

# ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL JOURNAL



## CARTOON:

1. A PREPARATORY DESIGN, DRAWING, OR PAINTING
2. A DRAWING INTENDED FOR SATIRE OR HUMOR
3. A LUDICROUSLY SIMPLISTIC, UNREALISTIC PORTRAYAL

FALL 2025

VOLUME 53, NUMBER 4

---

ISSN #1082-555X

**Editor**

Roxanne Owens  
*DePaul University*

**Associate Editors**

Adelfio Garcia  
*Chicago Public Schools*

Kathleen A. Paciga  
*Columbia College Chicago*

David Bates  
*Concordia University Chicago*

Marie Ann Donovan  
*DePaul University*

Elizabeth Bramley  
*Evanston Township High School*

Mary Yockey  
*Indian Prairie School District 204*

Sophie Degener  
Kristin Lems  
Ivy Sitkoski  
*National Louis University*

Amina Chaudhri  
*Northeastern Illinois University*

Laurie Elish-Piper  
Melanie D. Koss  
*Northern Illinois University*

Kristine M. Schutz  
Rebecca Woodard  
*University of Illinois-Chicago*

Steven L. Layne  
*Wheaton College*

# ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL JOURNAL

**Fall 2025**

Volume 53, Number 4

---

# ***Editorial Advisory Board***

Rebekah Buchanan  
Western Illinois University  
Macomb, IL

Amy Butler  
Chicago Public Schools  
Chicago, IL

Valerie Cawley  
Judson University  
Elgin, IL

Demetra Disotuar  
Evanston-Skokie School District 65  
Evanston, IL

Darryn Diuguid  
McKendree University  
Lebanon, IL

Marygrace Farina  
Archdiocese of Chicago  
Chicago, IL

Angela Fortune  
University of Illinois–Chicago  
Chicago, IL

Mary Gardner  
Northern Illinois University  
DeKalb, IL

Elizabeth Goldsmith-Conley  
Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club  
Champaign, IL

Debbie Harrison  
Eastern Illinois University  
Charleston, IL

Jerry L. Johns  
Northern Illinois University  
DeKalb, IL

Lynn Keck  
Rock Island School District 41  
Rock Island, IL

Steven L. Layne  
Wheaton College  
Wheaton, IL

Samantha Morley  
Indian Prairie School District 204  
Naperville, IL &  
Northern Illinois University  
DeKalb, IL

Kathleen A. Paciga  
Columbia College Chicago  
Chicago, IL

Kari Pawl  
Concordia University  
Chicago, IL

Margaret Mary Policastro  
Roosevelt University  
Chicago, IL

Kristine Schutz  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
Chicago, IL

Frances Steward  
Western Illinois University  
Macomb, IL

A. Gillian Stewart-Wells  
Judson University  
Elgin, IL

Karen Tischhauser  
Barrington Middle School  
Barrington, IL

Annette M. VanAken  
Concordia University Chicago  
River Forest, IL

Donna E. Werderich  
Northern Illinois University  
DeKalb, IL

Alisha White  
Western Illinois University  
Macomb, IL

Chyrese S. Wolf  
Chicago State University  
Chicago, IL

Rebecca Woodard  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
Chicago, IL

---

# ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL JOURNAL

Volume 53, Number 4    Fall 2025

## ***Table of Contents***

### ***Articles***

- 3    **Helping Others One Book at a Time**  
Lunetta M. Williams
- 11   **Structured, Scripted, and Erased: An Invitation to Recast the Science to Cultivate the Humanity of Readers**  
Michael J. Young
- 18   **Mapping the Path to Sight Word Mastery: Foundations of Orthographic Learning for the Developing Reader**  
Michele Byrne

### ***Special Feature***

- 34   **Helping Our Students Connect**  
Sara F. Shacter

### ***Columns***

- 42   **Empowering Readers with Books: Secrets and Surprises in SPACE!**  
Kathleen A. Paciga and Melanie D. Koss
- 48   **Family Engagement in Literacy: The Case for Parents Reading Aloud to Children**  
Laurie Elish-Piper
- 52   **Professional Development: Keeping Literacy Instruction Relevant and Meaningful**  
Sophie Degener, Elizabeth Bramley, Adelfio Garcia, and Ivy Sitkoski
- 56   **Cultivating Sustainable Futures Through Children's Environmental Literature: Meet Sneed B. Collard III, Children's Author**  
Rebecca Woodard and Kristine M. Schutz
- 62   **A Warm wELLcome for Language Learners: Visual Literacy, English Learners, and the "Slider"**  
Kristin Lems
- 66   **The "Bates" Shop: Fishing for Primary Source Documents: The Atomic Debate: Moral Questions in History**  
David Bates
- 76   **Authors, Books, and Beyond: A Conversation with Steven Fischer About Creativity, the Role of Teachers in Fostering Creativity, and How Stories Grow from Simple Observations to Complex Ideas**  
Amina Chaudhri
- 85   **Calls for Contributions for Future Issues of the *Illinois Reading Council Journal***

---

The Illinois Reading Council Journal (IRCJ) is published quarterly and is distributed as a service to all members of the Illinois Reading Council. Membership in the Illinois Reading Council can be obtained through local and special interest reading councils in Illinois. For information, contact the Illinois Reading Council at 1100 Beech Street, Building 8, Suite 2, Normal, IL 61761. IRC staff may also be reached by telephone at (309) 454-1341. Libraries and educational institutions can subscribe to IRCJ at an annual rate of \$50.00; address inquiries to the Executive Director at the IRC office. Because the IRCJ serves as an open forum, its contents do not necessarily reflect or imply endorsement or advocacy by the Illinois Reading Council, its officers, or its members.

*Photocopies:* Individuals may photocopy articles from the journal without written permission for nonprofit educational use, or may make five copies of a single article for library reserve use in an educational institution. Consent to photocopy does not extend to photos or items reprinted by permission from other publishers. Members of the Illinois Reading Council who wish to use copies of an article in a handout or coursepack and for repeated use may do so without a fee. Nonmembers must obtain photocopying permission from the Illinois Reading Council, 1100 Beech Street, Building 8, Suite 2, Normal, IL 61761.

©2025, Illinois Reading Council

Publication services for the *IRCJ* are provided by Sandra K. Larimer, Copy Editor, and Shanee J. Plate, Layout/Design. Honor Allen and Ayma Siddiqui are Editor Roxanne Owens' graduate assistants.

## ***About the Cover Artist***

### **Steven Fischer**

Steven Fischer is a two-time Emmy-nominated filmmaker and cartoonist. In 2003, he launched Cartoon Storytelling, an initiative in which cartooning is used to help participants of all ages more clearly understand their trauma. More than 14 collections have been produced from initiatives throughout Asia, Europe, and North America. Additionally, he has served as Artist-in-Residence at Smith Farm for the Healing Arts in Washington, DC, helping cancer patients create cartoons that told the story of their treatments. He has been awarded a Fulbright Award twice, and he regularly teaches at The University of Tokyo and at Northwestern University.



**<https://oldschooldoc.wordpress.com>**

*Front cover:* "What Is a Cartoon?"

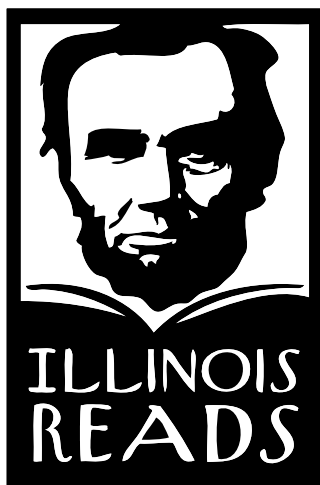
*Back cover:* Francine comic, © 2003 Steven Fischer

Other artwork by Steven can be found on pages 10, 37, and 61.



# ILLINOIS READS

## A READING STATE OF MIND



**Join the statewide literacy initiative! Six books in each age band, birth to adult, with fun activities, book clubs, author events, and more! Order bookmarks and posters today!**

*Visit our website for more information*  
[www.illinoisreads.org](http://www.illinoisreads.org)

### **Birth-4**

*Can You Dance Like a Peacock?*

by Rekha S. Rajan

*Hide-and-Seek*

by Molly Cranch

*Moms Can Do It All!*

by Ted Maass

*Sleepy: Surprising Ways Animals Snooze*

by Jennifer Ward

*Painting the Sky with Love: A Celebration of Love and Community*

by Mary E. Haque

*Play Outside with Me*

by Kat Chen

### **3-5**

*Cloud Puppy*

by Kelly Leigh Miller

*Detective Sweet Pea: The Case of the Golden Bone*

by Sara Varon

*It Belongs to the World: Frederick Banting and the Discovery of Insulin*

by Lisa Katzenberger

*Legendarios: Wrath of the Rain God*

by Karla Arenas Valenti

*One Cool Duck #1: King of Cool*

by Mike Petrik

*The Great Lakes: Our Freshwater Treasure*

by Barb Rosenstock

### **9-12**

*American Wings: Chicago's Pioneering Black Aviators and the Race for Equality in the Sky*

by Sherri L. Smith and Elizabeth Wein

*Dear Wendy*

by Ann Zhao

*Last On His Feet: Jack Johnson and the Battle of the Century*

by Youssef Daoudi and Adrian Matejka

*This Book Won't Burn*

by Samira Ahmed

*This Night Is Ours*

by Ronni Davis

*We Shall Be Monsters: A Novel*

by Alyssa Wees

### **K-2**

*Bats Beneath the Bridge*

by Janet Nolan

*Love Grows*

by Ruth Spiro

*Somebody Needs to Do Something About That Monster!*

by Doug Cenko

*The Ghost Who Was Afraid of Everything*

by Nadia Ahmed

*The Heartbeat Drum: The Story of Carol Powder, Cree Drummer and Activist*

by Deidre Havrelock

and illustrated by Aphelandra

*Umami*

by Jacob Grant

### **6-8**

*Forget-Me-Not Blue*

by Sharelle Byars Moranville

*I Felt Myself Slipping*

by Ray Nadine

*Kareem Between*

by Shifa Saltagi Safadi

*Rare Birds*

by Jeff Miller

*Stage Fright*

by Wendy Parris

*The Labors of Hercules Beal*

by Gary D. Schmidt

### **Adult**

*By Water Beneath the Walls: The Rise of the Navy SEALs*

by Benjamin H. Milligan

*Star Wars Dad Jokes: The Best Worst Jokes and Puns from a Galaxy Far, Far Away . . .*

by Kelly Knox and

illustrated by Johnny Sampson

*The Best Lies*

by David Ellis

*The Great Divide: A Novel*

by Cristina Henriquez

*The Wheel of the Year: An Illustrated Guide to Nature's Rhythms*

by Fiona Cook

*Woe: A Housecat's Story of Despair: (A Graphic Novel)*

by Lucy Knisley

**SPECIAL TITLE FOR 2025: *A Love Letter to My Library* by Lisa Katzenberger**

---

# Lake-Cook Distributors

## *Paperbacks Fast!*

Class sets our specialty  
**Grades 6 through 12**

In Stock Orders Shipped Same Day

## **30% Discount**

**\*\*\$10.00 SHIPPING ON ALL ORDERS\*\***

**Illinois Reading Lists Available**

Monarch, Bluestem, Caudill and Abe Lincoln

Visit us on the web at

**[www.lake-cook.com](http://www.lake-cook.com)**

Lake-Cook Distributors, Inc.  
951 N. Old Rand Road, #114  
Wauconda, IL 60084

Phone 847-526-5877

Fax 847-526-5810

E-mail: [sales@lake-cook.com](mailto:sales@lake-cook.com)





# BOOK CLUB

To register, return this form with payment by October 15, 2025 to  
Illinois Reading Council, 1100 Beech Street, Building 8, Suite 2, Normal, IL 61761  
or register online at [www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org](http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org) or fax to 309-454-3512

Join educators from all over the state in the online **Fall 2025 IRC Book Club!** Choose one, two, or all three books!

Read, reflect on, and respond to *The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness* by Jonathan Haidt and/or *Rebellion 1776* by Laurie Halse Anderson and/or *La Enseñanza en el Aula Bilingüe: Content, Language, and Biliteracy* by Sandra Mercuri, Sandra Musanti, and Alma Rodriguez.

Beginning **October 19**, educators will participate in online discussions for the next seven-weeks. With *The Anxious Generation*, the book is an investigation into the collapse of youth mental health in the era of smartphones, social media, and big tech with a plan for a healthier and freer childhood. With *Rebellion 1776*, participants will delve into this novel study on a thoroughly researched and emotionally resonant historical fiction middle grade book. With *La Enseñanza en el Aula Bilingüe*, it will help educators who dedicate their work to bilingualism, biliteracy, and equity for bilingual learners as well as strengthen their own academic reading and writing in Spanish. The book is mostly written in Spanish with previews in English.

Participants who complete all assignments will be eligible to receive **15 PD clock hours** for each book club. Required for participation:

- Gmail address (free at <https://mail.google.com/>). The Book Club uses Google Classroom, which does not work with Yahoo, AOL, Hotmail, etc.
- Texts: Books can be purchased from the bookseller of your choice.

Register by **October 15, 2025**, to participate in the book club. Registration is **FREE** for IRC Members. The cost for non-members is \$50, which includes IRC membership for one year. **PLEASE NOTE: The cost of book is not included**



**ONE NAME ON EACH FORM** Please print or type. Form may be reproduced.

Name (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Gmail Address Required \_\_\_\_\_  
Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_ IEIN \_\_\_\_\_

**BOOK CHOICE** (Check one, two, or all three books):

\_\_\_\_ **THE ANXIOUS GENERATION**      \_\_\_\_ **REBELLION 1776**      \_\_\_\_ **LA ENSEÑANZA EN EL AULA BILINGÜE**

**REGISTRATION** (Check one):

**IRC Members:**

\_\_\_\_ **BOOK CLUB** ..... **FREE FOR IRC MEMBERS**

**Non-Members:**

\_\_\_\_ **BOOK CLUB AND IRC MEMBERSHIP** ..... **\$50.00**

(From IRC Membership Form, indicate local council choice \_\_\_\_\_)

**METHOD OF PAYMENT**

(\$2 service charge is added if paying by CC!)

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check (payable to IRC)

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

☐ Visa    ☐ Mastercard    ☐ Discover    ☐ American Express    CVV Code \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card  
Expiration Date    Mo.   Yr.

Cardholder's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address of Cardholder \_\_\_\_\_





Empowering  
Lives  
Through  
Literacy

# IRC Webinar Series

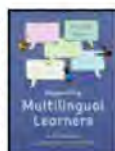
All webinars will begin at 7:00 p.m.

IRC will be offering the Webinar Series for members only in 2025-2026. All webinars will begin at 7:00 p.m. Members who watch the live or recorded webinars can earn professional development clock hours. Mark your calendars and register to take part in this convenient, free IRC membership benefit. Members will receive monthly emails with links to register. Nonmembers can join online and email for the registration link.

## September 3, 2025 ~ Lindsey Moses Supporting Multilingual Learners: Practical Strategies for Inclusive Language and Literacy Instruction



As classrooms become increasingly diverse, educators need effective, research-based strategies to support multilingual learners across content areas. This session offers practical guidance for designing inclusive instruction that promotes language and literacy development as well as academic achievement. Dr. Lindsey Moses will share examples and videos of classroom-tested strategies that foster oral language, reading comprehension, vocabulary development, and writing across the curriculum.



## October 1, 2025 ~ Candace Fleming Nonfiction Fun ... Truly!



Can kids write engaging nonfiction? Absolutely! In this fast-paced presentation, two-time Sibert medalist Candace Fleming will share secrets for creating fun and fascinating nonfiction with young writers. Participants will not only discover strategies for effective research and directed inquiry, but they will also leave with oodles of tips and ideas to help students create exciting "true stories" rather than dull encyclopedic accounts.



## November 5, 2025 ~ Colby Sharp Awesometastic New Books!



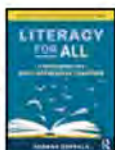
In this session, Colby will book talk some of his favorite 2025 picture books, chapter books, middle grade novels. Colby is the co-founder of *Nerdy Book Club*. He co-hosts *The Yarn* podcast with Travis Jonker. Colby co-authored *Game Changer! Book Access for All Kids* with Donalyn Miller, and he is the editor of *The Creativity Project: An Awesometastic Story Collection. A Commonsense Guide to Your Classroom Library* written with Donalyn Miller, is his latest book.



## December 3, 2025 ~ Shawna Coppola "Redefining" Writing for Greater Equity, Engagement, and Authenticity!



Many of the ways we've conceptualized literacy need revising if we are to truly challenge some of the inequities that "live" within our educational system. How might this look when considering how we teach our students to write (i.e., to compose texts)? What paradigm shifts are necessary for ensuring that all of our students see themselves as "writers"?



## January 7, 2026 ~ Cornelius Minor Being Child Centered in A World That Wants to Center Everything Else



We know the importance of using data to inform instruction and classroom based decision making. And we know that data is not just last year's test score. The most important data points walk into our schools each morning. What children do, how they do it, and what they say in response to our classroom practice is consistent information that we can use when making decisions. In this session, we will explore tools, methods, and practices that enable us to teach powerfully — with what we learn from and about young people at the center.



## February 4, 2026 ~ Becky Anderson Discovering the 2026 Illinois Reads Books



Join Becky Anderson as she presents the Illinois Reads books for 2026. Learn more about the Illinois Reads statewide literacy initiative that promotes reading for all Illinois citizens. Six books in each of the six age bands from Birth to Adult will be shared. A variety of book topics and themes are chosen for each age band, highlighting the work of Illinois Authors.



## March 4, 2026 ~ Yolanda Sealey-Ruiz Verses of Becoming: Poetry as Radical Self-Discovery



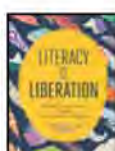
In this webinar, Dr. Yolanda Sealey-Ruiz explores poetry as both mirror and doorway—a sacred practice for naming truths, confronting wounds, and reclaiming the fullness of self. Through reading and writing, poetry offers a language for what is often unspoken, helping educators and students give voice to their lived experiences.



## April 1, 2026 ~ Kimberly N. Parker Literacy Is Liberation: What Still Matters in Today's Times!



In this presentation, Dr. Parker will reinforce what continues to matter in our literacy work from her book, *Literacy is Liberation: Working Toward Culturally Relevant Teaching*.



## May 6, 2026 ~ Whitney La Rocca Look Again! Inviting Students and Teachers into Possibilities for Revision



What happens when we take another look, with curiosity over judgement, at student writing—and when we invite our students to do the same? In this interactive webinar, we'll examine how reframing revision as discovery can help students make meaningful choices as writers. Join us to reflect on your own feedback practices, learn new ways to support revision through three pathways of support (oral language, illustrations, and written language), and engage students in conversations to elevate their writing.



## June 3, 2026 ~ Samira Ahmed and Sara K. Ahmed A Summer of Inquiry & Justice: Build Your Stack & Your Inquiry Journal



Dive into "A Summer of Justice," a session focused on diverse fiction and nonfiction book talks—perfect for read-alouds, classroom shelves, or book clubs—stay for the paired research ideas. We'll also share how your own summer "Inquiry Journal" can serve you as a curious learner, then a mentor to student-led research, reflection, and civic engagement in the fall. You'll leave with a collective joy in the spirit of inquiry and a curated list to support your local bookseller, all while gaining renewed inspiration to guide your summer of impactful learning and justice-oriented inquiry.



To register, sign into your IRC Membership Account at [www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org](http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org)



# THE ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL

invites you to join us for the

## 57TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

March 12-13, 2026

Springfield, Illinois



ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL  
a full literacy palette

## INTERESTED IN PRESENTING?

*Program Proposals are being accepted online until September 1st!*

*Featured speakers include*

**WILEY BLEVINS**



**LESA CLINE-RANSOME**



**TRICIA EBARVIA**



**LOREN LONG**



**BETTINA L. LOVE**



**PAMELA A. MASON**



**BRIANA MORALES**



**YUYI MORALES**



**MARC TYLER NOBLEMAN**



**JARRETT PUMPHREY**



**JEROME PUMPHREY**



**JAMES RANSOME**



**R. JOSEPH RODRIGUEZ**



**AISHA SAEED**



**BECKY WILKINS**



**RACHEL ZINDLER**



*And More to Come!*

**REGISTRATION AND HOUSING OPENS ON OCTOBER 1ST!**  
FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT THE IRC WEBSITE AT [WWW.ILLINOISREADINGCOUNCIL.ORG](http://WWW.ILLINOISREADINGCOUNCIL.ORG)



# 2026 IRC Conference Registration Form for March 12 - 13, 2026 in Springfield, IL



**RETURN REGISTRATION FORM WITH PAYMENT TO:**  
**Illinois Reading Council, 1100 Beech Street, Bldg 8-2, Normal, IL 61761**  
 Email to: [irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org](mailto:irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org) Fax to: 309-454-3512 Or, online at: [www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org](http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org)

**ONE NAME ON EACH FORM** Please print or type. Form may be reproduced.

Name (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_  
 School/Business \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email (Confirmations sent by email) \_\_\_\_\_ Illinois Educator Information Number (IEIN) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Presenting at Conference? \_\_\_\_\_ Position/Grade Level? \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION** (check one) includes sessions on Thursday and Friday. On or Before February 5, 2026 After February 5, 2026

**Registration for IRC Member** (Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Current IRC Member for the Full Conference ..... \$260 \$285  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Retiree (Member) ..... \$60 \$85  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Preservice Teacher with Student ID (Member) ..... \$60 \$85  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Current IRC Member for One Day Only (Circle Choice: Thursday or Friday) ..... \$200 \$225

**Registration for Non-Member** (Includes one-year of IRC Membership. Select your local council: \_\_\_\_\_)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Member for the Full Conference ..... \$310 \$335  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Retiree (Non-Member) ..... \$110 \$135  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Preservice Teacher with Student ID (Non-Member) ..... \$90 \$115  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Member for One Day Only (Circle Choice: Thursday or Friday) ..... \$250 \$275

**OPTIONAL MEALS AND EVENTS** Check choice of menu and include payment with registration.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Wednesday Welcome Reception (PAL Hotel Ballroom Salon CD)** ..... FREE FREE  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **Thursday Breakfast with Tricia Ebarvia (PAL Hotel Ballroom Salon CD)** ..... \$35 \$40  
     \_\_\_\_\_ Scrambled Eggs & Bacon \_\_\_\_\_ Scrambled Eggs & Vegetarian Patty  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **Thursday Luncheon with Wiley Blevins (PAL Hotel Ballroom Salon CD)** ..... \$40 \$45  
     \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Provencal Tomato Sauce \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetable Stir Fry  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **Thursday Luncheon with Yuyi Morales (PAL Freeport Rooms)** ..... \$40 \$45  
     \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Provencal Tomato Sauce \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetable Stir Fry  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **Thursday Boxed Lunch (Lunch Sessions in Bank of Springfield Center)** ..... \$35 \$40  
     \_\_\_\_\_ Ham Croissant \_\_\_\_\_ Grilled Vegetable Spinach Wrap \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Caesar Salad  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **Thursday Banquet with Pumphrey Brothers (PAL Freeport Rooms)** ..... \$45 \$50  
     \_\_\_\_\_ Brisket with Bourbon BBQ Sauce \_\_\_\_\_ Cauliflower Steak Tofu Quinoa Pilaf  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **Friday Breakfast with Pamela A. Mason (PAL Hotel Ballroom Salon CD)** ..... \$35 \$40  
     \_\_\_\_\_ Pancakes, Eggs, & Ham Steak \_\_\_\_\_ Pancakes, Eggs, & Vegetarian Patty  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **Friday Luncheon with Lesa Cline-Ransome (PAL Hotel Ballroom Salon AB)** ... \$40 \$45  
     \_\_\_\_\_ Roasted Turkey Cranberry Chutney \_\_\_\_\_ Portabella Mushroom Ravioli  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **Friday Luncheon with R. Joseph Rodriguez (PAL Hotel Ballroom Salon CD)** ... \$40 \$45  
     \_\_\_\_\_ Roasted Turkey Cranberry Chutney \_\_\_\_\_ Portabella Mushroom Ravioli  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **Friday Boxed Lunch (Lunch Sessions in Bank of Springfield Center)** ..... \$35 \$40  
     \_\_\_\_\_ Turkey Croissant \_\_\_\_\_ Grilled Vegetable Flour Wrap \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Caesar Salad  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **Friday Pizza Party for New and Preservice Teachers** ..... FREE FREE

**METHOD OF PAYMENT** TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(No P.O.'s accepted & \$5 fee if pay by CC!)  
☐ Check (payable to IRC) \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express CVV Code \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_ Mo. \_\_\_\_\_ Yr. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cardholder's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address of Cardholder \_\_\_\_\_

Special Accommodations – Individuals who need special accommodations must make specific requests in writing to the IRC office at least three weeks prior to the conference.  
 Cancellation/Refund Policy – Requests must be made in writing by February 1, 2026. Please see the complete policy under General Conference Information or at the IRC Website.  
 Unless notified in writing, this registration constitutes an agreement that the registrant's image, likeness, and appearance can be used in photographs of such events and activities.

---

**The Illinois Council for Affective Reading Education  
and  
The Illinois Reading Council**

# **STATIC STICK DECAL CONTEST**

The Illinois Council for Affective Reading Education (ICARE) and the Illinois Reading Council (IRC) invite **YOU** to design a STATIC STICK DECAL that encourages children to read.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

You must be a student in grade 4, 5 or 6 in a school in the state of Illinois.

## **GUIDELINES**

Make your original design in the 4 inch square on the back of this sheet.

(Teachers may copy the application form as many times as needed.)

Invent an **original** character(s) to include in your design. You may **NOT** use any published cartoon or comic characters (including characters such as Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Super Heroes, Pokémon, etc.) nor any computer-generated art.

Develop an **original** saying or slogan.

**You are limited to three colors plus black and white.** The label with Illinois Reading Council and Illinois Council for Affective Reading Education must be on the STATIC STICK DECAL design but it may be moved from the location on the application form.

Complete the application form on the back of this sheet. Mail it with your design to:

Illinois Reading Council  
Attn: Kathleen Sweeney  
1100 Beech Street  
Building 8, Suite 2  
Normal, IL 61761

**ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JANUARY 15!**

## **THE STATIC STICK DECAL CONTEST WINNER WILL RECEIVE:**

An autographed book by a well-known children's author.

An invitation for the winner and his/her parents to be our guests at the Friday Luncheon at the annual Illinois Reading Council Conference. The winner will sit in a place of honor and be introduced during the luncheon.

30 STATIC STICK DECALS with the winning design to distribute to classmates.

## **TIPS**

Don't forget – The work **MUST BE ORIGINAL**. You may not use any published trademark, cartoon, comic characters or computer-generated art.

**Keep the art work simple and positive. Too much detail within the space provided may result in a smeared look when the cling is reproduced.**

**Fine line markers, pens and pencils work the best. Crayon is usually difficult to read. A white background provides a cleaner design.**

Spelling must be standard and correct.



---

The Illinois Council for Affective Reading Education and The Illinois Reading Council

# STATIC STICK DECAL CONTEST APPLICATION

Illinois Reading Council Illinois Council for Affective Reading Education

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mail entries no later than **January 15** to:

Illinois Reading Council  
Attn: Kathleen Sweeney  
1100 Beech Street, Building 8-2  
Normal, IL 61761

# Request for Membership on IRC Standing and Special Committees

*Please consider becoming more involved in the Illinois Reading Council. Members of the local reading councils may submit their own names for consideration. Below are brief descriptions of committee goals.*

## **IRC STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**Budget, Finance, and Strategic Planning Committee** - Prepare a yearly budget, report on the audit, and review dues structure. Work to establish a well-defined vision for the future of IRC.

**Bylaws, Policies and Procedures Committee** - Review and update the IRC bylaws and policies.

**Conference Committee** - Make plans for the annual conference of the council.

**Membership Committee** - Stimulate membership of ILA, state, local, and special interest councils.

**Nominating Committee** - Prepare a slate of candidates for IRC Vice President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer.

**Organization/Council Bylaws Committee** - Act as liaison between ILA and local and special interest councils.

## **IRC SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**

**Advocacy Committee** - Gather and disseminate information concerning legislation related to reading.

**Book Club Committee** - Host four virtual book clubs in the spring, summer, fall, and winter.

**Educational Media Committee** - Assist state, local, and special interest councils with newspapers in education and with the integration of technology and literacy.

**Family Literacy Committee** - Collect and disseminate information concerning adult, parent, and family literacy.

**ILA Exemplary Reading Program Award Committee** - Assist ILA in recognizing outstanding reading and language arts programs in Illinois schools.

**Illinois Reads Committee** - A yearly statewide project to encourage reading for all Illinois citizens.

**International Projects Committee** - Address issues, provide resources, and encourage others to become involved in literacy projects in third world countries.

**IRC Literacy Support Grants Committee** - Recommend financial grants for literacy projects.

**Jerry Johns Reading Educator of the Year Award Committee** - Recognize an outstanding teacher contributing to literacy.

**Obama Literacy Fund Committee** - Promote the importance of multicultural literature and focus on providing multicultural literature for teachers' use.

**Prairie State Award Committee** - Review nominations to select an outstanding Illinois children's/YA author.

**Professional Learning** - Share best practices in educational initiatives and effective professional development to support all grade levels and content areas.

**Publicity and Publications Committee** - Provide templates and support to IRC and local councils to promote membership and events. Provide guidance in creating and publishing IRC materials.

**Sticker Design Contest Committee** - Promote the Static Sticker Decal Contest that encourages children to read.

**Please complete the information below and mail the form to:  
Illinois Reading Council, 1100 Beech St, Building 8, Suite 2, Normal, IL 61761**

I wish to be considered for membership on the following committee(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Reading Council \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

---

# ***Calls for Contributions for Future Issues of the Illinois Reading Council Journal***

The Illinois Reading Council Journal seeks manuscripts dealing with topics, issues, and events of interest to educators involved in literacy programs at all levels of education.

## ***About The Review Process***

The complete review process takes approximately 10 to 16 weeks. Upon receipt of a manuscript, an initial review will be conducted and feedback sent to the author. Manuscripts accepted for peer review will be evaluated by at least two reviewers who are uninformed as to the identity of the author. The editor will compile notes from the reviewers and send feedback to the author, including whether the article has been accepted for publication and any requests for revision. Manuscripts are evaluated in terms of interest, quality of writing, appropriate documentation of ideas, uniqueness, and needs of the journal. Research articles should include a clear description of the methodology and should be written in a style that will be readable by classroom teachers. The final decision for acceptance of manuscripts resides with the editor. Please review articles in the journal before submitting manuscripts for consideration. Any questions about the submission process should be directed to Roxanne Owens, IRCJ Editor, by e-mail at [ircjournal@illinoisreadingcouncil.org](mailto:ircjournal@illinoisreadingcouncil.org).

## ***Short Submissions***

For each issue, short items such as original poems, cartoons, artwork, or personal anecdotes may appear throughout the journal. Such submissions should be one-half page to one page in length, double-spaced, and word-processed. Front and back cover art is also accepted. The editor selects these items.

If you have questions about the submission process, please e-mail Roxanne Owens, IRCJ Editor, at [IRCJournal@illinoisreadingcouncil.org](mailto:IRCJournal@illinoisreadingcouncil.org).

## ***IRCJ Submission Guidelines***

Article submissions should be eight to 25 double-spaced pages, including references. Please prepare and submit your manuscript consistent with the following guidelines.

## ***Manuscript Submission Guidelines***

NEW! You can now submit your article online at <http://illinoisreadingcouncil.org/ircjournalsubmission.html>:

- *Anonymize the Manuscript Text:* Remove any names or references to the author(s) and affiliated institutions (clearly marked placeholders may be employed, e.g., [Author Name]; [Name of Institution]).
- *Text Formatting:* In general, apply APA style guidelines (7th ed.) to your text (e.g., Times New Roman 12 point or a similar serif font, double spaced, 1-inch margins, etc.).
- *File Type:* Save the manuscript as a MS *Word* document .doc or docx. (MS *Word* is used to provide in-text comments and revisions, so please do not submit pdf., .pages or .rtf.)
- *File Name:* This should conform to the following format:  
article v1\_{title of article}\_mm-dd-yy  
Example: article v1\_Reading is essential\_5-10-20
- Download the cover letter template from the submission webpage and fill it out.
- Rename the cover letter file name as follows:  
cover\_{title of article}\_mm-dd-yy
- Example: cover\_Reading is essential\_5-10-20

Additional questions can be sent to

***IRCJournal@illinoisreadingcouncil.org***



1100 Beech Street  
Building 8, Suite 2  
Normal, IL 61761  
Phone: (309) 454-1341  
Fax: (309) 454-3512  
E-mail: [irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org](mailto:irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org)  
Website: [www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org](http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org)  
Twitter: @ILReadCouncil #ircreads  
Instagram: [instagram.com/ilreadcouncil](https://www.instagram.com/ilreadcouncil)  
Pinterest: [pinterest.com/illinoisreading](https://www.pinterest.com/illinoisreading)  
and join us on Facebook!

---

## 2025-2026 Officers and Staff

### **President**

Cindi Koudelka  
[president@illinoisreadingcouncil.org](mailto:president@illinoisreadingcouncil.org)

### **President-Elect**

Deb Augsburger  
[presidentelect@illinoisreadingcouncil.org](mailto:presidentelect@illinoisreadingcouncil.org)

### **Vice President**

Jennifer Young  
[vicepresident@illinoisreadingcouncil.org](mailto:vicepresident@illinoisreadingcouncil.org)

### **Past President**

Melissa Stinnett  
[pastpresident@illinoisreadingcouncil.org](mailto:pastpresident@illinoisreadingcouncil.org)

### **Secretary**

Melissa Wheeler  
[recordingsecretary@illinoisreadingcouncil.org](mailto:recordingsecretary@illinoisreadingcouncil.org)

### **Treasurer**

Diana Wilkie  
[treasurer@illinoisreadingcouncil.org](mailto:treasurer@illinoisreadingcouncil.org)

### **ILA State Coordinator**

Amy Davis  
[ilastatecoordinator@illinoisreadingcouncil.org](mailto:ilastatecoordinator@illinoisreadingcouncil.org)

### **Director of Membership**

Donna Herman  
[membershipdirector@illinoisreadingcouncil.org](mailto:membershipdirector@illinoisreadingcouncil.org)

### **Executive Director**

Carrie Sheridan  
[carrie@illinoisreadingcouncil.org](mailto:carrie@illinoisreadingcouncil.org)

### **Editor of *Illinois Reading Council Journal***

Roxanne Owens  
[ircjournal@illinoisreadingcouncil.org](mailto:ircjournal@illinoisreadingcouncil.org)





# MEMBERSHIP FORM

1100 Beech Street, Building 8, Suite 2  
Normal, IL 61761

Phone: 309-454-1341  
Fax: 309-454-3512

Email: [irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org](mailto:irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org)  
Web: [www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org](http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org)

1 Please print or complete the form online.

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Bus. Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
School Name \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
or  
Business/Institution \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
Are you a Preservice Teacher? \_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_ no College/University \_\_\_\_\_

2 List the council(s) you wish to join.

When you join, you receive membership in the IRC, as well as membership in a local or special interest council. You must select at least one of the councils listed on the back.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_

3 List the dues amount of each council you are joining.

**\$50 - One year membership for IRC and one council.** If you join more than one council, each additional council is \$15.

**\$30 - Preservice Teacher membership** and \$5 for each additional council.

4 Option to Purchase Print Journals.

IRC Membership comes with online access to the *IRC Journal*. Current issues will also be sent by email quarterly to you. If you wish to purchase a print journal, it is an additional \$20 per year.

Total Before Optional Print Journal \_\_\_\_\_

Add \$20 Fee for Print Journal \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT DUE** \_\_\_\_\_

5 Return this form with payment to:

**Illinois Reading Council**

**ATTN: Membership Dept.**

**1100 Beech St, Building 8, Suite 2**

**Normal, IL 61761**

Method of Payment:  
(Sorry, no P.O.'s accepted.)

☐ Check to IRC ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--

Cardholder's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Paying by credit card? A \$2 service charge is added.

Join Online or Fax: 309-454-3512

Cardholder's Address \_\_\_\_\_

CVV Code \_\_\_\_\_

6 In our continuing effort to provide meaningful services to our members, IRC requests the following information.

Are you a member of the International Literacy Association (ILA)?

a. \_\_\_\_ yes membership # \_\_\_\_\_ expiration date \_\_\_\_\_  
b. \_\_\_\_ no

Age

a. \_\_\_\_ 18-24  
b. \_\_\_\_ 25-39  
c. \_\_\_\_ 40-54  
d. \_\_\_\_ 55 and over

Years in Education Profession

a. \_\_\_\_ 0-4  
b. \_\_\_\_ 5-14  
c. \_\_\_\_ 15-29  
d. \_\_\_\_ 30 and over

Highest Degree Earned

a. \_\_\_\_ Bachelors  
b. \_\_\_\_ Masters  
c. \_\_\_\_ Doctorate

Professional Areas of Interest (Check 3)

a. \_\_\_\_ administration  
b. \_\_\_\_ adult literacy  
c. \_\_\_\_ affective reading  
d. \_\_\_\_ assessment  
e. \_\_\_\_ children's literature  
f. \_\_\_\_ comprehension  
g. \_\_\_\_ content area reading  
h. \_\_\_\_ family literacy  
i. \_\_\_\_ holistic reading  
j. \_\_\_\_ multilingual/multicultural  
k. \_\_\_\_ newspapers in education  
l. \_\_\_\_ parents and reading  
m. \_\_\_\_ reading for gifted students  
n. \_\_\_\_ research  
o. \_\_\_\_ study skills  
p. \_\_\_\_ teacher education  
q. \_\_\_\_ technology in reading  
r. \_\_\_\_ Title I/remedial reading  
s. \_\_\_\_ young adult literature  
t. \_\_\_\_ young authors/writing

Present Position

**Classroom Teacher:**

a. \_\_\_\_ preschool  
b. \_\_\_\_ K-3  
c. \_\_\_\_ 4-6  
d. \_\_\_\_ middle school/jr. high  
e. \_\_\_\_ high school  
f. \_\_\_\_ post Secondary

**Administrator:**

a. \_\_\_\_ curriculum/reading supervisor  
b. \_\_\_\_ building principal  
c. \_\_\_\_ superintendent  
d. \_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_

**Other:**

a. \_\_\_\_ librarian  
b. \_\_\_\_ parent  
c. \_\_\_\_ special ed. teacher  
d. \_\_\_\_ gifted/talented teacher  
e. \_\_\_\_ Title I/remedial  
f. \_\_\_\_ reading specialist  
g. \_\_\_\_ retired

## Illinois Reading Council Membership

### Locations of IRC Local & Special Interest Council Regions by Counties

The annual membership of \$50 includes membership in the Illinois Reading Council **and** a local or special interest council. The annual preservice teacher membership is \$30 for one who has not been certified in the teaching profession and is working toward an initial teaching certificate. Please select the council(s) you wish to join from the list below. Residence in any of the designated council counties you join is not required. If you join more than one local or special interest council at this time, each additional council is \$15. Preservice teachers pay \$5 for each additional council. IRC Membership comes with online access to the webinars, book clubs, *IRC Journal*, and more. The *IRC Journal* and other membership benefits will also be sent by email to you. If you wish to purchase a print journal, it is an additional \$20 per year. Follow the steps on the front of this form.

REGION 1	REGION 4	REGION 7
<b>Northern Illinois Reading Council</b> - (Boone, DeKalb, Winnebago, Eastern Lee & Ogle)  <b>Northwestern Illinois Reading Council</b> - (Jo Daviess, Stephenson, Carroll)  <b>Sauk Valley Reading Council</b> - (Eastern Whiteside & Henry, Western Lee, Ogle, & Bureau)  <b>Starved Rock Reading Council</b> - (LaSalle, Grundy, Kendall, Livingston, Eastern Bureau)	<b>Black Hawk Reading Council</b> - (Rock Island, Mercer, Western Henry & Whiteside)  <b>Illinois Valley Reading Council</b> - (Stark, Putnam, Marshall, Peoria, Woodford, Tazewell, Eastern Fulton, Mason)  <b>Mississippi Valley Reading Council</b> - (Adams, Brown, Pike, Scott, Greene, Calhoun)  <b>Western Illinois Reading Council</b> - (Henderson, Warren, Knox, McDonough, Hancock, Schuyler, Western Fulton)	<b>East Central-EIU Reading Council</b> - (Moultrie, Shelby, Cumberland, Coles, Clark, Edgar, Douglas)  <b>Illini Reading Council</b> - (Champaign, Piatt, Southern Ford)  <b>Vermilion Valley Reading Council</b> - (Vermilion)
REGION 2	REGION 5	REGION 8
<b>Chicago Area Reading Association (CARA)</b> - (Chicago Area - Cook County within the Chicago city limits)  <b>Lake Area Reading Council</b> - (Western Lake, McHenry, Northwestern Cook)  <b>Suburban Council of IRA (SCIRA)</b> - (Eastern Lake, Northern Cook)	<b>South Suburban Reading Council</b> - (Those parts of Cook Co. bounded on west by Will-Cook Rd., north by 115th St., and/or Chicago City limits)  <b>Two Rivers Reading Council</b> - (Kankakee, Iroquois, Northern Ford)  <b>Will County Reading Council</b> - (Will)	<b>Lewis and Clark Reading Council</b> - (Macoupin, Jersey, Madison, St. Clair, Monroe, Washington, Clinton)  <b>National Road Reading Council</b> - (Bond, Effingham, Fayette, Marion)
REGION 3	REGION 6	REGION 9
<b>Fox Valley Reading Council</b> - (Kane)  <b>Prairie Area Reading Council</b> - (Western DuPage County)  <b>West Suburban Reading Council</b> - (DuPage County east of Route 83 and those parts of Cook County west of Austin Boulevard excluding all areas within the Chicago city limits)	<b>Central Illinois Reading Council</b> - (Logan, Menard, Cass, Morgan, Sangamon, Christian, Montgomery)  <b>Macon County Reading Council</b> - (Macon)  <b>MID-State Reading Council</b> - (McLean, DeWitt)	<b>South Eastern Reading Council</b> - (Lawrence, Richland, Crawford, Jasper, Edwards, Clay, Wabash, Wayne, White)  <b>Southern Illinois Reading Council</b> - (Jefferson, Randolph, Perry, Franklin, Williamson, Saline, Gallatin, Union, Johnson, Pope, Alexander, Hardin, Pulaski, Massac, Jackson, Hamilton)
		REGION 10
		<b>CIRP</b> - (College Instructors of Reading Professionals)  <b>ICARE</b> - (Illinois Council for Affective Reading Education)  <b>SRL</b> - (Secondary Reading League)

5-24



# IRC

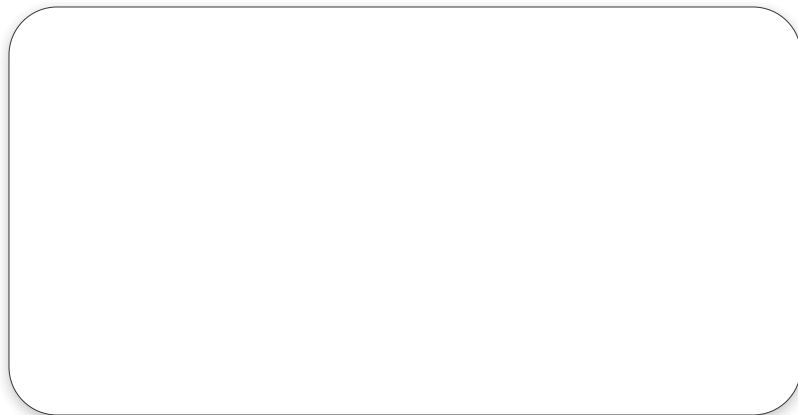
## ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL JOURNAL

ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL

1100 BEECH STREET, BUILDING 8, SUITE 2

NORMAL, IL 61761

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 800  
SPRINGFIELD, IL



LIFE  
TAKES  
TIME

