



# NCRA Newsletter

CHARTERED BY THE INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION

VOL. XXXIX, NO. 3

North Carolina Reading Association

Summer 2007

## Kicking off the new year with NCRA

### A message from your president



Welcome to all! Here we are starting another year of NCRA and we couldn't be in a better position if we tried. We have a very competent, experienced board dedicated to making this our best year ever. Our active committees are filled with good people who know how to get the

job done in the best way possible, and we have money in the bank. Our 2008 Conference plans are progressing beautifully, thanks in no small way to Cassandra Graves. President-Elect Elaine DuPree has hit the ground running. She has started getting things into place for our 2009 conference and has scheduled our next Young Authors' Event for April 20, 2008. Ken Sheldon has our Membership files under control and has revamped our Membership Incentive Program. Marsha Lewis helped everyone start our year off on the right foot with a very successful Leadership Conference held in Boone June 13-15. This is certainly the best of times to be a member of NCRA.

Our goals for this year are very simple. I want to increase our membership, paying special attention to increasing the number of student members. My second goal is to be more responsive to your needs, the needs of our individual members and local councils. Both of these are clearly interrelated, and accomplishing one will help accomplish the other.

Expect to see some changes this year. The deadline for Mary Ellen Skidmore Project Grant applications has been moved back a month. There have been changes to our Membership Incentive Award, and the closing session of our 2008 Conference will be an author luncheon for everyone.

Again, I welcome everyone to another year in North Carolina Reading Association. Please let us know how we can help you achieve your reading goals.

- Emily Long, NCRA President

### A word from your conference chair

Make plans to attend the 39th annual NCRA Conference on Monday through Wednesday, March 10 - 12, 2008 at the Greensboro Koury Convention Center. This year's conference theme is: "Let's Read!"



The conference will open with a session by Steven L. Layne, who is passionate about reading. His mission statement hasn't changed in the years since he became an educator and author. "Building lifetime readers is what it's all about for reading teachers and librarians. If we aren't doing that - what are we doing? We have to be about this business with every fiber of our being. Infectious - that's what they should call us! Professionally speaking, from my perspective at least, there isn't time for much else." Surely his contagious love for books will spill out and onto us as he encourages us to continue promoting the love of reading to everyone we touch.

We are planning an outstanding opportunity for professional development. You will have a chance to hear many inspiring, motivational, and educational speakers, including: David Adler, Chris Soentpiet, Carole Boston Weatherford, Richard Gentry, Michael Shoulders, Sharon Draper, John Provost, Eleanora Tate, Sherrye Garrett, and Karon Luddy.

The proposal form for sessions can be downloaded online now at [ncreading.org](http://ncreading.org), and the conference and hotel registration forms will be available on the site soon. We hope that you will plan to take advantage, on this occasion, to rededicate yourselves to literacy!

- Cassandra Graves, Conference Chair



# STATE COORDINATOR'S CORNER

State and local NCRA leaders converged on Boone June 13-15 for the annual North Carolina Reading Association Leadership Conference.

**Wednesday Highlights:** State Coordinator Marsha Lewis welcomed everyone, and President Emily Long shared 2007-08 goals with the group. Local officers heard about the 2008 Young Author's program from Elaine Dupree and received newsletter information and deadlines. Attendees were then treated to an evening of meeting with area directors, enjoying dinner, and making new friends.

**Thursday Highlights:** Sessions included distribution of membership information provided by Membership Chair Ken Sheldon and NCRA Vice President Sharron Regan as well as lots of doorprizes. Marilyn Palmer, Section Chief with DPI, shared significant information including preparing Future Ready Students, a K-12 Reading Literacy Strategic Plan, End-of-Grade tests, and K-2 Literacy Assessment Task Force Recommendations. See additional detailed information elsewhere in this newsletter.

Ava Bevins, Rosemary Enos, and Barbara Falkenbury also shared council program ideas with local leaders.

Elaine Dupree provided leaders with information about project grants. Mary Ellen Skidmore and Lorene Pfeiffer shared ideas about honor council and other NCRA and IRA awards available to members and councils.

Robin Prince, a member of the South Carolina Reading Association Executive Board, shared a wealth of information.

She explained how SCIRA has been able to build and maintain members, recognize and reward deserving members and councils, and hold a large and successful conference year after year.

Also on Thursday, Council leaders attended job-alike sessions, learning about the responsibilities and expectations of their own individual positions for the coming year. Information was also shared about ways to build and strengthen new councils.

Culminating Thursday's session was a panel discussion on ensuring teacher success - conducted by Sara Eisenhardt, a Northern Kentucky Professor and former board member of NBPTS; by Nikki Johnson from Legislator Virginia Fox's office, and by Jane Norwood, Vice Chair for the State Board of Education and former NCRA president.

**Friday Highlights:** Dr. Sandra Cook, NIE Director with the NC Press Foundation talked to the group about statewide Newspaper in Education initiatives, including the publication of Taffy of Torpedo Junction as a serialized story in many NC newspapers for the spring of 2008.

Cassandra Graves shared plans for the 2008 Conference to be held March 10 - 12 at the Koury Center in Greensboro. We can look forward to hearing such authors and illustrators as Steven Layne, Richard Gentry, David Adler, Chris Soentpiet, Michael Shoulders, and Eleanora Tate.

Following the three day gathering, local council leaders, state officers and board members alike left Leadership with a wealth of new ideas, a host of new contacts, and a number of new friends!

## Young Authors 2007-2008

Each year the North Carolina Reading Association sponsors a state writing contest for children from kindergarten through twelfth grade and adults who are members of the Reading Association. This year's theme is "Let's Read!" The guidelines and all the forms are now posted on our web-site: [www.ncreading.org](http://www.ncreading.org)



Elaine DuPree  
Young Author  
Chair

All entries need to come through local councils. Contact your local Young Author Chair and get your students involved. If your council does not participate in Young Authors, consider joining us this year. If you are a parent and want your local council to participate, offer to chair or be a supporter. Parents, if your child's teacher does not participate, let him or her know these local and state awards are available to elementary, middle and high school students. Throughout the many years I have been involved in this project, parents, uncles, aunts etc. share with me how this project has opened their child to the love of writing and sharing their stories with audiences. All of these skills fall within our North Carolina Standard Course of Study-Language Arts area.

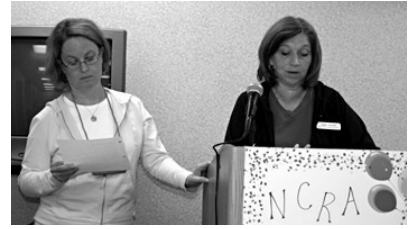
Local council judging is done sometime in November and winners from each local council are sent to the state for judging. State judging will be January 12, 2008. If you are interested in being a state judge, please contact me at [etdupree@aol.com](mailto:etdupree@aol.com).

Get ready! Get set! "Let's Read!" We look forward to all the Young Authors and Forever Young entries coming this year.

# Snapshots from Leadership



**N**... for new friends & ideas  
**C**... for councils & camaraderie  
**R**... for reading & rejuvenation  
**A**... for amazing authors & associates



## 2007 Exemplary Reading Award Winner

Operation Tropical Storm is a fitting description of the literacy efforts being fully implemented by this small island school in Dare County. Initiatives include designing and leading professional learning communities in educational principles and theory and TABS, Team Approach to Better Schools.

The only elementary school to receive the NC IMPACT Model Award in 2006, each grade level benefits from an increased emphasis on integrated media and technology through activities such as Lit' With My Librarian, Author/Illustrator in Residence, Writers Workshop and daily live broadcasts showcasing literacy accomplishments K-5. From the My Literacy Island Corner in the gym to the art room's Puppies in Space Electronic Books, it's apparent that each faculty member works collaboratively to plan engaging literacy adventures to increase student learning and insure active engagement. Through such programs as Partners in Print, which is intended to increase K-2 level family involvement, and Parents of Penzance, which focuses on needs of older students, eager community involvement and increased achievement have resulted.

While visiting this warm and inviting campus, the committee was treated to a bird's eye view of the highly organized project, Fiction Diggers. Through conversations with a group of enthusiastic 4th and 5th graders, we learned that student teams from both Dare and Currituck Counties eagerly participate in this voluntary extra curricular reading challenge. With the focus on higher order thinking through discussion questions connected to selected novels, the school and community prepared for the spring competition. NCRA commends the leadership team, including Media Coordinator Shauna Leggat, Title 1 instructor Mary Anne Parks, and Principal Ray Gray, for demonstrating the connectedness so necessary in creating a welcoming learning environment. Congratulations to North Carolina's 2007 Exemplary Reading Award Winning School, far down the coast of the outer banks, Cape Hatteras Elementary School.

- Ava Bevins



*Pictured: CHES Broadcast team*

## Bulletin Board

### LEADER Eleuthera & Belize Book Projects help councils meet Honor Council requirements

Children on the Islands of the Bahamas and in Central America lack books that children enjoy in other areas. The Outreach Committee of LEADER SIG works with two projects in this area to promote availability of books for children.

The LEADER Initiative for Eleuthera (LIFE) provides a Christmas gift book for each pre and primary school child in Governor's Harbor.

In Belize, LEADER provides instructional materials, reading books, and content area books to the "Better Believe it BELIZE" program, a program offering continuing education for Belize teachers.

Through your monetary donation books, will be purchased and shipped to these LEADER Book Projects. LEADER will recognize your council's donation through a certificate documenting your council's participation in an International project - to help you meet honor council requirements.

Contribution checks made out to LEADER and referenced "Outreach" may be sent directly to Dee Cramer, LEADER Treasurer, 7705 Dianjou, El Paso, TX 79912.

### Twin Rivers Council honored

At the recent IRA Convention in Toronto in May, Twin Rivers Council was recognized with a Local Council Community Service Award and an Honor Council Award.



Alan Falstrup, IRA's executive director, presented the Community Service Award to Lorene Pfeiffer, a Havelock member of the Twin Rivers Council (TRCI-RA). The council partnered with the Sun Journal NIE Program, Craven County Partnership for Children, and Craven County Association of Educators to coordinate a Reading Fun Day at the Twin Rivers Mall in February.

Rosemary Enos accepted the coveted IRA Honor Council Award on behalf of the Twin Rivers Council. To receive the honor council award, Twin Rivers participated in Young Authors, conducted service projects benefiting Habitat for Humanity, Social Services, parents of newborns, and victims of fires and hurricanes and area spousal abuse centers.

# CALL FOR PROGRAM PROPOSALS

## North Carolina Reading Association

*Let's Read! 39th Annual Conference*

**March 10-12, 2008**

**Greensboro, North Carolina**

**www.ncreading.org**



The North Carolina Reading Association calls for program proposals for the 39th Annual Conference at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, North Carolina, March 10-12, 2008. Proposals must be **RECEIVED** no later than **October 1, 2007**. The Program Committee will consider all applications, and the lead presenter submitting a proposal will be notified of the committee's decision by November 3, 2007.

**LEAD PRESENTER:** Please type or print the following information:

Dr., Mr., Mrs., Ms. \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: Home \_\_\_ Office \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

Institution Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_ Position/Title \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Home ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Office ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Local Reading Council \_\_\_\_\_

Member of NCRA? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Member of IRA? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_

**STATEMENT OF INTENT: My co-presenters and I agree to register for the conference and pay registration fees. I understand all presenters must pre-register in order for the names to be published in the program for the 39th Annual Conference. If this proposal is accepted, I agree to inform each of my co-presenters of the proposal acceptance as well as the date and time of the presentation.**

Signature of Person Submitting Proposal \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### **AV EQUIPMENT NEEDS**

Overhead projector & screen will be provided by NCRA ***if requested by February 8, 2008.***

**Each participant is responsible for:**

- **Arranging and paying for additional equipment through A&V Company (contact Amanda King at [aking@avcompany.com](mailto:aking@avcompany.com) for information), or you may bring your own.**
- **Obtaining permission for use of all copyrighted materials.**
- **Providing his/her own handouts.**

**Send complete proposal to:**

**Anita Stack**

**7304 Ridge Grove Court, Raleigh, NC 27615**

## CONFERENCE SESSIONS: Tuesday, March 11, and Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Sessions are one-hour presentations designed to provide an overview of given topics and may include opportunities for active involvement. Sessions may include research reports, workshops, demonstrations, simulations, panel discussions, and book talks.

### PROPOSAL SPECIFICATIONS

- Submit two (2) sets of the proposal to include:
  - (1) Page 1 of the Call for Program Proposal
  - (2) An attached Program Entry with the title, abstract, intended audience, audience level, & room set-up, number of participants session is most appropriate for, expected participant outcomes, session agenda, list of all presenters' contact information, and presider's info if applicable.
- Exemplary proposals demonstrate clarity in written participant outcomes, content, & process of presentation.

### *Disqualifying Factors*

- Promotion of commercial materials and/or programs - the focus must be education, not sales.
- Failure to complete proposal according to guidelines - such as incomplete information.

### PROGRAM ENTRY

Please attach a one-page, typed description of the entry. Include the following:

- 1. Title of Presentation:** Topic is relevant and is related to conference critical issues.
- 2. Abstract:** A 25-50 word abstract recorded **exactly** as you would like it printed in the conference program.
- 3. Intended Audience: (classroom teachers, college professors, pre-service teachers, reading specialists, media coordinators, administrators, etc.).**
- 4. Audience Level: (primary, elementary, middle, high school).**
- 5. Room Set-up (workshop w/tables or theater/auditorium style).**
- 6. Number of Participants Session is most appropriate for: (less than 50, 50-100, over 100 participants).**
- 7. Session Agenda and Participant Outcomes:** Provide the session agenda in the following format:
  - Participant Outcomes: What will participant know and be able to do as a result of participation?
  - Content: What content will be presented/learned?
  - Process: How will the participants be engaged with the learning?
- 8. List of Presenters:** Include the name, mailing address, email address, telephone number, position, and institution affiliation for each presenter.

**CRITICAL ISSUES/STRANDS:** The following topics serve to inspire rather than limit proposals. Choose from the list of ideas, or if other than listed, define the focus of your proposal in the abstract.

**1) Teaching Dimensions of Reading: Key teaching/learning strategies that increase reading and writing performance.** Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Word Study, Spelling, Fluency, Vocabulary Development, Comprehension, Oral Language, Writing, Specific Approaches to Teaching, Differentiated Instruction.

**2) Developing Instructional Leadership: Ways school leaders engage the school community in school-wide improvement.** Administrators as Literacy Leaders, School Improvement Models, Parent and Community Programs, Teachers as Leaders, Recruiting and Retaining Teachers of Reading, Legislative Advocacy, Pre-Service Teachers

**3) Creating Environment for Literacy: Classroom management procedures and resources to nurture literacy.** Leveled Materials for Diverse Learners, Grouping for Differentiated Instruction, Flexible Grouping, Multicultural & Non-fiction Literature, Reading/Writing in Content Areas, Managing Whole & Small Group Instruction, Integrating Instructional Technology/Internet.

**4) Closing the Achievement Gap: Effective ways to close the achievement gap for diverse subgroups of learners.** Reading Recovery, Early Literacy Learners, Title I, Urban and/or Rural Learners, Adolescents and Adult Learners, Gifted Learners, English Language Learners, Special Education Students, Socio-economic factors/diversity.

**5) Enhancing Quality of Teaching: Professional development activities to improve teacher/student performance.** Professional Development Models, Reading Specialists' Roles, Mentoring Programs, Research Projects, Teachers as Researchers, Collaborative Lesson Planning, Electronic Bulletin Board, Online Learning, Parents as Tutors, Pre-service.

**6) Planning, Assessment, and Accountability: Processes that improve learning and raise achievement.** Assessment/Planning for Instruction, Identifying Individual Student Needs, Program Evaluation, Integrated Instruction & Assessment, Analyzing Data, Technology Tools for Managing Data, Parent (Understanding test data).

## Ensuring Teacher Success

*Sara Eisenhardt, Former member of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, Nikki Johnson, Representative from Washington, DC, and Legislative Representative for the Boone area Virginia Foxx, were on hand at the NCRA Leadership Conference in Boone to share ideas on ensuring teacher success.*

*Important considerations for ensuring teacher success according to NCRA reading leaders and reading leaders from the Plains and Southeastern US include:*

- \* Higher pay/salary should be improved compared to other jobs/ - with greater value for advanced degrees.
- \* Appropriate support must be provided for beginning teachers.
- \* Students and society desire quality with highly-respected educators and educational resources that have been respectively invested and nurtured- we must do this!
- \* An advisory council of teachers should meet monthly with the superintendent in each school system
- \* First year principals should have experienced mentors
- \* Legislators need input from educators on educational issues
- \* Legislators need to spend time in every level of classroom: high performing as well as low performing
- \* To entice top quality teachers to teach in low performing schools, give a year and a half credit for every year of teaching
- \* Revisit NCLB
- \* Every school with more than 10% of students performing below level should have reading specialists
- \* On workdays, renewal credit should be given for working in the classroom - planning for students' needs

- \* State Writing Tests - guidelines, rubrics, etc need to be revised
- \* Writing should be tested using the writing process- not with a one-time prompt
- \* More problem solving/deep thinking programs should be available for AIG children
- \* Provide more resources
- \* Teachers need to have a protected planning time daily
- \* School calendars need to be student driven vs. business driven
- \* School entrance date should be based on developmental instead of chronological age
- \* School curriculum needs to be a continuum and based on the school year allotted
- \* Develop age/ability expectations that are realistic
- \* Provide strong support for k-2 students performing below level
- \* Reading and math should be developmentally appropriate
- \* Develop/use assessments that correlate w/ instruction such as performance-based or product-based assessments (use authentic assessment)
- \* Students with IEP's should be tested based on their functioning level and their IEP
- \* Students should be given adequate time to learn English before being tested in English
- \* Technology-equipment should be available in ALL schools and training/assistance should be available to teachers who need it
- \* Stipends should be given for mandated professional development, especially summer workshops, should pay teachers full teacher pay to accommodate the cost of child care
- \* Transition teachers should be available for grades K-2
- \* *Highly qualified* teacher assistants should be available to help with high expectations
- \* Remember that no commercial program can replace teacher expertise
- \* BEH (Major behavioral problem students) should not be included in regular classes or EC classes

- because disruptions result in less instruction for the entire class
- \* We need to have equity in educational opportunities across the nation and across diverse cultural and economic groups
- \* When possible, identify dyslexic children on EOG's

### Who can you call . . .

. . . with questions about NCRA?

### Your NCRA Area Directors!

Area 1 (East) Rosemary Enos  
413 Boros Road  
New Bern, NC 28560  
rjenos@ec.rr.com

Phyllis Miller  
200 Small Dove Ct.  
Wilmington, NC 28412  
pmiller68@ec.rr.com

Area 2 (Central) Pat Campbell  
304 Cloverdale Dr.  
Wilson, NC 27896  
patriciawcampbell@yahoo.com

Elizabeth Langston  
408 West D St.  
Erwin, NC 28339  
elangston1@harnett.k12.nc.us

Area 3 (S. Central)  
Tommy Johnson  
P.O. Box 543  
Fairmont, NC 28340  
vtjohnson@bellsouth.net

Area 4 (N.Central) Ruth Aldridge  
5801 Nicolet Dr.  
Hope Mills, NC 28348  
readeruth@aol.com

Area 5 (So.West) Barb Falkenbury  
5801 Popular Tent Rd.  
Concord, NC 28027  
bfalkenbury@cannonschool.org

Sherwin Washburn  
1409 College Ave.  
shelby, NC 28152  
sherwin@rutherford.k12.nc.us

Area 6 (West) Amy Williams  
775 Raven's Ridge Ct.  
Boone, NC 28607  
awilliams@ashe.k12.nc.us



Ken Sheldon  
Membership  
Director

## A Word From Your Membership Director:

Greetings! Summer is upon us and the temperatures sure do reflect it! But isn't it nice to be able to be outside or inside and not have to teach in this type of weather? Needless to say, I hope you are enjoying your vacation!

In June, we had a very productive State Leadership, and I was able to talk to some of the membership chairs from the local chapters. It was good to put faces to the names I see on the membership lists during the year. For those who attended, it was good seeing you and for those who did not attend, think convention in March, 2008. I want to meet you. Sharron Regan is the new Vice President/Membership and is eager to get started promoting membership growth. Also, Dr. Emily Long, incoming President of NCRA, is emphasizing all aspects of membership during her year leading NCRA.

There are some really nice changes in the Incentive Awards this year. The NCRA Board approved changes to the membership incentive program and as you will see, there is more equity for all sizes of local councils. There are three groups based on the 2006-07 membership. Awards for each group will be based on a designated percentage increase in membership. The three groups will be those with 49 or fewer members, those with 50 to 100 members, and those with 101 or more members. The 49 or fewer group will need to increase their membership by 20% to be eligible for the incentive awards. The 50 to 100 group will need to get an increase of 10% to be eligible, and the last group (over 101 members) will need to get 5% more members in order to qualify for the incentives. Within each group the local with the highest percentage increase will receive a \$150 award and the second highest increase will get \$100. Others who have increased their membership by the designated percentage but did not get the \$150 or \$100 will receive \$50. Each council has a copy of the new incentive awards but if you need a copy please do not hesitate to call or email me or go to the NCRA website, [www.ncreading.org](http://www.ncreading.org), to read or download a copy. If all the locals make the designated increase, NCRA will have over 3000 members!

There are additional awards for the council with the largest percentage of new and renewing IRA members (June to January) as well as an award for the councils that reach 200 or more members.

Last, if you joined the state as an independent member last year and did not join through a local council, please join through a local council (see the website for a list) or contact me for a new application for the coming year.

If you have any questions, contact me at [ksheldonreading@aol.com](mailto:ksheldonreading@aol.com) or (252) 937-4977 or Sharron Regan at [sregan@atmc.net](mailto:sregan@atmc.net) or 910-846-2711.

Good luck. Have a great summer and school beginning and think membership! Thanks for all your great work!

- Ken Sheldon, Membership Director

## Project Grants



Elaine DuPree  
President  
Elect

Project Grant money will be available for 2007-2008. Our purpose is to help local councils promote literacy development in their areas, thus, improving literacy throughout North Carolina. Funds will be allocated to assist our councils in meeting literacy needs in their local areas. Grant funds will be awarded according to the number of councils submitting proposals. Each council must meet the outlined requirements. Councils may request up to \$400.00 from NCRA for their project.

### Requirements:

- Council must be in good standing - having three officers and 10 IRA members.
- First membership list must be into Membership Director Ken Sheldon no later than October 31st.
- Must have no fewer than 30 members in local council as of October 31.
- Completed project grants need to be postmarked no later than November 1, 2007.

Questions? Email: [etdupree@aol.com](mailto:etdupree@aol.com) or mail Elaine Dupree, NCRA Project Grants, 2419 Hidden Meadow Drive, Fuquay Varina, NC, 27526.

### **IMPORTANT Reminder for Council Membership Chairs**

Submit membership rosters (electronic and by mail plus payment) each month. Your council's membership campaign outline should be sent to me by September 30, 2007. Membership totals to be used to determine the eligibility for the incentive awards are due by December 30, 2007! For the IRA award, the due date is January 30, 2008.

# IMPORTANT NOTES FROM DPI

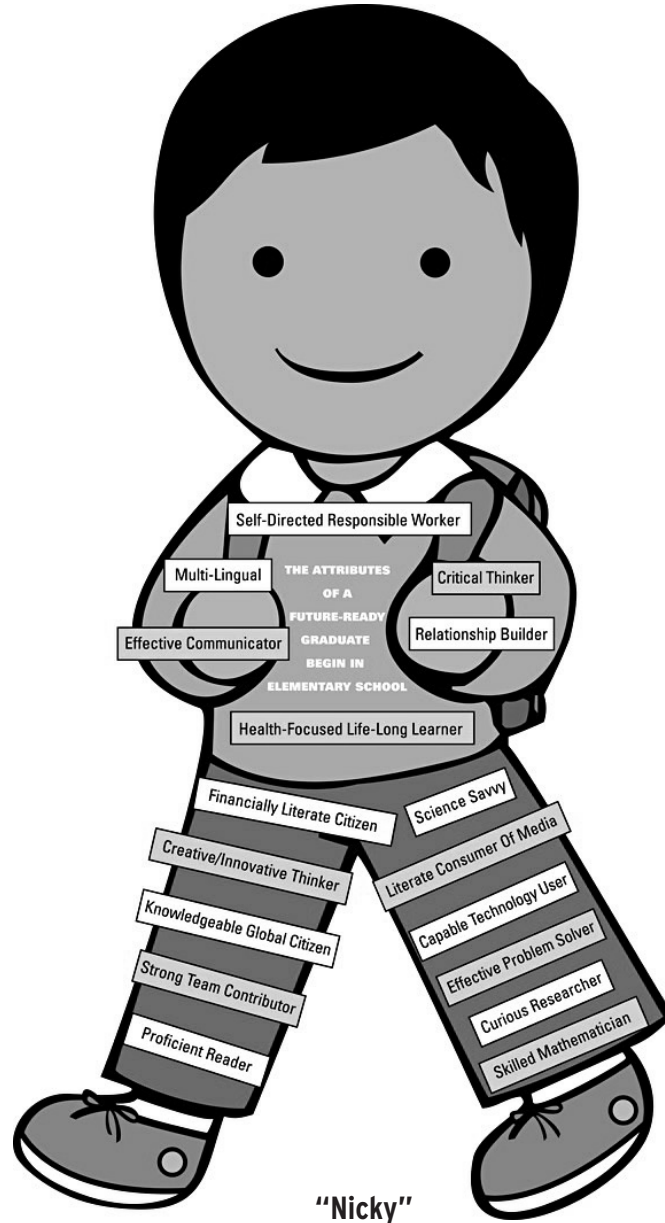
It was a beautiful day in Boone, June 14, 2007 when I met with the new leadership for local reading associations during their Summer Leadership Training. I was pleased to have an opportunity to share some of the initiatives involving the Department of Public Instruction. Below is a summary of my remarks:

1. The State Board, Governor's Office and DPI are focusing in on 21st Century Skills and preparing Future Ready Students. The SBE's Guiding Mission that "every public school student will graduate from high school, globally competitive for work and post-secondary education and prepared for life in the 21st century" certainly issues a challenge for all educators. Preparing future ready students begins in elementary and continues through middle and high school. Our poster child 'Nicky' was introduced to the group. The poster lists all the 21st century skills a future ready student should possess. If you would like a copy of "Nicky," e-mail me: [mpalmer@dpi.state.nc.us](mailto:mpalmer@dpi.state.nc.us).

2. On April 4, 2007, the State Board adopted a K-12 Reading Literacy Strategic Plan. Copies of the Plan plus a letter from State Board Chairman Howard Lee and State Superintendent June Atkinson were sent to every superintendent in North Carolina. A companion brochure summarizing the plan is also available through publications. Check [www.ncpublicschools.org](http://www.ncpublicschools.org) for information on ordering the "Vision for Literacy" brochure.

3. End-of-Grade test items don't materialize out of the blue! The process and procedures take many months and include several committees of educators. An EOG Specifications Committee is being organized to meet in August to review new test items for the reading EOG.

4. The K-2 Literacy Assessment Task Force has submitted its recommendations to the Globally Competitive Students sub-commit-



tee and State Board of Education. Recommendations included revising the current K-2 Literacy Assessment and including electronic reporting with a hand-held device. Recommendations also included requiring all LEAs to use the revised assessment for K-2 in order to have a standardized method of reporting students' progress before 3rd grade EOG Pretest. The recommendation is not receiving support from some LEAs and several letters have been sent regarding this issue. The SBE is considering the report and will respond at their August, 2007 meeting. If you have questions or concerns, please e-mail me.

5. Are you a member of our K-5, 6-8 or 9-12 list-serves? Our monthly newsletters that list upcoming training and workshops, plus the latest resources and information from DPI, are shared through the list-serves. If you want to join, send me an e-mail and your name will be added.

- Marilyn C. Palmer, Section Chief  
Elementary English Language Arts/Social Studies

[mpalmer@dpi.state.nc.us](mailto:mpalmer@dpi.state.nc.us)



NCRA  
ATTN: Jean House  
4309 Boxwood Road  
Raleigh, NC 27612

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# NCRA 2007-2008

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President .....Emily Long  
President-Elect.....Elaine Dupree  
Vice President .....Sharron Regan  
Treasurer .....Margaret Inman  
Secretary .....Ava Bevins  
State Coordinator .....Marsha Lewis  
Past President .....Jean House

## AREA DIRECTORS

Rosemary Enos	Phyllis Miller
Tommy Johnson	Ruth Aldridge
Sherwin Washburn	Amy Williams
Elizabeth Langston	Pat Campbell
Barbara Falkenbury	

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jean House, Executive Assistant  
Phone: 919-829-8921 Work  
jhouse52@bellsouth.net

Fall Newsletter Deadline:  
Submit articles by Sept. 3, 2007



## Upcoming Events

NC Reading Conference  
Greensboro 2008.....March 10-12, 2008  
NC Young Authors Celebration.... April 20, 2008  
Memyandi Center, Raleigh, NC  
IRA Conference, Atlanta, GA.....May 4-8, 2008  
Southeast Regional IRA Conferenc  
Nashville, TN.....December 7-10, 2008  
2009 NC Reading Conference  
Greensboro .....March 11-13, 2009

## Call for Program Proposals

*Program Proposals must be received no later than October 1, 2007.*

*See our website for up-to-date information  
[ncreading.org](http://ncreading.org)*

*Registration & program proposal forms online.*