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Executive Director's Message...

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Michigan Reading Association

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Executive Director's Message...

by Jeanette Field, MRA Executive Director

Dear Members,

As I reflect on my first year with MRA, I think of all the wonderful people I have met. It has been a true pleasure to work alongside such an amazing group of individuals who came together as one and carried MRA through a situation that organizations and educators had never been through before. From a canceled conference, to virtual, to hybrid, these dedicated leaders of literacy were going to make sure the support MRA gives to its members would still be available during these trying times. As we move forward as an organization coming out of a pandemic, we reexamine our strengths and weaknesses and are now focusing on the areas we can build upon and the areas that require rebuilding.



Jeanette Field

As an association member there are many areas to get involved with. MRA consists of many roles including board members, region representatives, committee members, and membership. We fill these roles on a yearly basis with some of them being one-year terms and some up to four-year terms. The responsibilities for these roles vary in many ways. As a board member, you will meet to discuss how we can support our membership with not only historical practices and processes, but also in new innovative techniques. As a region rep, you will act as liaison between MRA and the members within your region. Committee members are involved in all aspects of MRA from conference planning, policy work, collecting young author's pieces for the Kaleidoscope print or gathering children's favorite book choices for the Great Lakes Great Books award. You may also share writing pieces for the "News & Views" Newsletter or the *Michigan Reading Journal*. Other outreach programs such as webinars and book studies have been in the forefront of our committee work.

I invite you to consider the opportunity to share what you have to offer with MRA. Do you love to write? Collecting articles and resources for the "News & Views," *MRJ*, or simply writing a piece for us about what works in your school or classroom, might be a way you can support the membership. Maybe you have audio/visual experience, event planning, or community outreach experience. Whatever your gift or talent may be, I encourage you to reach out and connect with us. If I may, I also request, as a member, you simply reach out to a friend or colleague and share MRA with them. Ask them to join and help us grow our membership this year, so that we may reach more students, educators and families and provide more literacy resources to all!

Always grateful,
Jeanette Field

Mrs. Jeanette Field is the Executive Director at the Michigan Reading Association. She can be reached at <mra@michiganreading.com> and 616-647-9310.