

Winter 2018

# Happy New Year from Western Illinois Reading Council

WIRC wishes you well for the 2018 year! We would like to inform you of some wonderful opportunities through IRC and WIRC for the following quarter. We also want to spotlight one of our members as a Feature a Teacher per quarter. This quarter, our Feature a Teacher is Sue Rericha from Macomb, IL

## Upcoming Events:

**January 29, 2018: Western Illinois Reading Council** will host Assembly Required: Piecing Together a New Normal with Autism or Asperger's in the Classroom with Kristen Stombres from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at Monmouth College, Wallace Hall, Room 207, 700 E. Broadway, Monmouth, Illinois. Registration is \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members

*All the grant opportunities listed below can be found on Illinois Reading Council website*

- **Barack Obama Library Award.** Do you know a teacher of 5th-8th-grade kids who could make good use of a classroom library? This award is a classroom library, valued at \$1000, which was created in 2006 through a generous gift to the IRC from (then) Senator Obama. This collection is comprised of carefully selected literature that is "culturally relevant" for African-American readers and targets students in the middle-school (5th-8th) grade range. The [Nomination Guidelines and Form](#) are available online. **Nominations are due by March 1.**

**Jerry Johns Reading Educator of the Year Award.** This award recognizes an outstanding teacher who make contributions in promoting literacy among students, colleagues, and school communities. *This award is supported by a generous gift from Jerry Johns. Deadline: Application Form, letters of recommendation, and your philosophy statement are **due by March 1**.* The [Application Form](#) is now available online.

**Family Literacy Award.** This award recognizes an IRC member who promotes and supports parent involvement in children's reading. Deadline for nominations is **March 1**. The [Nomination Form](#) is now available online.

**Pamela J. Farris Rural Classroom Library Award.** Do you know a K-8 teacher who teaches in a rural school and could make good use of a classroom library? If so, this award will provide the winning teacher with a classroom library to enhance the availability of quality literature for students to read in rural areas. The Pamela J. Farris Rural Classroom Library Award was created in 2012 by a gift from Pamela J. Farris to the Illinois Reading Council. **Nominations are due March 1.** The [Nomination Form](#) is now available online

**Static Stick Decal Design Contest.** Students in grade 4, 5, or 6 are encouraged to create an original design promoting reading. The winning design is printed on static stick decals. **Entries must be postmarked no later than March 1.** The [Application Form](#) is now available online.

**January 11, 2018: [Chicago Area Reading Association \(CARA\)](#) will host [Wired Wednesdays with Wine, Cheese, and Conversation](#) to correspond to IRC's Wired Wednesday Webinars, from 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm at Grace Educational Resources, 2705 North Ave, Chicago, Illinois.**

- **Prairie State Award for Excellence in**

- **Literacy Support Grant.** The Illinois Reading Council will award financial grants to local and special interest councils and individuals council members for the purpose of promoting literacy development in the school and community, and/or providing professional development opportunities related to the improvement of reading and writing instruction. If fulfilling one of the above stated purposes requires a joint effort with another school, district, or other agency, letters stating their intended involvement are required from these agencies. The [Guidelines and Application Forms](#) are available online. There is no specific amount per grant. The amount awarded for each grant may be less than the amount requested. **Application deadline will be May 1.** Grants will be awarded for the next fiscal year from July to June. Awards will be announced by July 15.

<p><b>Writing for Children.</b> This award recognizes an Illinois Children's/young adult author whose body of work demonstrates excellence, engenders a love of literature, and embraces an important part of the mission of the Illinois Reading Council—to promote lifelong literacy. <b>Deadline: All <a href="#">Nomination Packets</a> must be postmarked by January 15. Packet includes a list of past recipients.</b></p>	<p><b>R.E.A.D. Grant.</b> The Family Literacy Committee will award a small grant to local and special interest councils for a Read, Eat, and Discover (R.E.A.D.) Project. This project must be done in conjunction with Title 1 Schools. This grant will help support councils to bring literacy materials and books to students in these schools. The <a href="#">Guidelines and Application Forms</a> are available online. <b>Application deadline will be March 1.</b></p>
--	--

## Featured Teacher: Sue Rericha



Sue Rericha is from Macomb, IL and is currently a Title I teacher at Schuyler-Industry School District. She received her BA in Elementary Education from Illinois Benedictine College in May 1992 and MEd in Reading from Western Illinois University

in May 2015.

When Sue was a little girl playing school with her friends, she was always the teacher. She knew then she would probably be a teacher. She thought about other career paths but always came back to education. At one point she wanted to teach high school math, but her dislike for calculus and desire to work with younger children won out.

Even though Sue became certified in 1993, she didn't start teaching full-time until 2014. Her first child was born two months after student teaching at which time she became a stay-at-home mom. When her youngest started kindergarten, she started substitute teaching. Three years later, she was hired as an aide to help the Title teachers. The next year she started teaching full-time at Schuyler-Industry. She has taught first and second grades. This year is her first as a Title 1 teacher.

There were many times Sue felt she knew she belonged in education, but reassurance had come from the students. Starting her career in her mid-40s was scary. Sue said when a student comes up, gives her a hug, says they love having you as a teacher and the parents say so as well, she knew being a teacher was meant to be. Seeing a struggling reader making progress who then tells you they love reading helped Sue realize she is making a difference in the classroom.

Sue initially became a member of IRC because of the benefit of conference discount. She enjoys Illinois Reading Conference and is one of her favorite conferences to attend. She also enjoys the journal articles in IRCJ. She is still exploring other benefits that IRC offers.

Sue married her high school sweetheart, Tim, and they have been married for 25 years. They have 5 children (ages 13-24) and have several pets including 2 hedgehogs and a chinchilla.

