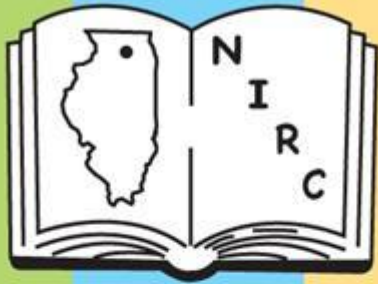




# NIRC Newsletter

Volume 50, Number 1

Fall/Winter 2017



NORTHERN  
ILLINOIS  
READING  
COUNCIL

an affiliate of the  
International Reading Association 

## Dates to Remember...

December Barnes and Noble Holiday Book Drive  
for Barb Food Mart

Sycamore Library Holiday Open House  
December 14<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30

Grant Proposals- Due December 31st

NIRC Board Meetings @ Panera in DeKalb  
January 20, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.  
April 21, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

## Northern Illinois Reading Council Board of Directors 2017-2018 Officers

### President

Carol Untch  
[cuntch@syc427.org](mailto:cuntch@syc427.org)

### Vice President

Pam Farris  
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### Treasurer

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### Secretary

Rachel Honeyman  
[rachel.honeyman@d428.org](mailto:rachel.honeyman@d428.org)

### Membership

Jody Tomilonus  
[jtomilonus@kinnschools.org](mailto:jtomilonus@kinnschools.org)

### Illinois Reads

Mary Gardner  
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### Newsletter Editor

Sarah Kennay  
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# NIRC NEWS

## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES-

We have grant opportunities to help classroom teachers with support for literacy in their classrooms. The grant amount is \$500.00. If you have a project you would like to submit for consideration for the grant please contact [cuntch@syc427.org](mailto:cuntch@syc427.org). We will send you the application. *The deadline is December 31, 2017.*

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS-

We are excited to welcome our new board members for the 2017-18 year.



### **Pam Farris** - Vice President.

Dr. Pam Farris is a former elementary teacher and Title I Director. She taught 26 years at NIU and retired as Distinguished Teaching Professor. Among the awards she has received are the Arbuthnot Award for Outstanding Professor of Children's Literature and member of Illinois Reading Council's Hall of Fame.

### **Rachel Honeyman** - Secretary

Rachel Honeyman is a 6th grade Language Arts teacher who currently resides and teaches in Dekalb, Illinois. Coming from a long line of educators, she has taught 6th grade ELA for all 6 years of her teaching career. After graduating from Greenville College in 2012, she worked in a very small school in rural, western Illinois for 4 years before moving to Dekalb to marry her husband. Rachel has been an IRC member since 2012, receiving many member benefits, including winning the Pamela Farris' "Rural School Library Award" in 2014. Although she eventually plans on becoming an administrator, she loves teaching young adolescents and guiding them as they transition from elementary to middle school.

### **Dani Frew**- Treasurer

Hi! My name is Dani Frew. I have taken over the treasurer position for NIRC. Professionally speaking, I am the reading specialist at Caledonia Elementary school. I have spent the ten years before that teaching first and second grade. (I try to forget the year I got moved to fifth grade...). As for the rest of me, I am married to Jeremy (also a teacher) and we have three children: 6 year old twins Lily and Colin and 4 year old Allie. I enjoy reading, eating dessert, fashion and avoiding the laundry.

### **Jody Tomilonus**- Membership

Jody is currently a Reading Specialist at Ledgewood School in Roscoe, IL. She services between fifty to sixty students in Kindergarten and First grade. She received her Elementary Education degree from Rockford University in 2001 and received her master's degree as a Reading Specialist in 2011 from Aurora University. She taught first grade for ten years at Ledgewood and is in her sixth year in her current position.

# ***PROJECT READ***



We had a busy summer and fall with 7 Habitat for Humanity homes that we provided bookcases and books for the children in their new homes. We really are so fortunate to be able to continue this partnership with Habitat for Humanity and your membership helps support this great program. Thank you to Gayle Symmonds and the youth group of The River Chapel Church of the Nazarene in Rockton for building our bookcases. We would love to have more members come and join us for the house blessings, please consider helping with this great project. If you are interested in helping with Project Read or would like more information, contact [cuntch@syc427.org](mailto:cuntch@syc427.org).



# ROCKFORD CITY MARKET *NIRC ILLINOIS READS EVENT*

*We participated in the City Market in May 2017. It was a chilly May evening but we met many great families that participated in activities that NIRC provided.*



*Haskell Elementary received the Illinois Reads books from the City Market Event!*

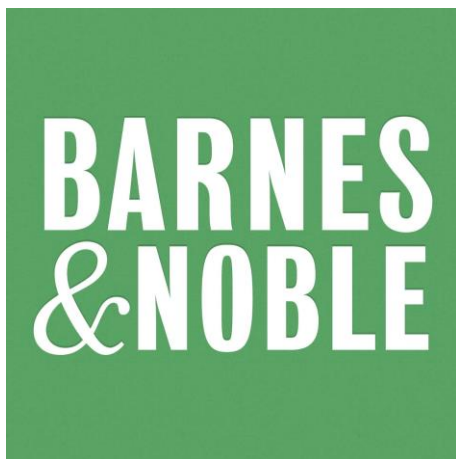


**Sycamore Library**  
*Holiday Open House*  
*December 14<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30pm*

We will be partnering with the Sycamore Library at their holiday open house. We will be hosting a Book Walk and a Scavenger Hunt. All members are welcome to come and help. Come join in the fun!



**Barnes & Noble**  
*Holiday Book Drive*



Please consider purchasing a book as a donation from the Barnes & Noble Book Drive in Rockford at the Cherryvale Mall. The book donations will be going to the Barb Food Mart in DeKalb. The Food Mart is also a support for literacy for families that receive food from this facility. We are very glad to support the families and students of the DeKalb School District.



November 20, 2017

Dear Jody and Northern Illinois Reading Council Members,

First, let us just say, thank you!



Your recent donation of 26 beautiful books means that you understand just how valuable a new book is to a child who is just beginning their reading adventure.

But let us tell you what some of our students said when they received the new book.

- I LOVE this book.
- Did you know that this is going to be a movie! I am going to read it all weekend long so I can finish it before we go see it at the theater!
- This is my favorite book!

Although these victories may seem small to the average person, you know that they are not. Building a love of reading from a young age is crucial to a lifelong love of reading. That's why you gave, and both the children we serve and NSLD are full of gratitude for your generosity.

Again, thank you! The North Suburban Children's staff appreciates your support.

Best always,

*Barb Jacobs*  
Barb Jacobs

NSLD Children's Supervisor

*Mary M. Petro*  
Mary Petro

Library Director



**NSLD/Loves Park** 6340 N. Second St., Loves Park, IL 61111 815-633-4247

**NSLD/Roscoe** 5562 Clayton Circle, Roscoe, IL 61073 815-623-6266

[www.northsuburbanlibrary.org](http://www.northsuburbanlibrary.org)



We always encourage our members to be involved! Please let any of the board members know if you would like to support our projects, such as Project Read or the Holiday Book Drive, or if we can help support a literacy night with your school or organization. Let us know what NIRC can do in our community!

## FOLLOW US



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c/o Sarah Kennay  
[sarahelsiekennay@hotmail.com](mailto:sarahelsiekennay@hotmail.com)

