I hope that everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday season. My time as president is flying by, and it has been a wonderful experience. I strongly encourage members to take on a leadership role at the local level and at the state level. It is rewarding and challenging. I have certainly grown professionally and personally through this experience. KSRA wouldn’t be the successful literacy organization we are a part of today without the many individuals that have given their time as leaders.

KSRA has been very busy this winter. We had an excellent conference in Hershey to celebrate 50 years of literacy leadership, with over 500 educators in attendance, and a visit from Secretary of Education, Pedro Rivera. Thank you to Aileen Hower and her committee for putting together such an outstanding educational experience. I have always left conferences feeling energized and ready to return to the classroom. This year was no different.

With so many changes and demands facing educators today, it is inspiring to see leaders come together and share their knowledge.

Many changes are in store for 2018. We are looking at completing our transformation process this year which involves name changes for local councils and at the state level. We have been working tirelessly to make sure all local councils can stay viable into the future. Councils will be guided through a transformation process of their own in order to continue to provide literacy leadership into the future. Together we will continue to make changes and see literacy and leadership move into the future. I look forward to working with all of you through this process.

Literacy Changes Lives!

Anna Landers
Anna Landers, KSRA President, opened the September meeting by welcoming the Board of Directors. The Ad Hoc and Advocacy Committees were approved. The Board approved the following people to serve on the Nominations and Elections Committee: Patti Sollenberger, Pam Brandon, Jane Helman, and Rose Cappelli.

Rose shared that the following positions were available: Regional Directors for regions two, five, and six, Secretary, and Vice President. Nominations were open until September 30. The Board approved the following people to serve on the Strategic Planning Committee: Rose Cappelli, Anna Landers, Kathy Sagl, Aileen Hower, Eric MacDonald, Ginny Williams, Michael Williams, and Jenny Gadd.

Rose updated the Board on the Strategic Plan’s tasks with a focus on promoting sustainable state, local, and special interest councils.

At the ILA Conference, KSRA earned the Distinguished Council Award, Advocacy Award, and the Award of Excellence. The awards were displayed at the KSRA conference in October. Ginny Williams, KSRA Treasurer, presented the financial report for the period ending August 31, 2017. She also presented the 2017-2018 budget. Eric MacDonald, ILA Coordinator, reviewed the annual report and updated the Board on ILA’s transformation and our affiliation with them.

Emily Reed, Director of Membership Development, shared about future email blasts to KSRA members focusing on ad hoc committees and the benefits of KSRA membership. Jane Helman, Conference and Meeting Coordinator, updated the Board on 2017 and 2018 KSRA Conference details.

SECRETARY’S DESK
Debbie Urso
KSRA Board of Directors Meeting Highlights - September 2017

Change seems consistent these days. Life seems more stressful as we adapt to all of the changes that technology and our modern world present. KSRA is no different. As our council leaders are aware, KSRA is in the midst of change. First, over the next year we will be changing our name from the Keystone State Reading Association (KSRA) to the Keystone State Literacy Association (KSLA). Second, we are working with our local council leaders to reimagine our council structure.

Why is this change happening? This change is being driven by our affiliation with the International Literacy Association (ILA). KSRA and all of our councils were chartered by the International Reading Association, which chartered councils with little thought as to organization and which, over time, had about 1400 chartered councils in the United States, while only about 600 remain.

In part due to pressures from the IRS, as IRA transitioned to ILA, the opportunity presented itself to bring some order to the chaos that had been created.

ILA’s goals in this process include

• Creating a consistent structured and aligned network
• Increased ability of councils to meet state and federal rules and regulations
• Increased successful council operation; minimize/eliminate council failure and loss of tax exempt status
• Reduced legal and financial risk for ILA

Going forward, ILA will charter only state councils and allow KSLA to charter the local councils within Pennsylvania. All councils will still be affiliated with ILA, but now locals will be affiliated to ILA through their affiliation with KSLA. And yes, our local councils can still seek and earn ILA’s coveted Honor Council Award.

How will this change things in my local council? KSRA has been working with our councils on a self-reflection process as we move to “recharter” the councils within Pennsylvania. Some of our councils are discussing the possibilities presented by working more closely together, either informally or more formally by merging together. One of the things you will notice beginning mid-2018, is that our councils will adopt new names. The names will integrate KSLA into them to create a more recognized statewide brand. We also anticipate councils adopting the KSLA logo, which may also change. Below the surface, councils will need to work with the state on financial tracking, as all IRS reporting will now be done by the state on the local’s behalf. Councils will have the opportunity to reimage and, perhaps, streamline their governance structure. We hope to have a plan in place for our council structure by the start of the summer of 2018. Councils who wish to merge will do so throughout 2018 and the first part of 2019. We are excited at the freedom we now have as a state council to work together on our council structure, including the possibility of creating new councils for areas in which we are not currently serving.

What can you do? We need every one of our members to continue to support the great work of our local councils and KSLA. Encourage colleagues to join and become a part of our important work and mission. The more members we involve, the more great things we can do together and the greater our voice will be in seeking to make Pennsylvania meet the challenges and adapt to the changes that are ahead.

Continued on Next Page...
LOCAL COUNCIL NEWS

Franklin County Reading Council
Fall Happenings
Nicole Davis

Franklin County Reading Council (FCRC) and its members were extremely busy during the fall months. On September 7th, FCRC hosted teachers for a back to school mingle at GearHouse Brewing Company in Chambersburg where teachers and their families enjoyed dinner and each other’s company.

The popular “New Books for Classroom Use” presented by Susan Berrier, Chambersburg Area School District librarian, was held on September 14th. Mrs. Berrier introduced recently published books from various genres and suggested ways to utilize the texts in the classroom in order to meet the Pennsylvania Common Core State Standards.

On October 12th, Mrs. Jennifer Dalton, intermediate ELA teacher for Chambersburg Area School District, presented a follow up to “Apps and Appetizers” from last year where she continued to share engaging technology apps to enhance classroom learning. Finally, on October 23rd, FCRC hosted a fundraiser at Panera Bread in Chambersburg to raise money to purchase new books for our summer community involvement event.

In addition, FCRC was well represented at KSRA’s 50th Literacy Conference in October. We received KSRA’s Distinguished Council award as well as the Council Leadership award. FCRC also celebrated 20 years of service to the Franklin County area! Thank you to our dedicated members for helping us achieve these goals.

Continued from Page 2

News and Information About ILA for All KSRA Members

What’s Hot and What’s Not

In January, ILA releases its annual survey results that look at what’s hot in literacy education and what survey respondents think should be hot or is important. The survey is conducted among both literacy researchers and classroom teachers. It always provides a thought-provoking insight into current trends in literacy education. More information can be found on ILA’s website.

ILA Position Statements

If you are looking for support for your literacy program or looking for research summaries that will help you in planning your literacy program, ILA position statements, called “Literacy Leadership Briefs”, might be a great place to start.

The following titles were published in 2017:

• Content Area and Disciplinary Literacy: Strategies and Frameworks
• Literacy Assessment: What Everyone Needs to Know
• The Roles of Standardized Reading Tests in Schools
• Characteristics of Culturally Sustaining and Academically Rigourous Classrooms
• Early Literacy Learning for Immigrant and Refugee Children: Parents’ Critical Roles
• Second-Language Learners’ Vocabulary and Oral Language Development
• Overcoming the Digital Divide: Four Critical Steps
• Research Advisory: Literacy Teacher Preparation

ILA Annual Conference

This year’s ILA Annual Conference and Exhibits takes place in Austin, TX, July 20-23 with preconference institutes on Friday, July 19. There are sure to be many great session speakers and workshops and I hear that Austin is an exciting place to visit. So, make plans now to attend this great professional development opportunity!

As always, we thank you for your membership in KSRA and your involvement in your local council. If you are not already, consider becoming a part of your council’s leadership team or volunteering for a KSRA committee. We need everyone to play an active role in helping us to accomplish our mission to empower educators, leaders, and the community by providing opportunities and resources to make literacy accessible for all. Together, we can make a difference in the literacy lives of students throughout Pennsylvania and beyond!
Northeastern Pennsylvania Reading Association
Donna Salva

NPRA is looking forward to spring and the events we have planned. We have a full schedule of offerings for educators, parents, and children.

Tammy Brown again will facilitate our On-Line Book Club. We have chosen the book, Igniting a Passion for Reading by Steven L. Layne for participants to read. This is a wonderful forum for members to stay current with literacy issues, interact with colleagues, and earn Act 48 credit.

We have several presentations remaining in our Professional Development Seminar Series. In March, Anne Mary Doyle and Jeannie Sluck will present Realistic Fiction for Children, and Debra Pellegrino will present Using Children's Literature to Teach for Social Justice. In April, we are beginning a new program that addresses health issues that children and teachers often face. Maureen Mahoney will present Managing Childhood Diabetes in the Classroom.

Our Making Books Come to Life Series will conclude when Ladybug Girl visits the Taylor Public Library. Ladybug Girl has been very popular with our young readers throughout the year. In addition to hearing stories about her many adventures, children and parents enjoy arts and craft activities.

We will be repeating a well-received session that we held in the fall for children. In May, Kathy Lewis will present Paw Prints to Literacy. Children are invited to Dr. PAWS Animal Hospital in Scranton to learn about the essentials of pet care, enjoy stories about animals, and tour the hospital’s facilities.

NPRA again is partnering with the University of Scranton’s Panuska College of Professional Studies to present a Writing Workshop featuring award-winning children’s authors and illustrators. We are excited to be able to offer this workshop to our members and local educators.

We are looking forward to May when we will present the Celebrate Literacy Award at our annual Spring Brunch. This is the perfect venue for us to meet a popular children’s author and to recognize those who have dedicated themselves to the promotion of literacy.

If anyone would like information on NPRA’s upcoming events, please contact Donna Salva at donnasalva@yahoo.com.

Colonial Association of Reading Educators
Julie Borden

The Colonial Association of Reading Educators have had a busy fall. After our second annual Fall Kickoff to Literacy, we rolled right into hosting our first Teacher’s As Readers Social held at Blue Mountain Winery on September 29th. We had a gathering of 20 educators attend a wine tasting and a fun book review evening. The books reviewed included some favorite fall titles that teachers brought to share. In addition Julie Borden shared two of her favorite professional books, The Book Whisperer, by Donalyn Miller and Month by Month Reading Instruction, by M. Walther and K. Phillips. These books have really help to boost what I do in my classroom, as I try to reach all the individual needs of my students.

In October we partnered with our local Barnes and Noble for their teacher appreciation events held from October 7th to 15th. The spotlight evenings included learning about all the new hot titles for the elementary and middle school classrooms. We heard from local author Jordan Sonnenblick, and a great research project presented by the faculty of ESU. Over the course of 3 nights we greeted and spoke with over 70 educators, who all share the love of spreading the joy of literacy.

In November we held our fall board meeting and had great discussion regarding the rechartering of our council and made plans as to how to move forward. We are looking forward to moving into the new phase with our new name: CARE-Literacy Council. We are busy planning our spring events. Please save the date for our Celebrate Literacy Dinner set for May 3rd, 2018 at Cedar Crest College in Allentown.

Julie Borden, CARE president, and CARE members who were in attendance at the social held at the Blue Mountain Winery on September 29th.
Lancaster-Lebanon Reading Council
Diane Donat

The Lancaster-Lebanon Reading Council had a great fall with some fun and informative events. In early November, our president, Michelle Trasborg, gave a fascinating presentation on the brain. The session focused on a history of brain research and how understanding the brain can help educators maximize learning and encourage student growth. Current research and best practices related to emotional literacy were shared as well as how educators can use PERMA to teach positive well-being.

In December we met with Persida Himmele, an LLRC member and the author of *Total Participation Techniques*. The first edition of *Total Participation Techniques* made it into the hands of more than 200,000 educators, and was translated into Chinese and Arabic. This second edition offers more techniques and more content (35% more) and provides reflections learned after years of observing teachers implement TPTs in K-12 classrooms. This edition asks and answers the questions: What matters most about Total Participation Techniques? How do we get students beyond shallow understandings? We had a cozy evening with the Dr. Himmele, where she talked about the techniques, lessons learned, and invited dialogue for further research.

December also saw members of LLRC wrapping gifts at Barnes and Noble for donations. The donations received all went towards purchasing books for children in Puerto Rico, where homes and schools were destroyed earlier this year by Hurricane Maria.

We are looking ahead to the winter: NIE judging and hosting a reception for the winners, a literacy networking meeting with local reading teachers and hearing from our March 21 guest, Michael Williams.

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South Central Reading Council
The Keystone to Reading Book Award program
Emily Reed

The Keystone to Reading Book Award program is sponsored by KSRA. It is a program in which teachers read children's books to their classrooms and children get to vote on their favorites. Children across the state are voting and the winner will receive recognition from KSRA. Three of our SCRC members, Assistant Superintendent of Northeastern York School District, Randi Payne; and Supervisor of Teacher Development, Todd McClimans, of Red Lion School District; and Joseph Albin, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment are reading the Preschool set of books to local Head Start classrooms and pre-school programs. Two sites in each area have been selected. The members will visit the centers once a month and will read a new title. The centers will be given the book at the end of the visit. At the end of the year, the centers will have received a set of 10 new children's books for their libraries.

South Central Reading Council hopes to expand this program in the future to more areas of York and Adams counties. The council feels it is important to spread the love of reading children's books.

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Capital Area Reading Council
Every Child A Super Reader
Emily Reed

After hearing Pam Allyn’s inspiring words at the 2017 KSRA Conference, the Capital Reading council held an online book study of her newest title *Every Child A Super Reader*. Teachers read and responded to the book along with responding to other's thoughts on the website thread. The book was inspiring and motivated teachers to create “super readers” in their own classrooms. Check out the discussion thread on the Capital Reading Council website. https://capitalreading.weebly.com/professional-book-blog

Capital Reading Council hopes to continue to have an online professional learning presence as it motivates teachers to become involved, read professionally, communicate with other professionals, yet be flexible with the time they are able to respond.
Transitions is a crisis center that provides advocacy, empowerment, and education to victims, survivors, families and communities to end patterns of violence and abuse. Transitions has been serving Snyder, Union and Northumberland counties since 1975.

The hour-long session, Adverse Childhood Experiences, on September 28 was hosted by the Susquehanna Valley Reading Council (SVRC) in conjunction with Susquehanna University’s PSI Beta Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi. Approximately, 75-80 educators, student teachers, administrators, preschool teachers, parents and community members attended this informative presentation.

For more information on the Susquehanna Valley Reading Council, contact Membership Chair Marcy Slaton at savethemanatee@hotmail.com. Or visit the Susquehanna Valley Reading Council’s website and Facebook page.

The Susquehanna Valley Reading Council (SVRC) in conjunction with Susquehanna University’s Kappa Delta Pi hosted an informative session on Adverse Childhood Experiences. Shown here representing SVRC are Marcia Slaton, Olivia Bodner, Gwen Bodner, President Janice Adair, Eckie Friar, Prevention Education Specialist at Transitions, and Susquehanna University.

Eckie Friar, Prevention Education Specialist at Transitions, explained that Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) can be traced back from adulthood to their roots in childhood. She noted that often the symptoms such as obesity, depression, alcoholism are treated when in reality they are the smoke instead of the fire. In many cases those are the normal responses of coping with adverse childhood experiences such as sexual or physical abuse, living with a drug addict or alcoholic, incarcerated parent, or disruptive home life, or dealing with constant insults, humiliation or degradation.

Friar emphasized that all classes are impacted by adverse childhood conditions, even in good homes! She added that “women have just as much a propensity for violence as menand most often their victim is the child who won’t or can’t protect themselves.”

Treatment is difficult. Many don’t want to get a family member into trouble. Some repress the trauma. Others are afraid it will make the situation even worse or that no one will believe them. Some don’t know where to find help.

The awareness of impact of adverse childhood experiences “softens your heart toward your students, but also their parents,” said Friar. “It is easy to point fingers at the parents.” However, she told the attendees, “My heart has softened. I look at them and see that they may might be caught up in a vicious cycle.”
The Susquehanna Valley Reading Council (SVRC) hopes that visions of reading and books dance through the heads of youngsters in the Susquehanna Valley. During the holiday season, SVRC sponsors a Books for Babes program which distributes books to young readers in an effort to spread the love of reading. Children who receive these books are those enrolled in Early Head Start, Northumberland Area Head Start, Pre K Counts, and Early Intervention Preschool Programs in Columbia, Northumberland, Montour, Snyder, and Union counties.

The purpose of the program is to encourage the families of these children to see the value of reading and books. “I am thankful that SVRC is able to provide books and reading tips for parents in the five county area during the holiday season,” Janice Adair, co-president of SVRC explains. “Literacy is very important and we want children to develop a love of reading, beginning at an early age.

Each year the children receive a different book. Richard Scarry’s nostalgic book, Postman Pig and His Busy Neighbors was selected as this year’s gift. “Books are the most precious gift a child can receive, a resource for the power of knowledge,” Chairperson for the Books for Babes Program, Angie Marcinek, stated.

Volunteers for the Book Wrapping Party gathered at St. Pius X Church on November 13. Approximately 55 volunteers including SVRC members, Susquehanna University students, and the Juliets, worked together to foster a “love of reading.”

“I look forward to this every year because it gets me in the right frame of mind for the Season of Giving,” says Michelle Teeple as she cuts wrapping paper. “It gets books into the hands of children that might get them. Books can changes lives.”

Evelyn Atwood, a Susquehanna University student agrees. “In our chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, we focus on literacy and this is a great way to extend that mission. We understand that books help children to build a foundation for success.”

Residents of Stayman Park Apartments in Shamokin Dam with assistance from Janice Egli, Activities Director, also wrapped books as part of their community involvement activities. According to Egli, this is an activity that the residents look forward to each year. Their help is an invaluable part of the Books For Babes project.

Combined the two volunteers groups wrapped and labeled approximately 800 books for the Books for Babes Project. “So it seems worth noting that not only do we touch the hearts of these children and their families, but also the hearts of all the people who help us,” Angie Marcinek observed.

SVRC is also participating in the Annual Tree Fest of Children’s Books held at the Rudy Gelnnett Memorial Library in Selinsgrove, PA from December 2-21. The library is located at 1 North High Street. Members of SVRC will decorate their tree based on the book A Very Marley Christmas. It’s a comical book about the beloved “Marley” lab who gets into Christmas mischief.

The Susquehanna Valley Reading Council (SVRC) is a local non-profit, volunteer organization. The main goals of the organization are to develop literacy, provide instructional leadership, support professional development, and advocate literacy issues. Anyone interested in making a donation to the Books For Babes project to help ensure it continues, please contact Angie Marcinek at amarcin@verizon.net.

Scan to go to the digital Link for Books for Babes:
Kay Poeth

INTERESTED IN THE LATEST HOT TOPIC ISSUES IN EDUCATION? WE HOPE YOU ATTENDED THE INFORMATIVE SESSION: “TEXT-DEPENDENT ANALYSIS (TDA) AND CLOSE READING.” THE “TEXT-DEPENDENT ANALYSIS (TDA) AND CLOSE READING” WORKSHOP WILL PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF THE TDA SKILL WHICH IS ALIGNED TO THE WRITING STANDARD FOR GRADES 3-8 AND ASSESSED ON THE PSSAs WHICH EXPECTS STUDENTS TO DRAW EVIDENCE FROM LITERARY OR INFORMATIONAL TEXTS TO SUPPORT ANALYSIS, REFLECTION, AND RESEARCH, AND APPLYING GRADE-LEVEL READING STANDARDS. CLOSE READING, ANALYSIS, AND ESSAY WRITING ARE THE FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS TAUGHT TO HELP STUDENTS BE SUCCESSFUL WITH THE TASK.

The workshop was held on Thursday, January 25 at 6:00 pm at the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU) 16 located at 90 Lawton Lane in Milton hosted by the Susquehanna Valley Reading Council. Christine Mitcheltree and Mandy Stoudt, both literacy coaches through the CSIU presented the educational session. This free 60 minute workshop is designed for teachers of Grades 1-12.

Don’t forget the new PDE Teacher Evaluation requires all PA teachers to demonstrate “participation in a professional community” and “growing and developing professionally.” SVRC helps to fulfill that requirement. Teachers received 1.0 hours credited toward their Act 48 requirements and a letter of commendation. So bring your PDE number to the meeting. Act 48 is free for all SVRC members. A $5 will be charged to non-members.

The evening also included a short meeting of the local Susquehanna Valley Reading Council. Open to all educators, administrators, parents and homeschool parents.

Kay Poeth Wins NRTA With Our Youth! Award

Kay Poeth

Not everyone has a closet full of costumes! But Kay Poeth, a retired reading specialist and Susquehanna Valley Reading Council member from Snyder County, does! Spreading the love of books and promoting literacy has been a lifelong mission for Kay. The costumes help her accomplish that purpose.

During her “Books Alive” presentations, Kay breathes life into book characters. When she dons the costume, she literally becomes the character with all of their mannerisms as she interacts with children. For many children and parents, she is Amelia Bedelia, Cat in the Hat or Elf on the Shelf. One child spotted Kay shopping at the mall and exclaimed to her grandmother, “Why, that’s Amelia Bedelia!”

“Mrs. Poeth’s enthusiasm and excitement grabs and keeps the attention of both the adults and the children in the crowd. She makes you feel as if she herself is the character she is portraying!” notes Beth A. Rowles, a second grade teacher at West Snyder Elementary.

On Monday, September 25, during the National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA) 70th Anniversary Celebration in Arlington, VA, Kay Poeth was recognized for winning second place in the national With Our Youth! awards program for her Books Alive storytelling presentations. She was nominated by the Snyder County Chapter of PASR (Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees).

Asked to come in costume to the awards celebration, Kay chose to step into the character of Amelia Bedelia. She greeted the 150 attendees from across the country, staying in character. It provided a memorable start to their conference.

According to Midd-West School District elementary librarian, Wendy Snyder, “Kay Poeth’s costumes and animated storytelling enthral children. She has a seamless way of interacting with students and incorporating them into her storytelling. Her love of literacy and passion for reading are ever-present.”

With Our Youth! is an awards program created by the NRTA: AARP’s Educator Community to celebrate and highlight the dedicated spirit of retired educators who continue to give back to youth in their communities. “During the last decade, With Our Youth!, volunteers have reached more than 1.5 million youth and contributed more than 45 million service hours in 2000+ communities. Through these efforts, children have been inspired to live a better life and reach a higher potential because a retired educator took the time to be part of their lives.”

Kay presents the Books Alive programs at local preschools, elementary schools, family nights, bookstores, local libraries, community events and homeschool groups. The children enjoy these energetic and interactive programs while being introduced to new books. Sparking the imagination, generating an interest in books, and inspiring a love for reading is the trifold effect of Kay Poeth and her “Books Alive” storytelling programs.

“Even more, this award shines an awareness on the valuable contribution of all school retirees and their impact on children when they volunteer in an after-school program, volunteer for special projects in a classroom, go on field trips, read to a preschool class, make blankets for children in need, or even babysitting their own grandchildren. They share their skills, talents, and knowledge. I encourage everyone to volunteer and continue to impact children’s lives. I proudly share my honor with all school retirees for touching the lives of children.”
This year has been a very busy time for the Luzerne County Reading Council. In September LCRC sponsored a book fair at Barnes & Noble. Judy Rittenhouse organized members to participate in the Teen Reading Festival to promote teen literacy through activities including Trivia Blast, The Super Hero Hour, and B Creative.

The Luzerne County Reading Council celebrated their 35th Anniversary with a dinner meeting at the Bear Creek Inne in October. Past Presidents were invited to share memories from their time as President of the Council. They were remembered with a special gift for their service to the organization.

A local author Arla Jane discussed her book, *Haden The Perfect Hedgehog*, could be used to teach children about diversity. Arla also explained the process she engaged to have her book published. A raffle was held with many certificates and books available as prizes.

On November 9 Laurie Ayre, LCRC’s Literacy Advocate, organized a meeting at King’s College in Wilkes-Barre to introduce undergraduate and graduate students to the benefits of becoming members of our Reading Council. King’s College Professor Laurie Sterling’s Presentation was on storytelling in literature. She utilized Salman Rushdie’s Indian fairy tale to illustrate her talk. Act 48 credits were offered to members attending the meeting.

On December 9th LCRC created gingerbread houses at the Laflin Library with over 25 children ranging in age from 4 to 12 years old. A Christmas story was read to the children and then older children volunteered to take turns reading to younger children.

Our Council provided volunteers to wrap Christmas gifts at Barnes & Noble Bookstore as a fund raiser to be used to help purchase books to start up our new Laundromat Project. We also have volunteers to read to students at local Head Start Centers beginning in January.

We had overwhelming participation and cooperation to further our goals and create relationships with members. Our Council looks forward to many more activities in the 2018 year!

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**Schuylkill County Reading Council**

**Kathy Miller**

The Schuylkill County Reading Council, celebrating its 25th year, provided a “Little Free Library” book exchange to the residents of Orwigsburg. It was installed Friday, November 24 in “Orwigsburg Bicentennial Park,” located at the corner of West Market and North Liberty Streets.

Charter # 66564 shows how popular this “Little Free Library” international movement is that promotes reading and community exchanges. The basic concept is ‘Take a Book, Return a Book’.

The Schuylkill County Reading Council funded most of the materials to create the library, but many other volunteers from community organizations contributed.

“Orwigsburg Bicentennial Park,” created in 2013 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the borough, was a collaborative project designed by members of the “Orwigsburg Bicentennial Committee.” The borough of Orwigsburg generously provided the location, preparation, and curbing for the park.

Jeff Miller, of Dave Miller & Sons, Inc., designed and built the structure. Jennifer Bowen and Steve Zimmerman, members of the “Orwigsburg Bicentennial Park” committee, assisted in the design process. To fit with the historic nature of the town and park, the library was designed in the style of Victorian architecture, complete with gable trim, fish scales and carved clapboard siding.

To add intrigue for the youngest of readers, Karen Stafford, artist with The Arts Barn, painted birds, cats & a dog peeking out the windows.

Local siblings and avid readers, Myles and Talia Broadhurst helped to fill the library, and were the first to exchange books. They are regular patrons of the Orwigsburg Public Library and were excited to use this book exchange to freshen their own personal libraries.

This library will contain books for all ages from infants to adults.
Right: Conference guest speaker; Doug Fisher is a professor at San Diego State University and the 2017-2018 International Literacy Association President. He addressed the conference on "Visible Learning for Literacy."
Stephen Swinburne, Adam Lehrhaupt, Frank Murphy, Todd McClimans, Jeff Anderson, and Paul Griffin had a lively author panel discussion.

Former KSRA Presidents

Jane Helman and Julie Wise

Front Row, from left: Sue Bechetti, Dora Tartar, Gail Gayeski, and Stephanie Romano; Back Row, from left: Bill Unger, Michael Williams, Rose Cappelli, Eric MacDonald, Jane Helman, and Sue Menser.
Recipients of the Exemplary Service Award, Joan Lengel (2016), Rosie Colbert (2015), Anna Landers, KSRA President, and Stephanie Romano (2017). This KSRA committee is chaired by Chris Kurman.

Presenters from Park Hills Elementary School, South Western School District that garnered the Exemplary Reading Program Award, chaired by Lynn Morley and Michael Williams.

Christian Trimmer, author of Simone’s New Bed; Ali Benjamin, author of The Thing About Jellyfish (Middle School); and Val Jones, author of Who Wants Broccoli, recipients of the Keystone to Reading Elementary Book Award, chaired by Rose Cappelli and Glendia Kennedy and the Keystone to Reading Secondary Book Award, chaired by Emily Reed and Aileen Hower.

Presenters

Right: Lynne Dorfman and Diane Dougherty with Jan Cheripko, authors and presenters in the exhibit hall.

Right: Music teacher, Laura Bielen, played musical arrangements with three students from the Bermudian Springs Middle School Saxophone Quartet.

Mark Weakland, presenter and author of Super Spellers: Transformed Spelling Instruction For All Learners.

Jennifer Shettel, from Millersville University, spoke on 21st Century Learners: Infusing Technology Into the Literacy Classroom.

KSRA Council Awards

Representatives from local councils that received KSRA Council Awards, chaired by Janice Adair and Sondra Jones.
KSRA Celebrating 50 Years of Literacy Leadership
The 2018 conference, Literacy’s Legacy, will be held at The Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center. KSLA returns to State College for our 51st annual conference in October. It is our hope by attending this conference you will be inspired to share your passion, ready to return to your students, your legacy.

Conference registration opens Sunday, October 28. Programs begin Monday, October 29 and end Wednesday, October 31, 2018. Ernest Morrell, Lester Laminack, Laura Robb, John Schumacher, (AKA Mr. Schu) Scholastic’s Ambassador for School Libraries, Weston Kieschnick and Olivia Van Ledtje, (Olivia the Book Whisperer), a kid believer in reading and literacy are a few of the keynote speakers who will initiate our thoughts about literacy instruction at the 2018 conference. Authors include Peter H. Reynolds, creator of The Word Collector, The Happy Dreamer, The Dot, and Ish, a New York Times bestselling author, illustrator, founder of the educational media company FableVision and an advocate for children and their creativity. Other authors and professionals such as Greg Pizzoli, Melissa Stewart, Michael Patrick O’Neill, Kim Briggs, and Pamela Tuck will also join us.

Members are working to schedule informative and engaging sessions. Leaders in reading research, authors, illustrators, digital technology experts and vendors are making plans to attend and share their expertise. This conference will feature special events and active learning experiences that will foster your integration of new techniques as you return to the classroom. The conference is approved to offer Act 45 and Act 48 hours. There are programs and activities for all interests and strands. All areas and levels of reading education will be addressed.

Program proposals for the 2018 must be submitted via Google form by April 1, 2018. Proposals must be accompanied by a current vita(e) for each presenter emailed to Michael Williams at ndguy1979@gmail.com. Confirmation of proposal receipt will be issued by May 1, 2018. The Program Chair will send a formal invitation to the person submitting a proposal that is accepted for the 2018 KSLA conference program.

KSRA’s website is updated regularly with new information.
Conference information can be found at www.ksrapa.org.
Follow us on facebook, Twitter @KeystoneReading and share your story.
Please join us for this wonderful and exciting conference.
I look forward to welcoming you at KSLA’s 2018 Conference.

Sincerely,
Kathy Sagl, 2018 Conference Chair
ksagl1153@gmail.com
HOTEL RESERVATION FORM

Reservation Information for:
KEYSTONE STATE LITERACY ASSOCIATION
FORMERLY: KEYSTONE STATE READING ASSOCIATION
Arrival/Departure Dates: October 28 - 31, 2018

All reservations must be made with the hotel on an individual basis.
Please identify yourself as a Keystone State Literacy Association conference attendee.

CUT-OFF DATE: September 28th, 2018
Please reserve your room before the cutoff date by calling The Penn Stater Conference Center and Hotel. A deposit of one night’s lodging per room is required to confirm individual reservations. A full refund will be made on an individual reservation if cancelled fourteen days prior to arrival. After 9/28/18, room reservations cannot be guaranteed.

RESERVATIONS: Call: 814-863-5000

Room Rate: $129 per room, per night

Check-in time is 4:00 p.m. - Check out time is 11:00 a.m.

These rates include overnight accommodations, and all applicable taxes.
Please note: The Penn Stater is a smoke free facility. All rooms are SMOKE-FREE.
The Pennsylvania Reading Teacher Educators (SIG) celebrated the inaugural Masters Paper Award winner on Monday, Oct. 9th at the KSRA Annual Conference in Hershey, PA. Danielle Corrao of West Chester University won the award based on her paper, “Looking into Lexiles: The Impact of and Alternatives to the Lexile Framework on Book Self-Selection in an eighth grade classroom.” The paper was well written, significant and relevant to the field and the results were clearly, logically, and adequately presented.

The organization is seeking nominees for next year’s award. See information below for specifics: To apply for the Master’s Research Paper Award Master’s research papers may include papers written to complete requirements for a Master’s or Specialist degree program, (e.g., action research, commentary, capstone paper, theoretical paper or thesis).

1. Entries should be in the form of a manuscript and should not exceed 3750 words (15 pages). Manuscripts must be typewritten and double-spaced, including quotes and references. Tables and appendices that provide essential information (e.g., instrumentation or other procedures central to the investigation) may be included. References, tables, and appendices will not be counted as a part of the total number of pages or word count.

The title page should provide the following information:
- complete title of the paper
- name of the university
- name and number of the course for which the paper was written
- date the course or paper was completed
- name, mailing address, and e-mail address of the faculty sponsor
- name, mailing address, e-mail address, KSLA membership #, and telephone number of the applicant.

An abstract of 75-150 words should provide a summary of the purpose and major findings of the study. The title of the study should appear on the abstract, but there should be no other identifying information.

2. Entries must be accompanied by a signed letter from the faculty sponsor on official letterhead indicating the course for which the paper was written and the date of completion of the course or attesting to the degree and the date of its award. Letters on electronic letterhead with a scanned signature may be emailed to Dr. Catherine McGeehan at mcgeehan@kutztown.edu.

3. Master’s or Specialist degree scholarly works completed between December 1, 2016 and June 1, 2018 will be considered. More than one master’s research paper may be submitted from a single university.

4. The applicant’s degree program can be in any discipline; however, the topic of the paper must have direct relationship to an aspect of literacy.

5. Entries should conform to the official style of the sponsoring university or the APA style guidelines for manuscript submissions.

6. An entry may be eliminated from the competition if the applicant fails to follow submission guidelines, exceeds word limits, or submits an incomplete entry. Final determination will be made by the chair of the PRTE Research Committee.

7. All entries will be judged by no fewer than two judges who are members of PRTE. The decision of the judges will be final.

E-mail master’s research paper entries to Cathy McGeehan by August 1, 2018 to mcgeehan@kutztown.edu. Send documents as PDF (preferred) or Word attachments including the title page, abstract, and manuscript. Signed letters from the faculty sponsor may be emailed to mcgeehan@kutztown.edu.
Attention All PRTE Members

Please save the date!!! PRTE will host a spring board meeting and research round table discussions at Kutztown University on Friday, April 6th from 10am-12pm. A light breakfast will be provided.
Please email mcgeehan@kutztown.edu for details.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Secondary Book Award Committee

Aileen Hower and Emily Reed

The Keystone to Reading Secondary Book Award has as its purpose to stimulate the reading of a variety of recently published books to or by students in 6th grade through 12th grade. Participants are asked to read at least four books from the level that pertains to them, middle school or high school. Teachers can participate individually, as a grade level, through the library, or as a school. We ask for commitment by completing a participation form.

Winners of the 2016-2017
Keystone to Reading
Secondary Book Award

Middle School: The Thing About Jellyfish
by Ali Benjamin
High School: Stranded
by Melinda Braun

The students vote for their favorite book in the spring through a google form submitted online at the KSRA website. For more information contact

Emily Reed at flyingicesticks@gmail.com or
Aileen Hower at aileen.hower5@gmail.com
The Keystone to Reading Elementary Book Award Committee
Emily Reed

The Keystone to Reading Book Award program is sponsored by KSRA. It is a program in which teachers read children’s books to their classrooms and children get to vote on their favorites. Children across the state are voting and the winner will receive recognition from KSRA.

Three of our SCRC members, Assistant Superintendent of Northeastern York School District, Randi Payne; Supervisor of Teacher Development, Todd McClimans, of Red Lion School District; and Joseph Albin, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment are reading the Preschool set of books to local Head Start classrooms and pre-school programs. Two sites in each area have been selected. The members will visit the centers once a month and will read a new title. The centers will be given the book at the end of the visit. At the end of the year, the centers will have received a set of 10 new children’s books for their libraries.

South Central Reading Council hopes to expand this program in the future to more areas of York and Adams counties. The council feels it is important to spread the love of reading children’s books.

The Families and Reading Committee
Debbie Urso

KSRA has proclaimed April as Families and Reading Month! The Families and Reading Committee creates and disseminates resources to educators, and ultimately families, to promote literacy opportunities in the home. Here are a few ideas of how you can promote April as Families and Reading Month:

- Visit the KSRA website prior to April to copy resources for families. You’ll find letters for teachers and families explaining the purpose of Families and Reading Month, recommended books, websites, and apps for preschool, primary, intermediate, and middle school students, calendars full of fun literacy ideas, and certificates for families who participate. The family letter and calendars are available in Spanish.
- School-wide events during April include hosting a family pajama night, coordinating a school book swap, or hosting a local author or story teller.
- During your school’s morning announcements in April, share a short message each day about a different staff member and his/her favorite childhood book. Older students could interview the staff members and write the brief.
- Create a bulletin board featuring staff members as babies or children reading with their families, or ask students to bring in photographs of them reading with their families for a bulletin board. Be sure that photos are labeled on the back so they can be returned.
- In May, award certificates to students who completed the Families and Reading Month calendars. Consider announcing the names of the students during morning announcements or displaying their names on a bulletin board that families will see when they enter the school.

Thank you in advance for promoting April as Families and Reading Month! We are eager for councils and schools to share their family literacy events and ideas on the KSRA website and Facebook page. Happy reading!
Celebrate Literacy Award

Let’s celebrate literacy!
Please nominate a leader;
Someone who is dedicated
To the raising of readers.

Let’s celebrate literacy!
Please choose someone who
Has shared the love of reading
Afresh and anew.

Let’s celebrate literacy!
Let’s cheer for a guide;
Someone whose mission
Touches lives far and wide.

The Celebrate Literacy Committee is seeking nominations for the 2018 Celebrate Literacy Award given for exemplary effort in the field of literacy. We would like you to nominate someone who is working with adults, training tutors, or assisting literacy councils. To submit a nomination, please contact Gwendolyn Bodner for nomination details and materials. Nominations will be due August 1, 2018. Let’s find someone who is being affirming, creative, and making a difference in the lives of readers in Pennsylvania. Thank you for your help!

Gwendolyn Bodner, Chair, Celebrate Literacy Committee
62 Circle View Drive, Elysburg, PA 17824
gwenbodner16@gmail.com 570-441-8073

EDITOR’S CORNER
Jennifer Depto

A smile swept over me as I read the "Celebrate Literacy Award" poem. The words resonate with each of us as we dedicate our time to enhance student learning to provide literacy opportunities in our communities and to our profession as we grow our knowledge and experiences with KSRA. The words that struck most deeply for me are dedication, mission, and touching lives. Each of us have experiences with touching the lives of our students; the smiles we create and the confidence we build in children are the rewards. Let us embrace these rewards as we journey through 2018.

This issue highlights the many events of the 50th Annual Conference, marking a half of a century of KSRA’s service in literacy to educators and our communities. It also marks a new beginning for KSLA. The 51st Annual Conference will be held this year at the Penn Stater in October.
Dear KSRA Members,

Winter is now left behind and the colors and promises of spring give us much to look forward to. As the proverb reminds us, no matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow.

We were fortunate to have good traveling weather for our January 23-24 board meeting in State College. Another aspect of our good fortune was having Barbara Tierney, Assistant Director of Government Relations for the International Reading Association as our guest speaker for our awareness session. Barb always provides the state councils with sound information. Her presentation in Response to Intervention shared key principles of the framework and lots of practical information.

We continue to explore the methods and cost-related issues to updating the KSRA Web site. One of the key areas of interest is making the site secure so memberships may be renewed and registration to future conferences will be possible electronically. Hopefully, we’ll have a conclusion to this multifaceted issue at the April board meeting. I am indebted to Eric MacDonald for his participation and expertise in this endeavor. I do not know what I would have done without his valuable input.

The current economic crisis. Publishers of school text books and other materials have been hit hard as well. Schools are not purchasing published materials in order to cut their costs and, therefore, the publishers have also had to abide by budget constraints. Sponsorship of speakers for conferences at the national, unwilling to sponsor speakers, but that the permission to do so is becoming increasingly more regulated by their superiors. Publishers’ representatives who routinely exhibit the latest editions of books and software at conferences are also being asked to limit or discontinue exhibiting. Those of us responsible for arranging for speakers or exhibitors at the state and local level need to do so well in advance, with patience and professionalism.

The Ad Hoc Chairs of our organization are to be congratulated for their persistent efforts on behalf of our members. The work they do is on-going and often unrelenting. Each chair provides a brief report at our quarterly board meetings, however, the reports succinctly describe what has been accomplished; the work done to reach those accomplishments and even more is left unsaid. KSRA bestows grants, scholarships and awards, strives to achieve IRA awards, reaches out to our councils with a variety of services, publishes exemplary newsletters and journals, and actively pursues governmental relations. Their individual and collective efforts are very much appreciated.

Be assured that all of the members of the KSRA board continue to work diligently for the good of the organization to meet its purpose and goals. As volunteers and advocates of literacy issues, we recognize the crucial need of specialized reading professionals. As I look forward to the perpetual astonishment of spring, I know that I will continue to be astonished at the accomplishments of KSRA.

Annemarie B. Jay
KSRA President

Please send your articles and photos to: jldepto@gmail.com
Deadline for Spring issue: March 1, 2018
KSRA Publications Co-Chairpersons: Hollie D’Agata and Jane Helman
Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily endorsed by KSRA.

Keystone State Reading Association Meeting and Conference Dates

2018 Leadership Workshop
June 21 - 23, 2018

KSRA Board of Directors and State-Wide Meeting of Local Councils and Committees
September 21 - 22, 2018

KSLA 51st Annual Conference
The Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center
October 28 - 31, 2018

January 2019 and April 2019 Board of Directors Meetings
To Be Determined

2019 Leadership Workshop
June 20 - 22, 2019

2019 KSLA Conference
Hersey Lodge
October 30 - Nov. 1, 2019