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President's Letter

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President's Letter

by Norma Conklin, President
Michigan Reading Association

As President of the Michigan Reading Association, I wish to thank all of you for the vote of confidence you gave me. I am looking forward to a busy and challenging year!

When we look at the International Reading Association's figures, Michigan can "hold its head high" as it ranks in the top five on the number of local councils within the States. This is an indication of the interest of Michigan teachers in the teaching of reading. Other evidence is the large attendance at the State Conferences. Each year they get bigger and better!

The success of our conferences and organization depends upon the cooperation and diligence of many, many people. Several hundred people are involved in the Conference's sectional meetings; and as the conferences become larger, more and more are needed to share their ideas with others. Sister M. Yvonne, President-Elect and Program Chairman, and her Committee are working hard on plans for the March Conference. If she calls on you, won't you give her your full cooperation?

The Executive Council, of which your local president is a member, has many other responsibilities besides the Conference. Many hours are spent by the various committees establishing standards and making recommendations for the improvement of reading instruction. Last fall the first Michigan Reading Journal was published by the Michigan Reading Association under the able editorship of Charles Sherwood, who was responsible for the first four Journals. Since "Chuck" resigned to accept a position in sunny Florida, we are most grateful to Sister M. Yvonne and Clarice Stafford for assuming the co-editorship. The Journal is truly in good hands!

The Professional Standards Committee's recommendations have been completed and accepted by the Executive Council. At the present time a committee is setting up conference guidelines; another committee which will be busy this year is the one for studying the need for an Executive Secretary.

Although the Michigan Reading Association has done much to improve the teaching of reading, there will always be a need for more study and evaluation. We must ALL help! Our society is geared to the person who can read; therefore, it behooves each one of us to help students become better readers in order for them to be more knowledgeable and responsible citizens in this complex world. Someone cared for you; someone cared for me. Won't you be a teacher who cares!

May each of you have an exciting and rewarding year; and we shall look forward to meeting you at the Conference at the Civic Center in Grand Rapids on March 10-11, 1969.