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President's Message

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President's Message

by Beverly Chamberlain

As we predicted in the spring issue of THE JOURNAL — reading is BIG in Michigan this year.

Lay groups, school districts, professional organizations, and our state department of education are giving considerable attention to the need of improving reading instruction in our elementary and secondary schools. Pre-school programs and teacher education are being examined.

Where does this leave us, THE professional educators?

Probably the most obvious role that we, as members of the Michigan Reading Association can play, is one of leadership. We represent educators employed as classroom teachers, consultants, coordinators, professors and administrators. Our combined knowledge and training in the area of reading and language arts is impressive. We are in a position to communicate such knowledge. We have the organization.

Our members are engaged in committees dealing with such important matters as state assessment, legislation, professional standards, in-service education and others.

One of our own past-presidents, Dr. William Durr, will assume the office of president of IRA this spring. We are proud that Bill has so honored us. Thus, our influence is being felt on the national level.

Our conference at Grand Rapids this year, April 9—11, promises to again be stimulating for practitioners in the field.

We will host the IRA at Cobo Hall, May 10—13. This will be a golden opportunity for us to learn of the latest developments in reading, right at our own doorstep.

It is with gratitude that we can report the granting of charters to several new councils in Michigan. We must emphasize that the strength of our organization lies in these local councils. This is the source of our leadership.

If you do not have a local council in your area, Please contact us. We would be delighted to assist you in getting one organized.

Thus, you can see that reading IS BIG in Michigan this year! We thank each of you for contributing to this important work.

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