
Literacy Leaders

The Newsletter of the Kentucky Reading Association
www.kyreading.org

Spring 2018



KRA President's Message

KRA Mission

The Kentucky Reading Association is a professional organization of educators and individuals actively engaged in the development of literacy throughout the Commonwealth. KRA's mission is to be a voice for literacy. We are committed to encouraging lifelong reading for pleasure and learning, providing information related to literacy, increasing opportunities for professional growth, and promoting research-based instructional practices.

Dear KRA members,

The Kentucky Reading Association continues to lead the way to literacy. Spring is in the air and as always, it a great time to promote literacy. I have enjoyed seeing many pictures and posts about Read Across America during the month of March. We continuously make a difference in the lives of our communities by providing literacy experiences that are outstanding.

My year as president of the Kentucky Reading Association is drawing to a close. As I reflect about this past year as president, I think about my first letter to you: I asked you if you would consider personally taking on the challenges I had set for myself. I challenged you to continue to model a love of literacy to your students as a tool to motivate them to become lifelong learners. I also challenged you to help in transforming our state and local councils throughout this year. I asked you to use our collective voices to make a difference across our great Commonwealth. We have made strides, but we cannot afford to become complacent because our work is not by any means finished.

The Kentucky Reading Association has an outstanding Executive Board and Full Board who represent Individuals from all facets of education. The caliber of our board members is exceptional. In addition to the countless number of hours and dedication they give freely to make our organization "A Voice for Literacy", many of them present at the state and national level to promote our love of literacy. I want to take this opportunity to say "Thank you!" to them and to challenge you to become an active, involved member at your local and state levels.

Finally, I want to take a moment to say "Thank You" to each of you who are members of our organization. In a time where many of us have been left feeling unappreciated for our time and dedication to our profession, I want you to know that we truly make a difference! When I think of educators, I think of people who give, and give, and give some more to make a difference in the life of students. You are committed to students and to the success of every student.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as President of KRA – "Be a Voice for Literacy!"

With appreciation for all that you do, and warmest regards,

Angela Ballinger

KRA President 2017-2018



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"Books are the plane, and the train, and the road. They are the destination, and the journey.

They are home."

— Anna Quindlen,
How Reading Changed My Life

**Kentucky Reading
Association Board
2017-2018**

KRA Executive Board Members

President:

Angela Ballinger: angelaballinger@gmail.com

Immediate Past President/Parliamentarian:

Keith Lyons: keith.lyons@uky.edu

President-Elect/Conference Chair:

Erin Wobbekind: erin.wobbekind@uky.edu

Vice President:

Lisa Shaw King: lisa.king@ckec.org

Recording Secretary:

Bobbie Barrier: bbarrier0001@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Thelma Hawkins:
thelma.hawkins@education.ky.gov

KRA State Coordinator:

Laura Smith Crafton: laurascrafton13@gmail.com

Membership Co-Directors:

Lindsay Arnett (Database):
lindsay.arnett@hopkins.kyschools.us and

Kristyn Presnell (Recruitment):
kristyn.presnell@madison.kyschools.us

Literacy Leaders Newsletter Editor:

Roxanne Spencer: roxanne.spencer@wku.edu

Kentucky Reading Journal Co-editors:

Stacey Korson: stacey.korson@eku.edu and
Tammie Sherry: sherryt1@nku.edu

Historian:

Peggy Stirsman: pstirsman@twc.com

KRA Appointed Board Members

Tammie Sherry: sherryt1@nku.edu

Susan Edington: sedington@murraystate.edu

Amy Keadle: a.keadle@moreheadstate.edu

Sara Jennings: sara.jennings@russellville.kyschools.us

Bonnie Lash Freeman: blashf@gmail.com

Sonia Michael: sonia.michael@berea.kyschools.us

Gera Nelson: nelson@lindsey.edu

Tammy Board: tammy.board2@lincoln.kyschools.us

Legislative Chair

Brenda Overturf: bjoverturf@gmail.com

Literacy Partner

Ron Gray: ron.gray@bluegrasshealthcare.com

Marketing & Communications

Kevin Presnell:
kevin.presnell@madison.kyschools.us

Technology

Zac Combs: zac.combs@uky.edu

**Follow KRA on
Social Media!**

KRA Website: www.kyreading.org & the new KRA
blog, KRA Updates: www.kyreading.org/updates

Twitter: twitter.com/kyreadingassoc

Facebook: www.facebook.com/KYReading

KRA Officer Nominations 2018-2020

Vote for KRA Leadership Positions!

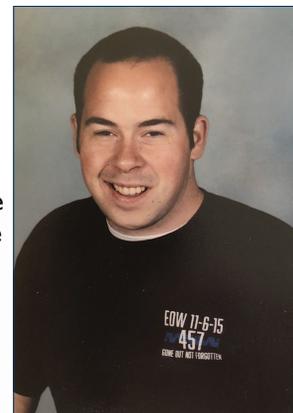
KRA members must vote online at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018KRAelection>

by April 30, 2018

Vice President, 2018-2019: Kevin Presnell, Jesse Stuart Council (2019 Conference Chair and line of succession for KRA president):

Kevin Presnell is a Social Studies teacher at Madison Central High School in Richmond, KY. He obtained his Masters in Literacy P-12 from Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) in addition to his Bachelors in History Teaching from EKU as well. Kevin serves on the board of the Kentucky Reading Association as the Marketing and Branding Committee Chair. In addition to serving on the board, he was the President of the Jesse Stuart Literacy Council for the previous two years, and he now serves as the Past President. He is currently serving on the Advisory Panel guiding the Social Studies standards revision at the Kentucky Department of Education, as the public school representative on the Teacher Education Committee at EKU, and on the Educator Preparation Advisory Council at EKU. The power of reading has been transformative throughout Kevin's life. His favorite book as a child was *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?*, leading into his adult life where he still loves opening any book in the Harry Potter series.



Vice President 2019-2020: Bobbie Lynn Barrier, **Lake Cumberland Council** (2020 Conference Chair and line of Succession for KRA president)

My name is Bobbie Lynn Barrier and I have been a member of KRA for 10 years. During that time I have held the office of Treasurer for the Lake Cumberland Reading Council as well as secretary. I currently serve as the KRA Secretary on the Executive Board. I received my bachelors in Elementary Education from Midway College. I then obtained my master's degree as a Reading and Writing Specialist from the University of the Cumberlands. I have been teaching for 10 years and love it! I am currently employed at Bell Elementary in Wayne County as a Reading Recovery teacher. I was also employed at Monticello Independent School for 6 years. I have taught first, kindergarten, and third grade. I love my job and can't imagine doing anything else that would be so rewarding.



Treasurer 2018-2020: Thelma Hawkins, Bluegrass Council

My name is Thelma Hawkins and I have been a member of KRA for 12 years. During that time, I have held the offices of state KRA Treasurer from 2006-2008 and KRA Co-membership Director from 2008-2016. I received my bachelors in Economics from Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. I am a twenty-three year employee with the Kentucky Department of Education and for the past twelve years, I have been a Grants Branch Manager which I provides oversight of the agency's federal grants. My job offers me the great fortune of working with districts and schools across the Commonwealth.



KRA Notes: STATE COORDINATOR'S LETTER

from Laura Smith Crafton



Dear KRA Members,

April celebrates all month long, with many tributes and activities. As literacy educators, we revel in the written word, and our classroom bulletin boards are covered with our students' poetic efforts. Let's look at some ideas for April's National Poetry Month that can enliven your students' imaginations and increase their vocabularies, as well:

Primary Poetry Slam: What second-grader wouldn't relish a poetry slam, just like a teen or tween sibling's? Use rhyming or rhythmic favorites to inspire your young poets. We have so many wonderful children's poets: George Ella Lyon, Brod Bagert, J. Patrick Lewis, Dr. Seuss, Jack Prelutsky, Shel Silverstein, Nikki Grimes, and many more! Encourage your students to create their worlds of words and perform them for a Family Literacy Night or Talent Show.

Spine Poetry: A fun YA and adult game in libraries is creating poetry from the titles on spines of books (okay, so you might have to squint to read those skinny picture book spines!). On your next visit to the school library, get your students to get creative with spine poetry. (Your friendly neighborhood school librarian won't mind reshelving all those books!). (*Hello, Hello/Oh, the Places You'll Go/Stinky Cheese Man/Sometimes You Fly/The Night Before St. Patrick's Day/Easy as Pie*)

Word Stacks: Back to your school library for a variety of informational books on any and all topics (Common Core, anyone?). Have students select one or two books on one or closely related topics. Model "mining" the books for descriptive words about the topic. This is a good way to improve use of prepositions and connecting words, to give the word stacks more flow:

Eagle's
Wide wingspan
Prey flee.
High mountain,
Hidden nest.
His talons reach,
As keen eyes seek
An evening meal.

Found Poems: Whether cutting phrases from magazines and newspapers to form found poems or sneaking poetry into comprehension (or vice-versa), found poems can be fun, inspiring, and build vocabulary and help children with syntax and cadence in reading and writing. Be creative in finding new and inventive sources for found poetry, such as a trip around the school, identifying places, people, and activities to build poems around.

Whichever activities you pursue, share your joy of the written word with your students!

Laura S. Crafton
KRA State Coordinator

Kentucky Reading Association Board Meeting, March 24, 2018, at Murray State University. Top: KRA Board hard at work, and below, taking a break to say "READ!"

During KRA board committee meetings, we worked on professional development, marketing, conference planning, advocacy, membership, local council leadership, and budget.



Among the accomplishments of the day, we toured the Kentucky Reading Association archives, housed at the Curriculum Materials Center, College of Education and Human Services, Murray State University. We are still compiling photos of KRA past presidents and seeking the first volume of the *Kentucky Reading Journal*, so we can assign volume numbers for current and future *KRJ* issues.

SPOTLIGHT

on Local Councils

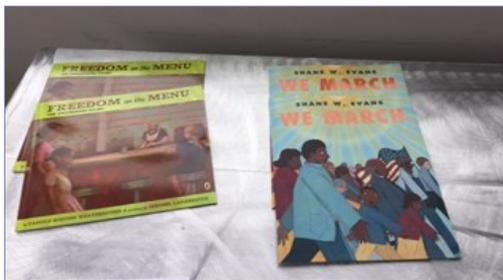
Greater Louisville Reading Council is on the MOVE in 2018!

On January 13, 2018, our president, Synthia Shelby, was asked to speak at the National Council for Negro Women and shared her poetry with the audience. The theme was “When Hands Reach Out To Help Others.” Synthia spoke about the need for all of us to hold ourselves and our elected officials accountable. She also spoke about working together to make a difference in our communities and to not forget the legacy of hard work, determination, and integrity that African American ancestors leave behind.

On February 3, 2018, our president also spoke in Greensburg, KY, at the annual Black History Program as the guest speaker. She shared her spoken word and poetry book *PRAISE: In My Pocket!* With over 100 attendees. The theme for this event was “Standing In Unity.” She spoke about the need for everyone to work together to stop the violence in our communities. She also encouraged everyone to remember that we need to stand together not matter our race to make change happen in our neighborhoods, communities, state, and nation.



In addition, the Greater Louisville Reading Council hosted an event with the Newburg Public Library. We provided a community viewing of the movie *Selma* on February 24, 2018, and provided several children’s books as door prizes for our attendees. We shared that these books are part of the lineage of African American history and provide our young people with knowledge regarding the Civil Rights Movement. We want ALL children to understand why they have their current opportunities and freedom today. The titles we provided were *A Sweet Smell of Roses* by Angela Johnson, *Freedom on the Menu* by Carole Boston Weatherford, and *We March* by Shane W. Evans.



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SPOTLIGHT

on Local Councils (cont'd)

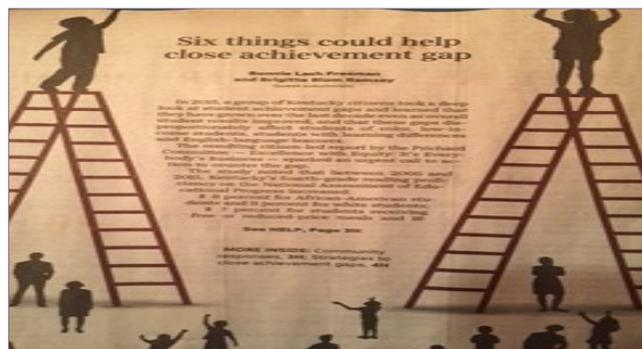
GLRC on the Move (cont'd)



In other news, our member and advisor, Bonnie Lash Freeman (right), co-authored an article with Brigette Blom Ramsey that appeared in Louisville's *Courier Journal* on February 25, 2018. The title of the article, "Closing The Gap – Why Race Matters In School", was featured on the front page of the Forum section and discussed Four Foundational Principles and Six Key Recommendations that could help close the Achievement Gaps.

Within the article, we provided statistics for students with disabilities, percentages of teachers by race, percentages of students by race, as well as Kentucky's fourth grade reading proficiency rate. The article also reminds us of the disparities of how we teach our children of color. These discoveries and data were detailed by a citizen led report from the Pritchard Committee. The article allows the reader to not only understand some of the reasons why we are facing issues in our schools, but also gives us a CALL TO ACTION! We are told that we must be part of the solution. Their last line of the article bears repeating: "Excellence with equity – it is everybody's business – and the time is now." *The entire article can be found online at www.courierjournal.com/opinion.

During March, our members: Bonnie Lash Freeman and Vicky Layne participated in Read Across America activities. Vicky helped coordinate volunteers at her school to read with young people throughout the week at her school: Engelhard Elementary. Bonnie Lash Freeman was one of those dedicated readers that volunteered to be a reader. She read *Corduroy* and *Cows in the Kitchen* to her Kindergartners which was followed up by *The Word Collector* and *the Amazing Miz Mozzetta* for her 4th grade group. Those children were given the treat of their lives because Bonnie is not just any volunteer, but is a retired, gifted educator, and an amazing storyteller who breathes life into any story she reads.



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SPOTLIGHT

on Local Councils (cont'd)

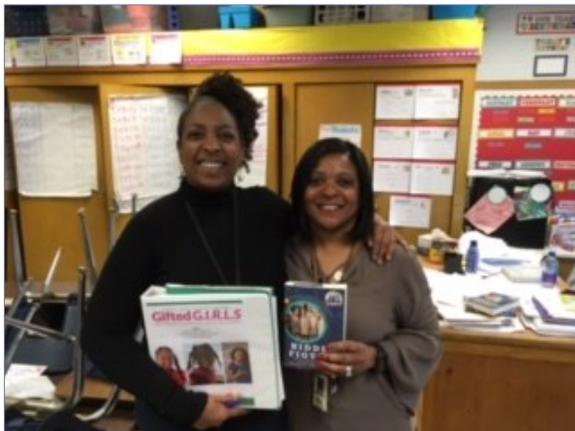


GLRC on the Move (cont'd)

For Read Across America Month, Greater Louisville Reading Council purchased 15 copies of *Hidden Figures Young Reader's Edition* by Margo Lee Shetterly. We donated them to the Gifted Girls group and their two teachers at Byck Elementary School. The Gifted Girls group is dedicated to girls of color and helps them with literacy, social skills and awareness of self. They meet once a week for an hour and will use this text during March as their Book Club choice. Each week they will not only read, but also use this text as a catalyst to discuss who they are now and who they want to be when they grow up.

Through higher order thinking, critical questioning and engaging discussions, they will discover why these women worked so hard and what obstacles they faced to change history. We are proud to be part of their literacy and personal growth!

Pictured right are the Gifted Girls of Byck Elementary School with their books: Hidden Figures.



Ms. Palmer and Ms. Weathers are the teachers at Byck Elementary School who co-facilitate the group of Gifted G.I.R.L.S. (Girls Inspired to be Resilient Leaders and Students).

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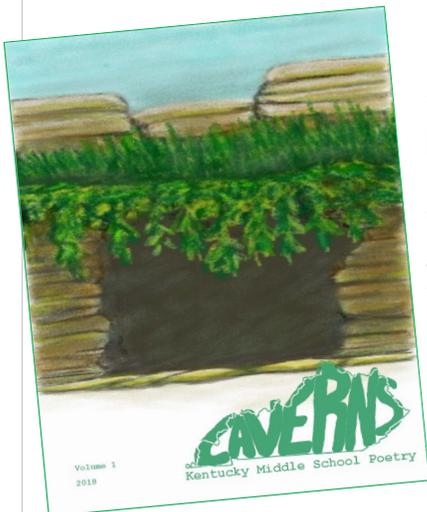
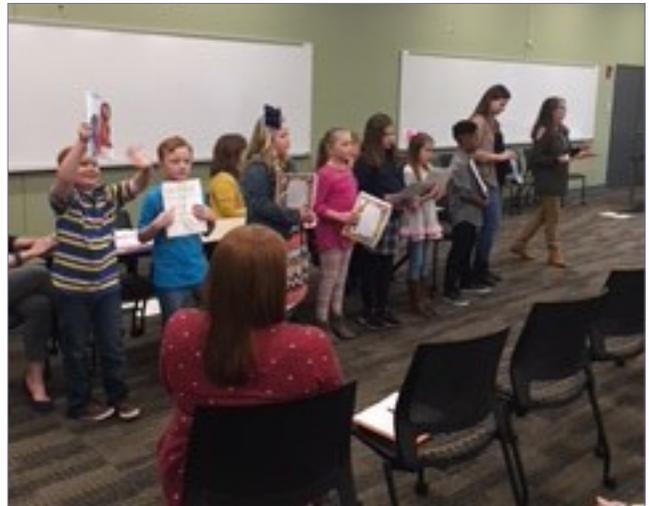
SPOTLIGHT

on Local Councils (cont'd)

The Pennyriple Reading Council celebrated Valentine's Day with our Executive Council Meeting theme "We Love Our Teachers". During that meeting, Ms. Peggy Stirsman was inducted as our new Vice President.

The Pennyriple Council's Young Authors Conference was also a big success this Spring! Children proudly displayed their creations from each grade.

March 12th marked the date of our annual Literacy Conference, where we provide professional development to teachers and education students. We are excited to welcome Mrs. Leigh Ann Florence of the *Woody and Chloe* series as our keynote speaker.



Western Kentucky Reading Council and the Kentucky Reading Association have kindly sponsored the first volume of *CAVERNS: Kentucky Middle School Poetry*. The 2018 volume is available on Western Kentucky University's TopSCHOLAR™ website: <https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/caverns/>. The 2019 edition is gearing up! All middle school librarians, reading, and English Language Arts teachers are welcome to submit their students poems for volume 2 during April, National Poetry Month. Download the submission form here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1geAXvuMgdXCwyLnflYFEcaAZFTVTW4eRKgJftNrb54U/edit?usp=sharing>.

continued

SPOTLIGHT

on Local Councils (cont'd)



Who wouldn't want a lively T. Rex who is excited about reading in their classroom?!

Lake Cumberland Reading Council and Western Kentucky Reading Council's Dr. Gera Nelson and her students at Lindsey Wilson College (who are members of the Kentucky Reading Association) and went all out to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday and "Read Across Adair" in early March!



Alice in Wonderland was a very popular activity at the Read Across Adair night



KRA Mini-Grants Awarded Spring 2018

KRA Spring Mini-Grant Report

The Summer Slide grant received 5 total scores and the Classroom Library received 6 total scores. The submissions were reviewed anonymously. The scores were totaled and averaged out to determine the winner. There was only one eligible applicant for the New Teacher and Research grants so they were reviewed and awarded the grants.

New Teacher Grant

Eligible Applicants: 1

Amount: \$500

Winner: Taylor Greer

School and District: Fulton County Elementary School, Fulton County

Summary: toward KRA conference attendance

Research Grant

Eligible Applicants: 1

Amount: \$1500

Winner: Tammie Sherry and Mike DiCicco

School and District: NKU

Summary: The purpose of this study is to collect data that demonstrate, in what ways, if any, does the use of photography support students as they work through a writing piece. The university researcher's will teach tools related to photography and writing narrative, as well as social action pieces with students in a sixth grade class. We will use small group interviews, surveys and collect student work as our measures. We hope that the research contributes to the field of adolescent literacy as a method that promotes higher interest, motivation and greater sense of audience awareness towards writing in an alternative format.

Classroom Library Grant

Eligible Applicants: 5

Amount: \$500

Winner: Beth Ewing

School and District: Owensboro High School, Owensboro Public Schools

Summary: This project would help build a more diverse classroom library for my students. The classroom library needs to be more diverse and culturally responsive. My students need a bookshelf more reflective of themselves and the diversity they bring into my classroom.

Summer Slide

Eligible Applicants: 4

Amount: \$1000

Winner: Tina Hayes

School and District: Heath Elementary, McCracken County

Summary: Our project, Summer is for Reading, will combine school and community resources to offer a weekly family reading program during the summer months. Sessions will feature a different theme or author each week, skilled (and costumed!) storytellers, a meal or snack, and a free book to take home for the first 25 families at each session.

Kentucky Reading Association Board Statement

[REDACTED] In the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] current [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] political [REDACTED] climate and [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] in support [REDACTED] of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] public [REDACTED] education, [REDACTED] the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Kentucky Reading Association [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] would like to [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] state that [REDACTED] we support
[REDACTED] educators for [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] the purpose [REDACTED]
of [REDACTED] promoting [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] literacy [REDACTED] for [REDACTED] all [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] learners [REDACTED] across [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] the Commonwealth. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] This is [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] what it means [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] to be [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] a "voice for literacy." [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The Kentucky Reading Journal: Call for Manuscripts

Deadline for 2018 KRJ submissions is July 31, 2018

The Kentucky Reading Journal welcomes articles that are both scholarly and practitioner-focused as well as other original contributions addressing literacy and/or literature across all grades and content areas. The Fall 2018 journal theme is *Transformations through Literacy*. Classroom teachers, reading specialists, and other reading professionals are encouraged to submit manuscripts according to the guidelines indicated below.

TYPES OF SUBMISSIONS - Submissions may fall under the following categories:

- **Feature articles** should be approximately 10-15 pages (2500-3500 words), including references, and may include original research in literacy and/or literature, reflect the current research interests of Kentucky educators, or review best practices for multiple literacies (i.e., visual, digital, textual, or technological).
- **Theoretical Discussions** should be approximately 8-12 pages, including references. A review of research relative to the field of literacy, current issues, interests for Kentucky educators and/or considerations for best practices.
- **Teaching Tips** for engaging readers and writers should be approximately 3-5 pages and may include practical ideas for teaching literacy and/or literature. These also may include teaching vignettes that describe especially poignant or humorous classroom moments. While not required, such submissions are strengthened by the inclusion of digital components that demonstrate students' success and engagement with the teaching tips.
- **Professional Book Reviews** should be one page and include the strengths of the resource for Kentucky educators, as well as any caveats the reader should be aware of in order to use ideas from the book successfully.
- **Kids' Korner** submissions may be much shorter. These submissions come from things that students have written, created, or reviewed. Audio submissions of kids reviewing literature or promoting technology tools are ideas to consider.

GUIDELINES FOR MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSION – Submissions must apply the following:

- Submit the manuscript/video electronically. Please use separate email attachments for text and each digital, audio, or video file.
- Include a cover page with the following information: the title of the article; the author's full name, position, school/library affiliation, phone number, fax number, e-mail address, complete mailing address; and a 50-100 word abstract for the article. Please include the title on the first page of the manuscript text; however, the author's name should not appear anywhere else in the manuscript to insure impartial review.
- Use Microsoft Word and double space in 12 point font with 1" margins.
- Include charts, graphs, bulleted points, and/or figures wherever possible to vary the format and enhance the content of the article.
- Prepare reference lists and text citations according to the style specified in the most recent edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*.
- Submit digital images as separate email attachments in .jpg format. Notations should appear in the text for proper placement of digital images (e.g., "insert photo 1 here"). Include captions or bylines for each image.
- Submit audio/video files with captions or bylines and include a written summary of the audio/video. Audio/video files should be no longer than 5 minutes but may be as brief as 1-2 minutes.

MANUSCRIPT REVIEW - Manuscripts are evaluated on the basis of content, interest, organization, clarity, and style. If accepted, revisions may be requested. Manuscripts must be original works, should not have been previously published, and should not be undergoing simultaneous review for another journal. Preference is given to Kentucky authors. If an article is accepted, the editor reserves the right to make appropriate stylistic editorial changes. Authors wishing to use substantive portions of their articles accepted for publication in KRJ must give credit to KRJ for original publication.

Submit all manuscripts by July 31, 2018, to:

KRJ co-editors: Stacey Korson and Tammie Sherry

Contact and submission will be to: kentuckyreadingjournal@yahoo.com

Kentucky Reading Association Conference November 1-3, 2018

A Literacy Explosion: The Beat Goes On



Jan Richardson



Janet Allen



Matt Glover