SoMIRAC 2016– 2017

Assembly Meeting 9/10/2016

Baltimore Hunt Valley Inn Wyndham Affiliate, Hunt Valley, MD

Call to Order: Natalie Stephenson: 8:00 AM End Time: 12:20 PM

**FROM RETREAT MINUTES:**

** Literacy Coordinator—Everyone Reads: Bonnie**

**~ We will remove the Literacy Coordinator position from the Board of Directors and create a committee for Everyone Reads. The chair will shadow Mary Lou.**

**~ A Natalie moved that we take the Literacy Coordinator position and modify it as another entity under committees. Bonnie seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**~ B Shirley moved that we change the title from Literacy Coordinator to State Literacy Initiatives. Natalie seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

** Executive Secretary Position—Changing the Title: Ellen**

**~ Most of what the position entails is coordinating the conference—before, during and after. Ellen feels the position title should be Conference Coordinator. The Conference Coordinator receives stipend of $1500.00. Ellen made a motion to change the title of Executive Secretary to Conference Coordinator. Mary Lou seconded the motion. The motion passed. The wording in the current bylaws, March 31, 2011 regarding the Executive Secretary may be amended.**

Attending Board of Directors Members:

Natalie Stephenson; First Vice President, Lisa Lowe; Second Vice President, Shirley Faulkner; State Coordinator; Bonnie Schmeltz; **Conference Coordinator, Ellen Dysart**; Director of Membership Development, Ann Apple; **State Literacy Initiatives, Mary Lou Nelson**; Treasurer Rita Gaudiello; Corresponding Secretary, Chelley Corpuz; Recording Secretary, Robin Glick Baum

Not in Attendance: President, Deb Tobin; Previous Past President, Susan Frank;

**10** Board of Directors Members

 **6** Committee Chairs, Including Literacy Educators of Maryland (LEM)

 **6** Past State Presidents: *[Jack Cole [(*Literacy Educators of Maryland (LEM)]*; Ellen Dysart (Conference Coordinator; Gayle Glick; Mary Lou Nelson (State Literacy Initiatives); Bonnie Schmeltz, (State Coordinator); Kathy Wallis; Sandy Watt, (Family Literacy & Maryland Reading Month);*

**24** Local Council Representatives, **(13 out of 14 Local Councils)**: Baltimore City; Baltimore County; Carroll County; Cecil County; Eastern Shore; Frederick County; Harford County; Howard County; Mid-Shore; Montgomery County; Prince George’s County Southern Maryland; Upper Shore

**39** Total Participants (**8 hold 2 positions**)

**Attached Documents*:***

*➀ Teachers as Readers information*

➁ *Exemplary Reading Program Award: Guidelines and Application Packet*

➂ Honor Council Information

 Welcome/Breakfast & Networking with Colleagues

 Old​ ​Business/Minutes​ ​and​ ​Treasurer’s​ ​Report

⯏ Meeting Minutes: Robin Glick Baum

~ Robin shared the minutes from the 6/04/2016 Leadership meeting. Mary Lou shared Scholastic Warehouse information regarding volunteering at the Scholastic warehouse. Volunteers are wanted for four hour chunks in Odenton providing a $10.00 book credit per hour. The two big sales are in December and June. Contact Kristina Pierrossi: kpierrossi@scholasticbookfair.com .

Gayle Glick made the motion to approve the minutes as amended. Kathy Wallis, former SoMIRAC President seconded the motion. The motion passed.

⯏ Treasurer’s Report: Rita Gaudiello

~ $20,000 was cut from this year’s budget due to not making as much from the 2016 conference. Our 2016-2017 budget is $80,000. Committee budgets have been assigned. Committee chairs need to see Deb if a budget request was never sent in. The 99N insurance documents have been completed for all local councils. Rita reminded everyone that the three documents every council needs are on our SoMIRAC website (reimbursements [mileage], insurance, & and tax form). Local councils were reminded to get Rita a check for $30. These Hospitality monies help to pay for our meeting breakfasts. We have consolidated bank accounts and all of our funds are liquid.

 Bylaws: Gayle Glick, Former State President

⯏ We are waiting to deal with our By-laws until we hear from ILA. There is a committee of SoMIRAC Executive Board members set up to deal with these.

 ESSA, Every Student Succeeds Act: Mary Gable, Assistant​ ​State​ ​Superintendent​ ​for​ ​Academic​ ​Policy​ ​and Innovation

⯏ On May 16, 2016 the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation’s primers include individual state by state accountability system fact sheets, which detail each state’s current accountability system what could change under ESSA, and what to be asking state leaders. (Understanding essa.org/state/Maryland)

⯏Mary shared detailed specifics regarding this law with the group. Zetta will uploaded the presentation video on the SoMIRAC website. **Everyone is urged to watch the video.**

 2017 Conference March 29-31, 2-17: *Charging Up with Literacy*: Natalie Stephenson

⯏ Those councils that would like to display the conference banner may contact Natalie.

⯏ Natalie shared specifics regarding her conference including names of presenters, authors and illustrators. She shared her PowerPoint that includes her speakers, authors and illustrators. This will be posted on the website. Her theme and vision is to provide a diverse conference that in terms of deals with race, gender, interest. College students are invited to attend Friday of the conference. She plans to have an event recognizing Curious George’s 75th birthday (2017). 2018 is the 50th anniversary of The Outsiders and Natalie has contacted S.E. Hinton. She would also like to invite and present an award to Eloise Greenfield. She also plans to have a ‘diversity panel.’ Donna Michael, past SoMIRAC president will have a panel dealing with current education legislation. Natalie is currently working on a SoMIRAC ‘app.’ A paper circulated regarding local council conference responsibilities.

⯏ Chelley Corpuz, Corresponding Secretary has been able to get approval for the teachers at her school to spend two days at the conference under professional development.

 2018 Conference: Literacy: *One Step towards Changing the World One Child at a Time,* Lisa Lowe

⯏ Lisa’s wanted to share the philosophy behind the focus of her conference. The actual brain development of literacy and reading is very important, as well as the social and emotional component. These are all connected. The students that come from poverty and have dealt with emotional trauma have changes in their brain development. Lisa’s conference will focus on how to help these students by knowing what the changes are; how these changes affect these students; and to help these students in the classroom by changing our practices to support these individual students. She highlighted the ‘big picture’ of the Starfish Story in regards. Lisa wants recommendations regarding speakers and sessions for her conference.

**2018 Conference: Literacy: *One Step towards Changing the World One Child at a Time,* Lisa Lowe, CONTINUED**

*The Starfish Story*

*A young man is walking along the ocean and sees a beach on which thousands and thousands of starfish have washed ashore. Further along he sees an old man, walking slowly and stooping often, picking up one starfish after another and tossing each one gently into the ocean.*

*“Why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?” he asks.*

*“Because the sun is up and the tide is going out and if I don’t throw them further in they will die.”*

*“But, old man, don’t you realize there are miles and miles of beach and starfish all along it! You can’t possibly save them all, you can’t even save one-tenth of them. In fact, even if you work all day, your efforts won’t make any difference at all.”*

*The old man listened calmly and then bent down to pick up another starfish and threw it into the sea. “It made a difference to that one.”*

 2019 Conference: *Literacy Feeds the Soul,* Shirley Faulkner

⯏ She’s pretty sure this is her logo and her theme will deal with getting rejuvenated. She’s still working on it.

⯏ Shirley distributed two SoMIRAC Directories to each council.

 Young Authors: Shirley Faulkner, Co-Chair (Chelley Corpuz, Co-Chair)

⯏ The information will be sent out to all council presidents by September 16, 2016. She is hoping to send the information electronically this afternoon. It was requested that all information regarding local YA chairs be current and accurate.

  New ILA Information: Bonnie Schmeltz

⯏ Bonnie Schmeltz, Gayle Glick, Lisa Lowe, & Mary Lou Nelson attended the sessions at the July, 2016 ILA conference regarding the most recent information coming out of the organization. Bonnie shared that several organization and state leaders had a meeting at the BWI airport and SoMIRAC was not included. SoMIRAC, was asked to form a group to be our liaison with ILA to keep our organization informed with the latest information. This group is very invested in SoMIRAC and will do their best for our members. any information Bonnie receives from this committee will be sent to Chelley to be forwarded to our members.

⯏ There are more stringent requirements, particularly IRS requirements. Non-profits are now being held at much higher standards.

⯏ It was requested that all councils contact Bonnie for any concerns and/or problems relating to local and ILA members. There are now legal issues that may need to be dealt with, particularly local council monies.

⯏ The future of the ILA councils will be decided by each organization choosing one of the three options available:

**Option I: Total Affiliation:** Under this option the *State Council* will sign a letter of agreement with ILA. They will realign its name typically the state’s name followed by Literacy Association. They will adopt bylaws and that mirror ILA. They will incorporate or reincorporate under ILA Delaware. It is now IRA Pennsylvania. It will operate under ILA 501T3 status. After we hear all of the information and share all of the information we will choose Option I Option II or Option III.

**Option II: Partial Affiliation:** Under this option the *State Council* will sign a letter of agreement with ILA, adopt new bylaws that mirror ILA and operate under ILA 501T3 status. We found out it’s not that difficult.

**Option III**: There is no affiliation whatsoever. Under this option the *State Council* will discontinue the relationship with ILA. The State Council will reincorporate its own entity using a new name and seek its own 501T3 status.

**⯏ By March, 2017, we must let ILA know whether we are going with Option I, II or III.**

  New Business: Natalie Stephenson

⯏ Committees (Those committee chairs not in attendance will be asked to post information on our website.)

~ 21st Century Leaders, Shirley Faulkner for Leslie Sunderland: Honor Council submissions will be due at the December meeting. Shirley passed around a document for information regarding specific local district literacy leaders.

** New Business: Natalie Stephenson**

**⯏ Committees (Those committee chairs not in attendance will be asked to post information on our website.) CONTINUED**

~ Advocacy/Government Relations, Donna Michel Chair: Natalie read Donna’s latest report. The updated information may be found on our SoMIRAC website. The link to the specific information is at the bottom of the Home Page.

~ Exemplary Reading, Chris Sparr Chair: Chris reminded everyone about the specifics of the committee. A packet was distributed regarding committee procedures, *Exemplary Reading Program Award: Guidelines and Application a*t the June meeting.

~ Global Literacy Initiatives, Anitra Butler Chair: Anitra shared information she heard at the ILA conference. She would like us to partner with an organization called Peruvian Parks (<http://www.peruvianhearts.org>), a non-profit organization in Peru that empowers girls. Natalie also shared information about our friend in Nigeria, Obi who turns ice cream carts into bicycle-driven bookmobiles.

~ Honor Council, Bonnie Schmeltz: Bonnie shared specific information regarding Honor Council and distrusted packets of information downloaded from the ILA website. Becoming an Honor Council by completing the Honor Council requirements allows councils to be strong and viable. Bonnie thanked all councils for the hard work they do as volunteers throughout the state. The state receives the *Award of Excellence* based on those local councils receiving Honor Council. All councils were reminded that they should be archiving all events and initiatives. Doing this will make it easier to document Honor Council information year-to-year. Bonnie asked all councils to get the local board member information to ILA a.s.a.p. if it hasn’t yet been sent. She also reminded all local councils to please contact someone on the Board of Directors for any questions or concerns, particularly Global Literacy Initiatives. Honor Council information is due to Bonnie at our December meeting. Information will be received if it is ready before the December deadline. Those councils achieving Honor Council will receive a $100 stipend at our Leadership meeting in June, 2017. Each local council was reminded to pay $30.00 to help pay for breakfast at our meetings.

~ Scholarships and Member Grants, Don Bailey Chair: 3-$2,000.00 high school scholarships are available for high school seniors furthering their career in literacy. We provide a $1,000.00 scholarship to a member who is pursuing their career in the field of literacy, or to someone working in a school on a literacy project. Don shared that he is the new committee chair and the scholarship letters are being sent out to state high schools. This year’s winner of our member scholarship is the Strawbridge School, a non-public day school. Chris Sparr, Exemplary Reading Committee Chair, coordinated this project. She shared specific information regarding the project. Chris is also the Director of Education, 0 – 3, in Washington, D.C.

~ Literacy Educators of Maryland (LEM), Jack Cole Chair: There will be a LEM Fall Event at Stevenson University on 10/28/2016. A handout regarding the event was distributed. Specific information may be found on our SoMIRAC website. The link to the specific information is at the bottom of the Home Page.

 ~ Teachers as Readers, Donna Redmond Chair: Donna shared specific information, ideas to use along with reading the book and handed out two (2) documents. One document gives specific information for those councils wishing to create a TAR group. The other document is entitled, *Maryland’s Teachers as Readers Selections: 2015/2016.*  She has sent electronic copies of the information and urges everyone to be created. There is a start-up stipend for councils .

 ~ Scholarships and Member Grants, Don Bailey, Chair: Don shared that he is the new committee chair and the scholarship letters are being sent out to state high schools.

 ~ A new chair is needed for the Studies and Research committee that deals with action research regarding all aspects of literacy.

⯏ Common Ground (A Group of 15 Educational Organizations in Maryland) Bonnie Schmeltz: The conference will be held at the Ocean City Convention Center May 4th-5th. Proposals were requested from all local councils.

Leigh Bromwell-Currens made the motion to adjourn. Lisa Lowe, seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted by Robin Glick Baum