



NCRA Newsletter

CHARTERED BY THE INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION

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North Carolina Reading Association

October/November 2011

President's Message

North Carolina has braved many forces of nature in the past year. Tornadoes ripped through NC and destroyed schools in Cumberland, Greene, and Onslow counties. An earthquake on the east coast shook the state but caused no significant damage. Schools in Beaufort, Edgecombe, Pamlico, and Tyrrell counties felt the destructive winds and waters generated by Hurricane Irene.

Helping each other as neighbors is something that is an innate part of our Southern culture. As a statewide project, the North Carolina Reading Association is doing its part to help by collecting new and gently used books to restock classroom libraries. Books on all grade levels are needed, pre-school through grade 12. Many of your local councils already have projects featuring book donation programs, and we don't want to compete with those efforts, but we would appreciate your support in helping get these classrooms get back on their feet. We will collect books until Thanksgiving and deliver donations to selected schools in early December. Let's see how many books we can collect! More information will be sent to council presidents and area directors soon.

As I have gathered information from your local councils and read about the meetings and events planned for this year, I am more convinced than ever that North Carolina is brimming with unique and inspiring ideas to encourage and promote literacy in our schools. With four different council meetings under my belt in September and plans to attend many more in the coming months, I continue to find new friends and fresh ideas that I can use in my own school. I am excited to welcome two new councils to the state: Great Smokies Reading Council in the west serving Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson and Madison counties and Triangle Reading Council, serving Orange, Durham and Alamance counties. Encourage your reading colleagues in other areas of the state to seek out a local reading council or consider beginning a new council. Remember that local council membership dues also include membership in the North Carolina Reading Association. Local councils have set membership goals and are working hard to reach those goals. Extend an invitation to fellow educators, college students in teacher education programs, interested parents, and anyone interested in literacy to join our ranks. The NCRA website and our new Facebook page can be great resources. Many of our local councils have their own websites and are on Facebook as well. On the NCRA website's local council page, we have included additional "Council Links" with Membership brochures and newsletters.

As we focus on the Common Core Standards and Race to the Top, let us remain committed to fostering a love of books and reading in every student. Have a year that is full of bookjoy!

Mary Jo Floyd, NCRA President



New NCRA President Mary Jo Floyd (L) accepts the gavel from Past President Ava Bevins (R) the June Executive Committee meeting in Boone.

Book 'Em North Carolina

Buy a Book and Stop a Crook!

Check out the website www.bookemnc.org! Book 'Em North Carolina Writers Conference and Book Fair brings together more than 75 authors, including two New York Times bestselling authors, Carla Neggers and Michael Palmer, more than 24 award-winning authors, and authors of almost every genre for all ages under one roof to sell and sign their books, participate in panel discussions and talks, network and interact with fans one-on-one.

Attendance is FREE and open to the public.

Book 'Em North Carolina is scheduled for
Saturday, February 25, 2012 from 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

It is open to readers of all ages. There are book readings and events scheduled for children from pre-school to teens. There are panel discussions and talks for writers trying to break into the field or working to increase their sales or exposure. There are talks and events for readers of various genres, including mysteries, romance, true adventure, historical, biographical, and many others. The event will be held at [Robeson Community College in Lumberton, North Carolina](#), an All-America City conveniently located at the crossroads of Interstates 95 and 74.

The purpose of The Book 'Em Foundation and this event is to raise public awareness of the link between high crime rates and high illiteracy rates. Proceeds from the Book 'Em North Carolina book fair will go directly to increasing literacy in Robeson County, North Carolina and to reducing crime in the area.

Robeson Reading Council Provides Service to Community



The Robeson Reading Association recently donated a variety of reading and audiovisual materials for pediatric patients of Southeastern Regional Medical Center. Presenting the gifts, from left, are association Vice President Shawn Feeko, President Anthony Spallino, Wanda Lawrence, Project Coordinator Marsha Tolbert, Donna Stubbs, Jane Hoskins, Shane Fletcher and Tonnye Fletcher.

The Robeson County Reading Council has donated books to the local hospital as the ending of their service project for the past year. They are continuing the project for the coming year, hopefully with an even bigger increase in the number of books donated.

A Word about Membership

October not only brings the changing of the leaves and the coolness of the fall but it is also the time when most all local reading councils have their membership drives. I thank you, local membership chairs and treasurers, for your work in getting the membership lists to me. Some important information about membership procedures can be found on the NCRA website, www.ncreading.org. For those who attended Leadership in Boone this past June, you received a copy of all the information. For those of you who did not attend, you can download it from the membership section of the website.

Several important changes have been made for this year. One change is that there are three additional columns of information being requested about the members. It is easy to complete so this will not require a lot of extra time. The first column is whether the member is NEW this year, just use a yes/no. The second column is whether the member is a student, again use yes/no. The last column is whether the member is also a member of IRA, use yes/no. These are the three new categories where local councils can get more membership incentive money. Check out the membership section of the newsletter for more details about the membership incentives for this year.

Also, some councils have not sent in their Intent to Participate in Membership Incentive Awards. The forms were handed out at the Leadership meeting but can also be found on the membership page of the website.

The format to use to send your membership list is also provided on the website. It is important to use this format so that each council can be added to the state database. When they are not in the format requested, it takes time to change them over to the format. Please check your list to see if it is in the format requested. If not, please help me out by changing it for me.

I put the list on the database when I receive the check from the council so please try to send it the same time the membership list is sent.

From Treana and me, your work is very much appreciated. If there is anything we can do to help you, just email or call us. Thanks again for your work!

Treana Bowling, VP for Membership
Ken Sheldon, Membership Director

Important NCRA Scholarship Reminder

Each year the North Carolina Reading Association is supportive of individuals through scholarships. If you are planning to pursue your Masters or Doctorate in Reading or you are interested in a Reading Certificate, please consider applying for a scholarship from NCRA. The purpose of these scholarships is to assist educators in pursuing graduate training in the field of literacy.

The NCRA Scholarship application may be downloaded from the [website www.ncreading.org](http://www.ncreading.org). Applications are due by February 1, 2012 to:

Ava Bevins, Past President NCRA
P.O Box 16490
Wilmington, NC 28408

(Note mailing address is a change since June Leadership) Send questions to:
avab@ec.rr.com

Viva Vocabulary

Practical Ways to Promote Word Consciousness

by Lois E. Huffman

Each edition of “Viva Vocabulary!” focuses on different word genres. The goal is to help students (re)discover the joy of language and the expressive power of vocabulary.

Lois Huffman is an adjunct faculty member at NC State University and a consultant with the Center for Applied Linguistics. She provides professional development in literacy and language for schools and reading councils. Her email address is loishuffman@gmail.com.

A euphemism (a.k.a. doublespeak or politically correct speech) is a “mild, indirect, or vague word or phrase that is substituted for one considered harsh, blunt, or offensive” (<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/euphemism>). According to Quentin Crisp, “Euphemisms are unpleasant truths wearing diplomatic cologne.” Many of us use euphemisms to protect our students' self-esteem or to smooth over difficult situations with colleagues and parents.

Euphemisms have been part of our language for centuries, and the spin machines in government, business, and media continue to crank out new euphemisms. Below are some euphemisms that reflect scandals and realities of our times. Which of these have you heard or used?

- corn sugar** (high fructose corn syrup)
- cougar** (older woman who dates much younger men)
- dog remainder** (excrement)
- economical with the truth** (lying)
- financially embarrassed** (poor)
- hiking the Appalachian Trail** (extramarital affair; This phrase became a euphemism after former SC Gov. Mark Sanford used it to cover up his adulterous behavior.)
- image enhancement** (weight loss)
- kinetic event** (violent attacks on troops in Afghanistan)
- legacy** (adj. old, as in legacy brand)
- liquidity problems** (difficulty converting assets to cash)
- man-caused disaster** (terrorist attack)
- maximum absorbency garment/MAG** (adult diaper worn by astronauts)
- outliers** (e.g., North Korea and Iran, previously known as rogue states)
- overqualified** (too old for the job)
- overseas contingency operation** (what was formerly called the global war on terror)
- revenue enhancement** (raising taxes)
- sophisticated interpersonal influence** (a.k.a. brown-nosing; seeking advantage by appealing to the vanity of someone, usually a person with greater power or authority)
- spices** (monosodium glutamate)
- surge** (massive troop deployment)
- symmetry failure** (surgery performed on the wrong side of the body)
- wardrobe malfunction** (accidental exposure of private parts of the body)
- water landing** (crashing into a river, sea, or ocean)

Teaching Ideas

1. Present a variety of interesting euphemisms that match students' maturity-level and help students understand what euphemisms are. Encourage students to also share school-appropriate euphemisms with which they are familiar. (A short glossary of common words with their modern euphemisms is at <http://iteslj.org/Lessons/Alkire-Euphemisms.html>. An extensive list of euphemisms is at <http://www.euphemismlist.com>. Be aware that both resources include euphemisms that may not be suitable for young people.)

Invite students to sort the examples that the class generates. It is likely that many of the euphemisms relate to politics, taboo topics, or embarrassing/questionable activities. Then ask students to write a journal entry about why people create and use euphemisms, that is, what purposes euphemisms serve.

Next, have students reflect on the pros and cons of euphemisms (e.g., protecting people's feelings, humor, linguistic creativity, vagueness, deception, confusion, sterility of expression). Working in small groups, students might capture their ideas in a T-chart to share with the class. Students should be ready with examples to illustrate their ideas. For example, passed and passed away are more gentle ways to say died.

Finally, hold a class discussion with questions such as: How can carefully chosen words impact people's perceptions? Why do people who are trying to influence others often use euphemisms? What would life be like without euphemisms? If age-appropriate, ask students to consider Seth Godin's observation: "It's a lot easier for an organization to adopt new words than it is to actually change anything."

2. Challenge students to match euphemisms with their plain English counterparts.

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ___ 1. auto recycling center | a. used |
| ___ 2. beauty mark | b. truck stop |
| ___ 3. dentures | c. silk or plastic flowers |
| ___ 4. gaming | d. mole |
| ___ 5. nail technician | e. manicurist |
| ___ 6. non-winner | f. junkyard |
| ___ 7. permanent botanicals | g. gambling |
| ___ 8. pre-owned | h. false teeth |
| ___ 9. travel plaza | i. canned music |
| ___ 10. virtual orchestra | j. Academy Award loser |

Key: 1-f; 2-d; 3-h; 4-g; 5-e; 6-j; 7-c; 8-a; 9-b; 10-i

3. Share some other euphemisms that have appeared in recent years, but are not yet widely heard (e.g., defer success (fail); cranial prosthesis (wig); salad dodger (person who is overweight)). Talk about what contributes to the popularity of a euphemism (e.g., pleasant sound, words that are familiar and easy to pronounce, use by a celebrity, media coverage) and what is the likelihood that each of the example euphemisms will become part of the American vernacular as exemplified by accident, a euphemism for collision.

4. Ask students to nominate words/phrases for a "Verbal Evasion Award" or "Spin Ninja Award" for best euphemism. Groups of students can use an online slideshow or moviemaker such as <http://www.photopeach.com>, <http://www.eduxtranormal.com> or <http://www.capzles.com> to develop a presentation to promote their choice. Invite class members, and if desired, other people in the school and community to view the nominations and choose the winning euphemism.

continued on page 6

5. Let students know that the meaning and common perception of euphemistic words and phrases may change over time. To reinforce this idea, share quotations such as: “Yesterday's polite euphemism is tomorrow's prissy evasion.” - Ralph Keyes “One generation's version of polite and scientific is the next generation's standard for ham-fisted and defamatory.” - Robert Siegel Then provide a few classroom-appropriate examples of words that were once euphemisms (e.g. handicapped, toilet), but are now negative or neutral terms. Have students work in groups to investigate why and how the perception of these and other euphemistic terms has changed.

6. Introduce students to two types of words that are related to euphemisms: dysphemisms (a.k.a. malphemisms or cacophemisms), which are offensive or obscene terms used to present someone or something in a negative light, and orthophemisms, direct or neutral expressions. Have students brainstorm school-appropriate examples of each and record them in a three-column table as shown below.

Euphemism/s	Orthophemism/s	Dysphemism/s
better half	wife or husband	old lady/old man, ball and chain
affordable or low-income housing	public housing	projects
expecting, in a family way	pregnant	knocked up
----	television, idiot box	boob tube
----	conventional postal mail, traditional mail	snail mail
complementary preflight	airport frisking procedure done by Transportation Security Administration	gate rape, freedom grope
----	lower-back tattoo	tramp stamp
----	printed (on paper)	dead tree format
take a break, go separate ways	break up	dump, flush

Let the class know that not all orthophemisms have both a euphemism and a dysphemism. Have students speculate why this might be the case.

Ask students to reflect on the impact of dysphemisms (e.g., junk mail) versus orthophemisms (e.g., unsolicited mail). As a class, discuss the following questions: Why might a person use a dysphemism? (e.g., anger, humor, attention, effort to persuade). Do dysphemisms actually negatively influence people's perceptions? Are all dysphemisms hurtful or shocking? Help students realize that, due to changes in social or historical context, dysphemic terms may carry a different connotation than the speaker or writer intended.

Professional Resources

Holder, R. W. (2008). How not to say what you mean: A dictionary of euphemisms (4th ed.). New York: Oxford University Press.

Keyes, R. (2010). Euphemania: Our love affair with euphemisms. New York: Little, Brown and Company.

Rawson, H. (2003). Dictionary of euphemisms and double talk: Being a compilation of literary fig leaves and verbal flourishes for artful users of the English language. Seacucus, NJ: Castle Books.

Adolescent Literacy

Young Adult Literature Is HOT!



Young adult literature has never been more exciting! Nor popular! A record number of YA books are published each year, and they're keeping the publishing business afloat in these tough economic waters. And YA lit is becoming more interactive with online experiences like Harry Potter's Pottermore <http://www.pottermore.com/> and The Hunger Games' The Capital PIN <http://hungergamesmovie.org/category/the-capitol-pin/>.



The Adolescent Literacy Committee wants to capitalize on this excitement by sponsoring a digital storytelling project that combines the self-expression and personal response that research indicates may be the missing links for engaging middle school and high school readers.

Check out our North Carolina Bookcast Festival at:

<http://www.ncbookcastfestival.wikispaces.org> to learn all about bookcasting and how the project will provide a space for an online gallery and special recognition. Take the NC Bookcast challenge and create your own bookcast before the NCRA Conference March 18 – 22, 2012. Educators can post on the Bookcast Festival site, too.



To learn all about bookcasting, plan on attending a live session with me, the Adolescent Literacy Committee Chair, at the Library 2.011 Worldwide Virtual Conference on Wednesday, Nov. 2, at 9 pm ET. The conference is free! Learn more at <http://www.library20.com/page/2011-conference>.

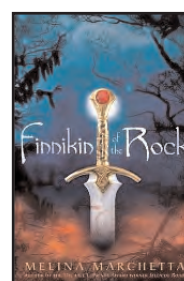
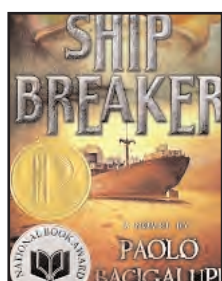
YA literature is also extraordinary with the paranormal well represented by vampires, angels, mermaids, and, of course, zombies. Jonathan Maberry, author of the CYBILS Literary Award-winning zombie apocalypse title, *Rot and Ruin*, will be our virtual guest on Monday, December 5, from 8 to 9 pm ET. Those over 16 can join us in the Bookhenge, a literary sanctuary in Second Life, or anyone can join us on UStream. The UStream will originate from <http://www.bookosphere.net> I'm happy to meet with anyone virtually to introduce you to Second Life or to UStream. You can contact me at criscrissman@gmail.com.

Follow #Bookhenge on Twitter and the NCRA Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/North-Carolina-Reading-Association/117699854985739> to learn about new YA books and resources!



--- Cris Crissman, NCRA Adolescent Literature Chair



Could Your School Receive IRA's Highest Reading Award in 2012?

The Exemplary Reading Program Award recognizes outstanding reading and language arts programs at all grade levels (elementary, middle and high school) and from public, private and parochial schools. The purpose of the award is to focus the public's attention on outstanding programs in schools throughout North America. IRA awards the Exemplary Reading Program Award to one school from each state or province whose councils participate in the program. NCRA actively solicits applications from across North Carolina, and for the past several years, North Carolina schools have been honored by IRA at their annual convention.



IRA's 10 guidelines for applications are listed below. If you know of a school meeting all or most of these requirements, please encourage the literacy leaders to apply for this prestigious award. Applications have been sent to all school system superintendents. The forms and guidelines can also be downloaded from IRA's website www.reading.org. The deadline for application to IRA is November 28, 2011. Let's celebrate the good teaching going on across North Carolina!

10 GUIDELINES TO FOLLOW:

For consideration as an Exemplary Reading Program your school should demonstrate that:

1. The reading program is consistent with sound theory, research, and practice.
2. The reading program facilitates student learning.
3. Students have access to a wide variety of reading materials.
4. Students demonstrate success in reading.
5. Comprehension strategies are taught and applied across the curriculum.
6. Listening, speaking, viewing, and writing are integrated into and support the reading program.
7. Administrators and teachers provide leadership and vision for the building and/or district reading program.
8. The school and/or district offers support services to the program.
9. Literacy activities occur outside of school.
10. The community, including parents, is involved in the reading program.

Jane Kline, Exemplary Reading Program Award Committee Chair
jkline11@yahoo.com

Common Core State Standards Initiative

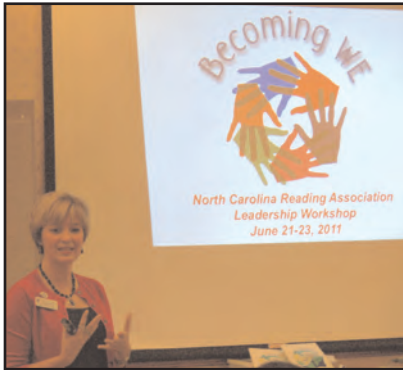


Unsure about what the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) Initiative means for you? You're not alone. Widespread implementation of the Common Core—at the time of this newsletter, 44 states and the District of Columbia have formally adopted the CCSS—may mean significant changes to teaching practices across the country.

That's why IRA has created the Common Core Collaborative Community (<http://engage.reading.org/directory/collaborativecommunities/commoncorestatestandardsinitiative/>) on Engage, IRA's professional networking site. Here you can connect with other members trying to sort out the complexities of the Common Core by asking questions, offering feedback, debating the issues, and sharing resources.

2011 Leadership Conference

Your leaders: working for you!



IRA representative Rayanne Mitchell on team-building.



Robeson Council's Anthony Spallino, Shane Fletcher, Tonnye Fletcher



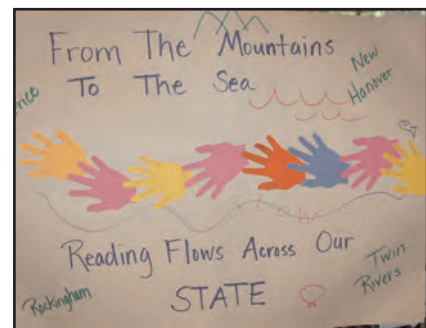
Denise West, Cassandra Graves



Author Carol Crane spoke and autographed books.



Tracy McIntyre and Area Director Sue Harrison



Mountains to the Sea activity



A workshop activities



Members enjoy dinner and the company at Daniel Boone Inn.



Literacy treasures and other doorprizes



Out-going president Ava Bevins, President Mary Jo Floyd, Executive Assistant Jean House at the NCRA Board meeting



Officers from many councils gain valuable information about NCRA and local council operation.

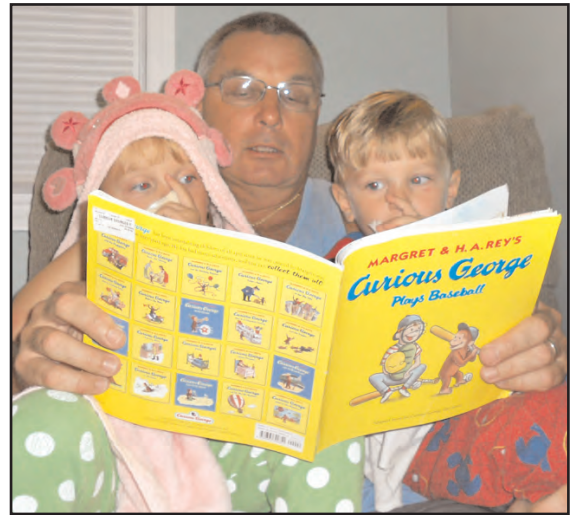
Wirszyla receives Dave Jones Award: Stories, standings, statistics, strength and more

By Sandra Cook, NC Press Foundation, Newspapers in Education

Chris Wirszyla, the 2010-2011 recipient of the Dave Jones Award for the Advancement of Youth Readership will receive official recognition on March 1 at an awards ceremony in Chapel Hill. On March 18, at the NC Reading Association's conference in Raleigh, he will present his comprehensive approach for using healthful living to promote literacy and global awareness as well as physical fitness at Cape Fear Elementary School in Pender County.

Recognizing his commitment

Chris was chosen to receive the Dave Jones award because he offers the "whole package," implementing the "comprehensive approach" described in North Carolina's Healthful Living standards. He practices skills, teaches rules, encourages teamwork, and integrates video, poetry, other literature and newspapers to engage young learners in grades 3-5. He uses games students love to develop academic skills in a variety of subjects.



Using the newspaper

Chris' commitment to newspapers started early in his life, on Long Island. He earned his first paycheck when he was eight years old and spent three years delivering editions of New York Newsday. Chris says he has always used newspaper stories for instructional purposes. His subscribing to the Newspaper in Education program's electronic or e-edition resulted in more extensive use and led him to encourage other teachers in his school to use newspapers. He has offered workshops to teachers on how to incorporate current events and global awareness into their classroom instruction. One of his news photos shows students participating in a variety of dances from around the world on multicultural day at Cape Fear Elementary School.

Currently, Chris uses the e-edition provided by his regional newspaper, the Star-News, to highlight major league and local college stories (UNC-Wilmington), box scores, standings and statistics. Coverage of local high school teams and people they know motivate students to read and study the results. He turns to online editions of the local newspapers, the Pender Post and Pender Chronicle, for more in-depth coverage of local games and box scores. He also promotes active lifestyles with stories that he writes for local papers, reaching parents and other members of the community who influence children. He says, "Using newspapers helps students visualize what I am teaching. Baseball standings allow students to see the leagues and divisions in an organized format. Students see how the sports section is organized and all of the sports it encompasses."

In a letter to Mr. Chris, one student wrote, "When I grow up I am going to be healthy and strong because of you." Strong in body and mind—a teacher receives no better tribute.

Dave Jones spent his career with North Carolina newspapers. He worked for a weekly newspaper in Enfield, The Wilson Daily Times and The News & Observer. His devotion to education led to his service as president of the Journalism Foundation at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill and the North Carolina Press Foundation. His support of educational efforts includes Newspapers in Education and the Mini Page. For information about the Dave Jones Award, go to: <http://www.ncpress.com/ncpf/ncnie/newindex.html>

In 2012, NIE Week is March 5-9. The Newspaper Association of America Foundation will be offering an updated version of the 2002 guide on informational text titled "Give them the Keys: Promoting Adolescent Literacy through Newspapers." Lesson plan components will include National Standards, Assessments/ Evaluations of Student Learning and Adaptations for younger and older students. Technology standards will also be addressed. The guide features these "keys" and much more: Just the Facts, Think My Way, Make a Choice, Information at a Glance, Internet Power and Tough Issues.

Remembering Pattie Jones

Pattie Jones, a long-time member of the Twin Rivers Reading Council and NCRA, lost her courageous two-year battle against pancreatic cancer on September 5, 2011. Pattie was a career educator who retired only after her illness made it impossible to continue. Pattie was also a valuable member of both the Twin Rivers Reading Council and the North Carolina Reading Association. She was a key member of the NCRA Conference Committee and was heavily involved in the Young Authors program both at the local and state levels. On the NCRA Board, Pattie served as the Parents and Reading Committee Chair for three years and also served as an area director, staying in close contact with the councils in her area. She was always there - meetings, conferences, and Young Author judging and celebrations - and she was always ready to work with a smile on her face, asking, "What can I do to help?" Those who have known and worked with Pattie over the years will miss her terribly.



Pattie is survived by her husband, Raymond Jones of New Bern, son Kenneth Jones of Raleigh, and daughter Kelly Jones Thornburg and husband, Joseph, of Bluffton, S.C.

What are our councils doing?

Price Reading Council: On Tuesday, September 13, Dr. Darrell Morris, ASU Reading Professor, spoke at Westwood Elementary about *Informal Reading Assessments*.

Raleigh/Wake Council: September 14th meeting: author and illustrator Bonnie Cristensen spoke. Her work includes picture books like *Woody Guthrie: Poet of the People* and *The Daring Nelly Bly: America's Star Reporter*. Bonnie spoke on *Engaging Young Readers*.

October 12th meeting: Sherri Merritt, Director K-12 Literacy Programs Wake County Public Schools, former high school English teacher & Assistant Professor, English Education, UNC-G spoke about *Reading & Writing Across Content Areas for Learning*.

Wake has held two of its four 3.5-hour workshops so far this year. Scholastic's RaShawyn Morris and consultant Mollie Henderson spoke in September about *Creating Proficient Readers with the Common Core Standards*. The October workshop was hosted by the Farm Bureau and conducted by Louise Lamm and Ellen Gould on the topic of *Enhancing Reading Skills Through a NC Agriculture Theme*.

Important Information about Project Grants!

**The deadline for submitting Project Grant applications
has been extended to November 15!**

**To be eligible for a project grant, local councils must meet the following
requirements:**

1. Councils must send their membership rosters and payment of \$10 per member to NCRA c/o Ken Sheldon: 183 Emory Mitchell Road, Zionville, NC 28698 before November 15. President-elect, Sandra Cook, will be checking with Ken to verify membership receipt as applications come in.
2. Councils must have at least 30 members.
3. Councils must have at least 10 IRA members. Individuals may now obtain online IRA memberships (membership card and copies of Reading Today) for \$29. To join, go to https://marketplace.reading.org/Memberships/IRA_NewMember.aspx

Young Authors Contest 2011-12

**NCRA 2011-2012 Young Authors' Theme:
"The Treasures of North Carolina"**

The theme for the 2011-2012 Young Authors' Project is "The Treasures of North Carolina." Young Authors are encouraged to write in poetry or prose, as fiction or non-fiction. Students and Forever Young writers might write about travel treasures, natural treasures, historical treasures, treasured memories, buried treasure, treasured people, treasured places.... Let your students experiment - they will surprise you! Go to ncreading.org for specific information about formatting, information to be included, and more.

Local Reading Council information

- * Grade K-8 selections should have no more than 300 words total.
- * Grades 9-12 and Forever Young should have no more than 500 words total.
- * Only one entry per person may be submitted.
- * A completed "Young Author Entry Form" must be taped on the back of each entry.
- * Artwork may be submitted with a written entry by the same person. (Only send original artwork - no copies please! Label back of work with artist, grade, school, and teacher)
- * Entries for state competition must be postmarked by Friday, December 9, 2011. Therefore, each council will collect/judge entries prior to this date.

Winning council entries from local councils must be submitted to the NCRA Young Author Chairperson by December 9, 2011. Mail or deliver your council's entries with completed Council Information forms to: Tonnye W. Fletcher, 7263 Peacock Rd., Chadbourn, NC 28431.

Young Author Theme for 2011-12 - The Treasures of North Carolina” Ideas for Writing

The following may help your students get started! Find more at ncreading.org.

Lost Treasures - Pirate stories/shipwrecks	Treasured activities in NC	Treasured arts/crafts
Travel Treasures: Great NC places to visit	Family treasures	Capital city treasures
NC Memories I Treasure or A Treasured Memory	NC Community treasures	N-S-E-W Treasure Point in NC
Natural Treasures - Plants, animals, natural resources ...	Houses/buildings/landmarks	American Revolutionary Sites in NC
Treasure Hunt (fiction/non-fiction)	Treasures of ____ County, NC	Dialects Spoken in NC
Gold Nuggets - Treasures discovered during NC gold rush	Treasures of NC Basketball	Fun Places to Visit in NC
Buried Treasure	Treasures of NC Outerbanks	Tobacco Industry in NC
Blackbeard/pirates	Bug Treasures of NC	Agricultural Treasures
Reed's Gold Mine	Civil War Treasures of NC	Native American Groups of NC
Special NC trip	Visits to historical sites	Slave Route (Underground stations in NC)
Historical Markers around the state/back stories...	School field trips taken	Medicine development in NC
Special person from NC	Special historical events in NC	Mountains
Special NC animal	Special jewels/jewelry	Coast
A NC school	Civil war sites in NC	Wild horses
Learnings about NC	ABC Quilt Alphabet	Colleges
Feelings about NC	Lesia Cline-Ransome James Ransome	Sports teams
Research Triangle Park's influence in NC	Bubba Bear	Cities/towns
Rivermont, Boxley, Rosemont, Boulevard Boarding Houses	NASCAR and Moonshine	Famous North Carolinians
Williamsburg - first public school	Karastan	Treasured sayings of NC
Products made in NC	Fieldcrest (Houses - history - Marshall Fields)	A Family Treasure
Different NC cultural groups	King Chandler	Day Trip Treasures
Treasured places in NC	Animals of NC	Folk Art of NC
Treasured NC restaurants	Treasured Friends	“Secret” Treasures of NC (little known treasures)
Treasured NC sports	Treasured Pets	Keepsakes (quilt, ring, stuffed animal, etc.)
	Gems/jewels	Things invented in NC
	Treasured or precious gifts	NC Historical figures
	Symbols of NC	Cultural Treasures of NC

Plan now to attend the NCRA Conference 2012!

March 18 - 20, 2012, Raleigh Convention Center



Be sure to attend this year's conference focusing on North Carolina's great authors of both children and adult books, in addition to wonderful professional speakers!

Authors include:

James & Lesa Ransome
 Brian Pinkney
 Bonnie Christensen
 Frances O'Rourke Dowell
 Lester Laminack
 John Claude Bemis
 JJ Johnson
 Kelly Starlign-Lyon
 Luli Gray
 Sheila Turnage
 Shana Norris
 Patsy O'Leary

Professional speakers include:

Dr. Sharon Faber
 Dr. Lois Huffman
 Dr. Francine Johnson
 Jane Feber
 Jill Nolen & Laura Beaver
 Nancy Pollette
 Dr. Cris Crissman
 Linda Hoyt
 Dr. Chris Wirszyła

... and many more!

... and many more!

Earn up to 2 reading CEUs for attending two pre-conference sessions on Sunday, March 18 and the full conference all day Monday & Tuesday, March 19 & 20. Check the website ncreading.org for more information about the conference.



North Carolina Reading Association

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

NCRA 2011-12

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Upcoming Events

2012 NCRA Conference, Raleigh Convention Center March 18 - 20, 2012

2012 IRA Convention, Chicago, IL April 29 - May 2, 2012

NCRA Leadership Conference, Boone, NC June 19 - 21, 2012

2013 NCRA Conference, Raleigh Convention Center..... March 10 - 12, 2013

2014 NCRA Conference, Raleigh Convention Center..... March 16 - 18, 2014

2015 NCRA Conference, Raleigh Convention Center..... March 15 - 17, 2015

2016 NCRA Conference, Raleigh Convention Center..... March 13 - 15, 2016

Visit ncreading.org for up-to-date information.