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President's Message

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President's Message

It is, indeed, an honor and privilege to greet you as your MRA president. This organization has become recognized as one of Michigan's leading professional groups in the field of education. To serve as president is a keen responsibility.

Our annual conference once again proved to be an inspiring event. Such success can only be achieved through the selfless dedication of each member who had a part in its operation. As program chairman I want to thank all who participated in the conference.

The officers of MRA are aware that attendance at the conference has increased to the extent that we need to expand our facilities. Rest assured that the newly elected program chairman is already working on this problem.

The coming year promises to be a big one in reading. The "Right to Read" thrust is making the public more aware of reading instruction in our schools. Not only is interest heightened, but higher expectations and greater demands are being voiced. Each of us as teachers of reading must unrelentingly seek better ways to serve our public so that every child may, indeed, realize success as his *right to read*.

To help us here in Michigan keep abreast of the field, we will host two reading conferences during 1971-72. Our state conference will take place April 9-11 at Grand Rapids.

Detroit will host the IRA at Cobo Hall, May 10-13. We hope that you can attend both conferences.

Our IRA state chairman reports that new councils are being formed. This is good news! The strength of MRA lies in the local councils. Here leadership is developed. If you do not have a local council, our state chairman will assist you in getting one organized.

As we look forward to the year ahead, we recognize that we must face many challenges. Change appears to be the order of the day. As educators we must demonstrate that we can accept the challenge.

Your MRA Board is interested in studying and becoming involved in many issues which affect reading instruction. State and federal legislation, guaranteed performance contracts, professional standards and private reading clinics are some of the areas we are studying.

We are always pleased to hear from our members as to what issues concern them. Your local council president is your direct line of communication with the MRA board.

I am looking forward to the year ahead with anticipation. The members of MRA are dedicated educators. With such excellent colleagues to assist in the work, I am confident that it will be a good year!

Beverly Chamberlain
MRA President - 1971-72