

Southwest Minnesota Reading Council News –Spring 2017 News from the President

Dear Southwest Literacy Educators,

When it comes time to write my message for this particular newsletter, I am always amazed at how fast the winter has gone. We have had touches of spring already which makes us even more excited for it to arrive. Speaking of spring, I can't help but think, with eager anticipation, of trees budding and perennials blossoming. This leads me to the following question. How have your students been budding and blossoming? Have you noticed growth in your students beyond just the report cards they are receiving? Growth contains so many areas: reading, writing, listening, speaking, spelling, grammar, handwriting, in all content areas, vocabulary in every subject area, social and emotional growth, etc. Have you been able to communicate that learning growth to them verbally and/or in written form by having a mini-conference with each one at some point? Your words and non-verbal cues, as the educator or team of educators they look up to in so many ways, is like gold to them before the testing season approaches and this school year comes to a close. It is my hope you will be given an opportunity to communicate that growth to each student you have the privilege to educate that stays with them all through the summer.

A wonderful book that emphasizes my message: is *Mrs. Spitzer's Garden* by Edith Pattou. It is a tremendous picture book for all teachers! Enjoy!

Cindy



Front Row: Jonathan Roux, Beth Wolf, Dr. Cindy Whaley. Back Row: l to r Brenda Resch, Raeleen Grein, Lisa Bullard, Dawn Haberman, Dr. Sonya Vierstraete

Annual Fall Conference, **Motivating Young Writers**. The Fall Conference was held on Tuesday, September 27th at Duffy's, North Redwood Falls, MN featured author Lisa Bullard. Lisa shared proven motivators for young writers.



<https://www.facebook.com/SouthwestMinnesotaReadingCouncil>

Summer Workshop: "Know Your Students! Connect to Literacy!"

Led by Dr. Cindy Whaley on
Wednesday, June 14th 2017, at River
City Eatery, 344 10th Street, Windom,
Minnesota 56101 Phone: 507-832-8383.

Council Literacy Projects: SWMRC continues to support international literacy outreach in China as well as purchasing books for new parents through the *Books for Babies* community shower in the New Ulm area. A free-will offering will be collected at the Spring Conference help enhance these programs.



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Springtime! That means new life and new legislation are on the way. Currently, there are some legislative proposals that will impact educators. A few highlights to consider:

There is a proposed change of governance in education. In the HF1079.0 Teacher Licensing and Standards bill in Article 1 Sec. 21 Transfer of Powers, "the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards board shall be considered a transfer by law of responsibilities of the Board of Teaching and Minnesota Department of Education with respect to licensure and credentialing of teachers and school personnel to the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board for purposes of MN Statutes, section 15.039." This is also in the Senate bill SCS0004A-4 Article 1, Section 19. MDE's responsibilities regarding school administrators is to be transferred to the Board of School Administrators.

Additionally, year-long student teaching experiences are included in proposed legislation. This may create hardships for teacher candidates. The specific rules on the implementation of this would be set by the proposed PELSB – Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board.

Tiered licensure is part of both bills. Both bills propose untrained teachers in the classroom, which may address the teacher shortage, but may not provide the best education for our learners. Tiered Licensure begins on line 23.7 in the Senate bill. Tiered Licensure begins at line 33.7 in the House bill.

The complete bills are located at:

Senate bill

http://www.senate.mn/committees/2017-2018/3091_Committee_on_E-12_Policy/A-5%20S.F.%204.pdf

House bill

https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?session=ls90&number=HF140&session_number=0&session_year=2017&version=1st

Consider contacting your legislative representatives to share your support and concerns.

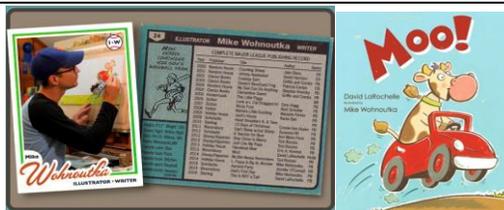
Senator Eric Pratt is chairperson of the Senate K-12 Education Policy committee and lead author of Senate File 04. He can be reached at 651-296-4123.

Representative Sondra Erickson is chairperson of the House Education Innovation and Policy committee and lead author of House File 140. She can be reached at 651-296-6746.



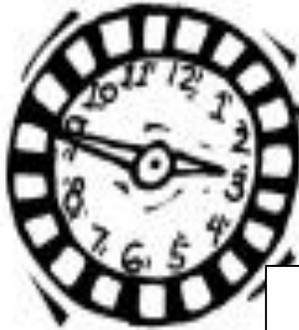
Respectfully Submitted by Dr. Sonya Vierstraete, SWMRC VP

Come One and All to our Annual Spring Conference featuring illustrator/author Mike Wohountka!



**Wednesday, April 19, 2017,
Martin Luther College
Cafeteria, New Ulm MN.**

Save the Date: Join us at Martin Luther College, New Ulm for a fun evening with illustrator/writer **Mike Wahnoutka** on April 19, 2017. Check out Mike's web site at: www.mikewahnoutka.com. Ever since Mike can remember he knew he wanted to be an artist. His dad, who was an engineer at the Hiway Department, would bring home reams of paper that had hiway plans on one side and were blank on the other. He would be so excited to have all that paper to draw on and would fill each sheet with race cars, snowmobiles, baseball players, super heroes - everything he was interested in. In high school his art teacher, Mr. Chase, encouraged Mike to pursue art as a career. This, along with a scholarship, led him to the Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Georgia. Since graduating with a B.F.A. in Illustration, Mike has illustrated over 20 books for children. He has worked with various clients including Random House, Dutton Children's Books, Clarion Books, Holiday House, Scholastic Books, Bloomsbury Publishing, Walker & Co., Hyperion Books, Sterling Books, Cricket Magazine Group, General Mills, 3M, and Peaceable Kingdom Press.



Summer Workshop
Wednesday, June 14th, 2017
River City Eatery
344 10th Street, Windom, MN

“Know Your Students!”
“Connect to Literacy!”

Dr. Cindy Whaley looks forward to an interactive presentation with you concerning the importance of knowing your students completely and connecting that information to inform both literacy teaching and learning. The “knowing” means discussing the social, emotional, physical, and cognitive characteristics of students of all ages and why this knowledge is a must for you to inform your teaching practices. Cindy will also share and have you discuss the latest brain research and how it impacts literacy teaching and learning of all ages and in all subject areas. (CEU Units available).

Workshop Agenda: 8:30 am to 9:00 Registration
 9:00 – 3:00 pm Workshop with am break, lunch and pm break.

Cost: SWMRC/MRA Members \$50.00 non-Members \$60.00

***** Cut and RSVP by June 5, 2017 *****

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____

____ Member ____ Non-Member Total Enclosed \$ _____

Send registration form and check (made payable to SWMRC) by Mon. June 5th

Brenda M Resch

Contact Brenda if you have any questions

Box C177

Cell: 507-822-5659

1400 17th Street

E-mail: bresch@isd177.com

Windom, MN 56101





Southwest Minnesota Reading Council's Annual Spring Conference

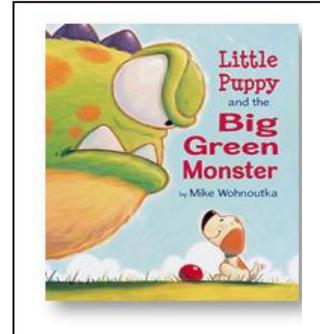
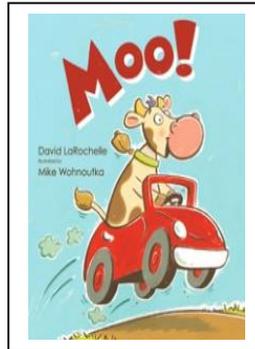
April 19th, 2017, Martin Luther College,
New Ulm, MN 56073

Who: Mike Wohnoutka

When: Wednesday, April 19th, 2017

Where: Martin Luther College-Cafeteria
1995 Luther Court
New Ulm, MN 56073

Time: 5:30 pm Registration
5:45-6:30 Dinner
6:30-7:45 Presentation
7:45 Business Meeting



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Phone: _____ **E-Mail:** _____

School Affiliation _____

MRA Member: ___ **Yes MRA #:** _____, **No** _____

SWMRC Member: ___ **Yes** ___ **No**

_____ I am a current MRA member. (\$25 to cover dinner and presentation)

_____ I am a renewing or new MRA member. I have included my MRA membership form (*reverse side*, \$25 + MRA fee) with this registration.

_____ I am a renewing MRA member and
I have _____ sent my MRA membership form in to the state or
_____ renewed on-line. (\$25 to cover dinner and presentation)

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Send registration form and check (made payable to SWMRC) by Friday, April 7, 2017 to:

Brenda M Resch
Box C177
1400 17th Street
Windom, MN 56101

Contact Brenda if you have any questions.

- School: [\(507\)831-6910, Ext. 362](tel:5078316910)
- Cell: [\(507\)822-5659](tel:5078225659)
- E-mail: bresch@isd177.com



Minnesota Reading Association Membership Application

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Email (Required): _____

Phone Number (cell): _____ Phone Number (landline): _____

Are you're a member of IRA? _____. If so, what is your IRA number? _____

Organization / Employer / School: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City / State / Zip Code: _____

Job Title (Check Any That Apply):

✓ Job Title	✓ Job Title	✓ Job Title
Administrator	Classroom Teacher high school	Paraprofessional
Building Literacy Coach	Classroom Teacher middle school	Retired
Classroom Support	College / University Professor or Adjunct	Special Education teacher / Specialist
Classroom teacher 3-5	District-wide Literacy Coach	Student
Classroom teacher K-2	ELL/ ESL Teacher / Specialist	Other(specify):

Membership Levels: (Check box for your membership level choice).

Level	Cost	✓	Level	Cost	✓
Regular Membership	35.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Retiree	25.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paraprofessional	35.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Student	15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

Membership comes with access to one local council. For each additional council you choose to join, it will cost another \$12.00. Mark the council(s) you wish to join.

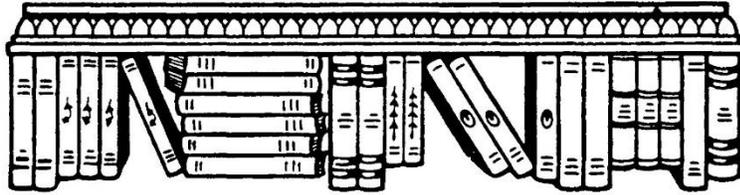
Council	✓	Council	✓	Council	✓
Arrowhead	<input type="checkbox"/>	Northstar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Southeast	<input type="checkbox"/>
Central	<input type="checkbox"/>	Northwest	<input type="checkbox"/>	Southwest	<input type="checkbox"/>
MN Reading Academy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red River	<input type="checkbox"/>	Twin Cities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Northland	<input type="checkbox"/>	Secondary Reading Interest Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vikingland	<input type="checkbox"/>

Total Amount Enclosed (if mailing directly to MRA): _____

Please make Checks Payable to Minnesota Reading Association, Minnesota Reading Association, P.O. Box 904, St. Cloud, MN 56301. Contact S.voss@mnreading.org if you have any questions.



**Southwest Minnesota Reading
Council**
Martin Luther College
1995 Luther Court
New Ulm, MN 56073



Dr. Cindy Whaley (President), Dawn Haberman, Brenda Resch, Jonathan Roux, Dr. Sonya Vierstraete
and Beth Wolf.

Southwest Minnesota Reading Council Executive Board

Bring a friend or two!

Look inside for more details

We look forward to seeing you on April 19th for our annual Spring Conference