

Awards-

1. Why can't multiple documents be attached in each segment of the award application? The current program was set for a document that contained a summary of each activity. Additional links will be added to next years' application.
2. What is the benefit to applying for Honor Council if a council is automatically eliminated if there isn't a membership increase? Our goal is to see all councils increase in order to have the man power necessary to achieve their goals. A council must maintain their 10 IRA members in order to be in good standing. In recruiting one more member, this would mean the organization is encouraging people to join the cause. Membership is a huge issue for all right now. Our hope is that the great things Councils and IRA are doing, would make them want to become members and this issue would go away.

Councils-

3. How do coordinators request conference materials? Our new process for requesting conference materials went into effect January 2013. Directors of Membership Development and coordinators will receive an email approximately 60 days prior to their conference date. This email will ask the DMD if they would still like materials top receive the materials as well as what address the materials should be shipped. Approximately 30 days prior to the conference, the materials will be shipped to the address provided. Please be sure to let IRA headquarters know when and where your conference will be located.
4. What day is the Officer Report due? The deadline has officially been May 1st but in order to help this process for councils voting in various time frames, the Officer Report will be available online and can be submitted anytime between April 15th -June 1st.

5. Our elections are held during separate dates. Is there a reason they cannot be held at the same time? Elections are usually determined by your bylaws. If your bylaws do not have a stipulation in them, you can adjust them as see fit.
6. What is the process for dissolving a council? We are actually in the process of revising this procedure. Currently, in order to dissolve, a council must submit in writing their request to dissolve. This document should be approved by the council board. Once this letter is received, IRA headquarters will forward a "Statement of Funds Available" form to be completed by the council. This statement, a copy of the most recent bank statement as well as the funds left in their bank account must be mailed to IRA headquarters where the funds will be held for a period of 3 years in a trust. If the council chooses to reform at a later date, a core group of 10 IRA members would need to be formed with a council name that is different from the one previous held. The council would need to complete a new charter agreement as well as establish new bylaws that are approved by IRA. If the timeframe is within the three years, the funds left in trust will be forwarded to the new council. A new EIN number would also need to be established with the IRS.

General conversation questions:

- What are some topics that are useful at leadership workshops? Some possible sessions for leadership workshops are technology, role-alike sessions, advocacy, strategic planning, council year-long planning, round table sessions, break out committee sessions.
- What are ways to increase membership?
 - ❖ Councils have given a school with the most new members an author visit around their convention schedule since authors are already visiting.
 - ❖ Councils have also been holding teacher talk events where teachers come in and write the topic they really want to discuss on their name

tag, so they can pair up and chat with teachers interested in the same topic.

- ❖ Some have had 1 day mini-institute on various topics for teachers to draw interest.

- What are ways councils find funding to send leaders to convention and the academy? Councils either have convention listed as a budget item but there are no funds for the councils that were on the call that have been budgeted for the academy.