

Literacy Leaders

The newsletter of the Kentucky Reading Association

www.kyreading.org

Fall 2019



Greetings, KRA members and friends of literacy!

On behalf of the Kentucky Reading Association, welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! The beginning of a new year is such an exciting time; new students, fresh ideas, renewed energy and endless possibilities.

It is my honor to personally invite you and your colleagues to the best professional learning event in our state, the Kentucky Reading Association's 2019 Conference: Enter the Magical World of Literacy. This year the conference will be in Louisville, Kentucky on September 26-28 at the Marriott East Hotel. Our conference chair, Kevin Presnell, and the planning committee, have worked to secure a great lineup for this year's event. Keynote Speakers include; Carmen Agra Deedy, Stephanie Harvey, and Adria Klein. We also have sessions planned to support the implementation of the new Social Studies Standards and the Revised Kentucky Academic Standards for Reading and Composition. With such a variety of speakers, there is something for everyone! It is a great way to start your year with other professionals from all around the state that have a passion for literacy learning. Register [here](#), today!



I also want to take this opportunity to share KRA's Goals for the 2019-2020 school year, as we continue to be a voice for literacy in our state:

First, strengthen local chapter presence and outreach to their respective chapter area.

Second, establish and grow relationships with organizations that support the KRA mission and impact literacy both locally and nationally.

Third, advocate for and support teachers, students, parents and other literacy partners through resources, professional growth, awards, incentives and networking opportunities.

And last but not least, utilize technology and a variety of social media platforms to connect with members and to share the KRA Mission.

If you would like to be more involved and be abreast of happenings throughout the state and in your area, you can follow your local chapter's Facebook page, the [KRA Facebook](#) page and our webpage at www.kyreading.org. There are so many opportunities; grants, area professional learning events, contests, scholarships, and exciting literacy activities and ideas for your school and classroom that I am sure you will want to take advantage of this year.

Good luck this year and I look forward to meeting each of you at the Fall Conference. Let's kick off the 2019-2020 school year in a "magical" way!

Lisa Shaw King

KRA President, 2019-2020

Preconference Issue!



*Enter the
Magical World
of Literacy*

Kentucky Reading
Association Conference
September 26-28, 2019
Louisville, KY

www.kyreading.org

Register for the KRA Conference today!
kyreading.org/conference/

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.

FALL 2019

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*“Fill your house with stacks of books,
in all the crannies and all the nooks.”*
~Dr. Seuss

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

Dear KRA Members,

The beginning of the school year is always a favorite time for me, and I hope, for you! New and familiar faces, new knowledge to share and skills to build, new readers to encourage.

By now the school year is under way, and I hope you are all looking forward to the 2019 KRA Annual Conference: *The Magical World of Literacy*, September 26-28, at the Marriott East Hotel in Louisville. A new venue, new social studies and reading and comprehension standards, and a new lineup of excellent speakers will make this year's conference "magical"! Join us by registering for the 2019 KRA Annual Conference <https://kyreading.org/conference/>.

I'm excited about our speakers this year! Adria Klein is known for her work throughout the U. S. on literacy instruction for English language learners and striving readers. She has taught reading on five continents and writes about guided reading, among other literacy topics. Carmen Agra Deedy writes lively, imaginative, and inspiring books for children, among them *The Library Dragon*, *Martina the Beautiful Cockroach: A Cuban Folktale*, and *14 Cows for America*. She has a TED Talk, which you can find at https://www.ted.com/talks/carmen_agra_deedy_spins_stories?language=en!

The KRA Board has been thinking a lot about getting "unstuck"—during times of major change, the way forward takes a while to unfold. So, KRA members, let's think about how we all individually approach getting unstuck when we are stymied by circumstances and challenging change. What do YOU do to get yourself motivated, to seek new inspiration, and to move forward to be the best teachers you can be for your students and school community? Food for thought, indeed! Here is a worksheet you can use, adapted from the KRA Leadership Workshop I conducted June 21: <https://tinyurl.com/yy889klm>.

Laura S. Crafton
KRA State Coordinator



SPOTLIGHT

on Local Chapters (cont'd)



Clint Wilson from Murray Middle School won the gift basket, presented by PAC president Jamie Mahoney. Chelsea Allen won the free KRA membership but was unavailable for the photo op.

The *Purchase Area Chapter* (PAC; formerly Murray Area Chapter) is working on making plans for the upcoming year. I am Jamie Mahoney, president of the PAC, and I met with the faculty at Murray Middle School to provide information about KRA and the Purchase Area Chapter. We to recruit new members. We are offering a free membership and a gift basket in a drawing we will be having at the school.

I have spoken with the principal at Murray Elementary School and plan to do the same thing at that school towards the end of the month/ beginning of September.

Laura Crafton and Peggy Stirsmen came to visit us here at Murray State to make plans regarding digitizing the materials housed here at MSU. They discussed this process with A.J. Boston to make plans about using our digital commons located here at Murray State University.

Michael Shoulders, author of *D is for Dumptruck* and many others, has a new book coming out in November titled *The Legend of the Christmas Pickle*. Michael has contacted us regarding a book signing event and we are in the process of working out the plans for the book signing, a speaking engagement with the university

students, elementary classes, etc.

We are excited about the KRA Annual Conference, September 26-28, at a new location (Marriott East) in Louisville. Hope to see you there!

Remember, readers become leaders!

“Books are a uniquely portable magic.”

~Stephen King

Three Rivers Literacy Chapter (named for the Rough, Green, and Barren rivers in our service area) is the new name for the Western Kentucky Reading Council. We are meeting September 9th to reboot our chapter and to celebrate **International Literacy Day** at the Beulah Winchel Education Library at Western Kentucky University. Please join us!

SPOTLIGHT

on Local Chapters (cont'd)

Greater Louisville Area Chapter is making strides in 2019!



During June and July, GLAC vice-president, Adriana Thornton, was a Summer Academy teacher for the Girls on the R.I.S.E. program. RISE stands for Revolutionizing Interpretations with Self-Expression. RISE promotes critical thinking, self-esteem, note-taking and analyzing work to support middle school girls of color become more articulate and to promote their leadership capabilities. Each session concludes with a field trip, which explores colleges and a variety of other cultural sites.

In July, member Bonnie Lash Freeman conducted a half-day session in Monticello on family engagement for the Kentucky Reading Project (KRP). Area teachers, instructional coaches, and youth service center leaders attended the session. Bonnie shared how they can better engage grandparents, single, immigrant, and African-American parents.



During September, GLAC president, Synthia Shelby, will present at the Louisville Writing Project (LWP) conference on September 7, 2019. She will be presenting a session called Mindfulness: Developing Resiliency through Music and Poetry. This workshop utilizes a variety of music and poetry to promote student self-awareness, discussion, reflection, and healing through their writing.

GLAC Membership Chair, Vicky Layne, will host a culturally responsive reading professional development session on October 21, 2019. The session will be held at Carrithers Middle School in Louisville. Participants will learn about a variety of culturally responsive reading strategies and how to use them in their classrooms.



Pennyriple Literacy Chapter is trying to get UNSTUCK! Pennyriple board officers have met with Brandy Hale from Christian County who showed an interest in becoming a member and holding a leadership role in our organization. We also met with eight prospective members at Brandy's school in Christian County. We talked about how the logistics of combining the groups could benefit both counties. We are slowly getting unstuck!

Bluegrass Chapter: Our board still needs to have a planning meeting to set our 2019-2020 event calendar. We are still searching to fill the position of secretary, as Joy Larrison has stepped down. We are trying to broaden our knowledge of what is going on pertaining to literacy in our region by reaching out to people from different districts and institutions and asking them to serve as a liaison for literacy. We continue to focus on how to recruit and involve students in KRA. Two UK students are going to present at conference with Kerry Hancock and hopefully also serve as PALS.

SPOTLIGHT

on Local Chapters (cont'd)

Lake Cumberland Reading Chapter

+ Wayne County Public Library Summer Reading Program

= Engaged & Happy Kids Reading & Learning Together!

*Reported by Alecia
Parker, Lake
Cumberland Reading
Chapter president*



Lake Cumberland Reading Chapter treasurer and KRA vice-president, Bobbie Barrier, reading aloud to students at a summer reading event.



A student finishing a constellation activity at the "Midnight on the Moon" summer reading program.



Providing donated children's books to the Little Lending Libraries in Wayne County. Our lending libraries are now a part of the Little Lending Library organization and can be found at litlelendinglibrary.org.

KRA: *Out & About*

Resourceful. Collaborative. Relevant.



Resourceful. Collaborative. Relevant. These terms are key descriptors of a lively, thriving organization. They are also characteristics of the Kentucky Reading Association (KRA), especially as we embark on a new journey redefining who we are. Recently, we have had opportunities to exhibit these traits as we have expanded and capitalized on our ability to serve our constituents and the communities in which they live.

In collaboration with the Collaborative Center for Literacy Development (CCLD), KRA assisted in providing a full day of literacy professional development to staff members from the various schools in the Perry County School district. The event took place August 5th at East Perry Elementary in Hazard. Several educators/ KRA members, shared their expertise in various aspects of literacy. After a general convening of the local district staff, pre-K, elementary, and adolescent educators and administrators were able to choose from a bevy of options of breakout sessions. The incredible slate of presenters from across the state shared on various topics, including: early literacy, literacy blocks, family engagement, community

involvement, student motivation, grammar/ punctuation research, literacy strategies within Social Studies, informational texts, access to texts, CCLD initiatives, and teacher appreciation. Perry County participants received information, strategies, and

resources for use in their practice. Many donated door prizes were given throughout the day as well.

Kristie Gorman, the district assistant superintendent, who solicited the PD assistance, shared afterwards that the school staff members appreciated the various offerings and the content presented. This endeavor is the fruition of an ongoing goal of KRA to be more proactive in providing professional development as a resource. This day was a direct result of several years of discussions, planning, and committee work; it is a culmination of intentional efforts amongst your KRA board members to be a viable source of opportunities. We appreciate Ms. Gorman and the Perry County educators for this opportunity to share.

Great appreciation is extended to those individuals who helped move the goal into a reality during this endeavor:

continued next page

KRA: *Out & About* (cont'd)

- Bobbie Barrier (Wayne County, Lake Cumberland Reading Chapter)
- Susan Cintra (Madison County, Eastern Kentucky Literacy Chapter)
- Dorie Combs (Eastern Kentucky University, Eastern Kentucky Literacy Chapter)
- Susan Edington (University of Kentucky, Bluegrass and Pennyriple Literacy Chapters)
- Keith Lyons (Collaborative Center for Literacy Development, Bluegrass Chapter)
- Daphne Patton (Wolfe County, Eastern Kentucky Literacy Development Chapter)
- Lori Sheroan (Fayette County, Bluegrass Chapter)
- Peggy Stirsman (Hopkins County, Pennyriple Literacy Chapter)
- Claire West (Pike County, Eastern Kentucky Literacy Development Chapter)]

KRA members represented the organization and its outreach efforts in a wonderful experience. Owsley County held their district Open House events at their schools August 6th. In another partnership opportunity, KRA and



CCLD united with the staff of the elementary school to work with their community's youngest of learners and their families. Peggy Stirsman, Christy Crouse (Dollywood Foundation), and Keith Lyons – and a set up a table to register Owsley County children for the Imagination Library. This initiative is the heart-child of Dolly Parton with the premise of registered children birth up to age 5 receiving an age appropriate book each month in the mail. During the two-hour open house, an additional 70 children were enrolled in this important project. Research indicates the importance of access to print at an early age, accompanied with frequent read alouds of texts, to student literacy development. [cite research] Getting books in the hands of these developing learners is vital to us all.

The Owsley County district is participating with funding through CCLD via the current Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy (SRCL) grant. KRA serves as the non-profit community partner for the Imagination Library project – not only for Owsley County, but for the initiative in fourteen other counties, with the potential of more to be added in the near future.

We wish to thank Kim Johnson, Superintendent Tim Bobrowski, and the wonderful staff of the Owsley County elementary school for the hospitality and ability to connect with your incredible families.

As a continuation of the KRA-Imagination Library connection, stay tuned for another developing story about an exciting project in Wolfe County!

These are exciting times for KRA, **your** state literacy organization. We continue to seek ways to serve and be relevant to our members and the communities in which they thrive. Our desire to be a collective voice for literacy in Kentucky – and beyond – will benefit us all! 📖





Kentucky Reading Association Mini-Grant Awards

On behalf of the *KRA Mini-grant and Awards Committee*, I am happy to announce several mini-grants open to members of KRA. The following grants are now open: kyreading.org/opportunities/ :

- 1) Experienced Teacher Grant (up to \$1000): kyreading.org/opportunities/experienced-teacher-education-grant/
- 2) Two K – 12 Classroom Library Grants (up to \$500 each): kyreading.org/opportunities/classroom-library-grant/
- 3) Early Childhood Literature Grant (up to \$500): kyreading.org/opportunities/early-childhood-literature-grant/

To find out more information about the grants or to apply, please follow the links. **All applications for these grants must be received by September 15, 2019.** Grant winners will be announced at the 2019 KRA Annual Conference, September 26-28, at the Louisville Marriott East.

In addition to the grants, we are accepting nominations for the KRA Celebrate Literacy Award. This is an annual award presented at the KRA Conference. 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. To nominate someone for the KRA Celebrate Literacy Award, go to: kyreading.org/celebrate-literacy-award/.



Kentucky Reading Association Celebrate Literacy Award

The Kentucky Reading Association 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.

Candidates who have shown exemplary accomplishments in any of the following areas may be suggested for consideration as Celebrate Literacy Award recipients:

- 1) Direct teaching at any level
- 2) Organizing local literacy programs
- 3) Promoting support from the public relative to enhancing literacy
- 4) Producing teaching materials or special media for literacy programs
- 5) Conducting research in field related to literacy
- 6) Conducting special surveys of importance for literacy planning
- 7) Providing young people the opportunity to help in literacy activities
- 8) Conducting informal educational activities of a social, cultural, economic, or political nature in which literacy activities are included (radio and television programs, publications and press, library programs, and projects for special populations, such as the handicapped and the aged)

The nominee **does not** have to be a member of the Kentucky Reading Association.

Find, fill out, and submit The Kentucky Reading Association Celebrate Literacy Award submission form here: kyreading.org/celebrate-literacy-award/. **All applications must be received by September 15, 2019.** Winners will be announced at the 2019 Kentucky Reading Association Annual Conference, September 26-28, at the Louisville Marriott East.

Thank you, teachers, for all you do as a voice for literacy in Kentucky!

Erin Wobbekind Powell
KRA Immediate Past President

Wanted: Kentucky Reading Journal Editor-in-Chief and Editorial Board

~The Kentucky Reading Association is searching for the position of Editor-in-Chief of the *Kentucky Reading Journal*. The Editor-in-chief position is a two-year voluntary position, with the possibility of re-appointment at the end of two years. The Editor sits on the Board of the Kentucky Reading Association. Responsibilities include:

- Working with editorial board members to produce a high-quality publication that meets the needs of the teachers, administrators, professors, parents, and community organization representatives that make up the membership of the Kentucky Reading Association
- Producing at least one issue of *KRJ* per year; possibly more
- Actively soliciting high-quality manuscripts from potential authors
- Selecting competent manuscript reviewers and managing timely reviews of manuscripts

Providing clear, broad focus through promotion of personal vision and guidance where appropriate.

Applicants should possess expertise in the literacy field, have editorial experience, and be able to lead an active editorial board. In addition, the applicant should have publishing skills as the journal is currently produced in an electronic format. Employer support is critical.

~The Kentucky Reading Association is also looking for applications for the Editorial Board of the *Kentucky Reading Journal*. Responsibilities include authoring recurring columns and assisting the Editor-in-Chief in producing a high-quality journal.

Applicants should send a letter of interest and current CV to Dr. Stacey Korson and Dr. Tammie Sherry at kentuckyreadingjournal@yahoo.com. Applications are due by December 31, 2019.

Check out the updated Kentucky Reading Association website: kyreading.org. While you're visiting, don't forget to register for the magical KRA Annual Fall Conference, here: kyreading.org/conference/. Hotel rooms book quickly, so be sure to reserve your room at the new conference venue, the Louisville Marriott East!



Enter the Magical World of Literacy

Kentucky Reading Association
Conference
September 26-28, 2019
Louisville, KY



Carmen Agra Deedy



Adria Klein



Stephanie Harvey



Laura Shovan



Sharon Draper



kyreading.org