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# Literacy Leaders

The Newsletter of the Kentucky Reading Association

[www.kyreading.org](http://www.kyreading.org)

Winter 2018



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## KRA President's Message

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### 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 (KRA) is leading the way in literacy! *Literacy Leaders*, the KRA newsletter, provides current information to educators from pre-K-12 and beyond. The KRA board is also very proud of the research and best practices articles found in the *Kentucky Reading Journal*. Look for our next *KRJ* publication soon. Teachers on the cutting edge throughout our state are involved in our mission to be a "Voice for Literacy" for Kentucky. The 2017 Conference Committee, led by President-Elect Erin Wobbekind, spent countless hours during the last year planning, organizing, and developing a remarkable conference. This newsletter issue is filled with various "treasures" that demonstrates the awe-inspiring results of this premier event. The 2017 Conference provided an exemplary variety of strands and sessions aligned to the Kentucky Standards. KRA has an outstanding board: our members represent individuals from all facets of education. The caliber of our board members is exceptional—several of whom presented sessions at the 2017 KRA Conference.

There are several tasks the KRA board has been charged with during 2017-2018—one of which is the International Literacy Association (ILA) transformation. The local councils will continue to be kept up-to-date by their presidents regarding information received from ILA. KRA is a group of professionals whose focus and energy is grounded in literacy issues and concerns across our great Commonwealth. By coming together to promote our common interests, we create an energetic, spirited, and dynamic presence. We are a collective voice that can be heard throughout Kentucky. We invite all who share our common vision to join in our effort. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as president of KRA. We are a Voice for Literacy in Kentucky!

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

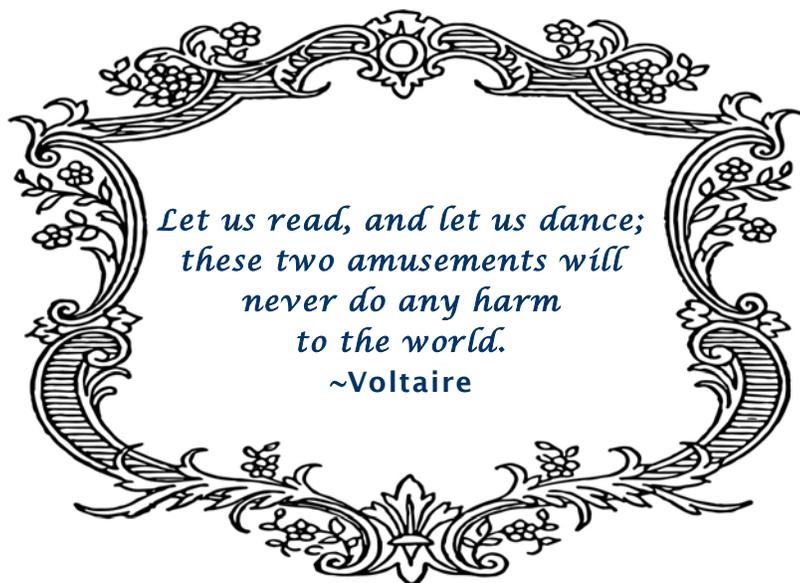
*Angela Ballinger*

KRA President 2017-2018

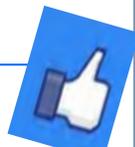


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*Let us read, and let us dance;  
these two amusements will  
never do any harm  
to the world.  
~Voltaire*



**Follow KRA on Social  
Media!**

KRA Website: [www.kyreading.org](http://www.kyreading.org) & the new KRA  
blog, KRA Updates: [www.kyreading.org/updates](http://www.kyreading.org/updates)

Twitter: [twitter.com/kyreadingassoc](https://twitter.com/kyreadingassoc)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/KYReading](https://www.facebook.com/KYReading)

**Kentucky Reading  
Association Board  
2017-2018**

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## KRA Notes: STATE COORDINATOR'S LETTER from Laura Smith Crafton



*Dear KRA Members,*

'Tis the season for many things – holiday cheer, school breaks, and upcoming deadlines for International Literacy Association for the following awards and grants. We hope Kentucky Reading Association local councils, administrators, and researchers will consider applying. KRA has an excellent track record with these ILA acknowledgements of excellence, so please contact me at ([laurascrafton13@gmail.com](mailto:laurascrafton13@gmail.com)), if you haven't already, for details on submitting the appropriate paperwork for these awards and grants.

### **Council Awards: Deadline: 12/15/17**

**Advocacy Award:** State and provincial councils that demonstrate how they are working to affect educational policy and legislation through effective advocacy at the local, state/provincial, and/or national levels

**Award of Excellence:** Awarded to state and provincial associations that have distinguished themselves through organizing and implementing a wide range of programs and activities in their state or province that (a) serve and support councils and members, (b) contribute to education, and (c) coincide with and support the programs and goals of the Association

**Honor Council Program:** Local, student and special interest ILA councils apply for this award that recognizes well-rounded programs serving the council members, the community, the state/provincial association or affiliate, and ILA.

### **Graduate Student/Teacher/Researcher/Administrator Awards: Deadline: 01/15/18**

**Jeanne S. Chall Research Fellowship (graduate students):** ILA members apply for this grant to support reading research by promising scholars

**Jerry Johns Outstanding Teacher Educator in Reading Award (teacher):** ILA members college or university teachers of reading methods or reading-related courses apply for this award or are nominated by peers

**Leaders Inspiring Readers Award (teacher/researcher):** ILA member educators and researchers in the focus area of struggling readers apply for this award

**Constance McCullough International Research Grant (researcher):** ILA members apply for this grant designated for use in international professional development activities outside North America

**Corwin Literacy Leader Award (administrator)** (presented by ILA): District or school administrator who offers literacy professional development, instructional resource support, and/or specific literacy programs

For more information, visit: <https://www.literacyworldwide.org/about-us/awards-grants>.  
In the meantime, season's greetings and all best wishes to KRA members and friends! We appreciate your hard work, and all the things you do to be a "voice for literacy" in Kentucky – and beyond!

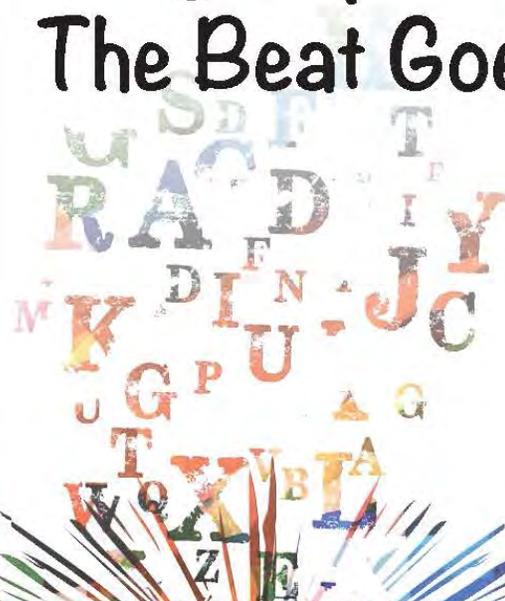
*Laura S. Crafton*

KRA State Coordinator

# Kentucky Reading Association Conference November 1-3, 2018



## A Literacy Explosion: The Beat Goes On



Please join us in 2018  
in Louisville!

# SPOTLIGHT

## on Local Councils

**Bluegrass Council:** We have two book clubs that are progressing well. The Literacy Fair at Mapleton is planned for Spring 2018, and we are working on that. We are redesigning a bookmark and brochure for recruiting members. We are working with the librarian at Frederick Douglass High School (FDHS) to start a book club with a small targeted group of faculty and students. We are still working out the details. We are still working on our communication and recruitment strategies. On March 29, Amy Keadle will speak to our members at FDHS about the National Board Certification process.

The Jesse Stuart Literacy Council hosted a Back to School Google Classroom training led by Mrs. Susan Cintra. During this training invitees were walked through implementation of Google Classroom and how to use this interactive format for literacy instruction. Guest shared that they enjoyed being able to experience the technology as the speaker presented the training.



**Lake Cumberland Reading Council:** Our local council held a family literacy night on October 17, and 144 students participated in various literacy lessons and activities. Thirteen different organizations participated in a trunk or treat for the students afterwards.

# SPOTLIGHT

## on Local Councils (cont'd)



**Murray Area Council:** We donated 25 books to be given away at McNabb's "Pop in for a Good Book" Family Literacy event. Our president, membership chair attended the Alpha Upsilon Alpha business meeting on October 2 and presented the group with a gift basket. Our book club has nine participants; we are reading *Buffalo Dance: The Journey of York* by Frank X Walker. On November 8, the council participated in a Family Reading Night at the Murray/Calloway County Library, and gave away more than 50 gift bags.



**Pennyrile Reading Council:** We are pumped and excited after attending a great KRA conference. We recently had a Family Reading Night at our public library for preschool-2nd grade that went along with the Read for the Record Jumpstart initiative. Lots of fun was had by all listening to the book *Quackers* and participating in activities and games. We look forward to seeing what opportunities the new year will bring.



**Western Kentucky Reading Council:** Young Adult author Isabel Quintero spoke with classes at Bowling Green High School (BGHS) on October 19. Her visit was co-sponsored by the Western Kentucky Reading Council and the BGHS library. Quintero shared mostly from her *Gabi, A Girl in Pieces* (2014). Several students also had the opportunity to share their own poetry with Quintero and receive feedback for becoming published authors. Quintero read from her novel and then allowed students to ask questions.

# KRA Outreach



## Feed the Mind – Kentucky at KRA Conference

Multiple schools representing various districts were recognized for their commitment to literacy during the afternoon general session at the October KRA conference in Louisville. These schools were a part of the Arby's Feed the Mind-Kentucky initiative for several years. The 2017 iteration of the annual Feed the Mind event typically held in the spring at Rupp Arena (Lexington) was not held due to lack of incentive weather and altered school year-end calendars. Remaining proceeds that were raised for the event were distributed to the

schools that had initially registered. Checks in the amount of \$1,600 were gifted to each school's library to enhance their literacy endeavors. KRA and the Kentucky Council of Teachers of English/Language Arts sponsored books for the participating school's fourth grade classes in the spring. KRA has been a partner of the Feed the Mind event, along with the Arby's Foundation, the Lexington Arby's Cooperative, and the Collaborative Center for Literacy Development. The event targeted fourth grade students and teachers as a literacy celebration. The event began in 2013, with over 11,000 participants joining over the years.



## Dolly Parton Imagination Library Event Success

We appreciate all who contributed, supported, volunteered, and participated in the "Books, Bands, & Bourbon" to benefit the Imagination Library – KY Pilot Project. The event that was held November 5<sup>th</sup> at Goodfellas Pizzeria in Lexington. Hundreds of individuals joined us for good food, music, and spirits. Children enjoyed free face-painting, with each child receiving a book as well. Three Kentucky authors set up to share their works: Leigh Anne Florence (and Woody & Chloe), Doris Settles, and Ben Woodard. A silent auction included fun-

themed baskets with competitive bidding. Overall, the event raised awareness about the overall project and funds to cover nearly 1,200 books for children ages birth to 5 years in the 14 county project. We are so grateful for the support and sponsorship of the staff at Goodfellas and Ethereal Brewing for the venue and logistics to help make this a successful event. KRA is a collaborator on the Imagination Library-KY Pilot Project. This event, and others in the near future, will help maintain current affiliates in the project, as well as serve as seeds for new developing areas. We will keep posting about the progress as it all unfolds. Again, thank you all as we strive to increase the voices for literacy in Kentucky!

## Pre-service Ambassadors for Literacy (PALs) 2017-2108

Strong volunteer and professional organizations realize the qualities for growth, strength, relevance, and sustainability. KRA recognizes one of its necessary attributes includes pre-service educators who are passionate about literacy and education, and who possess voices that need to be heard. Several years ago, KRA implemented the Pre-service Ambassadors for Literacy (PALs) initiative as a platform to recruit and support burgeoning educators. The elite PALs cohorts are typically formed in the early fall of the academic year, as students are recommended by their university faculty members. They are invited to participate in the annual fall conference as support personnel and learners. Dr. Diana Porter (Eastern Kentucky University and KRA Past President) serves as the group mentor. This year's group is another fantastic cadre! Fifteen incredible pre-service educators convened to help Erin Wobbekind, 2017 Conference Chair and President-elect, and her conference team implement the intricacies of the conference. And did they ever! They were a very hard working, dedicated, and knowledgeable group. As we look to the future of our field, we are confident these fine folks will be leaders. In fact, one of our past PALs now is a successful educator and serves on the KRA board; Kevin Presnell is a great example of the PALs lineage! To learn more about the PALs initiative, ask a KRA board member for more information. This year's cohort consists of the following leaders (by university):

### Eastern Kentucky University

Laura Fannin  
Alexandria Pauline McMeaken  
Ashely Puryear

### Lindsay Wilson College

Melanie Brown  
Amber McIntyre  
Jada York

### Morehead State University

Aubry Prow

Kristy Thompson  
Rachel Victory

### Murray State University

Abigail Brandon  
Andrea Bender  
Elizabeth Hunter  
Jessee Madison

### Murray State University – Madisonville Community College

Haley Corbin  
Kayla Ann Tirey

## KRA Mini-Grants Awarded Fall 2017

Each grant proposal received at least 6 scores and were totaled and averaged out to determine the winner. The grants were scored anonymously. The Spring 2018 new round of grants will be announced in January.

### **Experienced Teacher Grant**

**Amount:** \$1000 (from Beers & Probst conference fee waiver)

**Winner:** Susan Cintra

**School and District:** Madison Central High School, Madison County

**Summary:** "National Board Certification Project"

Many students who struggle in reading do so because along their educational path, reading became less exciting, less engaging, and less authentic to them for various reasons. Too often, teachers get caught up in a prescribed curriculum that dictates certain pieces of literature students should read and most of the time, we push on with the content and forget taking our kid's interests and lives into consideration. This is why I say we have to reach our students before we can teach them. Building relationships with kids is the key to addressing the apathy that comes along with reading deficits in high school students. Without knowing our students and knowing how their reading deficits occurred along the way, we cannot inspire them with the written word and open their eyes to a brighter world.

### **Content Area Literacy Grant**

**Amount:** \$1000 (from Beers & Probst conference waiver)

**Winner:** Kevin Presnell

**School and District:** Madison Central High School, Madison County

**Summary:** "Project-based Learning in World History"

By focusing on comprehensive projects like National History Day, I can convert my World History class into a project-based format that engages the students to connect with world history, and specifically their own history. Through learning management systems like Google Classroom, I can facilitate historical research that challenges the students to learn beyond the resources I have in my classroom making it specific to their interests. This is the future of education and I need your help to make it possible for my classroom.

### **Classroom Library Grant**

**Amount:** \$500

**Winner:** Brittney Reid

**School and District:** Freedom Elementary School, Bullitt County

**Summary:** "'Just Right Level' Reading"

The classroom project I am proposing consists of fostering an intrinsic desire to read and write by exposing students to a wide range of texts that they can read on their "Just Right Level" and books that interest them to conduct author and genre studies to model and create our own books independently. Student conferencing will occur daily to formulate flexible and fluid groups that can target specific skills and standards that a small group of students need additional assistance with. Parents will be invited to the classroom to conference with students, read aloud their favorite children's book, and engage the students in editing and revising their writing.

### **Early Childhood Literature**

**Amount:** \$500

**Winner:** Brooke Noon

**School and District:** Goshen Elementary at Hillcrest, Oldham County

**Summary:** "Opening Minds through Print Rich Diverse Text"

This is a project I wish to implement in my Kindergarten Classroom. Through whole group read-alouds and leveled text used during guided reading I wish to expose my students to the bigger world outside of our school community and open their minds to become more compassionate! Children can easily and naturally develop an awareness of others if given the opportunity to see and discuss diversity!📖

# Highlights from



Preservice Ambassadors for Literacy (PALs), L to R: Melanie Brown, Jada York, Amber McIntyre, and Dr. Gera Nelson get into the pirate spirit!



Bluegrass Council's past president, Catherine Rush (center), received KRA's 2017 Celebrate Literacy Award at the KRA Annual Conference.



Lisa Shaw King's props and prompts for Stress Less: Using Literature to Teach Mindfulness in the Classroom.

Shiver me timbers! 'Tis Pirate Queen Brenda Overturf, reading Pirate Pete's Talk Like a Pirate!



Highlights 2 from



Ernest Morrell engages the audience during his opening session, "Developing Powerful Readers and Writers in Diverse 21st Century Classrooms."



Peter Johnston explores new approaches to reading with children in his talk, "What Do We Think We're Doing—and Why?"



Nell Duke's shared developmentally appropriate strategies in "Our Youngest Treasures: Supporting Literacy Development in Infants, Toddlers, and Preschoolers"



KRA attendees participate in general session activities.

## The Kentucky Reading Journal: Call for Manuscripts

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. 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](mailto:kentuckyreadingjournal@yahoo.com)**



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