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Executive Director's Message...

by Jeanette Field, MRA Executive Director

Dear Members,

I hope this letter finds you well and filled with enthusiasm for the year ahead. As we reflect on the past fiscal year, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the unwavering support and commitment of members like you. Your dedication has empowered our organization to continue its vital work, and I am excited to share some of the highlights from this year as well as our vision for the future.



Jeanette Field

Reflecting over the past 12 months, we have made significant strides toward fulfilling our mission of transforming lives through literacy. Thanks to your generosity and engagement, we were able to:

- **Collect an amazing in-kind donation:** MRA was the grantee of 1000 books donated by Books in the D; a 313Reads Project that awarded many organizations throughout the state with free books to share with their members.
- **Host book studies:** Our Adolescent Literacy Committee hosted 2 book studies. One was a historical fiction novel providing entertainment through an opportunity to connect our members with one another. The second study that led up to the conference was a professional development text written by one of our keynote speakers. This gave book study attendees an opportunity to collaborate and study the practices that were presented at the conference.
- **Offer SCECH:** We were able to provide valuable continuing education hours to support you in your renewal and progression of certificates and licenses issued by MDE.

Each of these achievements were made possible by your commitment to the Michigan Reading Association. Whether you contributed financially, volunteered your time, or shared our message with others, your role has been critical in advancing our work.

Looking ahead, as we move into the new fiscal year, our organization remains focused on growth, innovation, and expanding our reach. We are excited to announce upcoming projects, including renewing our policies and procedures, streamlining our timelines and committee work, and planning our 2025 69th Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, which we believe will have a transformative impact on our literacy community.

In the coming weeks, you will receive more information about our 2025 conference and how you can renew your membership for the upcoming fiscal year to receive discounted registration rates and access to our statewide literacy network. Your continued involvement is essential, and we look forward to partnering with you once again to achieve even greater outcomes in the year ahead.

Thank you for your unwavering support and belief in the work we do. Together, we are making a difference, and I look forward to all we will accomplish in the coming year. We always welcome your feedback and ideas. Feel free to reach out to me directly at mra@michiganreading.org or (616) 647-9310. Let's continue working together to create lasting change!

Always grateful,

Jeanette J. Field
MRA Executive Director

