

# Secondary Reading League

Volume 2 Issue 5  
February 25, 2013

## Literacy Grant Available

The Secondary Reading League (SRL) has established two (2) \$500 Literacy Grants to be awarded to SRL members. This monetary award is intended to support educators in developing new or supporting existing innovative literacy projects in their schools or classrooms.

Interested Secondary Reading League members are encouraged to complete the application form, available at [www.dayofreading.org](http://www.dayofreading.org) and on request from the SRL Secretary, Patti Tylka, at [ptylka@comcast.net](mailto:ptylka@comcast.net). A committee of SRL members will evaluate the projects using the rubric included with the grant application and select one or more projects to be awarded funding. Those members receiving Literacy Grants will be required to write a brief narrative of the project for a future SRL newsletter. Grant winners will be notified by mail and announced at SRL's Day of Reading Conference. Previous SRL Literacy Grant winners must wait one grant cycle before submitting another grant application. Please note that the deadline for all applications is September 2, 2013.

## IRC Initiative: *Illinois Reads*

The Illinois Reading Council will be launching a new initiative designed to promote lifelong reading for everyone from birth – adulthood. The program called “Illinois Reads” will be selecting books written by Illinois authors, provide copies of the books to schools and communities, and implement activities to promote reading for life. SRL still has room for more ambassadors to work with IRC as the initiative develops. Illinois Reads will be officially launched on Wednesday, March 13, 2013 from 6:00- 8:00 p.m. at the Old State Capitol Building. Plan to make this event part of your conference experience! It is sure to be an exciting night with lots of very special guests! If you are interested in participating on the committee, please contact Cindi Koudelka at [koudelka@fieldcrest.k12.il.us](mailto:koudelka@fieldcrest.k12.il.us).

## Strategy of the Month: Active Engagement, the flashcard game

**Patti Tylka**  
**SRL Secretary**

How can students use their flashcards to review vocabulary terms? Try the Flashcard Game! (Kagan, Spencer & Kagan, Miguel. (2009). Kagan Cooperative Learning. San Clemente, CA: Kagan Publishing. [www.KaganOnline.com](http://www.KaganOnline.com).) Have each student choose five of his/her flashcards and sit facing a partner. One student, the tutor, uses the partner's cards for the first three rounds. Round 1: The tutor holds up one card, shows and reads the front of the card (the word) to the partner, shows and reads the back of the card (the answer) and then turns the front of the card toward the partner and asks him to give the answer, using his/her short-term memory. If the answer is correct, the tutor praises the partner and gives him back his card. (If the answer is incorrect, the tutor gives the partner a hint, lets the partner try again, and shows him the answer if necessary. The card goes to the back of the tutor's stack until the partner “wins” it by getting the answer without a hint.) The tutor goes through all of the cards until the partner wins them all. Round 2: The partner gives the tutor his cards. The tutor shows and reads the front of the card, and the partner states the answer without seeing it first. If the answer is correct, the tutor praises the partner and gives him the card. (As above, if the answer is incorrect, the tutor hints, asks the question again, and shows the answer if necessary.) Round two ends when the partner has “won” all of his cards by stating the correct answer without a hint. Round 3: The partner gives the tutor his cards. This time, the tutor reads the front of the card without showing it to the partner, and the partner gives the answer. When the partner has won all five cards, the partners reverse roles and repeat each of the rounds.

In ten minutes or so, students will review five words. The Flashcard Game is also an effective way for parents, in the tutor role, to help a student review for a test.

## Common Core Corner with *Cindi*

The Illinois Council for Affective Reading Education (ICARE) of the Illinois Reading Council has created a project you can use with your students to incorporate Common Core Standards in a meaningful way. ICARE is accepting manuscripts from Illinois students about a statue, memorial, or monuments found in their community. Directions are available online and the selected manuscript will be hardbound and distributed to all participating schools. The deadline for submissions has been extended to February 28, 2013. Check out the link at <http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org/images/ICARE28Feb2013.pdf>.

## Legislative Issues: TRS News

*Liz Strejcek*  
*SRL Treasurer*

No changes are scheduled that will affect the cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) for present members and if any do suddenly get proposed or passed, TRS intends to challenge them in court. None of the present legislative proposals will reduce or scale back what presently retired members receive, but the big issue is how will the legislation affect newly retired who are between the ages of 55 and 61. Will these members will receive their scheduled COLA or will it be reduced?

In the Annual Financial Report Summary issued by TRS for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, TRS assets were at \$36.5 billion. Net assets were reduced by \$954 million due to decreased TRS securities transactions liabilities (primarily due to Global Market effects) and a decreased investment gain. Overall, TRS is still in good shape which is one reason why the state wants to reduce the amount it owes.

In the Winter Issue Topics & Report from TRS, there is an article on the Pension Code overhaul that State Officials are considering. It is worth reading. There are two options being considered as well as other changes that will affect new and future retirees. Check out [trs.illinois.gov](http://trs.illinois.gov) and scroll down to the 2012-2013 Topics & Report Newsletter. The important stuff is within the first few pages.

Keep the faith and write or email your Illinois congresspersons!

## SRL Strand at IRC Conference

Check out the SRL sessions at the IRC convention. All SRL sessions will be held at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Ottawa B. For a detailed description of the sessions reference the conference program.

### Thursday, March 14th

- 50 Shades of Censorship—Banning Books Today
- The Shift to Disciplinary Literacy: Redefining the Literacy Coach's Role
- Writing & the Common Core State Standards: Student Writers as Scientists
- Community of Practice: Meeting Teacher and Student Needs
- Get Going with Graphic Organizers

### Friday, March 15th

- Weaving it All Together: Common Core, Rt I and Content Literacy
- Meeting Common Core Standards: Increasing Reading Comprehension through Active Engagement
- Qualitative Features of Complex Text
- Literature Circles-Lassos to Rope Students In
- Deepen Discussion with Socratic Dialogue

Secondary Reading League  
Cordially invites you to the

*Young Adult Book Talk &  
Pizza Dinner with  
Jan Dundon of  
Anderson's Books*

*Thursday, April 11, 2013  
5:30-9:00 p.m.*

*Lou Malnati's Naperville  
131 West Jefferson Ave.,  
Naperville, IL*

*After the book talk we will be adjourning to  
Anderson's Books (next door)*

*\$35 SRL Members  
\$40 Non-Members  
Includes pizza dinner*

*Contact Cindi Koudelka to register  
815-257-3605 or [koudelka@fieldcrest.k12.il.us](mailto:koudelka@fieldcrest.k12.il.us)*



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<http://tinyurl.com/b832kvg>.