

**LITERACY AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FORUM**

The Newsletter of the Literacy & Social Responsibility Special Interest Group,  
International Reading Association (IRA)

Saul Krimsly, Editor

Fall 1998

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THE LITERACY AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY  
PROGRAM  
INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION  
1999  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA  
TUESDAY, MAY 4, 1999

Open to all Conferees, preschool through adult

Program Chair: Dr. Eleanor Black  
UCLA Ed. Ext. and California State  
University, Los Angeles

Introduction: Dr. Cynthia McDermott, President  
California State University, Dominguez Hills

Keynote Address:

**The Heart Is Big Enough:  
Finding Your Stories in Another's**

**Speaker: Michael J. Rosen, Author**

Sponsored by Harcourt Brace & Co.  
and Candlewick Press

Panel Presentations:

**Literacy, Critical Thinking and Citizenship**

*Speaker:* Dennis Parker, California Department  
of Education

**Transformative Education**

*Speakers:* Isabel Campoy and Alma Flor Ada,  
Authors, San Francisco, California

**Literature That Encourages Social  
Responsibility**

*Speakers:* Cynthia McDermott, California State  
University, Dominguez Hills and Tim Rasinski,  
Kent State University, Ohio

**Service Learning Projects with a Literature  
Base**

*Speaker:* Kaye Anderson, California State  
University, Long Beach

**Commentary and Audience Discussion**

*Facilitated by:* Dolores Fiset, Principal,  
Willits Unified School District

**Conclusion:** Beth Breneman,  
California Department of Education

A table exhibit of high quality programs which  
foster literacy and social responsibility as student  
learning outcomes will be displayed.

A short business meeting will follow the program.

**Message From Eleanor Black, Program  
Chair**

The purpose of the 1999 presentations is to  
study, understand, and promote high quality  
programs which foster community service,  
participatory citizenship, social responsibility,  
appreciation for diversity, environmental  
stewardship, and caring behavior that occurs  
within the development of literacy across the  
curriculum.

The philosophy behind the content of the  
presentations is that a very broad umbrella  
is created allowing for social and civic  
development in humans when literacy and  
social responsibility are joined together.

Michael Rosen will discuss the importance of  
"stories" (yours and others) as tools for linking  
literacy growth and civic/social mindedness.  
Mr. Parker will discuss new approaches for  
assessing student learning outcomes in these  
areas. In the three other panel presentations,  
leaders in the field of literacy education will  
discuss their work and present resources and  
promising practices that have demonstrated  
results in the areas of literacy and  
development of prosocial attitudes.

**Business Meeting  
Literacy & Social Responsibility SIG  
1998 IRA Annual Convention**

Beth Breneman, Secretary

A business meeting of the Literacy and Social Responsibility Special Interest Group (SIG) was convened at the 1998 IRA Annual Convention in Orlando, Florida. Eleanor Black presided over the election.

1. The first item of business was the election of officers. The following people were elected unanimously:

- President, J. Cynthia McDermott
- Chair Elect, Dolores Fisette
- Editor, Saul Krimsly
- Treasurer, Dolores Fisette

The complete slate of officers and directors includes those elected in 1997:

- Program Chair/Vice President,  
Eleanor Black
- Secretary, Beth Breneman
- Board of Directors:  
Kaye Anderson  
Shirley Andrews  
Alma Flor Ada  
Isabel Campoy  
Adria Klein  
Maureen Prens  
Tim Rasinski

The new President, J. Cynthia McDermott, presided over the remainder of the business meeting.

**Old Business: By-laws:**

2. Beth Breneman presented the following considerations in the development of SIG by-laws, which should: 1) help provide a working structure; 2) provide a degree of flexibility; 3) allow open opportunities to ensure leadership involvement for all members; 4) help serve the larger purposes of our group.

Some California members of our SIG (Eleanor Black, Dolores Fisette, Saul Krimsly, Cynthia McDermott, Sharon Setogucci and Beth Breneman) met at CRA on November 6, 1997. At that meeting there was agreement that more than one year in an office helps to provide continuity: The term of office of the Chair elect would be two years. The Chair-elect would then succeed to the office of Program Chair/Vice President for two years. The Program Chair/Vice President would then succeed to serve as President and could then choose to rotate onto the Board of Directors.

The President conducts the business meeting at IRA and other meetings of the Board of Directors, such as the one convened annually at CRA.

The Program Chair/Vice President prepares the program for IRA's annual convention, works with the Chair-elect, and coordinates with the President, the Secretary, the social event planner, and others as needed.

The Chair-elect collaborates with the Program Chair and during this period develops an understanding of routine programmatic procedure and IRA timelines.

The Treasurer will create a process for collecting dues and maintain the books.

The Editor/Publisher will publish the SIG's annual newsletters and proceedings.

The Board of Directors will assume responsibility for decision making throughout the year. The Board should contribute in tangible ways to the group, such as by recruiting new members. New members should be identified by June 1, 1998, if at all possible.

If the Board of Directors creates a new SIG project, the Board can appoint chairs of ad hoc committees as needed.

The By-laws should indicate how often Board members can repeat terms of service on the Board.

Beth Breneman agreed to draft a tentative set of by-laws based on the example provided by the Children's Literature and Reading Special Interest Group and from the input gleaned from this business meeting. These will be mailed to the leadership for review and input in June or July.

## New Business: Future Activities

3. A motion was introduced not to require dues for membership this year, and the treasurer was instructed to put any voluntary contributions into the least expensive account available. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

4. Saul Krimsly, as the SIG's new editor/publisher, agreed to publish two newsletters a year. Decisions about content need to be considered at a future meeting.

5. Eleanor Black requested proposals for the 1999 program as soon as possible in view of the June 10 Program Proposal deadline.

6. Isabel Campoy urged all members to publicize our group at other conferences.

7. Connie Weaver is to be a featured presenter October 24, 1998, at an annual conference Cynthia McDermott's group is organizing. The Literacy and Social Responsibility Special Interest Group will be identified as a cosponsor on outreach materials.

8. Kaye Anderson suggested that we could have a contest for devising a logo. A committee could be appointed to work on plans for a project to launch next year.

9. Cynthia McDermott volunteered to work with Tim Rasinski on a book list for kids, revising an earlier list developed by Pat Shannon. The list might contain annotations written by kids. The criteria for the list needs to be developed. It might have an international/global focus. Our SIG mission statement suggests possible criteria. The term *social responsibility*, needs definition. The list of books might be a kit.

10. Eleanor Black and Dolores Fisette will work on ideas for developing a recognition program.

11. Our group is not ready yet for a local contest.

12. We need a better definition of social responsibility which could be reflected in our logo. IRA's logo is available to us.

13. Food from the Hood is a promising project we should investigate.

Cynthia McDermott adjourned the meeting.

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