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Jo Boomsma

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"FROM THE PEN OF YOUR IRA STATE CHAIRMAN"

Jo Boomsma

Here I sit with "pen in hand" wondering how to relate to the members of local councils, MRA and IRA, the news about reading councils and activities.

At this writing I am aware of seven pending reading councils. Some are close to getting their IRA council charter while others are still in the beginning stages. The areas considering councils are: Cheboygan, Charlotte (Eaton County), Michigan Upper Peninsula (Marquette and Alger Counties), Wexford-Missaukee Intermediate District, Manistee Intermediate School District, Midland and Sault Ste. Marie.

A sad note must be echoed in regard to one of our local councils. The Northwestern Michigan Reading Council has informed us that the council is now inactive.

Our Handbook Committee has been working and in the near future we plan to send you a questionnaire regarding your opinion on what a local council Handbook should contain.

Some suggestions being considered for the Handbook by the committee are:

1. List of all state and local council officers. (Handbook should be looseleaf so that this list can be changed from year to year).
2. Guidelines for developing new councils.
3. Suggestions for programs and types of meetings.
4. Suggestions for improving membership.
5. Show the relationship between IRA, MRA and local councils.

Any suggestion for the Handbook will be appreciated by this committee. Just address all suggestions to the IRA State Chairman.

Don't forget the Michigan Reading Association Conference being held March 14, 15 and 16 at the Pantlind Hotel and Civic Auditorium in Grand Rapids. A special meeting is planned for all local council presidents. Miss Kay I. Hays will be representing IRA headquarters and will be meeting with us to discuss "new beginnings" or "old problems".

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the MRA Conference.

Note: IRA Convention is April 20-23 in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

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