



Canadian Network of
IRA Reading Councils

Minutes

Saturday, July 10, Sunday July 11, 2004

Portland, Oregon

Present:

British Columbia-Shirley Choo, Ken Cooper, Meredyth Kezar

Alberta-Robina Penney, Annette Sarginson, Judy Welch

Saskatchewan-Karen Lind, Melanie Palmier, Sandra Quayle

Manitoba- Carol Hryniuk-Adamov (chair), Norma Jones, Arlene Kinden,

Linda Ross

Ontario-Lorraine Giroux, Garth Brooks

International Reading Association-Alan Farstrup, Brenda Townsend

CNIRAC Secretary Treasurer, Eileen Froehlich was not able to attend.

Acting Secretary is Meredyth Kezar.

1. Welcome, introductions & clarification for voting -one vote per province-usually provincial coordinator votes-if absent he or she gives vote to another provincial representative.
2. Approval of agenda-Meredyth moved, seconded Sandra. Carried.
3. Minutes of last meeting, May 7 2004- Please correct name misspellings-Meredyth and Dierdre--moved acceptance-Karen, seconded Pat*
4. Financial report-submitted and accepted. Ken Cooper thanked Garth for work on Canadian Reception, Carol also thanked Sarah, welcome to Brenda Townsend.

Motion to reimburse Eileen Froehlich for expenses moved Judy, seconded by Meredyth

5. Report on the 2004 Canadian Reception - Convenor, Garth Brooks - discussion need for pledge forms for coming year-actually received more contributions after reception than expected but still had left over food. Discussion that if publishing company is unwilling to send a donation then shouldn't send books as there are additional fees for packing etc. Garth will add this information to letters to publishers. He asks that provincial coordinators make sure they send information to local councils early so that all contributions can be received prior to conference and can be publicly acknowledged at the Canadian Reception. Moved by Annette seconded by Sandra that because last year's costs for the 2003 Canadian Reception exceeded the contributions by \$116.26 that this money **was** taken from our general revenue for our operating costs from this year's reception contribution. After some discussion this motion was deferred due to discussion re having separate line items in the budget for receipts and expenses for Canadian Reception. 2007 will be a big one-suggested need to keep our surplus for that. Motion:-In San Antonio CNIRAC give a \$200 contribution to the Canadian Reception with funds coming from last year's Canadian Reception funds. Moved by Meredyth-seconded by Lorraine.
6. Position for convenor for the 2005 Canadian Reception -Garth expressed willingness to serve as the 2005 Reception Convenor. Moved by Sandra, seconded by Annette that Garth convene the 2005 Canadian Reception. Carried.
7. Correspondence-none really received-Deirdre McConnell unable to attend re update regional-Oct. 27,28-2005 in Calgary-Oct. 1 for call for proposals.

8. Cross-country checkup-Northwest Territories-charter coming-Yukon-Carol will be up there in August-other information given at leadership sharing.
9. Discussion of Canadian issues-what are issues that IRA could help us with-request from Allen-items were collected by Carol at the meeting, with help from Brenda.
 - a. Tax receipts -membership receipt for Canadians requires a - signature to be able to use for taxes. Brenda will take this information to Joe Stangl.
 - b. Speakers from IRA-people appreciate getting speakers who are IRA board members-reminded to put requests in writing (forms in leadership packets or available online at website). Board members would like to speak to more local councils. We were reminded to ask early in board member's term as soon as elected.
 - c. It was mentioned that we receive much of information only applicable to Americans in packages in September. Brenda needs to know of materials promoting literacy in Canada that could be put in package we receive in September. It was suggested that there should be separate packages for Canadians.
 - d. Discussion of leadership packets we receive in May. Some people want this online but the feeling of the group good to have hard copy of leadership packages as not all people operate the same way. Some discussion re sending out basically duplicate information every year but more complicated to just send out additions and make sure everyone who needs them has them.
 - e. Marketing promotion-for last provincial conference. Shirley Choo received many boxes of materials not appropriate eg. materials in Russian and Spanish-Brenda to check into this.
 - f. Communication-important to know where to go re information. New IRA website-should have better links. We want a link to new CNIRAC website.

- g. Deadlines-can be a problem. It was noted that online forms are available eg. list of local council officers. If a council does forms on line, provincial coordinator will get a copy.
- h. It was wondered if there was any support for creating websites-for provincial and local council ones. So far we haven't. So far no, but in the future we may be able to have templates.
- i. Concern were expressed that teachers in Ontario might not be able to attend the annual convention in Toronto-this will be important for it to be successful.
- j. *Reading Today*-John Miklos, editor asking for Canadian content-eg information on conferences etc. He is willing to help you develop ideas.
- k. It was noted by Alan that when such articles are written, IRA can arrange to send extra copies of *Reading Today* to non-members, suggestion of giving gifts of membership.
- l. Adolescent literacy is still a big issue-Carol lamented the end of the commission on Adolescent Literacy but Alan said this is still an important area of concern to IRA-manuscript proposals for publications will be considered.
- m. Canadian involvement in committees- important that you do not wait to be called. You can apply online. Let council members know that October 1 is the deadline to be nominated or apply to be on a committee for the following year.
- n. Important to get articles into the journals-need more Canadian content to showcase what Canadians are researching, practising, thinking-Carol suggested collaborating as one means of getting articles written.
- o. Suggestion that we put together policy statement proposals from our perspective.
- p. IRA's connection to UNESCO is important to Canadians-Decade for Literacy is seen as very important. Alan said UNESCO was really working well with IRA. He was at UN conference in Geneva on World Literacy Day. There are currently some internal problems in UNESCO.
- q. Toronto-IRA is currently negotiating hotels re International Leadership workshop next summer.

- r. The 2007 IRA annual convention is committed to be in Toronto. A good partnership with Toronto convention centre has developed.
- s. Thanks to Alan and Brenda and all the unsung heroes at headquarters!

10. Updates on regional conferences-

Two regional conferences planned for fall 2005!

Alberta call for proposals will be out soon. Members wondered how CNIRAC could help. In the discussion, it was suggested that councils could support speakers.

Ontario-Garth agreeing to chair the regional. Send suggestions.

11. CSIG newsletter presentation & deadlines-Dorothy wants information. C-SIG presentations maintain Canadian content at the IRA program. Send information to Dorothy Morrow.

12. Committee reports

a. Awards committee -Chair is Meredyth, other members are Ken and Carol. A meeting is planned in Vancouver August 22. Discussion regarding the fact that no money is attached to the award. The idea that the award should be to recognize long-term achievement rather than a "flash of brilliance". There was a suggestion of paralleling IRA awards. Please e-mail Meredyth with ideas.

b. Finance Committee-Chair Shirley-committee to ensure money given by BC after regional conference be used wisely. The committee consists of Eileen, Shirley and Carol. Please e-mail ideas to Shirley. \$2000 is earmarked for website.

13. Website-Gloria Anitaiff- Sandra and Carol to talk to her about details.

14. Canadian nominations to the IRA Board. Does CNIRAC endorse candidates? There is to be no campaigning or endorsements. Members urged at provincial level to nominate Canadian IRA members with full consent and full CV.

15. Publications for *Reading Today*. We have been urged to contribute. John Miklos will do anything to assist. Three provinces received exemplary reading award. This is a possibility for an article. BC, Saskatchewan, Manitoba. Sandra to get the article from Saskatchewan- Transmountain blurb to be done by Annette Sarginson.

16. IRA Publications Committee. Carol sits on Publication Committee for IRA. Issues, ideas, concerns forward to Carol by September 29. Carol urges articles collaborative, cooperative writing groups from Canadians.

17. Review of Goals and Next Steps

Goal 1. Serve as a network for communication among Canadian councils. This is going well.

Goal 2. Enhance professional development in Canada. This is going well

Goal 3. Support and/or initiate advocacy on literacy issues in Canada. We still need to work on this. There is an excellent brochure on literacy on UNESCO website-also check out updates.

Goal 4. Increase the visibility of provincial and local councils and IRA in Canada. This is going well-eg. regional conferences, International Leadership Conference in Toronto next summer-discussion re possibility of doing some sort of reception there like Oregon did here. Lorraine Giroux to check this out.

Goal 5. Promote Canadian membership and encourage active involvement of members in IRA, urged to nominate others or yourself to IRA committees by October 1-can do on IRA website.

Goal 6. Respond to emerging global literacy issues. Project Love, global issues- other places UNICEF, World Vision, September 8 International Literacy Day- remind people-good to visit UN website

18. Procedures for elections next meeting is in San Antonio at annual convention, election required for secretary-treasurer, and a new vice-

chairperson. It was explained how we try to rotate through provinces and vice and chair are two year terms. Annette agreed to let her name stand for vice-chair.

19. Accommodation in San Antonio. Garth gave information about downtown Red Roof Inn which is very reasonable-six blocks from convention centre, \$67 double, \$57 single.

20. A big thanks to Carol for doing a great job as chair.

21. Meeting adjourned-Sunday AM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Meredyth Kezar

Next meeting-San Antonio-time and place to be announced.
