

# The Prairie Reader

A Newsletter of the North Dakota Reading Association



## *Greetings NDRA Colleagues,*

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as President of NDRA. I have enjoyed working with NDRA over the past three years and look forward to continued service as Past President and ILA State Coordinator for NDRA. This organization amazes me each time we spend time collaborating together.

We are very fortunate, as a state, to have officers who are willing to promote literacy by organizing events for our state, working together with ILA, and collaborating with local councils. Please help me by welcoming our newly elected members of the NDRA Executive Board, Tina Pletan and Heather Ell. Tina Pletan will serve as our Vice President, Heather Ell, as Treasurer. Chris Dettlaff was re-elected as NDRA Secretary. Congratulations Tina, Heather and Chris! NDRA appreciates your volunteer hours and commitment to literacy for our state association.

### NDRA Executive Board for 2017-2018

Melessa Bosch	President
Julie Frank	President Elect
Tina Pletan	Vice President
Chris Dettlaff	Secretary
Heather Ell	Treasurer
Cheryl Hagar	Director of Membership Development
Tara Jordan	Past President/ILA State Coordinator

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### **Included in this issue...**

- \* **NDRA State Leader Reports**
- \* **Save the Dates: Jan Richardson & NDRA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference**
- \* **ILA News**
- \* **Council Updates**
- \* **Book Reviews**

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I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Executive Board Members, Brenda Seehafer and Gloria Jones. Your dedication and vision to NDRA has greatly moved our state forward. The entire Executive Board would like to thank you for your commitment to literacy for all. We know the two of you will continue to support NDRA in the upcoming year.

I hope to see many of you, June 8, in Bismarck for our first NDRA Summer Institute. NDRA is thrilled by the support of our members for this event featuring Jan Richardson. We also have an outstanding opportunity to come together in April, of 2018, to celebrate NDRA's 50th Anniversary during our State Reading Conference. I hope all of you make arrangements to attend the state reading conference. Confirmed speakers include: Kristin Ziemke, Pernille Ripp, Marvin Turban, Gravity Goldberg, and Pam Munoz Ryan. Bring a friend and celebrate literacy together.

Enjoy your summer! I hope you all take time to refresh, rejuvenate and sneak in a great read along the way.

Read On,

Tara Jordan  
NDRA President



## NDRA Leadership Travel Grant

The North Dakota Reading Association has awarded the following NDRA members the NDRA Leadership Travel Grant: Dawn Bodtke, Heather Ell, and Brenda Seehafer. These three members were awarded a leadership travel grant through NDRA to help defray costs of a conference. These ladies will be attending the International Literacy Conference which will be held in Orlando, Florida this July. Thank you ladies for your commitment to both your local councils as well as NDRA. Enjoy your conference!



## Dr. Jan Richardson is coming to North Dakota!

<https://ndra.wildapricot.org/>

### North Dakota Reading Association & Scholastic

Thursday, June 8th  
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
at Bismarck Event  
Center, Bismarck

Dr. Jan Richardson is a leading expert in guided reading. She is a literacy consultant and author who earned her Ph.D. studying struggling readers.

Participants will leave with a new awareness of what can be done to motivate, engage, and accelerate every student - especially struggling readers!

Registration Fees –  
NDRA Member: \$45.00  
Non-Member: \$90.00

 SCHOLASTIC

Register today for the NDRA Summer Institute.

Summer Institute Registration Options:

- \$45.00 Member Registration
- \$90.00 Non-Member Registration

<https://ndra.wildapricot.org/>

Door prizes will be provided by the North Dakota Reading Association, Scholastic and Pioneer Valley Books.

In addition, both Scholastic and Pioneer Valley Books will be onsite with a display of guided reading materials.

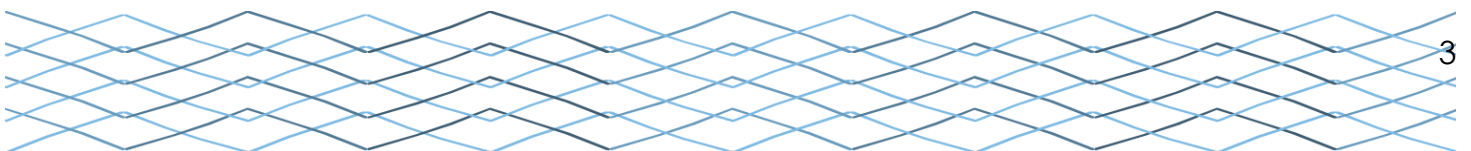
Note: Minot State University is sponsoring snacks for attendees.

Scholastic will have Jan's book, *Next Step Forward in Guided Reading*, available for purchase with credit card only, at the Summer Institute.

### JAN RICHARDSON, PH.D.

Jan Richardson, Ph.D., is an educational consultant based in Wisconsin who has trained thousands of teachers and works with schools and districts throughout America and Canada to ensure that every student succeeds in reading.

Jan's work is informed by her experience as a reading specialist, a Reading Recovery teacher leader, a staff developer, and a teacher of every grade—K-12.





# Celebrating 50 Years

## NDRA 2018 Conference

### April 26-28, 2018

#### Thursday, April 26th

❖ 6:30-9:30 PM

- Vault Event Center  
307 N 3rd St
- Downtown Bismarck



#### Friday, April 27th

❖ 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

- Legacy High School
- Featured Speakers/ Authors

❖ 6:00 - 9:00 PM

- Sixteen 03 Main Events  
1603 E Main Ave
- Cheers to 50 Years Social
- 50th Anniversary Celebration

#### Saturday, April 28th

❖ 7:00 AM

- Power by Books 5K Walk/Run

❖ 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

- Legacy High School
- Brunch and Speakers
- Young Writers Awards

## From your State ILA Coordinator...Gloria Jones

I hope all of you had a very Blessed Easter shared with family.

The International Literacy Association has some changes taking place within the organization over the next year. This will change our affiliation in some ways. If you would like to know how our state has voted to move forward with ILA, please read the draft of the state meeting minutes found on our website.

### Important Deadline Dates

- Voting for Board of Directors to IL. This voting closes on **May 9th, 2017**
- Deadline for submitting your new officer list for the year of 2017/2018 (July 1, 2017- June 30, 2018) is **June 30th, 2017.**

I will be ending my role as the State ILA Coordinator in a couple of months. The board has selected a new Coordinator who will take over this role once she has received approval from ILA headquarters. It is Tara Jordan from NCRC. She is very qualified and I feel will do a wonderful job! This is a three year term and Tara will also serve on the State Executive Board. My role in this position has been very rewarding and I have truly enjoyed meeting so many terrific people from across the state of North Dakota!

# Council Connections



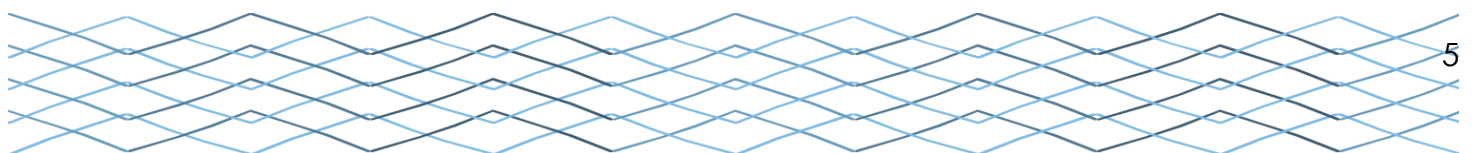
## **SCRC...** *Tina Pletan, President*

Budding- a word to describe springtime and the membership of our South Central Reading Council. We have increased our membership this year by 96 members.

Our year of professional learning has focused on integrating literacy and science. We partnered with the Gateway to Science Center in January to provide a family night where members brought their children in and experimented with the science activities the center provides. Our board members provided non-fiction text examples to go with the science activities. Our members and community also donated non-fiction science books to the Gateway to Science Center. In March, author Kelly Boswell presented how to effectively use writing in science (and other content areas). Our April session was a lesson idea sharing session. Teachers collaborated on literacy and science lessons they have used throughout the year. In May, we will have a Literacy Trivia Night.



Our council is excited to be helping with the planning of the Jan Richardson Institute. We look forward to holding the 50th State Conference in Bismarck next April.



## **VRC...***Jessica Hochgraber & Jill Hochgraber*

Some of the exciting events happening for Valley Reading include author visit by Derek Anderson, professional classes, TAR (Teachers as Readers) and Dr. Seuss event which was held at the Fargo Public Library.

We are excited that Derek Anderson is going to be presenting at our local elementary schools. He will also be presenting to a group of teachers at our Author's Banquet on Thursday night (April 20<sup>th</sup>) at Bluestem Trollwood Performing Arts. Some of the books Derek has written and illustrated include; Waking Dragons, Little Quack and Happy Birthday, Hamster.

TAR is held at Zandbroz in Downtown Fargo. We have been sharing fiction and non-fiction books with teachers. Greg, the owner of Zandbroz, has been a great resource for our TAR classes sharing new literature with us.

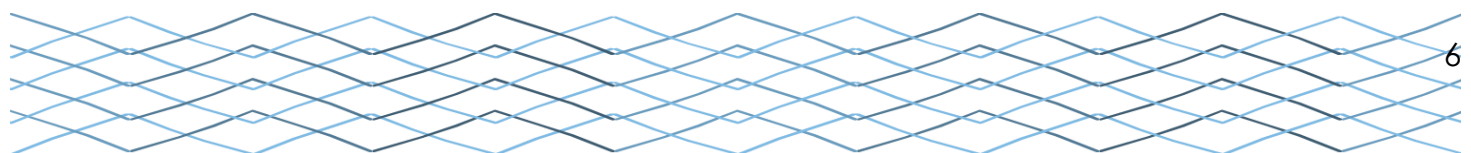
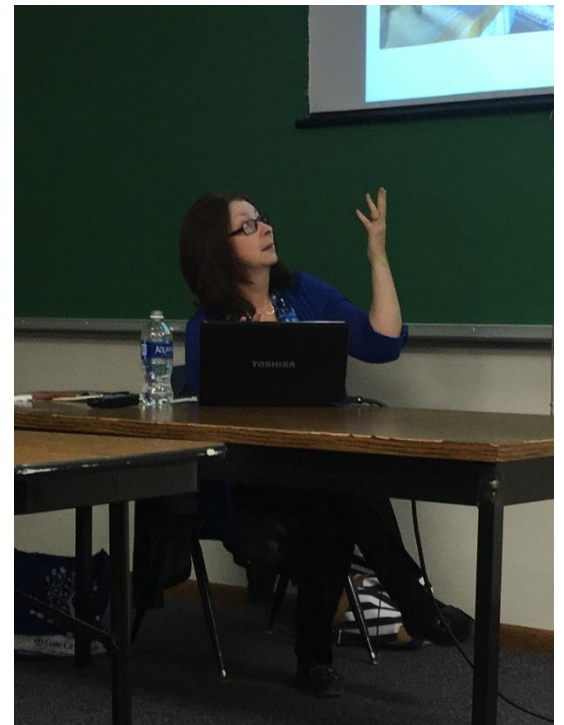
Dr. Seuss was a well-attended event which was held at the Fargo Public Library in March. Dr. Seuss stories were read out loud to start off the event. Participants were able to create various Dr. Seuss crafts and play bingo. This was a fun family event!

## **PRC...***Becky Taylor, President*

Prairie Reading Council had a couple busy months. In January, we started our book study. We started this study with one of Jamestown teachers giving a presentation on STEAM and how to use it in the classroom. The group did a study using Visible Learners. Participants shared what they were learning with others during a lively discussion online.

In March, the council brought in Debi Nelson from the Minot area. She went and spoke to students in two different towns and presented to the group about the writing process.

The group will be restocking the Little Free Libraries that were put out in the fall.





## **Chautauqua...***Brenda Seehafer, President*

The Chautauqua Reading Council did a Community Service Project during the month of February, as that is typically Reading Month. We partnered with the Rolette County Public Health to do a book drive. The new or gently used books were collected at Rolette County Public Health and the Rolla School Library. We collected almost 700 books. The books were then donated to Rolette County Public Health for their Health Tracks Program. These books were given to children and youth from birth to age 21.

We also had 11 board books donated to the daycare at the Cando Hospital by one of our members. Another member gave out at least 100 of her own books to her second grade class at Dunseith. Our theme for the month was "Keep Them Reading".

We have elected our officers for next year. They are as follows:

President-Brenda Seehafer

President-Elect-Mary Jo Hannesson

Vice-President-Donna Marty

Secretary-Lisa Murphy

Treasurer-Brenda Malo

Membership Chair-LaVae Haaland

We are starting to prepare for the Silent Auction at the 2018 Conference, so if you have any ideas for baskets or would like to donate a basket or have your council donate a basket, please let Brenda Seehafer ([Brenda.seehafer@k12.nd.us](mailto:Brenda.seehafer@k12.nd.us)) know as soon as possible.

## **Badlands...***Laura Kelly*

Greetings from the Badlands Reading Council on the western edge!

Although, we have been struggling as a council, we are proud that we are still making a difference in our community. We would like to share with you some of the highlights from this past year.

Our council provided a representative from our board to help reorganize the board for Stark County's Imagination Library besides providing presenters and other help along the way.

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Betsy Dalrymple reading to children at the Kick-Off for the newly reorganized Imagination Library for Stark County.

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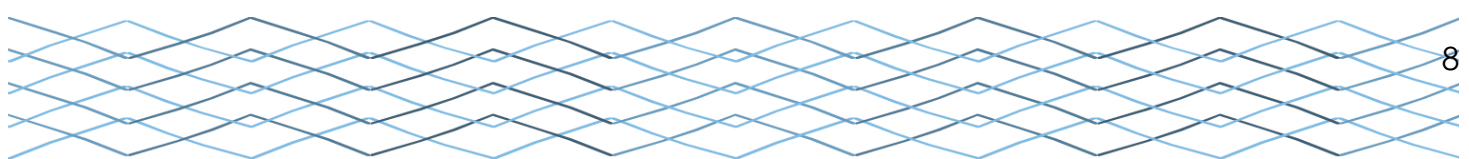


We had small numbers at our Fall Kick-Off but it was a BIG success in the presenters were great! Christa Enebo presented on the Young Writers' Project and our special guest, Averie Wax, told us about her experience being a state winner last year in her age group.

In January, we had a special event for our community at the public library. Families were invited to attend to participate at different activity stations as a celebration of literacy. Children attending in costume were given a free book. Education students from DSU helped with the event.



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In February, we helped sponsor an author, Bridget Heos. Our President, Laura Kelly, brought her to our area.

We continued with our Books & Bibs for Babies project and have been lining up others to continue with this project after our council is gone.

For May, we are planning a reception to celebrate our council which has been existence since 1968.



Chelsey Binstock, BRC secretary, presents a check to the Stark County Imagination Library at Pizza & Pals event.

*It's been a great run!  
Our thanks to all the members  
throughout the 49 years!*

We have supported literacy projects in South Africa. This year we helped send books to Senegal in Africa also.



# BOOK REVIEWS

Childrens Book Review

## **A Beetle is Shy by Dianna Hutts Aston**

Reviewed by Sarah Poswilko, BRC

Published in 2016, *A Beetle is Shy* is the sixth instalment in a set of nature books written by Dianna Hutts Aston and illustrated by Sylvia Long. Other books in the series include *A Seed is Sleepy*, *A Butterfly is Patient*, and *An Egg is Quiet*. Replete with rich vocabulary, vivid illustrations, and intriguing facts, this book is right on par with the other books in the series.

My second grade students were most impressed to learn that a ladybug is a type of beetle. They were most disgusted to learn that beetles are eaten by humans all around the world! We used this book as a mentor text for writing about nature, but I could also see myself using it to teach a minilesson about text features or main idea and details. The main idea of each page is written in cursive, followed by supporting details written in nonscript font. If your school has stopped teaching cursive handwriting, this book serves as a reminder that students must at least know how to read cursive!

While this book contains no actual photographs of beetles, the beautiful illustrations capture the attention of even the insect-leery. I always like to remind my students that art and science might seem like totally different subjects, but for some illustrators they go hand-in-hand. This would be a good book to pull into science class when studying insects. It would be a good book to pull into art when teaching symmetry. Most importantly, it would be a good book to read aloud just for fun!

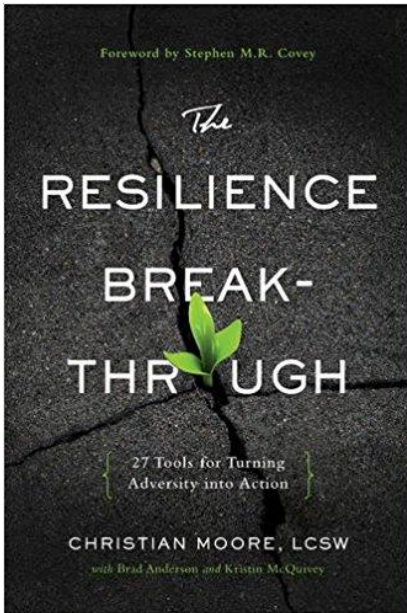




Professional Book Review

## **The Resilience Breakthrough by Christian Moore**

Reviewed by Lisa Murphy, CRC



Christian Moore realized his dream of becoming a social worker by transforming his anger, pain, and frustration into fierce determination. As a student with severe learning disabilities and a child of a blended family of twelve living in poverty in Washington, D.C., he had to devise a plan for success. His plan for graduating college relied on his personal support system, the “No F Game Plan” and the “Extra Credit Hustle”. For four long years he had mastered every academic challenge and met each financial demand, but on the last day of his senior year of college he was forced to face his worse fear. He used his disabilities as motivation to fight his way to that degree and in doing so Christian realized that the lowest point of his life could be converted into his greatest lesson

in resilience. His message to the world is “you can transform your pain into power; convert your adversity into powerful fuel that brings you opportunity”.

Mr. Moore shares his personal and professional experiences to show you, regardless of your race, education level, or socioeconomic status, how to use his twenty-seven tools for turning adversity into action. Armed with the knowledge and understanding of the core principles of resilience and the four main sources of resilience: relational resilience, street resilience, resource resilience and rock bottom resilience, you are able to tap into your emotional fuel and turn it into resilience.

It's easy to get started; the first step is realizing you have a switch then learning how to flip your switch. “Flipping the Switch” is a continuous process. To find out which source of resilience you are strongest in, Mr. Moore encourages you to take the resilience self-assessment. At the end of each part of the book, you will record your response to an “Ask” question and a “Task” request. In addition, you are

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asked to identify emotions and mindsets that relate to the previous discussed source of resilience to increase your capacity to access that source.

If you're willing to be fearless and accept Mr. Moore's promise that his book will propel you towards a life of hope and an ability to thrive then you will have the opportunity to share his message with the children and adults in your world.

