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Jeanette Field
Michigan Reading Association

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Executive Director's Message...

by Jeanette Field, MRA Executive Director 2021-2022

Dear Michigan Reading Association Members,

Hello, from the office of the MRA! There has been a lot going on in the office since I began my role as Executive Director in late August.

I attended my first virtual board meeting with the MRA officers and representatives in October. It was invigorating to wake up on a Saturday morning, grab a hot cup of coffee, and log in to my laptop for the meeting. Hearing from all of our dedicated volunteers from across our beautiful state was so inspiring. With the entire group of the Executive Board members, Committee Chairs, and Council Representatives, it is clear that the time they commit to the Michigan Reading Association is proof of their love and passion for expanding literacy to all.



Jeanette Field

In the office, and most exciting for all of you, I have been actively designing and launching our brand-new website. We have switched over to a new hosting service, Wild Apricot. This is a membership management site that will be user-friendly for all of us. For you, it will mean simple registration processes, easy to navigate pages, and consistent updates. For me, it will mean a greater ease of posting updates and communications, precise record keeping, and all membership activities under one roof! I have also been busy responding to inquiries and streamlining all of our office tasks and processes. This is an important list of “to dos” for me to complete, so I will have the time I need to dedicate to all of you!

I am enjoying learning about all of the branches of the MRA, and let me tell you, they are all in full swing. The Conference Committee is all hands on deck for our upcoming event. This will be my first MRA conference, and I am excited to take part in the planning of it. Also, this year's Kaleidoscope committee is working diligently to share information with us to invite student voices into the conversation at the 2022 conference.

Similarly, this issue of the *Michigan Reading Journal* has been in the making for months. The editors collectively work side-by-side to solicit, review, and offer final feedback to authors. The layout is then designed, proofread, and approved. That is where I take over. I transfer it to the printer, the mailing house, the post office, and then to you. Again, learning about all the moving parts of MRA has been inspiring.

You are the Who, What, Where, When, and How that make this organization what it is. Thank you for the work you do in your classrooms, schools, and communities. I cannot wait to meet you in person at the conference!

Always grateful,
Jeanette

Mrs. Jeanette Field is the Executive Director at the Michigan Reading Association. She can be reached at administrative@michiganreading.org and 616-647-9310.