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## Challenge, Commitment, and Change: 1984-1985

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## Challenge, Commitment, and Change: 1984-1985

Dr. Karen S. Urbschat, MRA President

During the past year, public education has been challenged on many fronts. We are all very familiar with the published reports describing the state of the art. From "**A Nation at Risk**" to Goodlad, Carnegie, and Rand, education and educators have been told what is wrong, but not always what is right, nor have solutions always been offered to correct the so-called ills. As a result, we find ourselves embarking on a period of educational reform - a period that will cause each and every one of us to reassess and rededicate ourselves to strengthening and furthering education in general and reading in particular.

**The Michigan Reading Association** has always accepted a challenge, and will continue to provide leadership in reading to all interested teachers and administrators. The Board of Directors of the **Michigan Reading Association** has, once again, voted its commitment to the tradition of excellence by approving the appointments of committee chairpersons and the establishment of two new committees. These new committees, *Reading and the Bilingual Child* and *Communications/MEAP*, are welcome additions to the Board. The *Early Childhood, Research, Administrators, Legislative, and Computer Committees* will continue to broaden our knowledge in these important areas. The *Parent Committee* will be developing a model to share with teachers working with parents, and the *Young Authors Committee* will formulate guidelines to share with local councils wishing to hold a Young Authors Conference. I challenge you as members to step forward and become involved in these worthwhile endeavors. There is much to be done in regards to certification, future legislative concerns,

parental involvement, public relations, etc. Contact me or one of the Committee Chairpersons soon.

Change, as we all know, is a gradual process. But, with new goals to meet, new dreams to inspire us, and new challenges to face, change will be an exciting part of our future. As the year progresses, we will no doubt see change in Middle School certification, in accreditation, in the State Assessment Test, and in a myriad of other areas. You, as a member of one of the most prominent and respected professional organizations not only in the state, but nationally, can be part of these changes by your willingness to become involved.

You have heard it said before - but it bears repeating - an organization is only as good as its membership! I extend to you the challenge of re-committing yourselves not only to involvement in the **Michigan Reading Association** but to furthering quality education for all children. During 1984-85, let us address ourselves to the challenge of commitment and change.

**Together we can make a difference!**



Dr. Karen S. Urbschat