

President's Note

Happy New Year from MID-State Reading Council! I hope that you had a restful break and that your 2024 is off to a great start!

I am not big on resolutions, but I do like to try something new every year! This year, I decided to join one of Illinois Reading Council's winter book clubs and signed up for the *Shifting the Balance: K-2* book club! The book clubs are free to IRC members and if you complete all of the assignments, you can earn 15 PD hours. If you want to learn more about book clubs, or sign up for one yourself, click **HERE**.



If a structured book club experience is not your thing, no worries! IRC and MID-State have several other PD opportunities and events coming up this winter and spring! Read on for the details!

Got a unique idea for your classroom? Take advantage of this simple grant opportunity!

You are encouraged to apply for the Carol Berry Memorial Literacy Grant! This grant awards \$200 to a MID-State member to support a literacy initiative in their classroom. Grant applications are due Monday, February 19th. Grant applications will be evaluated by a committee using a blind review process and the grant winner will be notified by Friday, April 5th. The grant will be officially



Illinois Reading Council Conference

The 55th annual Illinois Reading Council Conference will take place in Springfield March 14th-15th! The theme of this year's conference is Pillars of Literacy: Skills, Strategies, Joy, & Magic. Click <u>HERE</u> for more information about the conference, including featured speakers, a preliminary program, and registration details.



Trivia Night

Our annual teacher trivia night will be held Wednesday, April 17th at 7:00pm at Gill Street Restaurant in Bloomington. Trivia Night is FREE for MID-State members, and \$5 for everyone else. Save the date in your calendar and start to get a team together (teams are limited to 6 members)! One person from each team should register HERE. You do not want to miss this funfilled night!

MID-State Reading Council

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