

Canadian Special Interest Group on Literacy



Canadian Special Interest Group on Literacy (CSIG-L) Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Immediately after the CSIG-L Program Rm. 238, Ernest N. Morial Convention Centre New Orleans 2014

Minutes

Present: Dorothy Morrow, Carol Hryniuk-Adamov, Anne Waschuk, Mike Bowden, Sandra Quayle

- I. **Welcome and Introductions.** Appointment of the Secretary for the Meeting.
Sandra took notes and minutes.
- II. **Adoption of the Agenda**
Carol/ Mike/ Carried
- III. **Adoption of Minutes from 2013 meeting** (San Antonio) unavailable.
- IV. **Reports:**
Chairperson's Report- Sandra Quayle
 - Sandra thanked the group from Frontier School Division, Manitoba for their excellent presentation.
 - Reported on the two SIG meeting attended during the conference.
Friday's meeting, attended by 6 SIG Chairs was an informational meeting. Many SIGs have requested an **annual SIG meeting during the conference**, preferably NOT at a time when SIGs are presenting. **Newsletters** were also discussed as a communication tool with many SIGs now changing to electronic means of distribution. It was suggested that the SIGs hold a **reception similar to the LEADER and Canadian receptions** now held. **Communication with IRA** seems to be a common problem as is **memberships** for most SIGs.
 - Sunday's meeting, chaired by Marcie (IRA CEO) reiterated many of the same concerns and problems, communication and memberships.
IRA restructuring will include a **"My IRA" site for members** which sounds promising and should make negotiating the IRA site more user friendly. IRA is also introducing a free Associate Membership to attract new members.
A Data Management tool for Councils and SIGs will be set up where Councils and SIGs can create a portal with a username and password to maintain their operations, manage memberships and eventually eliminate reporting. This will be optional but should help eliminate loss of data as personnel change within organizations. This is being piloted by some councils and the request was made to include some SIGs in the pilot.
Concerns were expressed by SIG chairs that many have had their **conference session times** cut to one hour without notice. (We were one of those groups). The request was made that all SIGs return to their two-hour slots. IRA uses session attendee data to determine time so it is important that SIG members attend the session. IRA was requested to let SIGs know of any changes to their time well in advance of the conference. If SIGs know in advance we can plan more efficiently.

Membership Report –Dorothy Morrow

This year we had less than 100 members (88) so we had less presentation time at this conference. Dorothy urges present members to renew their memberships and to urge friends and colleagues involved in reading councils across the country to become new members.

Treasurer's Report – Diane Beettam

This past year we collected \$800 in membership dues giving us a balance of \$1079.65. Expenses for newsletter and donation to the Canadian Reception totalled \$746.75, leaving a balance of \$332.90

Renew your IRA and CSIG-L Memberships Today

Membership Drive is on.

See attached form

***Please submit to Dorothy by
May 28, 2014 so we have our
two hours at Conference 2015.***

morrow83@bell.net

V. Canadian Reception-

This year we donated \$350.00 towards the Canadian Reception held on the Sunday evening of the Conference. Each year we co-host this event with CNIRAC and the Secondary Reading SIG. Thank you, once again, to Garth Brooks for organizing this event.

Updates – SIG 2014-15 Activity Report – Sandra will complete this prior to June 30, 2014.

Submit names in for IRA Committees by October 6

CSIG-L Newsletter - fall deadline is September 15, 2014 and March 15, 2015 for spring.

Please have Council updates or articles in to Dorothy on or prior to those dates.

morrow83@bell.net

I. Highlights of Year's Activities

- a) **Conference presentation** by teachers and consultants from Frontier School Division in Manitoba was very well received by all attendees. We thank all those who worked so diligently on the presentation. Thank you also to Carol Adamov for suggesting them.
- b) **Canadian Content at the 2014 Pre-Conference Institutes** – Congratulations to the four Canadians who presented at the highly successful Pre-Conference Institute on Adolescent Literacy: Deborah Ellis, Leyton Schnellert, Jennifer Roswell and Carol Hryniuk-Adamov. This institute was the second sell-out institute co-chaired by Heather Casey of New Jersey and Carol Hryniuk-Adamov of Manitoba, who have also teamed to co-chair the IRA Adolescent Literacy Task Force for several years, worked on the revision of the IRA Adolescent Literacy Position Statement and have edited an e-book *Practices that Adolescents Deserve* with Susan Lenski to support implementation of the IRA position statement. See <http://www.reading.org/general/AboutIRA/PositionStatements/AdolescentLitPosition.aspx>
- c) **Newsletter** – always interesting and full of articles. Thank you to Dorothy who has taken on the onerous job of editor. A large and often thankless task. Remember the deadlines and please get articles in to Dorothy. We would especially like to include provincial or state updates from local councils. If you are holding a conference this is another advertising venue.
- d) **The Canadian Reception** held in San Antonio last year was highly successful with large numbers attending. We expect the same of this one. Thank you to the Canadian publishers and Reading Councils who generously donated to help host this event. We rely on those donations each year and Garth Brooks does a wonderful job organizing it.

II. Elections of Officers -Chairperson, Vice-chairperson, Secretary and Newsletter

Vacancies –No nominations from the floor. Sandra and Dorothy graciously consented to remain as Chairperson and Newsletter Editor for a further year. These are not onerous tasks but we would like to see more people volunteer to take responsibility for these positions. Please consider it for next year. You do not need to attend the Conference to allow your name to stand, just let Sandra know beforehand.

III. Chairperson Sandra Quayle's concluding remarks

Goals for 2014-15 will include the following:

- a) **More communication** with our members by encouraging members of provincial councils to submit articles to the newsletter.
- b) **Outreach to our Eastern provinces** encouraging IRA members to join the Canadian Special Interest Group on Literacy.
- c) **Programming for next year's IRA Conference in St. Louis, July 17-20, 2015.** We are fortunate to have some people already interested in submitting a proposal but can always add more. If you are interested in a submission please email an outline to s.quayle@shaw.ca by the 7th June, 2014.
- d) Striving to increase communication between IRA and Canadian concerns.
- e) Obtaining a report from someone attending the IRA Council Leadership Academy in Tampa, Florida July 10-13, 2014.

IV. Acknowledgements and adjournment

CSIG-L would like to acknowledge **Anne Waschuk from Manitoba** who received the Mary-Ann Manning Award at the IRA Conference. Anne has devoted over 33 years volunteer service to Literacy both in Canada and overseas. Congratulations Ann. It was lovely to see Anne and her two daughters in New Orleans.

Many thanks to the following people for giving their time to help promote literacy through the CSIG group: **Carol Hryniuk-Adamov, Dorothy Morrow, Diane Beettam, Mike Bowden and Garth Brooks.** We could not survive without the work you all do.

Adjournment 12:20pm

Sandra Quayle
s.quayle@shaw.ca

Transforming Lives through Literacy

IRA Present Jill Lewis-Spector urges all of you to attend the

**60th Annual IRA Conference
St. Louis, Missouri
July 17 Institute Day
July 18-20, 2015 Conference.**