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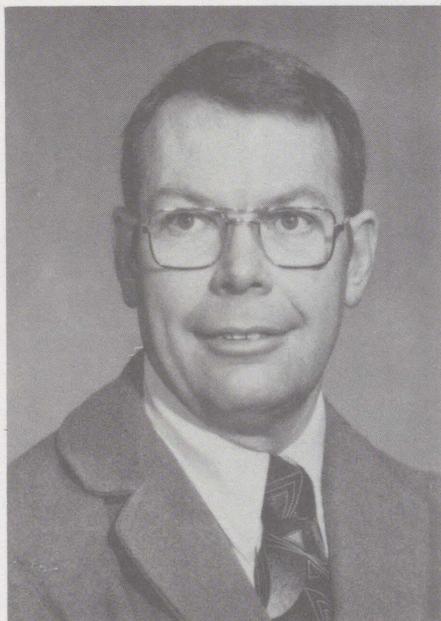
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GREETINGS FROM THE MRA PRESIDENT

Clarence Brock
President, Michigan Reading Association



We've had a super conference in Grand Rapids, and now we are off and running into our new year of programming.

Congratulations to Marian Dygert, (Kent ISD) our new President-Elect, and to Merri Warren (Kentwood) and Dr. Peter Sanders (Wayne State University), our new Members-at-Large!

Our activities of the year are of two kinds:

1. Maintenance functions
2. New programs

The maintenance functions include:

- A. Maintaining and developing our Annual Conference (April 2-4, 1978). Mark your calendars now!
- B. Expanding our journal.
- C. Extending our legislative influence.
- D. Increasing the support of MRA to local councils, especially through leadership-development and programs.
- E. Conducting a retreat for all MRA

and local council officers at St. Mary's Lake, August 22-24, 1977.

The new programs include:

- A. Implementing our theme for the year - READING, AN INSTRUCTIONAL PRIORITY - through thematic and regional conferences and local council programs.
- B. Doubling the MRA/IRA membership.
- C. Developing a Dynamic Public Relations effort for reading.
- D. Designing programs for and about Parents and Reading.
- E. Publishing a *Young Authors Review*.

In addition, support will be given to our Professional Studies and Standards Committee under James Alexander who has developed with Teresa Staten of the Michigan Department of Education a definition of reading (see p.00 of this issue of the journal). MRA will be using this definition as we monitor and examine any and all reading programs in MDE, including assessment, gestalt, reading objectives and teacher certification.

Recently, I participated in an analysis of the Tenth Grade Assessment Test. Organized by the MRA Professional Studies and Standards Committee. After our study, it is *my* opinion that the Tenth Grade Assessment Test represents amateur hour in education, and to have anything less than a moratorium in the Fourth and Seventh Grade Assessment Test is a travesty thrust upon students and teachers.

In the next month, MRA will cooperate with MDE in a review of the revised reading objectives.

FINALLY, if you as a MRA member wish to be involved in the review of the revised reading objectives, *or* wish to be involved in any committee or activity of an MRA Committee, please send your name, position, mailing address and phone number to me. MRA is us. Come join with me in the challenges of this year. Reading is an Instruction Priority!