



Minutes

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Conference Room 9 Marriott Rivercenter,
San Antonio Texas

Present:

British Columbia- Meredyth Kezar, Donna McCormick

Alberta- Deidre McConnell

Saskatchewan- Pam Foy

Manitoba- Carol Hryniuk-Adamov (chair), Arlene Kinden, Eileen Froehlich

Ontario-Joanne Colbourne, Garth Brooks

Northwest Territories - Lawrie McKeith

CSIG-L- Mike Bowden, Dorothy Morrow

International Reading Association- Brenda Townsend

Welcome, introductions & clarification for voting. Names underlined above.

1. Approval of agenda-Garth/Lawrie. Carried.
2. Minutes of last meeting, July 10 2004. Note that the suggested correction for May 7, 2004 minutes was not needed. Moved by Deidre/Dorothy that the July 10 minutes be accepted as presented. Carried.
3. Business Arising from the minutes. The reimbursement to secretary treasurer was not made as receipts provided for the July 10 meeting were misplaced and no amount was recorded in the minutes. Moved by Dorothy/Joanne that the costs for postage and computer ink cartridge submitted for this year's work be doubled to cover the costs submitted or the 2003-04 year. The amount to be paid is $\$113.13 \times 2 = \226.26 . Carried.
4. Financial Report. A financial report for the period beginning July 2004 and ending April 30, 2005 showed a bank balance of \$5716.04. (Specific details are outlined in the financial report.) Moved by Eileen/Mike that the financial report be accepted as presented. Carried.
5. Chairperson's Report. Please see attached report. Moved by Carol/Meredyth that this report be accepted as presented. Carried.

6. Report on the 2005 Canadian Reception - Convenor, Garth Brooks. The Reception on Wednesday, May 4, 2005 was well attended. The event raised the profile of the Canadian Network as several Canadians were in attendance. Not as many Canadian publishers were represented this year as in past years. Final costs for the event will be presented when Garth's Visa bill is processed. Moved by Garth/Deidre that this report be accepted as presented. Carried.

It was suggested that there be an informal Greeter Rooster established for the 2006 Reception. Each province would be represented. Greeters would be responsible for welcoming attendees as they arrive and thank people for coming as they leave. Carol thanked Garth for once again overseeing a very successful Canadian Reception.

7. Position for Convenor for the 2006 Canadian Reception. Moved by Meredyth/Dorothy that Garth serve as the Convenor for the 2006 and 2007 Receptions. Carried. Garth accepted this position.
8. Position for Secretary/Treasurer. There have been no nominations for the position of secretary/treasurer for the next two years. Eileen Froehlich agreed to serve in this capacity for one additional year. Moved by Joanne/Donna that Eileen continue as Secretary/Treasurer for one additional year. Carried.
9. Correspondence. An email message, received from a former CNIRAC Chair Marilyn Raman, was read. Marilyn congratulated CNIRAC on its continued success.

10. Committee Reports

Awards Committee (Chair Meredyth Kezar, Carol Hryniuk-Adamov, and Ken Cooper) Meredyth presented a draft copy of the Service Award. Criteria were discussed and revisions were made. The revised criteria are attached.

Finance (Chair Shirley Choo, Carol Hryniuk-Adamov, Eileen Froehlich). The Finance Committee met on May 2, 2005 to draft guidelines for expenditures. Eileen presented these guidelines. Moved by Eileen/Meredyth that these recommendations be accepted as presented. Carried. These recommendations are attached.

11. BCLCIRA Initiated Project. Donna shared information on a fundraising project undertaken by the British Columbia Literacy Council of the IRA in which British Columbia authors were asked to submit recipes and comments for cookbook entitled *Readers, Writers and Recipes*. Donna proposed that a similar project be undertaken by CNIRAC. It was decided that the provincial co-ordinators would

bring this proposal to their jurisdictions. The proposal will be further discussed at the meeting in Toronto.

12. Updates on Regional Conferences

Celebrate Literacy Regional Conference Toronto, Ontario, November 27-29, 2005. Garth distributed postcard advertising this conference and requested that it be advertised in local and provincial publications. Garth asked for assistance in doing program proposal evaluations. There were several volunteers. CNIRAC is scheduled to receive five percent of profits earmarked for ORA.

Hats Off to Literacy Calgary, Alberta October 27-28, 2005. Deidre reported that proposals have been evaluated and most submitters have been notified.

13. CSIG-L. Dorothy reported that several memberships were sold or renewed at the Reception. Membership numbers for the 2005-06 must be submitted to IRA Headquarters by June 1st. The number of members submitted by this time is directly proportional to the amount of time allotted to CSIG on the IRA 2006 Annual Convention program. Dorothy also requested submissions for the CSIG Newsletter. The deadlines for submissions are mid September and mid April. Send articles to Dorothy Morrow.

Carol commended Dorothy on the excellent CSIG Newsletter and her work as the Membership Chair. Carol thanked Deidre for her leadership as the outgoing Chair of CSIG and welcomed Mike as the current Chair.

14. CNIRAC Website. A report submitted by Gloria Antifaiff was read. This report is attached. Moved by Eileen/Lawrie that Gloria be reimbursed for \$113.20 to cover the cost of the web-space. Carried.

Carol thanked Gloria for her work in setting up this web site and urged that articles be submitted from across Canada.

15. Cross-country Checkup

Northwest Territories. Lawrie reported that it has been a challenge to finalize a council charter. However, they are now in the process of being granted a council charter. Positive changes in instruction and assessment are moving along rapidly. Educational leaders are now in the process of developing a format for developing a systematic assessment across the Territories.

British Columbia. Meredyth reported the formation of a new council in Chilliwack and the reactivation of the Vancouver Reading Council. A group at the University of British Columbia has expressed interest in forming a council.

Alberta. Interest in the upcoming regional conference has increased membership in reading councils.

Saskatchewan. Pam reported that Saskatchewan's annual convention is planned for March 30-April 1, 2006 in Regina. A challenge is filling leadership positions.

Manitoba. Arlene and Carol reported one highlight in the past year was a visit by Marie Clay. Another highlight is the continued support of the Manitoba government for teachers and programs. A challenge is filling positions for MRA and local council executives.

Ontario. Joanne reported that the upcoming regional conference has provided councils to rejuvenate interest in IRA. Challenges include communication among councils and filling leadership positions.

16. Discussion of Canadian Issues. Carol urged that Canadians submit articles for IRA publications. She suggested that people work collaboratively to write articles highlighting successful Canadian educational programs and projects. If you have suggestions for IRA publications please forward them to Carol as she is on the IRA Publications committee and they will meet in late September or early October.
17. Anniversary Celebrations in Canadian Councils. Carol reminded that IRA's 50th Anniversary is the precursor of several other council anniversary celebrations. The Reading Council of Greater Winnipeg will be celebrating their 50th in 2006 and one of the Ontario conferences was also among one of the first councils formed.
18. Project Love. Garth reported that schools from across Canada participated in Project Love. During the past year he visited schools Alberta. He distributed promotional literature and asked that council members continue to promote this project as it supports a form of global education.
19. Review of Goals and Next Steps
Due to time constraints Carol provided an overview of each of the CNIRAC Goals briefly addressing accomplishments and indicating areas for continued attention.

Goal 1. Serve as a network for communication among Canadian councils.

In my term as Vice-Chairperson and Chairperson we have strived to continue to strengthen communication throughout the country. We appreciate the efforts of Gloria Antifaiff of Saskatchewan to establish our CNIRAC website. She will bring us into the electronic age.. We urge each province to appoint someone to send provincial news and pertinent confernece information to Gloria to keep the site up- to- date. We need to know what is happening in your area of the country. We have appreciated the opportunities to communicate through IRA leadership workshops and via email. Sarah Womble is a great communicator and she takes the time to keep us connected in her updates throughout the year. Duting my years of service, I have tried to visit every province active in the Canadian Network for informal visits with provincial IRA leaders and to attend conferences whenever possible. In addition, I have done our outreach and visited IRA members in the Yukon and NWT. I have highlighted IRA publications in my presentations and held exploratory conversations with territorial educators who were IRA members who might be interested in future Council formation. We look forward to celebrating with the NWT in the near future as they await confirmation and receiving their official charter. Thank-you goes to Lawrie Mc Keith, Peg and Mel Pardy of Yellowknife for their dedication and hard work.

Please continue to send provincial news items to the Canadian Special Interest Group (C-SIG) newsletter Editor Dorothy Morrow . We are luck to have both electronic and print media to enhance our national communication. Thank-you Dorothy for all your time and effort to facilitate communication across our vast land through the CSIG newsletter. Encourage your members to join CSIG and maintain the Canadian Content at every annual IRA Convention.

Goal 2. Enhance professional development in Canada.

We have never had a year of such wonderful professional opportunities sponsored by IRA as 2005. In July, we will have an international leadership conference in Toronto. This will help to strengthen the leadership skills of Canadian and international literacy leaders.

Many of us would not be the leaders we are today without the many leadership workshops that IRA has provided across North America over the years.

Canadian Network members are eagerly anticipating two promising Canadian regionals in 2005. These two regionals in one year will provide rare professional development opportunities in Western Canada as we "Take our hats off to literacy in Calgary " in October and then in Eastern Canada as we "Celebrate Literacy" at the regional in Toronto in November. It is just like the Grey Cup!! We look forward to these unprecedented opportunities for professional development with outstanding IRA literacy leaders and to showcase many of our own Canadian

experts. Please help our Regional Conference Chairs Deidre in Clagary and Garth in Toronto and their committees in Alberta and Ontario to publicize these events with IRA members and other educators interested in literacy across the country. Please inform your PD chairs so that these events will be put on high profile provincial PD Calendars. Let's all work together so these conferences will be well attended. Plan to attend and bring your provincial contingent to benefit from Group rates. Remember CNIRAC is a co-sponsor of the Toronto Conference so we are expected to do our part in sharing the load to support Garth who chairs the conference.

Remember to publicise and attend the CSIG sessions at the IRA convention and support our Canadian Colleagues who prepare quality presentations. Thanks to Deidre for co-ordinating this for a few years. Good luck to incoming CSIG President Michael Bowden who will take on this responsibility.

Goal 3. Support and/or initiate advocacy on literacy issues in Canada.

This is an area we must continue to work at in each of our jurisdictions as well as nationally. IRA has a new book on literacy advocacy and it bears reading. We receive information from Rich Long in Washington about American advocacy. As Educators we must be vigilant about supporting literacy issues in our jurisdictions. We are celebrating the UN Decade of literacy and must keep literacy issues at the forefront provincially and nationally. We have spoken in the past of the problem of the GST on books. I have not been able to address such issues in my term. This may be something to deal with in the future.

There will be major Canadian adult literacy studies released in the fall that will require close study and follow-up.

Goal 4. Increase the visibility of provincial and local councils and IRA in Canada. Through the preparation for the IRA regionals, the provincial and local councils will become more visible. Consider sponsoring a speaker or someone from your Council to attend.

We look forward to some of our local IRA councils celebrating their 50th anniversary as Canadian Councils were among the first councils formed in North America soon after the convention.

We appreciate the generous contributions of the local and provincial councils to the Canadian Reception. This important involvement also helps to raise the profile of the councils with our guests.

Goal 5. Promote Canadian membership and encourage active involvement of members in IRA.

In the many presentations we have made across the country we have tried to promote IRA memberships. Give them as gifts to teacher candidates or retiring members. As Mary Ellen Vogt has said approach teacher in their fourth year of teaching when they seek to join professional organizations. Honour your retiring IRA members for their long service with the gift of memberships. The younger members will see how you honour the years of dedication of the retiring members. They will see this is a caring organization. Take the time to do more mentoring with our newer members. So much of what we do in council life are passed along by oral traditions. Take time to mentor. Never work alone. Always work as a team. In IRA, we cannot afford to be lone rangers. We must be team players and communicators for the sake of the sustainability of leadership in our organizations.

Remind longstanding members that upon retirement they can have a special emeritus IRA membership with a discount. Remember there is a special leadership offer at this convention if you renew for the next three years. Visit the Marketplace before closing today.

We as Canadians need to be more active as members especially in writing for local and provincial publications in general and to do more writing for international IRA publications as well. Start with *Reading Today*. John Micklos is eager for your input and he will assist you in writing if needed. While we might be concerned about the amount of Canadian content in IRA publications and at the convention, we must do something about this by writing and presenting more. Wonderful things are happening across our country but we are not doing enough writing as educators. No one will know the great things that happened in the last decade in English Language Arts in Canada unless we write for the peer-reviewed journals and IRA publications. I urge you to do more collaborative writing. Write in teams or groups. I also encourage you to consider joining more international committees. Nominate each other or volunteer to serve on the committees. The deadline for submitting names to Headquarters is usually in early October. Do not miss an opportunity to get more involved in IRA. Your professional life will be enriched. Also if you are interested in International service let Linda Ulqini in the IRA Washington office know. Fill out the necessary forms and your name will be in a data bank for future projects. A number of Canadians have served in countries abroad. I was in Macedonia this March and it was the one of the highlights of my nearly 25 years as an IRA member.

Goal 6. Respond to emerging global literacy issues.

We, as Canadians, must keep up with international issues. People look to Canada for literacy leadership in the world. We have the resources, the knowledge and the curricula. While we may have done well in the last PISA international assessments we cannot rest on our laurels. We must do more international service to support literacy in the world. We have noble heritage of the leadership of the Rt. Honourable Lester B, Pearson, Pierre Trudeau as well as contemporaries, Stephen Lewis, and Lloyd Axworthy. As Canadians we have rich resources and we are called to do more in these international areas through collaboration in the international outreach of IRA. Many of our councils have been doing exemplary international projects. We can still help in the tsunami relief projects. We must raise the profile of the UN Decade for Literacy and promote the cause of "Literacy for All and Freedom for All." Visit the UNESCO website and highlight the logo and the information in your publications and council life.

It has been an honour to serve as the Chairperson of the Canadian Network of IRA Councils. Thank-you goes to all of you for your excellent work throughout the year in your councils and in the Association. I have appreciated your support and team work over the past two years. We have much work to do as we all work collaboratively across the country through the Canadian Network to help "every Canadian be a literate Canadian."

I regret that I will not be in Toronto for the summer international leadership workshop due to a family wedding. I urge you to give your full support to our incoming Chairperson, Sandra Quayle from Saskatchewan. She will do an excellent job!

20. Joanne thanked Carol for her leadership as the Chair of CNIRAC over the past two years. Her superb interpersonal skills and her vast knowledge of educational and IRA issues have contributed to the positive working of CNIRAC.

21. Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting will be in Toronto in July.

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen Froehlich
CNIRAC Secretary/Treasurer
