

ReAD: The Electronic Newsletter of the New York State Reading Association

Volume 11, Issue 5

February, 2015

Co-Editors: Sandi Kurbiel and Dawn Montague

Happy President's Day!



To share information in ReAD, please submit news by the first of the month, to be published the 10th of the month. Issues are published every month except for December-January and summer combined issues. For more information please contact Sandi Kurbiel at skurbiel@nycap.rr.com.

Please click on each blue heading or text to lead you to an associated link. (If you have trouble bringing up a link in Internet Explorer or using certain email systems, you may need to also click on the "e" at the bottom of the screen if it is flashing.) (Above image from classroomclipart.com.)

Don't forget, now you can become a friend to NYSRA on Facebook! Have you?

Thanks to all who contributed their time and expertise to our issue this month!

In this edition: NYSRA & Legislative News: Sandi Kurbiel; NYSED News: Dawn Montague;
Literacy News/Links of Interest: Sandi Kurbiel

NYSRA and Legislative News

A Message from Cheryl Harper, NYSRA President 2014-15:

Dates to remember:

January 31, 2015 NYSRA Membership Dues and Membership updates are due

March 20-21, 2015 NYSRA BOD and AOD meetings to be held in Albany
Details for hotel reservations will be sent mid-February

June 5-6, 2015 Leadership Training
All Council Officers are encouraged to attend
Come with prepared questions, concerns, and suggestions
Enjoy the companionship of other Council Officers
Attend important informational trainings
Details will be sent as soon as possible

DIVERSE
DIVERSE
DIVERSE
DIVERSE
DIVERSE
DIVERSE

New York State Reading Association

**Learners
Literacies**

Creating Classrooms Where All Students Can Succeed

November 9-11, 2015

The Saratoga Hilton and Convention Center, Saratoga Springs, NY

Request for Proposals

We are seeking proposals for one-hour sessions on the conference theme.

Sessions will generally be one hour in length, but presenters may be offered a longer time if the content and schedule permit. Proposal review will be competitive.

Please note we are soliciting three types of proposals, and presenters should fill out the appropriate form online:

1. Proposals from practicing PK-12 educators, college educators, authors, and other literacy professionals;
2. Proposals for college student and faculty poster sessions on Tuesday, November 10; or
3. Proposals from exhibitors.

SUBMIT PROPOSAL TO

<http://nysreading.org/Conference/2015>

Questions: Liz Yanoff, nysraconf2015@gmail.com

Deadline for one-hour session proposals is April 15, 2015.

Deadline for poster session proposals is May 1, 2015.

You will receive an email when your proposal is received and another email in June indicating if your proposal has been accepted. One-hour session and poster proposals may be accepted after April 15/May 1 at the discretion of the conference coordinator.

As a professional, nonprofit organization, NYSRA is unable to reimburse program participants for any expenses. Please note that presenters must register for the conference.



**NEW YORK STATE
READING
ASSOCIATION**
Chartered by the International Reading Association

Reasons to Join NYSRA

Sharon Kelly

There are great rewards in joining NYSRA. You could win one of the awards that are offered by NYSRA. Here are just a few of the wonderful grants and awards that you can be awarded if you are a NYSRA member:

1. The Senator Donovan Memorial Award is one where \$500 will be awarded to a member of NYSRA who is pursuing a career in literacy education, and currently enrolled in a graduate program. They have to write an essay on *Implementing Common Core Learning Standards and Motivating Children to Read*.
2. The NYSRA Literacy Educator of the Year Award promotes excellence in the field of literacy instruction in New York State. It recognizes individuals who contribute to the improvement of literacy instruction in New York State, and recognizes individuals who promote the importance of reading in the daily lives of children and adults.
3. The NYSRA Friend of Reading Award promotes excellence in the field of literacy in New York State. It recognizes individuals who contribute to the improvement of literacy instruction in New York State, and recognizes individuals who promote the importance of reading in the daily lives of children and adults.
4. The NYSRA Literature Mini-Grant is designed to give \$500 to assist in the further development of children's or young adults' literature programs.
5. The NYSRA Literacy and Technology Mini-grant is designed to assist in the further development of children's or young adults' literacy and technology programs by giving a grant of \$500.

Other awards are found at www.nysreading.org under Professional Development.

By joining a local reading council in your area, you give that council a chance to be recognized for their membership. The NYSRA Excellence Membership Award is given to a local council who increases their membership by 5%. Or any council having received the NYSRA Membership Excellence Award for two consecutive years may meet this requirement by maintaining the number of members recorded by Headquarters at the end of October of the prior year.

So why not join NYSRA and apply for one of these great awards or help out your local reading council that has lots of great workshops and/conferences to share with you? Just go to the website at www.nysreading.org and click *Who We Are*, and then click *Ways to Join NYSRA*.

Advocacy Report - January 23, 2015

Sue Bogdan-Ritty, Advocacy Chair

IRA News

1. Effective January 26, 2105, the International Reading Association will be renamed the International Literacy Association. Many of us received this information via email. This was taken from the email:

In the latest version of *Reading Today*, [now available online](#), you will find an article titled "Welcome to the Future of Literacy" with more information on how this transformation came to be and what it means for our members. I encourage you to take a look.

Here's what you can expect on January 26:

- [Reading Today Online](#) will become *Literacy Daily*—featuring even more practical resources, research, and thought-provoking articles to support the literacy efforts of our members and partners.
- [Reading.org](#) will be updated to reflect our new name, logo, and design. Your username and password will remain the same, and your saved bookmarks will still work. In the first half of 2015, the site will be further enhanced to fully reflect our mission.
- The website of the ILA 2015 Conference—themed "Transforming Lives Through Literacy"—will go live for those wishing to register or to learn more about the conference.

Federal News

1. New education committee - NY Members include Elise Stefanik (R) Glens Falls and Upstate Area; and Hakeem Jeffries (D) Brooklyn
2. Reauthorization of ESEA/NCLB
3. Federal vs Local control of schools
4. HR 452 introduced by Congressman Chris Gibson - related to testing under NCLB/ESEA
5. Watch for president's 2015 budget presented on February 2, 2015

State News

1. Change in formula for teacher evaluations with financial aid tied to it
2. Lengthen tenure to 5 years
3. Reform 3020A to a 60 day process
4. Education tax credit for businesses
5. Increase cap on charter schools by 100
6. Teacher Excellence Fund to reward provide supplemental pay for high performing teachers in struggling schools.
7. Give SED power to put failing schools in receivership

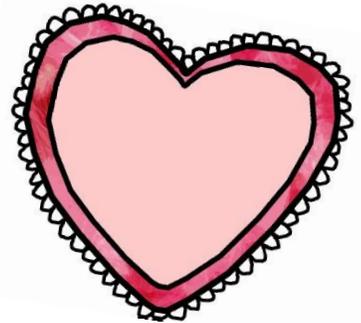
Use News to Celebrate Events in February and March!

Mary Miller, Education Services Director, New York News Publishers Association

Valentine's Day will be here before we know it! At this time each year, the personal ads in the newspaper often contain poems to special friends. Have your students find a style that they like and have each write his/her own poem. The students may write the poem to their parents, brother, sister, pet or a special friend.

Use the newspaper and have a **Valentine's Day Scavenger Hunt***! Have your students find the following things:

1. Find something in the newspaper that is heart shaped.
2. Find an activity in the paper that you would just love to do.
3. Find five items that come in pairs.
4. Find a unique gift idea for someone you love.
5. Find an example of something good for the fitness of your heart.
6. Find of example of something heartbreaking.
7. Find an example of someone who has a lot of heart.
8. Find an example of good or heartening news.
9. Find an example of someone who is heartless.
10. Find an example of a "sweetheart deal" in an advertisement.



Some newspapers will be running Celebrate Black History Month and some are/will be running this year's serial story, "**From Seneca Falls to the Polling Booth.**" The four people being profiled for Black History Month this year include **Jupiter Hammon**-Slave & Poet, **Rev. Jermain Wesley Loguen**-Preacher & Underground Railroad, **Cab Calloway**-Entertainer, and **Lena Horne**-Singer, Actress, Civil Rights Activist.



"From Seneca Falls to the Polling Booth" is a non-fictional history of the women's suffrage movement, including not only the story of that movement itself, but also of the other changes in society and how they influenced the strategies and actions of those who sought the vote for women. Besides the familiar names of suffragists like Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the series will cover how abolitionists like Sojourner Truth, labor leaders like Rose Schneiderman, and social activists like Jane Addams lent their talents and energies to the suffrage movement. It will also examine how efforts to free the slaves, improve the lives of the working poor, and extend the right to vote to women were all part of the job of extending true citizenship to all Americans.

The story is written by Mike Peterson and illustrated by Christopher Baldwin and targets students in grades 4 through 8. The culminating project is a poster contest asking students to address the following theme: "**The Importance of Voting, Leadership and Civic Participation in a Democratic Society.**"

If you have any other Newspaper in Education questions, don't hesitate to contact me at mmiller@nynpa.com.

Scavenger Hunt originally created by Audrey Eoff, NIE Coordinator, *The Monitor*, McAllen Texas.

Ask your librarian about the Summer Reading
2015 Teen Video Challenge

UNMASK!

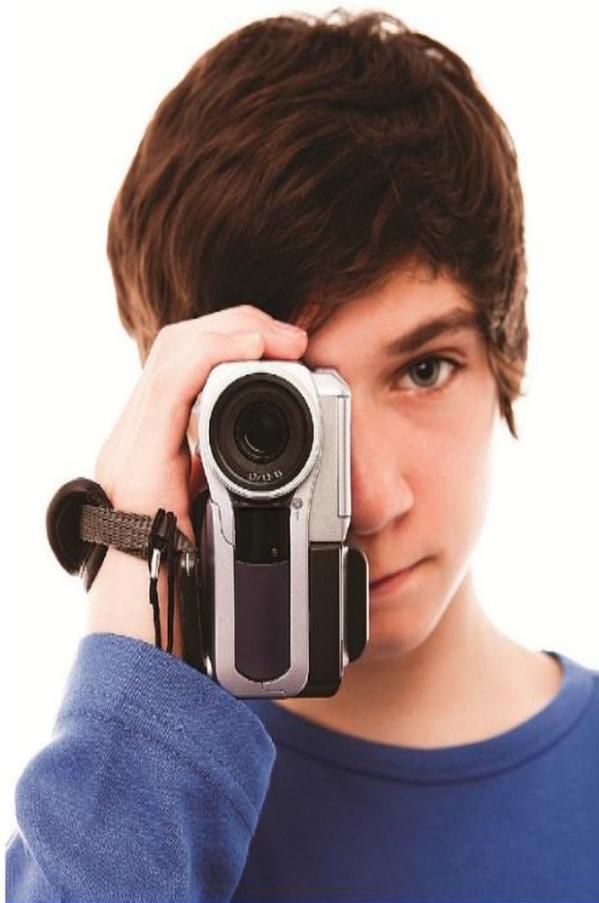
Part of the 2015 Summer Reading Hero Theme

**Create a Summer
Reading video**

and you could win \$150
-and your library \$50

- Get national exposure—winning videos will be posted to the CSLP website and viewed across the country!
- Open to all New York State teens, aged 13-18.
- Videos of 30-90 seconds accepted.
- Include your interpretation of the 2015 CSLP teen slogan “Unmask” for the 2015 Summer Reading Hero theme.
- Promote public libraries and the fun of summer reading.

Entry Deadline:
February 25, 2015



For more information and entry form, visit:
www.summerreadingnys.org
Or ask your public librarian for an entry form.

New York State Reading Association: Awards Packet

Submit applications to Eileen LaSpaluto – ebalaspaluto@gmail.com
OR eileen.laspaluto@middleburghcsd.org
Award Chairperson
New York State Reading Association
NYSRA Professional Awards

The complete Awards Packet may be found at the following website:
<http://nysreading.org/content/awards>.

Go to the *Professional Development* tab, click on it, then click on *Awards*.

Please encourage colleagues and educators involved in promoting literacy to apply for the following awards for which they may be eligible:

EDUCATORS, SCHOOLS AND ORGANIZATIONAL LITERACY AWARDS:

NYSRA LITERATURE-BASED MINI-GRANT

ELIGIBILITY: Teachers K-12

GOALS: To recognize teachers who are conducting programs that emphasize children's and young adult literature;
To showcase model literature-based programs in NYS;
To showcase mini-grants, and in so doing NYSRA's commitment to literacy.

AWARD: \$500.00

GUIDELINES: (See above NYSRA website for additional information.)

APPLICATION DUE: APRIL 30th

NYSRA LITERACY AND TECHNOLOGY MINI-GRANT

ELIGIBILITY: Teachers K-12

GOALS: To grant awards to teachers who are conducting programs emphasizing the use of technologies to support literacy learning;
To showcase model programs that integrate literacy and technology in NY schools;
To showcase NYSRA's commitment to literacy and technology.

The recipient of the award or their representative is expected to attend the annual NYSRA Conference to showcase their project. Recipients of the awards will be asked to participate in the review of the following year's mini-grant applications.

AWARD: \$500.00

GUIDELINES: (See above NYSRA website for additional information.)

APPLICATION DUE: APRIL 30th

NYSRA LITERACY EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

ELIGIBILITY: Librarian/Media Specialists; Literacy Specialist/Coach or Reading teacher; Reading Administrator/Supervisor; Classroom Teacher nominees

GOALS: To promote excellence in the field of literacy instruction in New York State;
To recognize individuals who contribute to the improvement of literacy

instruction in New York State;

To recognize individuals who promote the importance of reading in the daily lives of children and adults.

GUIDELINES: (See above NYSRA website for additional information.)

APPLICATION DUE: APRIL 30th

NYSRA FRIEND OF READING AWARD

ELIGIBILITY: **Open to anyone who promotes literacy**

GOALS: To promote excellence in the field of literacy in New York State;

To recognize individuals who contribute to the improvement of literacy instruction in New York State;

To recognize individuals who promote the importance of reading in the daily lives of child and adults;

Affiliation with NYSRA.

GUIDELINES: (See above NYSRA website for additional information.)

APPLICATION DUE: APRIL 30th

NYSRA WORLD TRADE CENTER MEMORIAL AWARD

ELIGIBILITY: **New York State Educators, Members of NYS Reading Association**

GOAL: To honor the victims of the September 11, 2001 World Trade Center tragedy by encouraging anti-bias literacy programs throughout New York State.

AWARD: A plaque indicating that the educator(s) has received this honor.

The award recipient is encouraged to present the winning program at a future NYSRA Conference.

GUIDELINES: (See above NYSRA website for additional information.)

APPLICATION DUE: APRIL 30th

NYSRA EXEMPLARY READING PROGRAM AWARD

ELIGIBILITY: **Elementary and Secondary Schools (All Public, Private, and Parochial schools are eligible)**

GOALS: To improve literacy in our society;

To recognize school staff who demonstrate excellence in reading and literacy programs.

The award-winning school will be invited to present at NYSRA's Annual Conference and will receive a plaque from the Exemplary Reading Award Committee.

GUIDELINES: (See above NYSRA website for additional information.)

APPLICATION DUE: NOVEMBER 15th

NYSRA LITERACY ADVOCATE AWARD

ELIGIBILITY: **Organization, Institution or Individual (membership in NYSRA not required)**

GOALS: To recognize an organization, institution or individual having made a significant contribution to the New York State literacy effort.

GUIDELINES: (See above NYSRA website for additional information.)

APPLICATION DUE: APRIL 30th

INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION EXEMPLARY READING PROGRAM AWARD

Contact: Exemplary Reading Program Award
International Reading Association
800 Barksdale Road, PO Box 8139
Newark, DE 19741-8139, USA

GOALS: This IRA Award recognizes outstanding reading and language arts programs at all grade levels (K-12). Its purpose is to call the public's attention to outstanding programs in schools throughout North America.

GUIDELINES: Each local council president was given a binder with the necessary guidelines and application forms, OR
Contact the International Reading Association (IRA) for additional information about this award. A copy of the guidelines and application forms may be copied in PDF format from the IRA website, www.reading.org.

NYSRA LITERACY OUTREACH AWARD

ELIGIBILITY: NYSRA Local Reading Council

GOALS: To honor one or more NYSRA councils for outstanding service to its community and literacy.

AWARD: Recognition at the NYSRA Conference

GUIDELINES: (See NYSRA website for additional information.)

APPLICATION DUE: APRIL 30TH

NEW YORK STATE HIGHER LEARNING AWARDS:

NYSRA RICHARD L. ALLINGTON RESEARCH GRANT

ELIGIBILITY: New York State K-12 educator: Currently or formerly employed classroom teacher, librarian, resource teacher, Title 1 teacher, full-time or permanent half-time OR a faculty member of a New York State college or university in a literacy or related capacity and a current NYSRA council member

GOALS: To encourage the development of research projects related to the areas of reading, writing, and/or listening at levels K-12;
To showcase the present winner of the Allington Research Grant at the New York State Reading Association Annual Conference.

AWARD: \$500.00

GUIDELINES: (See above NYSRA website for additional information.)

APPLICATION DUE: APRIL 30th

SENATOR DONOVAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

ELIGIBILITY: College students pursuing a Career in Literacy Education/Member of NYSRA, Currently enrolled in a graduate program

GOAL: To recognize a college student who is pursuing a career in literacy.

AWARD: \$500.00

Guidelines: Applicants will write an essay on this year's topic:

"Describe how a classroom teacher can use formative assessments to inform his/her literacy instruction?"

(See above NYSRA website for additional information.)

Award winners are expected to serve on the following year's review committee and attend the NYSRA Conference, when possible.

APPLICATION DUE: APRIL 30th

[New York State Education News](#)

[Commissioner King Says Farewell](#)

Commissioner King writes a letter thanking educators, families, and community members as he will be leaving for a position as a Senior Advisor to the U.S. Secretary of Education.

[News and Notes: January 2015:](#)

Videos:

[Video Blog: Math Before and After Common Core](#)

A NYC teacher talks about what has changed with Common Core and how it is working.

[Kindergarten Library Class and Technology](#)

Watch a video of a Kindergarten class learning about Christopher Columbus in the computer lab.

[ELA Studio Talk](#)

Check out a video series that addresses good choices in reading instruction. Included in this series are the following videos: 'Getting Smarter about Reading Instruction,' 'Knowledge-Based Curriculum,' 'Must Haves for every K-5 Literacy Classroom,' and 'The Foundational Standards.'

[STLE Grants Helping to Expand STEM Education Across Districts](#)

Two districts use "Strengthening Teacher and Leader Effectiveness" grants to help develop education.

Articles:

[How Reading Non-Fiction Texts Helps My Students Understand and Analyze Fiction](#)

A High School English/Language Arts teacher uses primary and secondary source documents to enhance her student's understanding of Fiction texts.

[News, Announcements, and Timely Information for Special Education](#)

Find articles and information to help with Special Education.

Also from Engage NY:

[Curriculum and Module Updates](#)

[Recruitment Opportunities](#)

[NYSED News](#) (New York State Education Department's 2015 news releases)

Literacy News and Links of Interest

Tri-State Quality Rubric

Find the Tri-State (NY, MA, RI) ELA/Literacy Quality Rubric which has been recommended to keep handy in creating and evaluating quality Common Core lesson plans.

PARCC Online Resources

Find educator resources for Common Core assessments.

ReadWriteThink.org and February Holidays

Find some interesting [Valentine's Day](#), [Black History](#), and [President](#)-related lesson plan ideas on this website created by the International Literacy Association.

Reading Rockets and Winter Ideas

In case you missed it last issue - find 100s of winter-related lesson plan ideas here.