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May 1978

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### Recommended Citation

Dygert, Marian (1978) "Greetings from the MRA President," *Michigan Reading Journal*: Vol. 12 : Iss. 2 , Article 2.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/mrj/vol12/iss2/2>

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# GREETINGS FROM THE MRA PRESIDENT

Marian Dygert  
Michigan Reading Association



It gives me great pleasure to be president of the MRA during the twenty-third anniversary year. I have had the honor of serving this organization in various roles during the last twelve years. I can testify with authority that the president comes to the office enlightened but humble concerning the challenges of the organization.

As I look to the year ahead, I have the feeling that this organization is on the threshold of many new beginnings. We have been growing and we have great potential in realizing the power we have in the state as an organization.

Our influence can only be realized as we fulfill the purposes of the Association. May I remind you these are four-fold.

1. To improve the quality of reading programs at all levels.
2. To promote supportive participation with the citizenry for reading improvement.
3. To promote the development of reading proficiency among all people.
4. To promote and facilitate the work

of the local council and sponsor professional conferences and meetings that implement the purposes of the Association.

The purposes have identified the priorities. Action is demanded of us, both by our tradition and our changing role. What are we doing? What can we do?

Congratulations to our new board members that will serve the membership this year:

Carolyn Humphrey Cummings, Saginaw ISD . . . President-Elect; Gerald Duffy, Michigan State University . . . Secretary; Charles Peters, Oakland Schools . . . Member-At-Large; Phyllis Terwilliger, Upper Peninsula . . . Member-At-Large.

A salute is in order for Leona Hefner as she leaves the board. She has served as committee chairperson, Member-At-Large and the last three years as secretary. Thank you Leona for your dedicated service to MRA. We will miss you.

In the coming months the Board of Directors and the Committees will be continuing some functions and develop-



ing some goals for 1978-79. If you as a MRA member wish to be involved in any committees or a activity, please send your name, position, mailing address and phone number to me. We have standing committees on Publications, Professional Studies and Standard, Annual Conference, Elections, Budget, Evaluation, Legislative, public Relations, Research and Ad Hoc Committees formed for specific charges.

Furthermore, the concerns for 1978-79 will focus on:

1. Assisting in developing regional and state conferences; mark your calendar now for the MRA Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, for 1979, March 18, 19 and 20.

Third Great Lakes Regional Conference, October 12-14, 1978, Cincinnati, Ohio.

IRA 1979, Atlanta, Georgia

2. Expanding services to the membership.
3. Increasing our publications and maintaining our journal.
4. Extending our legislative influence.
5. Maintaining a working relationship with the Michigan Department of Education.
6. Maintaining and furthering development of our program for Parents and Reading, Young Authors.
7. Extending the Study of Michigan Authors as an outgrowth of the recent conference.
8. Help the MRA Association to become the (Parent) group to the councils through leadership and ex-

panded services. The MRA Board and local council officers retreat is at St. Mary's Lake, August 21, 22, 23, 1978.

The MRA is a vital, working organization. During the coming year we will need to look at the inner development and structure of the organization as we develop the guidelines for implementing the new By-Laws. The new By-Laws call for the following changes:

- A change in officers, Vice-President elect has been added.
- Expansion of Board of Directors by electing eight (8) regional representatives and two members-at-large.
- Broader focus with the councils, to act as a parent council to the local council with extended rights and privileges for councils and special interest councils.

During the coming months we will be informing you on our continued effort to monitor and be heard on current issues in reading. Reports of our work with such areas as: Michigan Department of Education, Right to Read, Certification changes, New reading objectives pilot testing, Associations meetings on Minimal Educational Programs, TRIM (Teachers of Reading Improvement Model) are but a few of the issues being studied.

MRA is the organization with one single goal, improvement of reading for the learner. Let us never lose sight of the reason for our existence. Won't you too get your friends to join the organization and be a part of this dynamic group.