks

New York: Lee & Low Books.

Students participating are encouraged to read or listen to all eight of the nominees but are eligible to vote if they have heard at least five of the books. In many schools, the media specialist serves as the organizer of this program.

However, the principal, assistant principal, or a teacher may assume this responsibility. The list provides a good opportunity for teachers to use quality literature in their read aloud and literacy programs.

FRA encourages teachers to involve their schools in the Children's Book Award process. Those schools interested in participating should submit a form indicating their intention by October 30th. Book Award Co-Chairs, Debra Wellman and Ruth Lowery, will send packets of ideas and other materials to registered schools in November, 2004. Additional schools may register for the program after the due date and will be welcomed to participate, but will receive packets with "I voted" stickers and book seals on a first come, first serve basis while the supply lasts. Those attending the FRA conference will be the first to see the ideas and extensions created for use with this year's nominated books. In addition, teachers may obtain the registration and other forms online at www.FLReads.org. Registration forms must be received by December 15th. The 2004 winners will be announced on the FRA website by May 1st.

Florence Brainerd, FRA's Legislative Advocate, Reports on Issues of Concern to FRA in the 2004 Legislative Session

The 2004 Legislative Session ended as promised on Friday, April 30. The budget made its passage through both houses on the last day, as did the constitutionally required Pre-Kindergarten Program.

EDUCATION BILLS

Of the eighteen enrolled education bills listed by the Senate's Summary Report, three bills contained language FRA has been tracking: SB 354 – "Middle Grades Reform Act," SB 364 – Public K-12 Educational Instruction that includes "Remedial Help for K-3 Readers," and, HB 821 – Universal Pre-Kindergarten/Early Childhood Education.

SB 354 – Middle School Reform

The "Middle School Reform Act" contains four initiatives for improving learning for middle school students:

1. DOE will recommend a new reading curriculum for improving learning to the State Board of Education to be implemented in 2005-2006.
2. Every public middle school with fewer than 75 percent of its 6th, 7th, or 8th grade students scoring at level 3 or above on the FCAT reading test will be required to implement a new part of its school improvement plan that will focus primarily on reading. Results of the school's Rigorous Reading Requirement program will be used as part of the annual evaluation of the school's instructional personnel and administrators.
3. DOE is required to study ways to improve performance of middle school students and schools.
4. Every 6th grade student who scored below Level 3 on the FCAT reading test must have a personalized middle school success plan developed for him/her that will be in place until the student finishes 8th grade or scores at Level 3 or better on the reading FCAT.

SB 364 – Public K-12 Educational Instruction

The language for Remedial Help for K-3 Readers/Reading Deficiency was amended into this bill. The statute language adds new reading

remediation for struggling K-3 students. The bill requires several initiatives on the part of school districts. A few are

1. review the academic improvement plans of every student who may be retained because of FCAT scores. All retained students are required to receive 90 minutes of daily intensive reading instruction;
2. give specified notices to parents;
3. implement Reading Enhancement and Acceleration Development (READ) Initiative, which provides intensive instruction to all K-3 students who show a deficiency in reading.
4. implement a policy for mid-year promotion of retained students.

HB 821 – Universal Pre-Kindergarten – Early Childhood Education

The bill creates the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) Education Program within DOE, allowing parents to enroll their children in a voluntary, free three-hour-day Pre-Kindergarten program provided by the state during the year before the child is eligible for admission to kindergarten, effective school year 2005-2006. There are three program options:

1. A 540-hour Pre-Kindergarten program delivered by a child development provider that is accredited by specified accrediting organizations or that meets or exceeds Gold Seal Quality Care program standards, that has a Pre-K director credential, and that has for each class, a teacher who has at least a Child Development Associate (CDA) or equivalent credential and completes a 5-clock-hour course in emergent literacy training;
2. A 300-hour summer Pre-K program delivered by a public school that has at least one Florida certified teacher for every 10 Pre-Kindergarten students; or,
3. A 540-hour school-year Pre-K program delivered by a public school in school districts that meet class-size reduction requirements and that have sufficient educational facilities and capital outlay funds to continue reducing the class sizes in elementary school classrooms in accordance with class-size reduction requirements.

...Legislative Report continued on page 5

***FRA's Legislative Advocate, Reports on Issues
of Concern to FRA in the 2004 Legislative Session***

...Continued from Page 4

DOE is directed to adopt VPK program performance standards. Providers or public schools may select or design their own program in keeping with DOE's performance standards, including emergent literacy. The bill creates a summer Pre-K demonstration program in 10 counties during 2004. It transfers the existing school readiness system from the Florida Partnership for School Readiness to the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI). Florida Child Development Advisory Council is created within DOE to advise both the department and AWI on child development policy, including VPK and school readiness.

The Governor has signed two Education bills—SB 354, the Middle School Reform Act, and SB 364, the Public K-12 Educational Instruction. The Governor has not signed HB 821, the Early Childhood Education/Volunteer Pre-Kindergarten, because he has not received it, but has vetoed the \$7 million budget item.

BUDGET

The school districts will receive an increased funding of \$1.5 billion, or 7 percent in the \$15 billion 2004-2005 education budget. The Career Ladder Program was one of several programs not renewed in funding. Some of the funded programs are

1. Governor's Reading Programs - \$98.5 million
2. Mentoring Programs in Public Schools - \$15.5 million
3. Class Size Reduction - \$978.8 million
4. Bright Futures Scholarships - \$35.5 million increase.

Further session results can be obtained from www.myflorida.com/government.

FRA LEGISLATIVE AWARD

The 2004 FRA Legislative Award will be awarded to Lt. Governor Toni Jennings at FRA's Annual Conference in October because of her outstanding leadership as Chair of the Universal Pre-Kindergarten Council and her continued interests in reading education.

IRA Contends the Time Is Wrong to Shortchange Education

NEWARK, DELAWARE. The education budget recently approved by the U.S. Senate will leave over 15 million children living in high poverty areas without the school resources they need to overcome achievement gaps and put their futures back on track.

"The FY05 budget resolution passed by the Senate is not what we hoped to see," noted IRA Executive Director Alan Farstrup. "With an overall cut of \$9 billion discretionary dollars from the President's recommendation, it appears some lawmakers promise educational opportunities to America's neediest students, but they can't commit the funding to make it happen."

At a minimum, the reading profession hopes to see sufficient funds appropriated to fully implement No Child Left Behind. "Although we differ with the

Bush administration on a number of NCLB issues, we are fully committed to the goal of quality reading instruction for all students. This budget means that too many elementary students will still be left behind and that struggling adolescent readers will not get the full attention they need."

Farstrup expressed broader concerns "America's education system must be versatile enough to keep pace with individual needs, today's technologies, and tomorrow's new literacies. Schools cannot hope to reengineer without resources. Right now, programs are cut or constricted to offset costs in other areas. This is not a sustainable approach. At some point, the Administration and Congress will have to make a full investment in education so that the nation's children and young adults are not shortchanged." (See www.reading.org for more details.)

**FRA's Studies and Research Committee Asks Members
To Participate in Developing the *Cutting Edge***

Here's an opportunity to be published. FRA members can have a role in developing the *Cutting Edge* for next year. In the past, contributions to the *Cutting Edge* have been limited to entries prepared by the Studies and Research Committee. This year, the Committee is extending this opportunity to others in the FRA membership. Anyone who would like to be a part of this publication and have their name listed as a contributor should contact the Committee Chair listed on the FRA website. The topic for Volume 17, to be distributed next May, is Motivation/Engagement,



Work on International Projects Continues

Sherida Weaver and Karis MacDonnell, International Projects Co-Chairs, reported on their various accomplishments at the May, 2005 FRA Board meeting, including the following:

- Mailed a listening center to Trinidad.
- Purchased another barrel.
- Paid for the shipping of two barrels.
- Made arrangements for the Naples Reading Council to purchase a barrel which they will mail.
- Received a donation of chalk and other materials from Mr. And Mrs. Hogan.
- E-mailed some schools in Hillsborough County asking them to send donations to SheridaWeaver at her home or at her school.

For information about ways each council can participate in FRA's important and worthwhile International Projects, contact Weaver at sheridaw@hotmail.com or MacDonnell at Karismac@aol.com.

Remember, applications for the Marilyn F. Sharp Classroom Action Award are accepted throughout the year. However, they are reviewed only in September and January. Since summer is typically a less hectic time for most people, this is the perfect time to prepare and submit an application for the award. The grant provides up to \$500 for anyone selected to conduct classroom action research. Instructions and application forms are available on the FRA website at www.FLReads.org.

***IRA Provides Materials
to Councils
for Promotional Ads***

If councils would like IRA's camera-ready ads to use in their promotional efforts for mini-conferences or other council events, please be aware that multiple pieces of information suitable for downloading are available on IRA's website. To access these materials, log on to www.reading.org and visit "Councils and Affiliates within The Association."

Please don't hesitate to contact Sydney Rust, IRA's Sales and Distributor Manager, with any questions at 800-336-7323, Ext. 405, or email him at srust@reading.org.

Congratulations to Debra Wellman, one of FRA's Book Award Co-Chairs, who received the Hugh F. McKean Award from the 2004 senior class at Rollins College in recognition of her outstanding teaching skills!

***FRA Sponsors Awards and Grants
to Aid Local Council with Their Projects***

“CELEBRATE LITERACY” AWARD

Each school year, FRA offers a “Celebrate Literacy” Award. Local reading councils are encouraged to submit a project that has made a significant contribution toward literacy throughout its community. Monetary awards will be granted to the winning projects at the Leadership Training Session in May.

Projects may include an outstanding reading or literacy event or a project initiated by or involving the council. The council has the responsibility for establishing its criteria/standards for the project and submitting an application to the FRA by March 1st.

Project Suggestions

Although the following are some suggestions for potential projects that would be eligible for this award, councils can devise other suitable projects:

- 📖 Contributing tutoring time or books to meet the special needs of students who are at-risk, homeless, abused, hospitalized, etc.
- 📖 Conducting an adult literacy project.
- 📖 Carrying out a community project such as storytelling or read-aloud activities in a store, mall, or public library.
- 📖 Conducting a Young Authors' Conference.
- 📖 Conducting a mini/theme/drive-in conference.
- 📖 Sponsoring or assisting with participation of a school or group in a RIF project.
- 📖 Conducting a summer literacy project.

Application Criteria

Specific application criteria are available on the FRA website—www.FLReads.org. The application should be completed by **March 1st** and sent to

FRA Celebrate Literacy Award c/o Ann Bowlin;
27007 Miller Road; Dade City, FL 33525; FAX:
352-588-5356

LOCAL COUNCIL GRANTS PROGRAM

FRA is interested in recognizing the efforts of councils by awarding grants of up to \$500 to councils that collaborate with local agencies in planning and conducting projects

aimed at promoting literacy within the community. Councils should follow the guidelines for submitting an application for the FRA Local Council Grant provided on the FRA website—www.FLReads.org.

Examples of projects designed to extend literacy efforts within the community include providing tote bags with items, such as grooming needs, books, pencils, crayons, and paper, for children in homeless shelters or in sponsoring adult literacy programs. The FRA grant may be used to cover items that are directly related to carrying out the project to a **maximum amount of \$500**.

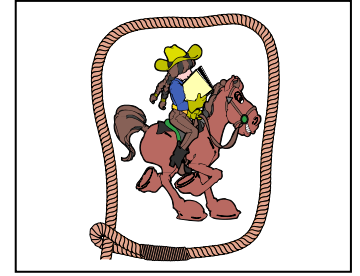
Applications will be reviewed by members of the **Administrative Committee** at scheduled FRA Board meetings in September and January. Any applications received after January will **not** be considered until the next school year—if the council chooses to resubmit. Councils will be notified regarding action taken on their application within ten days of a scheduled board meeting.

Stipulations

- 📖 Send completed applications to the **Chair of the Administrative Committee**, who is listed in the December issue of *The Florida Reading Quarterly*.
- 📖 Awards will be granted based on the availability of funds.
- 📖 A council may not receive a Local Council Grant for the same project in consecutive years. Priority will be given to councils initiating a new project.
- 📖 The grant award will be made in one payment rather than in a system of installments.
- 📖 The receiving council must submit a final report for the FRA Leadership Conference that year.
- 📖 The Councils will be encouraged to prepare a poster board display to share information at FRA Leadership Conference.
- 📖 If a council is not able to complete their project that year, the funds should be returned to FRA.



Florida Reading Association
 42nd Annual Conference
 October 14-17, 2004



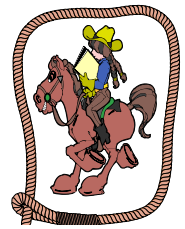
READING ROUNDUP

Wyndham Orlando Resort

8001 International Drive – Orlando, FL 32819
 (407) 351-2420 or (800) 996-3426
 Ask for the FRA room rate of \$121 plus tax.

We're rounding up leading researchers, young adult and children's authors, and reading educators. Polish your boots, dust off your hat, mark your calendar, and plan to attend. Some of our guests include:

<p>MaryEllen Vogt <i>Making Content Comprehensible for English Language Learners</i> <i>Creativity and Innovation in Content Area Teaching</i> <i>Professional Portfolio Models: Applications in Education</i></p>	<p>Camille Blachowicz <i>Teaching Vocabulary in All Classrooms</i> <i>Reading Comprehension: Strategies for Independent Learners</i></p>
<p>Sharon M. Draper <i>Teaching From the Heart</i> <i>Not Quite Burned Out But Crispy Around the Edges</i> <i>Darkness Before Dawn</i> <i>Romiette and Julio</i> <i>Double Dutch</i> <i>Tears of a Tiger</i></p>	<p>Denise Fleming <i>The Everything Book</i> <i>Buster</i> <i>Pumpkin Eye</i> <i>Mama Cat Had Three Kittens</i> <i>Time to Sleep</i> <i>In the Small, Small Pond</i> <i>Alphabet Under Construction</i></p>
<p>Cris Tovani <i>I Read It, But I Don't Get It: Comprehension Strategies for Adolescent Readers</i></p>	<p>Bruce Hale <i>The Chet Gecko Mystery Series—</i> <i>Trouble Is My Beeswax</i> <i>The Malted Falcon</i> <i>The Hamster of the Baskervilles</i></p>
<p>Carol Crane <i>S is for Sunshine</i> <i>H is for Hoosier</i></p>	<p>and Others</p>



PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE.

Last Name (for sorting)		Your <u>whole</u> name <u>exactly</u> as you wish it to appear on your badge			
Address					
City		State	County	Zip/Postal Code	Country
FRA Membership Number	Phone Numbers Home ()		Office ()	E-mail address	

SAVE BY EARLY REGISTRATION! NO REFUNDS AND NO PRE- REGISTRATION AFTER October 1, 2004	FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION		ONE DAY ONLY REGISTRATION	
	Postmarked On or Before 10/1/04	Postmarked after 10/1/04 WILL BE HELD FOR ONSITE REGISTRATION	Postmarked On or Before 10/1/04	Postmarked after 10/1/04 WILL BE HELD FOR ONSITE REGISTRATION
FRA Member (Paid after 3/1/04)	\$50	\$65	\$35	\$50
FRA Member (Includes FRA Membership 7/1-6/30)	\$65	\$80	\$50	\$65
FRA Student Member (Paid after 3/1/04)	\$20	\$35	\$15	\$25
Student Non-Member (Includes FRA Student Membership 7/1-6/30)	\$28	\$43	\$23	\$28

INSTITUTES ARE \$20 EACH. CIRCLE YOUR PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTES—October 14, 2004

You must be registered for the conference to attend the Institutes.

12:00-2:45	Fee	3:00-5:45	Fee
1. Building Bridges Between the Art of Learning and the Fun of Vocabulary <i>Linda Marshall, Kim Stansell, & Catherine Tedesco</i>	\$20	6. Intriguing, Inspiring, and Innovative Responses to Reading <i>Debra Wellman & Madeline Kovarik</i>	\$20
2. Meeting the Reading Challenge: The Orange County Reading Initiative <i>Penny L. Jadwin</i>	\$20	7. Literacy Learning in a Brain Compatible Classroom <i>Susan R. French & Jean O'Quinn</i>	\$20
3. Power Reading for All Students (fluency) <i>Joyce Muller</i>	\$20	8. Guiding Your Struggling Readers to Think and Make Connections with Text <i>Lela-Ann Carroll</i>	\$20
4. Comprehension for All Students <i>Susan K. Candaci</i>	\$20	9. Running Records <i>Mary Ann Clark</i>	\$20
5. Improving FCAT Scores of All Readers: Focus on Comprehension, Vocabulary, and Expository Writing <i>Thomas H. Estes, Evelyn M. Maycumber, Jeffrey S. Weathers, & Julie J. Estes</i>	\$20	10. Rounding up Activities that Incorporate Best Practices in Phonics and Phonemic Awareness Instruction <i>Melise R. Bunker & Lisa Wexner</i>	\$20

BOOK AND AUTHOR LUNCHEONS (While tickets last)

	Fee
Friday, October 15 Denise Fleming <i>The Everything Book, Time to Sleep, Alphabet Under Construction, Buster</i>	tickets @ \$27 =
Saturday, October 16 Sharon Draper <i>Romiette and Julio, Tears of a Tiger, Double Dutch, Teaching From the Heart</i>	tickets @ \$27 =

FREEBIES: SPONSORED EVENTS	Coming?	
Thursday Evening	Yes	No
<i>Ice Cream Social</i>		
Friday Evening	Yes	No
President's Reception	Yes	No
<i>Friday Evening</i>	Yes	No
Denim, Dancing, and Dessert	Yes	No
<i>Saturday Evening</i>	Yes	No
Authors' Tales Around the Campfire	Yes	No

TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$ _____
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Make checks and purchase orders payable to: FRA Annual Conference 2004.
Each person on a purchase order must register and pay conference fees.

Mail to: FRA Annual Conference 2004 1037 Paddington Terrace Lake Mary, FL 32746 Questions? Call 1-800-201-0418 PIN 7348 or PIN 7343 _____ Assistance needed under Americans with Disabilities Act	Circle Credit Card Type: VISA MasterCard
	Account # Exp. Date
	Billing Address
	Signature

**Okaloosa Reading Council to Hold Its 2004 Conference—
"Reading Can Be 'Panda' monium"**

Okaloosa Reading Council (ORC) will hold its annual Reading Conference, entitled "**Reading Can Be 'Panda' monium,**" on October 23rd at the Emerald Coast Conference Center in Fort Walton Beach. Neighboring counties are invited to share in a day of literacy for teachers in Grades Pre-K through 12.

The Conference will feature **Dr. Carrice Cummins**, associate professor at Louisiana Tech University and co-author of *The Power of Retelling: Developmental Steps to Building Comprehension*, speaking on "Comprehension: The Impact of the Backpack." Another author speaking at the Conference will be **Carla Soffos**, a literacy coach at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and co-author of both *Scaffolding Young Writers* and *Shaping Literate Minds*. She will discuss reading, literacy corners, and writer's workshop in her presentation, "Literacy Processing System Through Balanced Literacy."

IRA to Hold Its 23rd Southeast Regional Conference in Savannah

IRA will hold its 23rd Southeast Regional Conference in Savannah, Georgia, November 7–9 at the Savannah International Trade and Convention Center on Hutchinson Island. Keynote speakers for the conference's General Sessions include IRA Vice-President, Richard Allington, and Phyllis Hunter. The Book and Author Luncheon will feature children's book author, Rosemary Wells. Other featured authors include Jerry Johns, Jan Cheripko, Mike Artell, Lester Laminack, Adrian Fogelin, Diane Shore, Margriet Ruurs, and Kate Salley Palmer. The Breakfast with the Poets will feature Brod Baggert, Gary Dulabaum, and Stephen Swinburne. For additional information or to register online, go to the IRA website, www.reading.org.

At the ORC Conference luncheon, **Adrian Fogelin**, children's book author and winner of the Sunshine State Young Readers Award, will discuss her books and her accomplishments as an author. Books by Fogelin include *Crossing Jordan*, *Anna Casey's Place in the World*, *My Brother's Hero*, and *Sister Spider Knows All*.

For information on the Conference or to submit a proposal for a presentation on one of the conference strands by the September 23rd deadline, contact Mychelle Williamson at williamsonm@mail.okaloosa.k12.fl.us.



**Welcome
to the New Editor
of the FRA Newsletter!**

**Beginning with the Fall
issue,**

Kelly Holter

**of Daytona Beach
will begin work
as the new editor.**

**Please send information
on local council or
FRA committee activities
to Kelly Holter
875 Valencia Road
South Daytona, FL 32119**

or

**E-mail information to him at
aholter@aol.com**






**FRA's Publication, *Teachers on the Cutting Edge*,
Provides Interesting Ideas for Improving Reading Fluency**

Each year, the Studies and Research Committee of FRA publishes *Teachers on the Cutting Edge*, a tool for teachers that reviews recent and seminal research on a current “hot” topic in literacy education. This year’s 16th edition, available free to members of FRA, summarizes articles on the topic of fluency and is entitled *Fluency: Development and Instruction*. Each research article reviewed discusses the importance of teaching fluency and provides both the implications and applications of the research, as well as numerous ideas for improving fluency. Below are paraphrased excerpts from two of the summaries:

Rasinski, T. (2004). Creating fluent readers. *Educational Leadership*, 61, 46-51.

This article discussed the three dimensions of reading fluency: a) accuracy in word decoding, b) automatic processing, and c) prosodic reading. It also included the Multidimensional Fluency Scale, a four-point rubric that can be used by classroom teachers. Rasinski then discussed strategies for assessing and teaching the three dimensions of reading fluency and stressed the importance of focusing on comprehension while helping students develop fluency.

Suggestions for developing reading fluency gleaned from the article include





-  assisted readings,
-  repeated readings,
-  passages read aloud to perform, such as poetry and plays,
-  modeling of expressive reading, and
-  other strategies Rasinski obtained from various articles on fluency.

Oakley, G. (2003, March). Improving oral reading fluency (and comprehension) through the creation of talking books. *Reading Online*, 6 (7). Available:

http://www.readingonline.org/articles/art_inde.asp?HREF=/articles/oakley

Oakley discusses a study that she did with 9- and 10-year old girls who created their own “electronic talking books” as a way to improve their oral reading fluency. The author explains the process for book development, reports on the software used for book construction and recording of text voices, and discusses the girls’ involvement and progress as they worked collaboratively on the projects over several weeks. She then discusses the results of pre- and post-tests given to the subjects to determine the effectiveness of the use of talking books.

The following are some of her conclusions:

-  The creation of talking books may be preferable to more traditional techniques for developing reading fluency and is a highly engaging and motivating activity for students.
-  Finished products are better when students collaborate at all stages of the project.
-  Finished products are better when students are very clear about their audience and mindful of their audience’s needs and skills.
-  Access to computer and camera equipment needs to be considered.

To read more of the summaries, obtain a copy of 16th edition of *Teachers on the Cutting Edge* from FRA’s Studies and Research Committee.

***Renew Your Enthusiasm
For Teaching!!!***

**Network with colleagues
and learn what’s new
in literacy education
at**

**FRA’s 2004 Conference
in Orlando, October 14-17!**

News from the Local Reading Councils

Santa Rosa Reading Council (SRRC) had several well-attended educational programs this year. Dr. Kathleen Heubach from the University of West Florida (UWF) enlightened the attendees about the programs available at UWF for the reading endorsement, as well as for a master's degree in reading. Sue Dyess, a Santa Rosa County Reading Recovery teacher and facilitator for the online reading course, explained how that course provides hours toward the Florida Reading Endorsement and led a discussion about the time lines and realities of using this course for this purpose. SRRC members learned that they must enroll at given dates and that the facilitator may not be a local educator. All the schools in Santa Rosa County are FLARE schools with funds to assist with inservice in reading instruction. Leah Gaal from FLARE presented an interesting program using one of its training modules for Fluency. The last program for the year was the election and installation of officers for 2004-2005 with Carolyn McLaughlin as President. In addition, Vicki Yelder, middle school reading teacher, was elected the new District Director. At this meeting, Angela Martin presented her project for getting parents involved with reading at home.

Okaloosa Reading Council (ORC) is an active council with over 200 local members. As a prize for the most ORC members, two schools, Bluewater Bay Elementary and Northwood Elementary, were awarded a visit with Steven Swinburne. He is a nature writer, doing studies about different animals and writing about them. The theme for the ORC Fall Conference was "Cheer for Reading" with 50 vendors and presenters. The hit of the year was the community project, Rudolph's Readers, with over 2,000 books collected by schools, the *Northwest Florida Daily News*, OWCC Honor Society, and local bookstores. The books were collected, sorted, then distributed by the schools

to deserving students. President-Elect Mychelle Williamson presented another program on Balanced Literacy. For a Saturday workshop, James Dean presented a program on using graphic organizers called "Thinking Caps." He demonstrated how to use these organizers with students in elementary, middle, and high school. At the last meeting of the year, Dora Farmer, a second grade teacher at Edge Elementary and a Title I and Reading Recovery teacher, received the Literacy Award for her years of work with the Literacy Project Committee, including the Rudolph's Readers Project. The installation of officers was followed by a presentation about the Fall 2004 conference, "Reading Can Be 'Panda'-monium," by President Mychelle Williamson.

Duval Reading Council (DRC) ended the year with the installation of officers for 2004-2005 at a spaghetti dinner for council members. At the installation, President Denise Prado recognized former council presidents. Dr. Jim Mittelstadt, a recently retired professor from the University of North Florida and storyteller extraordinaire, eloquently explained the reasons he chose to be a storyteller and wove his usual web of words and enchantment around his audience. DRC greatly appreciates Dr. Mittelstadt's continued support of its council.

St. Johns Reading Council (SJRC), under the leadership of Beth Upchurch and Sandra Davis, has planned an exciting year of programs and projects for 2004-005. Upchurch will continue in her position as SJRC's President. Successful events of 2003-2004 included the African-American Read-In in February, with participating teachers reading books and telling stories by African-American authors, and a book drive for a local orphanage. In addition, winners of SJRC's Young Writers' Project were honored at the Creative Writing Award Banquet.

...Continued on Pages 13 & 14

More News from Local Reading Councils

...Continued from Page 12

Leon Reading Council (LRC) completed its 2003-2004 year with an annual banquet. At the banquet, the incoming officers were introduced, Vice President Shannon Ayrish recognized those who assisted in the year long "Vote for Books" project, four individuals received recognition for their professional contributions to literacy in Leon County, Epiphany Lutheran School was awarded the revolving plaque and statue for having the largest percentage of their faculty as members of LRC for the 2003-2004 year, Maryann Cocca-Leffler showed slides and spoke to the audience of approximately 85 members, and door prizes were distributed. (Each year, the membership plaque and statue are passed on to next year's winner.) The "Vote for Books" project closed with a celebration to announce *Eposumondas* as the winner of the FRA Picture Book of the Year. Centers, with handouts from each of the previous sessions, were available to those attending. Three of ORC's new officers attended FRA's May Leadership Meeting for training. President Teresa Hollis invited the outgoing and incoming officers to a luncheon meeting on June 6 to pass on materials and culminate the year's activities.

Volusia Reading Council (VRC) held its "Celebrate Literacy Awards Banquet" at the Hilton Garden Inn in Daytona Beach on May 13th. Debbie McDaniel, President, welcomed the elementary and secondary teachers and their friends. Janey Adams, FRA President, sent greetings from FRA. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of awards. The following is a list of the award recipients:

- Distinguished Literacy Educator—District Level—Mary Diez
- Distinguished Reading Teacher—Elementary School—Shari Boswell
- Distinguished Reading Teacher—Middle School—Georgina Howard
- Distinguished Reading Teacher—High School—Harriett DeMuro
- Community-based Individual—Nancy Govoni
- Community-based Group—Education Committee of the Ormond Beach Chamber of Commerce
- School-based Group—Mainland High School Ninth Grade Reading Team: Virginia Brown, Tammy Crow, Ella Godbee, Kristin Hoffmann, Kathy Holdridge, Cynthia St. Pierre, Jennifer Zorauski, and Kerryann Purkiss.

Janey Adams presided at the installation of officers. The 2004-2005 VRC officers are as follows: President-Debbie McDaniel; President-elect-Celeste Johnson; Vice-president-Kathy Snyder; Secretary-Mary Sue Gulick; Treasurer-Yvette Best; and Membership Chairperson-Patty Phelan. A planning session for next year's program was held at Patty Phelan's home on June 11th. Much of the work had already been done, and the officers are looking forward to another great year.

Dade Reading Council (DRC) held an Awards Dinner on May 19. FRA President-Elect Roma Carlisle installed the new officers for 2004-2005. The final Board Meeting for the current year was held in mid-June at a restaurant in south Dade County. A retreat was held later in the month in order to plan for the upcoming school year.

Upper Keys Reading Council (UKRC) held a book drive and book give away in May. Book drives were held at Key Largo School and Plantation Key School. Then, UKRC members distributed approximately 400 books to children and adults in the community at two local grocery stores. The council received very positive feedback from the community for this project. In addition, members had a lot of fun doing it!

...Continued on Page 14

More News from Local Reading Councils

...Continued from Pages 12 & 13

Bay County Reading Council (BRC) wrapped up its activities for the 2003-2004 school year. At the last Board meeting of the year, it began planning its calendar of both general and board meetings for 2004-2005. Once again, BRC's drive-in mini-conference is set for the last Saturday in January. It will be Bay County's 20th annual conference and will use the theme, "A Carousel of Reading." The board also received approval from the Bay County Superintendent to have the kick-off breakfast for the conference during a January in-service day. In May, some members of BRC's board were able to attend the IRA Conference in Reno, Nevada. They were very proud that a former board member, and now adviser for our board, Sammie Garnett, was doing her first autograph session as a published author. She and Jerry Pallota wrote an alphabet book on the Navy. Sammie's husband, Bill Garnett, is one of the original Navy Seals. Also, autographing her books




was her good friend, Rudy, the winner of the first "Survivor" show on television and a former Navy Seal with her husband. At the IRA Conference, BRC (for the first time in its history) won IRA Honor Council status. BRC was thrilled that all the hard work of its members really paid off and is looking forward to another exciting year!











Sarasota Reading Council (SRC) held a Literacy Banquet with guest speaker, Dr. Garry Norris. The Laurel Nakomis's Honors Choir opened the evening, and SRC announced the winner of the Sarasota County Literacy Educator of the Year. The last event for the year was its annual poetry contest held in conjunction with Poetryworks at Barnes and Nobel. Winners from each of the participating schools read their poetry, and three overall winners were announced in the grade-level categories. SRC was pleased that almost all of its board members attended FRA's Leadership Conference in May.

IRA's Position Papers and Resolutions Are Available for Councils to Use in Advocating for Excellence in Teaching

As an advocate of excellence in the teaching of reading, IRA actively participates in the process of shaping sound public policy in education. Research-based positions on critical issues are disseminated through a series of statements, resolutions, and other publications, which are available online. Multiple copies of each position paper and resolution can either be downloaded or ordered through the Online Bookstore. Some are available free by sending a self-addressed, stamped #10 envelope to Resolutions and Board Positions at the International Reading Association. To view the full list, go to <http://www.reading.org/positions/>.

Examples of Position Statements

-  Adolescent Literacy (adopted 1999)
-  Beginning Reading Instruction (1999)
-  Family-School Partnerships (2002)

-  High-Stakes Testing (1999)
-  Integrating Literacy and Technology in the Curriculum (2001)
-  Making a Difference Means Making It Different: Honoring Children's Rights to Excellent Reading Instruction (2000)
-  Overrepresentation of Minorities in Special Education (2003)
-  Phonemic Awareness (1998)
-  Phonics (1997)
-  Role and Qualifications of the Reading Coach (2004)
-  Roles of the Reading Specialist (2000)
-  Second-Language Literacy Instruction (2001)
-  What Is Evidence-Based Reading Instruction? (2002)



Membership Application

Application Date: ___/___/___

Membership Year: July 1 to June 30 — No two-year memberships as of 7/1/93

SEND TO: FRA; 113 Kaiser Lane; Longwood, FL 32750-4109

or download an application from www.FLReads.org and e-mail it to FLReads011@aol.com

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QUESTIONS? Call the FRA Membership Secretary, (800) 201-0418, PIN 7349

Membership # _____ Check if a New Member _____ Renewing Member _____
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Telephone (Optional) _____ Circle: HOME or BUSINESS

Local Council Name _____ County where you work _____

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*All Full-time Student Memberships Require Faculty Sponsor's Signature Below:

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

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

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Issue	Deadline
Fall	September 30
Winter	January 15
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FLORIDA READING ASSOCIATION
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Put
New Nonprofit
Indicia Here

Plan to attend the 42nd Florida Reading Association Conference, October 14-17, 2004
at the Wyndham Orlando Resort on International Drive in Orlando, FL