

Pre-Conference Issue!

# Literacy Leaders

The Newsletter of the Kentucky Reading Association  
[www.kyreading.org](http://www.kyreading.org) Fall 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,

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and a smooth transition back to school. On behalf of the Kentucky Reading Association (KRA), welcome to the 2018-2019 school year.

I would like to encourage everyone to attend the upcoming state reading conference in Louisville, November 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>. This year's conference chair, Lisa King, will be rocking and grooving with her theme, "A Literacy Explosion: The Beat Goes On." Ms. King and the conference planning committee have worked diligently to ensure that each attendee will experience high-quality professional development sessions from early childhood through adult education. Keynote speakers include Jan Richardson, Janet Allen, and Matt Glover; additional authors and featured speakers will add to the numerous session offerings throughout the conference.



This year will be an exciting year for KRA as we work to update our by-laws, establish our own 501(c)3, and incorporate ourselves as our own entity. Due to the International Literacy Association's (ILA) reorganization, we are pursuing this venture while remaining an affiliate of ILA with a newly defined organizational relationship. As we continue the process, we will be communicating the progress to you, our members. Over the next year, our local councils will become local "chapters" to align with ILA's verbiage. I encourage you to reach out to your local chapter to find out about all of the events, programs, grants, and development being done throughout the state on the local level. This year, we will be busy establishing new state awards, offering mini-grants, professional development, and networking activities.

Consider joining the International Literacy Association to learn from educators around the world. For more information about ILA, visit [www.literacyworldwide.org](http://www.literacyworldwide.org).

Please check out our website [www.kyreading.org](http://www.kyreading.org) and like us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/kyreading](https://www.facebook.com/kyreading)) to stay abreast of all the conference updates and KRA happenings this year.

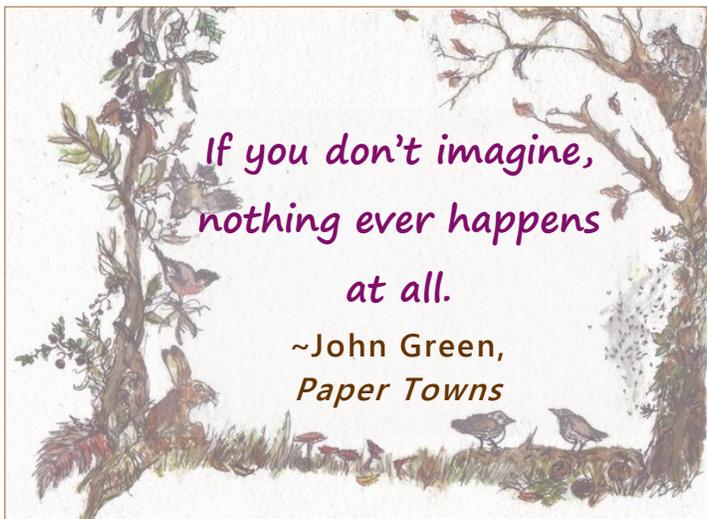
I hope to see you all at the KRA conference in November!

**Erin Wobbekind**  
**KRA President 2018-19**



*In this Issue of*  
**Literacy Leaders**  
*Fall 2018*

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| President's Letter             | 1 |
| KRA State Coordinator's Letter | 3 |
| Spotlight on Local Chapters    | 4 |
| Spring 2018 KRA Mini-Grants    | 6 |
| KRA 2018 Conference            | 7 |



**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)

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# KRA Notes: STATE COORDINATOR'S LETTER

## from Laura Smith Crafton



*Dear KRA Members,*

I don't know if you are like me in that there are times when I can't seem to find the words to express how I feel, or what I want to accomplish, or speak the words what someone else needs to hear. I just don't seem to have the words! That is why I love the picture book *The Word Collector*, by Peter H. Reynolds. It was recommended to me by a friend and provided the source of inspiration for the summer KRA Leadership theme, "'Toucan' Be a Word Collector." I saw how important it was for us as educators to "collect" words that help us in being a voice for literacy.

During the training the state and local chapter officers considered words that would help their chapter members to connect, transform, and empower so that their chapters would be a stronger "voice for literacy." Finding the best words is especially important as we face changes that have been handed down to us through the International Literacy Association.

You may ask, "What are these changes?" They include:

- 1) local councils will now be called local chapters,
- 2) local chapters will develop new operational procedures that will be approved by and under the direction of KRA,
- 3) local chapters are charged are a \$50 fee to apply for the International Literacy Association Honor Council Award (now called the Honor Award),
- 4) the local chapters have a state award called the Voice of Literacy Award and will be awarded a monetary stipend for participation, and
- 5) local chapters will function and report financially under the 501 (c)(3) acquired by KRA.

Sometimes we face changes with reluctance and foreboding. We may have to find new words to express how we feel, what we want to accomplish, and how we are going to do it. What words will you use as you teach, instruct, demonstrate, guide love, and be loved this year? Let us embrace these changes and see how they can connect, transform, and empower our local chapters.

We shared ideas about how important it is to "reach for your own words" so that you can "tell the world who you are and how you will make it better." There are times when we lack the words to express how we feel. We can't seem to find words that will comfort or bring peace. My wish as we begin a new chapter year (2018-2019) is that you will find the words to impart, empower, and inspire all of those around you. May this be a wonderful school year for you and yours.

*Laura S. Crafton*  
KRA State Coordinator

# SPOTLIGHT

## on Local Chapters



**Pennyrile Reading Chapter** The Pennyrile Reading executive chapter met on July 2nd to begin planning and set the calendar for our upcoming year. President and Past President shared information from the summer leadership workshop with the executive council.

We are beginning with a project this year. Pennyrile Reading Chapter will be donating gently used and new children's books to local salons. This will provide children will various quality reading material while waiting for a haircut. Our first family event will be held in late October to coincide with Read for the Record. We are planning to hold the event at a local park. We will also continue to coordinate and assist the Literacy Celebration Committee with some of their events. We are looking forward to a great year of encouraging lifelong learning through a love of literature.

PRC president Dana Martin (left) and Blades owner Elizabeth Oldham (right).



**Western Kentucky Reading Chapter** treasurer and KRA state coordinator Laura Crafton works with local artist Sue Ann Ferrell and children (above left) attending the Warren County Public Library Summer Celebration of Music. WKRC participated in the event with more than 2,500 on June 7, 2018.

On September 26, 2018, WKRC supported REPRESENT(ed), a [Project Lit](#) book discussion about *Dear Martin*, by Nic Stone, at Western Kentucky University, Beulah Winchel Education Library. College and secondary students will get the opportunity to win free copies of the books as part of the events scheduled throughout the year.



# SPOTLIGHT

## on Local Chapters (cont'd)



*Jesse Stuart Literacy Council* officers had a blast at the annual leadership training and board meeting on June 15th at Dale Hollow. We're excited about impacting literacy in our area and helping KRA achieve its goals in the upcoming year. Todd McCardle, JSLC president, reported a board meeting on August 7, 2018 to plan the events for the 2018-2019 calendar year. Our first event will take place on September 20 at Berea Community School. The topic of the gathering will be grant writing.

Upper left, KRA web designer Zac Combs; lower right: Kevin Presnell, Kristyn Presnell; left: Lisa Shaw King.

*Lake Cumberland Reading Council* met on Sept. 11th to discuss upcoming literacy events. Family Literacy Night will be held on Oct. 25 at Bell Elementary, Oct. 5th at Walker Early Learning Center, and November 19th at Monticello Elementary. LCRC made a donation of \$100 per school to help fund these events. A motion was made to purchase a Cat in the Hat costume for Dr. Seuss week that could be used across the different district for literacy activities. The motion was tabled until cost analysis of purchase was made.

Ten book club members were chosen at this meeting as well. LCRC will be participating in The Next Steps Forward in Guided Reading book club. Notes for this club will be taken in an online format using Google Drive. The next LCRC meeting was scheduled for November 13th.



Left to right, top row: Angela Ballinger, Ashley Dunnington, Jill Allen, Becky Lewis; middle Row: Alecia Parker, Leslye Rice, Savannah Wilson, Amy Gregory, Chasity Chriswell; bottom row: Jessica Thrasher, Kim Lasley, Bobbie Barrier.

## KRA Mini-Grants Report: Fall 2018

### KRA mini-grants and the Celebrate Literacy Award deadlines have been extended to October 7.

To find out more information about the grants or to apply, please follow the links:

- **Experienced Teacher Grant** (up to \$1000): [www.kyreading.org/content/experienced-teacher-education-grant](http://www.kyreading.org/content/experienced-teacher-education-grant)
- **Two K-12 Classroom Library Grants** (up to \$500 each): [www.kyreading.org/opportunities/mini-grants/adolescent/application](http://www.kyreading.org/opportunities/mini-grants/adolescent/application)
- **Early Childhood Literature Grant** (up to \$500): [www.kyreading.org/content/early-childhood-literature-grant-application](http://www.kyreading.org/content/early-childhood-literature-grant-application)
- Grant winners will be announced at the KRA Conference Nov 2 -3, 2018.
- To nominate someone for the **KRA Celebrate Literacy Award**, go to:

[www.kyreading.org/content/kentucky-reading-association-celebrate-literacy-award](http://www.kyreading.org/content/kentucky-reading-association-celebrate-literacy-award). The

**KRA Celebrate Literacy Award** is an annual award presented at the KRA Conference in November. The Celebrate Literacy Award recognizes organizations and individuals that have made significant literacy contributions at the local or state level. We hope the award will familiarize the public with literacy activities in the community and call attention to the work that is being done by the schools and the Kentucky Reading Association to promote literacy.

The nominee does not need to be a KRA member.

Stay tuned to our website ([www.kyreading.org](http://www.kyreading.org)) in January for more mini-grant announcements.

Thank you for all you do to be a **“Voice for Literacy”!**

**Erin Wobbekind**  
**KRA President 2018-2019**



Preparations for the 2018 Kentucky Reading Conference November 1-3 at the Galt House in Louisville are in full swing and we are exploding with excitement! You won't want to miss a beat! (pun *totally* intended!). This year we have added an Author's Meet-and-Greet preconference event on Thursday night, featuring Jan Richardson, Janet Allen, Sally Rippen, and Willie Kimmons. Keynote Speakers will be Janet Allen, Matt Glover and Jan Richardson, and each of them will be doing an extended session for participants. KRA members attending the conference will be treated to a fun night of music and food at the Members Appreciation Event on Friday, and the Silent Auction is shaping up with some useful, dynamic items. With over sixty different breakout sessions focused on Early Childhood through Adults, there is sure to be something for everyone. Register today and book lodging at <https://www.kyreading.org/events/conference>.

# Kentucky Reading Association Conference November 1-3, 2018

## A Literacy Explosion: The Beat Goes On



Jan Richardson



Janet Allen



Matt Glover

**SPECIAL**  
"Meet-n-Greet"  
Speaker events on  
Thursday evening!

Galt House  
Louisville, KY

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

