

*ReAD*

*The Electronic Newsletter of the New York State Reading Association*

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Editor: Sandi Kurbiel

NYSED Contributing Editor: Kristen Driskill



*Issues are published every month except for December-January and June-August combined issues. For more information, please contact Sandi Kurbiel at [skurbiel@nycap.rr.com](mailto:skurbiel@nycap.rr.com). (Above image from GoogleImages)*

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!

Inside: [NYSRA & Legislative News](#) by Sandi Kurbiel; [NYSED News](#) by Kristen Driskill; & [Literacy News/Links of Interest](#) by Sandi Kurbiel

***NYSRA and Legislative News***

**A Message from Sharon Kelly, our NYSRA President:**

Hi Everyone,

I think spring is here except for the snow yesterday. But, I do know that the end of the year is coming. I hope that you were able to get some exciting literacy projects out to your students. Whether it is a new book that got some children excited about reading, or a new technique that has worked for many of your students, I hope you get to enjoy this enthusiasm with your students.

Don't forget to renew your membership to your local reading council. The benefits are fantastic. You become a NYSRA member without any extra cost. You get professional development and get to network with others in the field of education.

Our next big adventure is the New York State Reading Association Conference 2019, which will be November 14-16 at the Albany Capital Center. Thea Yurkewecz and Liz Yanoff are the coordinators of the conference committee. They have a fantastic group of people coming to the Capital Center in November. Some of the big names are Stephanie Affinito, Stephanie Harvey, Ernest Morrell, Laura Robb, Donna Scanlon, and Jim Wright, to name a few. You will not want to miss this awesome conference.

I hope everyone has a great end to the school year.

Take care,

Sharon Kelly  
NYSRA President

**2019 NYSRA Literacy Conference,**  
**Empowering Striving Readers**

By Maryanne Barrett

Please check out the 2019 NYSRA Conference website for all conference and registration information:

<https://www.nysraconference2019.org/>

Interested in learning more about the NYSRA Conference ticketed events?

Click here: <https://spark.adobe.com/video/DfYXrKWzOzM6m>

52<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL  
**NEW YORK STATE READING ASSOCIATION**  
**LITERACY CONFERENCE**  
 Empowering Striving Readers  
 November 14-16, 2019 • Albany Capital Center  
**REGISTER TODAY!** [www.nysraconference2019.org](http://www.nysraconference2019.org)

Friday Speaker Line-Up



Laura Robb



Keynote: Ernest Morrell



Luncheon: Jennifer Serravallo



Stephanie Affinito



Gretchen Oliver



Erica Barnes



Donna Scanlon



Zoi A. Philippakos



Grace Enriquez



Stephanie Harvey



Erik Sweet

Ticked Dinner: What Inspires Writing?  
 Featuring:



Nancy Castaldo



Charles R. Smith



Sandra Athans

...and more!

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Saturday Speaker Line-Up



Adam Fachler



Luncheon: Sylvia Vardell and Janet Wong



Jeffrey Wilhelm



Lynn Gelzheiser and  
 Laura Hallgren-Flynn



Peggy Connors



Jim Wright



Troy Hicks

Ticketed Breakfast:  
 Writing with Children and Young Adults  
 with SCBWI Authors



Sandra Athans, Amy Gugliemo, Nancy Castaldo, and more



**Call for Proposals**  
by Cindy Wells



*Imagining, Discovering, and  
Cultivating Curiosity*

Call for Proposals!

SUNY Potsdam's **Journey Into Literacy** Planning Committee is seeking proposals for the October 24th & 25th, 2019 Conference.

Please visit **[JourneyintoLiteracy.com](http://JourneyintoLiteracy.com)** for more information.

The submission due date has been extended to  
**June 15, 2019.**

## **Advocacy News, May 2019**

by Sue Bogdan-Ritty, NBCT  
NYSRA Advocacy Chair

### **Dyslexia**

In the April 2019 *ReAD*, I stated that two bills had been introduced in the legislature dealing with dyslexia (A.7086/S.2767). These bills would establish a pilot program to provide early screening and intervention services for children with risk factors for dyslexia. The bills are supported by Joanne Simon in the Assembly and Martin Golden in the Senate.

The other bill (A.1480/S.2534) would require the certification or training of teachers, administrators and instructors in the area of dyslexia and other related disorders.

These bills have reached the Education Committee level in both houses. Now is the time for NYSRA members to review these bills and contact their legislators to advocate your position on these bills. Discuss with your legislator how this will impact your educational environment. Remember legislators want to know how this legislation will directly impact their district and its schools.

### **Changes in Literacy Coursework in Teacher Preparation programs**

At a recent NYS Board of Regents Meeting, a proposal was brought forth to require teacher preparation programs to dedicate at least three out of six semester hours to language acquisition and literacy development of English Language Learners (ELLs). This revision would occur September 1, 2019.

Many states have more coursework in literacy required than New York State currently does. This proposal could decrease time devoted to core literacy development to one course.

The 60-day public comment period for the Regents proposal pertaining to Language Acquisition and Literacy Development for ELLs is now in process. The Regents expect to act on this at their September meeting. The public comment notice was published in the April 24, 2019 NYS Register. Comments must be received by June 23, 2019. See page 25 in <https://docs.dos.ny.gov/info/register/2019/apr24/rulemaking.pdf>

Send comments to Petra Maxwell, NYS Education Department, Office of Higher Education, 89 Washington Avenue, Room 975 EBA, Albany, NY 12234, (518) 474-2238, email: [petra.maxwell@nysed.gov](mailto:petra.maxwell@nysed.gov)

NYSRA is working with NYACTE/NYSATE, SUNY and CUNY groups, as well as NYSUT. We encourage members to comment and we will update you about the progress of the proposal.

## **News Media Literacy/NIE Update for May**

By Mary Miller, Education Services Director

Every month the New York News Publishers Association's News Media Literacy/Newspaper In Education Program creates and distributes a one page feature related to something of significance that month. For May, we're highlighting **Be Kind to Animals Week** (May 5-11) and 4 Simple Ways to Make a Better World for Animals. To download a PDF to share with your students go online to <http://www.nynpa.com/nie/MonthlyNIEFeatures.html>.

For older students, May 1 is Law Day. This year's theme is **Free Speech, Free Press, Free Society**. With support from the New York Bar Foundation, we've created a 6-part series available in English and Spanish, a teaching guide/graphic organizers and audio podcasts for use with the blind and dyslexic. You can find all those materials on our website at <http://www.nynpa.com/nie/lawday.html>

And as always, if you have any questions about **News Media Literacy**, or need strategies to teach about misinformation and fighting Fake News, contact the NYNPA Education Services Director, Mary Miller at [mmiller@nynpa.com](mailto:mmiller@nynpa.com) or call [518-265-6201](tel:518-265-6201).

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Education Services Director

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Publisher of [Young Voices of New York](#) – a news website for writers younger than 14 years old.

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For more information about the NYNPA's Newspaper in Education Program, go to [www.nynpa.com/nie](http://www.nynpa.com/nie).

[Click here](#) to support the NYNPA Newspapers In Education Program with a donation to New York Newspapers Foundation.

## **New York State Education News**

by Kristen Driskill  
NYSED Contributing Editor

### **Proposed Changes to Teacher Preparation Programs around Literacy for ELLs**

This week, NYSED proposed changes that would require teacher preparation programs to shift focus in several courses to better address language acquisition and the literacy development of English Language Learners. In the proposal, at least three of the required six credit hours would need to address topics such as ELL instructional needs, co-teaching strategies, and integrating language and content instruction for ELLs.

Click [here](#) for the press release.

### **Literacy News and Links of Interest**

by Sandi Kurbiel  
*ReAD* Editor

#### **[May is Get Caught Reading Month!](#)**

Although this usually happens all throughout the year, for many it is celebrated this month. Find some great literacy ideas here.

#### **[Important Historical Events in May](#)**

Find some ideas for famous people born in May, among other historical events.

#### **[Memorial Day](#)**

Looking for some literacy ideas to recognize Memorial Day, which is May 27? Find literally thousands of ideas here.

#### **[Mother's Day](#)**

Want to celebrate it with your students but not sure how to go about it in order to make it more inclusive? Tread lightly, considering the unique situations and emotions of the students, and check out this website for suggestions.