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Beverly Chamberlain

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"Happenings" from the State Chairman

By Beverly Chamberlain, IRA State Chairman

I hope that each council president and president elect will join us in Grand Rapids for our annual conference. We have scheduled a special meeting for the purpose of sharing problems and successes. We hope to emphasize program planning and ways to increase membership. They seem to go together, don't they?

So mark your calendar April 1 and 2.

Congratulations to the Upper Peninsula for having provided the first reading conference for that area. Several local councils, as well as the Marquette-Alger Intermediate School District, and Northern University cooperated in this venture. Our state president, Anne Hughes attended.

It is of importance to note that the money loaned to them by MRA to help finance the conference was repaid in full at the conclusion of the event. Our support and faith were well founded! They plan another con-

ference in two years.

Congratulations are also in order for the Tri-County Council, serving Berrien, Cass and Van Buren Counties. They are receiving their charter in January.

Let me remind you again that certificates of merit are available through me, if you wish to present them to council members who have made special contributions to our professional organization, all you need do is request them.

New Orleans, anyone? The IRA conference promises to be exciting and meaningful. If you haven't attended "The Big One," this would be a good year to start. See *The Reading Teacher* for details.

In closing, let me emphasize that I hope every reading council will be represented at our special meeting in Grand Rapids.

See you then!