

**Illinois Language and Literacy Council**  
**By-laws 2008**

June, 2008

Article I. Name and Area Served

1. The name of this organization shall be Illinois Language and Literacy Council. The organization was originally known as LEASIC and was formerly known as LE/WLSIC, but also did business as ILE/WLSIC and IWL (Illinois Whole Language). It shall be affiliated with the Illinois Reading Council.
2. The organization shall serve the state of Illinois.

Article II. Nature and Purpose

1. The purpose of this council shall be to encourage and support the study and use of holistic meaning-based, learner-centered instruction at all levels. To serve this purpose, the council shall:
  - Provide current relevant information through workshops, speakers, and publications.
  - Provide a forum for the exchange of ideas.
  - Provide opportunities for individual growth and development of collegiality.
  - Promote authorship by celebrating the writing efforts of Illinois students and teachers.

Article III. Membership and Dues

1. Membership in the council shall be open to all persons engaged in the teaching or supervision reading at any school level, to parents, and to all others interested in the purpose of the council.
2. There shall be two classes of membership: regular and student. All members shall have voting privileges.
3. The amount of dues for the council and the time of payment shall be determined by the Illinois Reading Council.
4. IRA Membership: The council is in good standing if at least 10 members have paid current IRA dues.

Article IV. Officers

1. Any member in good standing who is also a member of the International Reading Association is eligible to be an officer of the council.
2. The elected officers of the council shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Registrar.
3. The President shall (1) act as the executive officer to the Council; (2) lead and supervise the proceedings of the council; (3) preside at all meetings of the council; and (4) act ex-officio as chair of the Executive Board. The President can appoint ad-hoc committees. At the expiration of his/her term of office, the President shall automatically become Past President for a period of one (1) year. The Past President shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Executive Board.
4. The Vice-President shall (1) serve as a member of the Executive Board; (2) plan workshops. In the event of the President's absence, incapacity, or resignation, the Vice President shall assume and perform those duties. Should the office of President become

vacant, the Vice-President shall become President immediately and shall serve the unexpired portion of the President's term.

5. The Secretary shall (1) record the proceedings of all general meetings of the Executive Board; (2) present minutes of all meetings to each member of the Executive Board; (3) keep a permanent book of the minutes of all meetings; (4) assist with all mailings; and (5) cooperate fully with his/her successor by providing current records within thirty (30) days of retirement from the office.
6. The Treasurer shall (1) have custody of the funds of the council; (2) deposit such funds in the bank, in the name of the council, as directed by the Executive Board; (3) sign checks in the name of the council for the disbursement of funds; (4) maintain accurate records of the money received and disbursed by the council; and (5) present an annual proposed budget to the Executive Board for its approval prior to September 1. The Treasurer's books shall be audited at the end of each fiscal year by two (2) persons appointed by the President.
7. The Membership Registrar shall (1) maintain an accurate membership roster at all times, and (2) communicate with IRC regarding membership.
8. The President and Vice-President shall serve for one (1) term. The President and Vice President shall be elected annually with the Vice President automatically succeeding to President. The Treasurer and Membership Registrar shall be elected on alternate years for two (2) year terms. The Secretary and Membership Registrar shall be elected during the same year.
9. New officers' terms of office shall begin in June, following the election.

#### Article V. Board of Directors

1. Function: The Executive Board shall supervise the property and affairs of the council. It shall administer all business of the council.
2. Composition: The Executive Board shall consist of the immediate Past President, the President, the Vice President, the Treasurer, the Membership Registrar, and the Chairs of all standing committees.

#### Article VI. Assembly

1. Composition: The assembly shall consist of the Executive Board members and any current members at large.
2. Function: The assembly shall conduct the business of the council.
3. Quorum: A quorum for a meeting of the Executive Board shall consist of a majority of Board members.
4. Meetings: The Board shall be empowered to hold meetings on the call of the President, as it shall deem necessary, and at such times and places the President may determine. The Board shall meet at least once a year.
5. Notification of Meetings: The Secretary, under the direction of the President, shall notify the Executive Board Members of meetings.

#### Article VII. Nomination and Election of Officers

1. Nominating Committee: Each nominee must be a member of the International Reading Association. Advance consent to serve if elected from each nominee shall be secured by the committee.

2. Mode of Election: All officers shall be elected by paper ballot. A majority of votes cast shall be necessary for election.
3. Reporting: Newly elected officers must be reported to IRA using IRA forms.
4. Term of office begins at the June meeting.

#### Article VIII. Committees

1. Ad Hoc Positions: Ad Hoc Positions shall be appointed by the President.
2. Standing Positions: Standing Positions shall be Author Coordinator and Literature Consultant, Fundraising Chair, Newsletter, Historian, Political Action, and Young Authors Conference Coordinator.
3. Author Coordinator and Literature Consultant: Contacts and schedules adult authors for the Young Authors Conference. Negotiates fees and contracts, and provides lodging information to authors.
4. Fundraising Chair: Coordinates all fundraising activities.
5. Newsletter: Prepares newsletters, brochures, TV/Radio and press releases, and distributes newsletters.
6. Historian: Collects and maintains records of the organization and its activities.
7. Political Action: Represents and communicates the educational political position of the Board and Members at large.
8. Young Authors Conference Anchor: Serves as the overall consultant to the Young Authors Conference Coordinator.
9. Young Authors Conference Coordinator: Coordinates with the ILLC Board, Illinois State University, and the Illinois State Board of Education to plan and implement the Young Authors Conference. This coordinator will receive an annual stipend to be determined by the Board.
10. Young Authors Consultant: Coordinates in the planning of the Young Authors Conference.

#### Article IX. Representation at the Annual Assemblies

1. Representation of the council at the Delegates Assembly of the International Reading Association shall be in accordance with the bylaws of the International Reading Association as specified in the current International Reading Association bylaws which read as follows: "Each local council in good standing of 10-50 members who have paid current dues to the International Reading Association shall be entitled to one delegate and an additional delegate for each 50 additional members who have paid current dues to the Association... One person may represent only one council in the Assembly. A council may send an alternate for each delegate; an alternate may vote only when the delegate is absent."
2. Representation at the annual State Assembly is strongly recommended.

#### Article X. Parliamentary Authority

1. Meetings will be conducted using Robert's Rules of Order.

#### Article XI. Dissolution

1. In case of dissolution of this council, any assets remaining after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities of the council shall revert to the International Reading Association.

Article XII. Amendments

1. Origin: An amendment may be proposed by a Board Member.
2. Procedure for amending: After discussion, a motion to approve is made, and a vote is taken. Approval is by majority of those voting.
3. Incorporation: Copies of amendments are sent to the International Reading Association and to the International Reading Council.

Nominating Committee: Each nominee must be a member of the International Reading Association. Advance consent to serve if elected from each nominee shall be secured by the committee.

Mode of Election: All officers shall be elected by ballot. A majority of votes cast shall be necessary for election