IN Touch with WSRA Election News for Members

Please exercise your right to vote. As per the WSRA Bylaws, "The Assembly shall be the legislative body and shall have full authority over the affairs of the Association with the limits set by these Bylaws. It shall elect officers as provided in Article V" [of the Bylaws].

This information is intended to provide information prior to the election and is for current WSRA members. Please see the statements of interest and brief biographical information for each of the candidates for the WSRA Recording Secretary and Third Vice President, which are vacancies on the Wisconsin State Reading Association's Board of Directors.

The link to vote will be emailed to WSRA members on January 1. The online ballot opens on January 1, 2017 and closes at midnight on January 31, 2017. The link to the online ballot will be emailed to the WSRA members on January 1. The results of the election will be shared in the WSRA Update newsletter and on the WSRA website as well as announced at the Awards Ceremony on Thursday, February 9, 2017 at the annual convention.

The candidates are listed in alphabetical order for each office.

IN Touch with Information
About the Third Vice President Office

Each year, a ballot is offered to WSRA members (The Assembly) to elect the next Third Vice President. The Third Vice President is an elected officer and serves on WSRA's Board of Directors. This position is a part of the Presidential Cycle (2017-2018 Third Vice President, 2018-2019 Second Vice President, 2019-2020 First Vice President [serves as the Convention Chair], 2020-2021 President Elect, 2021-2022 President, and 2022-2023 Past President) and thereby serves WSRA members on the Board of Directors for six years. This position begins on June 1, 2017.

IN Touch with Information
About the Recording Secretary Office

The Recording Secretary is an elected officer, serves as a member of the Board of Directors, records and reports the minutes of the Board of Directors and Assembly meetings, updates the Policy and Handbooks annually, and maintains a record of attendance of all meetings of the Board of Directors. The newly elected Recording Secretary will begin this role on June 1, 2017 for the three-year term (2017 - 2020). Please join us in thanking Nicole Horsley for her years of service as WSRA's Recording Secretary.

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Colleen Pennell holds a Doctor of Philosophy, Language and Literacy from Cardinal Stritch University; a Master of Arts in Education Curriculum and Instruction with a Reading Endorsement from Northern Arizona University; and a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education degree from Edgewood College. She holds Wisconsin Reading Teacher and Reading Specialist licenses. Her 2012 dissertation is titled, *Epistemic Beliefs Underpinning Discourse Within a Critical Literacy Intervention: A multi-case Study*.

Colleen Pennell currently serves as Associate Professor at Carroll University and is responsible for teaching graduate and undergraduate courses for literacy educations. Pennell's previous academic appointments include Visiting Lecturer of Education at Carroll University where she was primarily responsible for teaching undergraduate and graduate courses for literacy education. In addition, Pennell served as an Assistant Professor School of Education at Marian University in Fond du Lac, a Reading Specialist for the Oconomowoc Area School District, and as a Reading Teacher for the Menomonee Falls School District. Pennell is involved in the Foundations of Reading Test activities and the Education Teacher Preparation Assessment (EdTPA).

Her current writing project is an article titled, *Classroom Discourse During Close Reading: A Case Study*. Pennell is an experienced state and national presenter who has a multitude of published articles on the topic of literacy and literacy education.

Pennell is a member of the International Literacy Association (ILA), Wisconsin State Reading Association (WSRA), Waukesha County Reading Council (WCRC), serves as Co-President of the Wisconsin Professors of Reading Special Interest Council. In addition, she is a member of: the Qualitative Research Special Interest Group, American Educational Research Association (AERA), Literacy Research Association (LRA), the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), and she serves on the Editorial Review Board Member for the Wisconsin State Reading Association Journal.

**Colleen Pennell’s Statement of Interest for the Third Vice President Office**

I am writing to express an interest in becoming the Third Vice President for the Wisconsin State Reading Association (WSRA). I have been a dedicated member of WSRA since beginning my Wisconsin-based education career in 2007. I believe my commitment to WSRA and passions for literacy education are both well suited for this position.

Currently, I work as an Assistant Professor of Literacy in the Department of Education at Carroll University. However, I believe this position couldn't have been afforded to me without the support and learning that I received through WSRA. Through its workshops, councils, and state meetings, WSRA has provided me with the knowledge and passion to become a literacy leader.
In 2007, I learned about WSRA’s local reading councils and became a member of the Waukesha County Reading Council (WCRC). Energized by the WCRC meetings, I became actively involved and served as the Newsletter Writer and eventually became the WCRC President. Currently, I serve on the WSRA Early Childhood Literacy Committee and also serve as the Co-President of the Wisconsin Professors of Reading, which is a WSRA Special Interest Council. I am also actively involved in literacy education throughout Wisconsin and maintain a keen awareness of state literacy initiatives (with much thanks to WSRA for keeping me informed). In sum, I am focused upon improving the literacy lives for all of Wisconsin’s children.

Recording Secretary Candidate, Jennifer Metzer

Biographical Information

Jennifer Metzer holds a Bachelor of Science in Education degree from the University of Minnesota at Duluth, a Master of Arts in Education degree from Saint Mary’s University - Winona, as well as the Wisconsin Reading Teacher and Reading Specialist licenses. Jennifer has served as a Reading Recovery Teacher and learned about coaching at the Teachers College at the Reading and Writing Project Coaching Institutes in 2011 and 2013. In 2002, Metzer earned the National Board Certification and has since renewed said certification.

Jennifer has worked at Kettle Moraine School District; she served as a Reading Specialist/Literacy Coach, Educator Effectiveness Coach, and has taught second grade for Kettle Moraine. She spent ten years as the Reading Specialist at Dousman Elementary and last year she "ducked back into the classroom to reacquaint herself with the demands of the classroom teacher." She strongly believes that being a specialist also means truly understanding the needs of the teachers served. Last year in the classroom she felt she fully clarified her vision as to what it means to serve as a literacy coach and a true collaborator.

She is a member of the International Literacy Association (ILA), Wisconsin State Reading Association (WSRA), Waukesha County Reading Council (WCRC), and Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD).

Jennifer Metzer’s Statement of Interest for the Recording Secretary Position

I am interested in serving as the recording secretary with the Wisconsin State Reading Association. WSRA has been instrumental in my continued growth as a literacy educator, and I am ready to serve in a more dedicated capacity.

I have been a member of WSRA on and off for the past twelve years, and I currently serve as an active member of the WSRA Legislative Committee. For many years I attended the Waukesha County Reading Council breakfasts and over the past several years have maintained my membership with WCRC. I serve as the current WCRC Legislative Liaison. To maintain my professional knowledge, I am also a member of the International Literacy Association and ASCD (Association for Supervision and Curriculum
It is my desire to gradually increase my involvement with WSRA and this seems like the right step.

Collaboration with other educators is what drives me. In my work as a literacy coach, nothing was more inspirational than learning alongside others. Expertise matters and my knowledge only grows by my ability to listen and learn from others. Education is my passion and learning is what keeps me going, I would love to join the Board of Directors in their mission to further literacy education in the state of Wisconsin. Thank you for your consideration.

Recording Secretary Candidate, Lynda Fernholz

Biographical Information

Lynda Fernholz holds a Doctor of Philosophy, Language and Literacy from Cardinal Stritch University; a Master of Arts degree in Education from Viterbo; a Bachelor of Science in Education degree from Bethany Lutheran College from Mankato, MN; and an Associate Degree in Social Work. Fernholz is involved in the Foundations of Reading Test activities and the Education Teacher Preparation Assessment (EdTPA) at the UW-Stevens Point. She holds Wisconsin Reading Teacher and Reading Specialist licenses as well as licenses to teach grades 1-9.

Lynda Fernholz currently serves as Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and has previously served Viterbo University as a Tenured Associate Professor. Before her work with at the university level, Lynda worked in the West Salem School District as a middle level Reading, Language Arts, Science, Social Studies Teacher.

Her current writing project is a textbook called, Absolutely NOT! Another Reading Test Study Guide: Cultivating Knowledge of Responsive Literacy Practices to Get Ready to Teach and Pass the *FoRT, which will be in print by the second semester. Fernholz is an experienced international, national, state, and local presenter who has published articles on the topic of literacy and literacy education.

Fernholz is a member of the International Literacy Association (ILA), Wisconsin State Reading Association (WSRA), Midwest Wisconsin Reading Council (MWRC), Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), Phi Delta Kappa International, Literacy Research Association (LRA), International Society of Scholarly Teaching and Learning (ISSOTL), Professional Schools of Development Association (PDS), the Wisconsin Professors of Reading Special Interest Council, and the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. Fernholz currently serves as on the WSRA Journal Review Board and is the 2017 Hospitality Committee Chair for WSRA’s 2017 convention.
Lynda Fernholz’s Statement of Interest for the Recording Secretary Position

I am writing to make application for the position of Recording Secretary for the WSRA Board of Directors and the Assembly. I have been involved in literacy education for my whole professional career. Additionally, my doctorate work (completed in 2014) in language and literacy along with experiences at higher education makes me an excellent candidate for this position.

My curriculum vitae reflect both professional and international work within the field of literacy education. My years of experience working with both undergraduate and graduate students successfully further demonstrates my passion for teaching best practices that are grounded in research. Additionally, I am an excellent listener, communicator, a team player, and am extremely organized. My strong desire to continue working with WSRA to promote literacy for all is what motivates me to seek this position. Furthermore, I have a great sense of humor, and I get along well with all my peers.

Throughout my career I have enhanced my instructional duties through involvement on national, state, and local boards, councils, and committees. My work for the Wisconsin State Reading Association and Gundersen Global Partners are among my greatest pleasures. It is with my entire being that I believe that the greatest gift a teacher can share is that of literacy.

If I were to be elected to the position of Recording Secretary, the WSRA Board of Directors and the Assembly will not be disappointed. Please accept my desire to seek election for this position beginning in June of 2017 for the 2017-2020 term.

Recording Secretary Candidate, Nancy Papa-Ruppert

Biographical Information

A graduate of the Université De La Sorbonne - Paris, France with a Bachelor degree in French from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee International Program, in French Language and Culture, Nancy Papa-Ruppert has had many varied experiences in teaching French and Spanish. In addition to being fluent in four languages, Nancy has a Masters degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Marquette University and holds both the Wisconsin Reading Teacher and Reading Specialist licenses.

Topping off her experiences with language instruction and studies of culture, Nancy is currently working on the ESL licensure as she presently serves as a teacher of Reading Recovery and Descubriendo La Lectura (DLL) in the School District of Waukesha. There, she provides English and Spanish interventions in Reading Recovery and DLL. Papa-Ruppert has served as Reading Specialist, Literacy Coach, interventionist, and Reading English Language Arts teacher while working in the school districts of Kettle Moraine, Whitewater, Hartford, Elmbrook, the Brookfield Academy, and the University School of
Milwaukee - River Hills. Moreover, she is the founder of *Languages by Nancy, LLC* specializing in foreign language instruction.

**Nancy Papa-Ruppert Statement of Interest for the Recording Secretary Position**

Because, I believe that reading has the power to move lives forward through education and purpose, I became a Reading Specialist. My education in reading, coupled with a Masters degree in Curriculum and Instruction, and fluency in four languages has instilled in me an even stronger belief that reading is at the core of everything we do. Our growth in all aspects of life is dependent on our ability to read and write.

WSRA is an organization, which is focused on the purposeful work of moving reading instruction forward, and my participation in this organization has opened my eyes to the need for leadership at all levels of the organization. I'm offering my services as a servant leader for the office of Recording Secretary. I want to make a greater commitment to the continued success of this organization. It is my hope to serve WSRA in this capacity, because I believe in the mission and the promise of reading.

Thank you for considering me as a viable candidate for the WSRA Recording Secretary.