



# Fox Valley Reading Council Newsletter

An Affiliate of the Illinois Reading  
Council

Spring 2009



## A Message from Your Presidents...

After a long winter, it is wonderful to see the robins return and know that warm weather is on its way. It is also the last letter that we will be writing you as presidents of the FVRC. This has been an amazing opportunity that has allowed us both to grow individually and professionally. Throughout this year we have had the chance to collaborate with universities, literacy companies, authors and other professionals. In June, past-president Amy Stuckey will once again be leading our council. She is already working with National-Louis University in the planning of a fall conference.

Last week, as an affiliate of the Illinois Reading Council, we had the opportunity to assist in many areas of the conference. Over 3,000 people attended. The IRC conference is the most attended conference in the United States, according to the International Reading Association. We introduced speakers, authors, and other professionals. Some of the authors that we were able to meet and converse with were: Bruce Lansky, Matt McElligott, Ted Arnold, and Jim Burke. Karen presented on LIFE, a family literary program in Batavia. It was a great time and we both definitely learned a lot. Below I have listed some of the hot topics at our conference.

- Media and literacy comprehension
- Primary resources for the primary grades ( Library of Congress)
- Poetry and getting students excited to read and write

Next year's conference theme is Lighting the Way to Literacy. If you have any suggestions for poster ideas we would love and appreciate your ideas.

We would also like to extend thanks to everyone on our board and members for making this year so wonderful. Our board has worked very hard over this past year to complete our council's bylaws, make our events successful and facilitate in our council's winning of two prestigious awards.

The first award that our council has been recognized for is the Council of Excellence. This is an IRC award for being recognized in the state of Illinois. The second award which our council has been awarded is Honor Council. This is an International Reading Association Award so our council has been recognized internationally.

Our council's bylaws have been approved by the state and were presented to members at our last event at Claddagh's Irish Pub. The vote was successful and has been accepted by our membership. They are posted on the IRC webpage for review.

For our April event, we have Peggy Sherman from P.S. Associates presenting Excite Your Summer with Great Professional Development. It will be at The Turf Room in North Aurora. She will guide us in a preview of what is up and coming in literacy and hold a professional book talk. At this event we will give a professional development book for those who have attended all three events during the year.

Remember to renew you membership to receive all the benefits of being a member of IRC's Fox Valley Reading Council.

Your Presidents,  
Kim Dillon and Karen Ringas



## Looking for Long-Term Staff Development?



Fox Valley Reading Council will join forces with National Louis University again this fall to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual ELL Forum. The planning board has discussed the importance of long-term staff development and on-going support of teachers. The 2009-2010 school year will bring the long-term staff development so many of the FVRC members are looking for. At the forum teachers will have an opportunity to plan their own professional development track that meets their specific needs and interests. Following the forum the FVRC will host at least two more evening events throughout the school year that will continue the focus on meeting the needs of our ELL students, reaching out to our ELL families, and supporting teachers of ELL students. The on-going professional development will be focused on the needs and interests of our members so we can continue to support our members as they face the changing dynamics in their classrooms.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual ELL Forum Thursday, October 8 and Friday, October 9, 2009, as well as the follow up sessions we will host throughout the school year.

### Summer Reading Conference

Former IRC President and long time FVRC member Steven Layne, in conjunction with Judson University, is hosting Literacy in Motion! Conference June 22-25 at Judson University in Elgin. This conference is guaranteed to get you so inspired you might even consider heading back to school early!

Keynote speaker Melissa Forney will start the week off with lots of laughter, and maybe even a few tears. She is sure to touch all of our hearts with her topic, "To Shape a Life." Respected and loved authors & illustrators such as Neal Shusterman, Rick Wormeli, and Maria Walther will knock your socks off Monday through Wednesday, all leading up to Thursday's Keynote speaker Linda Hoyt! Registration is limited to the first 200 people, so sign up early! Information about this conference can be found at:

[www.judsonu.edu/literacyinmotion.aspx](http://www.judsonu.edu/literacyinmotion.aspx) See you there!

### Your Fox Valley Reading Council Board Needs You!!

For the coming year we are looking for educators to become active board members in our reading council. If you would like to participate or if you know anyone who you think would be great please send me your information: [kdillon@cusd200.org](mailto:kdillon@cusd200.org). It is a wonderful opportunity to gain recognition and meet many professionals around the nation. As a bonus your membership dues to IRA will be reimbursed by our council and all events are free. We are happy to tailor a position for your needs.



### Meet Amy Stuckey

Congratulations to Amy Stuckey who will become your new president for the 2009-2010 school year. She was our president in the past and will continue to do fabulous things with our council. Currently Amy teaches in Indian Prairie School District 204 as a reading specialist. She recently completed her administrative certificate and is a National Board Certified teacher.

**Fox Valley Reading Council Presents**  
**"Excite Your Summer with Great Professional Development"**  
**Presenter: Peggy Sherman**

Peggy has been a teacher and a principal in her past life. She worked as a product manager for DLM and Argus Communications after teaching and has been in the publishing and educational sales for the last 30 years. Peggy is a sales consultant for many schools and has her own company, PS Associates. Peggy loves her professional books and supports teachers and school districts all over the state of Illinois.

**Date & Time:** Monday, April 20, 2009 at 6:00pm

**Location:** The Turf Room, 650 N Randall Rd, Aurora, 60506, (630) 906-9300

**Time:** 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

**Registration Fee:** Fox Valley Reading Council Members \$10.00,  
Non-members \$15.00

**Registration Fee Includes:** A private room, appetizers and desserts (cash bar), keynote speaker, door prizes, and CPDU's.

**Registration Form**

Last Name	First Name	Home Phone Number	
Home Street Address	City	State	Zip Code
School /District	School Phone Number	Email Address	

**Mail completed Registration Form and check (\$10 members/15.00 non-members, payable to Fox Valley Reading Council) to: Kim Oliver, 2817 Sun Valley Drive, Plainfield, IL 60586. If you have questions please contact Karen Ringas at [kringas@CUSD200.org](mailto:kringas@CUSD200.org)**

**Mission Statement:** The mission of the Fox Valley Reading Council is to provide literary resources, professional development and collaborative opportunities for educators.

**Goals:** In the next five years, the Fox Valley Reading Council will: promote ongoing opportunities for educators, develop relationships with other local councils and universities, increase continuing community service projects, and facilitate individuals in learning to read and fostering a love for

## Board Members



### Executive Board

#### Presidents

Kim Dillon: [Kdillon@cusd200.org](mailto:Kdillon@cusd200.org)

Karen Ringas: [Kringas@cusd200.org](mailto:Kringas@cusd200.org)

#### Vice-President

Amy Stuckey: [Amy\\_Stuckey@ipsd.org](mailto:Amy_Stuckey@ipsd.org)

#### Treasurer

Kim Oliver: [Kim\\_Oliver@ipsd.org](mailto:Kim_Oliver@ipsd.org)

#### Secretary

Beth Herrig: [Beth\\_Herrig@ipsd.org](mailto:Beth_Herrig@ipsd.org)

### Committee Leaders

#### Membership

Karen Johnsen: [KSJohnsen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:KSJohnsen@sbcglobal.net)

#### Adult and Family Literacy

Sue Sokolinski: [Sokomom@comcast.net](mailto:Sokomom@comcast.net)

#### Parents and Reading

Crystal Anderson: [Crystal.Anderson@bps101.net](mailto:Crystal.Anderson@bps101.net)

#### Publicity/Newspapers in Education

Mandy Hosko: [Mandy\\_Hosko@ipsd.org](mailto:Mandy_Hosko@ipsd.org)



Fox Valley Reading Council  
1106 Lyford Lane  
Wheaton, IL 60189

