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President's Message

By: Brian Dorman, FLCA President
Sanford Middle School Reading Coach,
Seminole County Public Schools

By now, school is over for the 2006-2007 school year. Summer is the best time to reflect on your successes and areas that still need development. It is important to establish a goal or two for next year and then write out the objectives that will assist you in reaching that goal. Writing it down is more powerful than just thinking about it in your head! Share the goal with those around you who can help you reach it.

As I reflect on FLCA, we have accomplished a number of goals but still have room to grow and improve! At the end of this first year, we grew our membership to just over 600 people, started publishing a regular newsletter with valuable research and finalized our By-Laws. We are officially recognized as a 501(c)(3) Not For Profit corporation. As I write this, we are in the process of upgrading our website with our own domain name. The new website will allow us to offer more for our members.

Finally, it is time to renew your membership! Memberships are valid until July 31, 2007. You can print the membership form included in the newsletter and mail it to Vicki Gillmore or renew at the Just Read, Florida Leadership Conference in August. I hope to see you all in Orlando August 5-8 and again September 6-9 at the Florida Reading Association Conference.

Respectfully,



Brian Dorman



Upcoming FLCA Events

August 5-8, 2007

Just Read, Florida! Leadership Conference @ Shingle Creek Resort, Orlando

September 6-9, 2007

Florida Reading Association Annual Conference @ Shingle Creek Resort, Orlando



By The Numbers

604	Current membership
61	Districts Represented
3	Other states represented
1	Other country represented

States: Kentucky, South Carolina, and Pennsylvania

Country: Okinawa, Japan



Legislative Update

By: Patricia Levesque, Governmental Affairs for FLCA
Meridian Strategies
Tallahassee, FL 32302-2691
patricia@meridianstrategiesllc.com

In 2001, Governor Jeb Bush launched the Just Read, Florida! Initiative to establish reading as a core value in Florida. Since the initiative began, Florida has become a leader in the nation for the reading improvement of our students.

Florida uses funding for the reading initiative to do many things, including:

- Fund reading coaches
- Provide reading curriculum and intervention program.

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- Provide professional development on research-based reading instruction
 - Fund the Progress Monitoring and Reporting Network (PMRN)
 - Host the Just Read, Florida! Leadership Conference
 - Host events that encourage reading – such as the Guinness World Record event for middle school students in 2006

The Florida Literacy Coaches Association is critical to the effort to keep a sustained focus and support on reading in Florida.

This past session, we worked toward three goals for funding in the Legislature:

- Continued funding for reading and reading coaches in the FEFP (Florida Education Finance
- Program) – which is the public school funding formula -- \$111 million
- Continued funding for the Just Read, Florida! Office in DOE --\$18.5 million
- Increased funding in the FEFP by \$26 million as requested by Governor Charlie Crist – to work toward the goal of having a reading coach in every school.

When the Legislature ended on May 4, we had achieved a good deal of success:

- We were successful in keeping \$111 million dedicated to funding reading and reading coaches in the FEFP
- We were successful in supporting full funding of the Just Read, Florida! Office.
- We were *partially* successful in getting an increase in the budget for more reading coaches, receiving a \$5 million increase instead of the original \$26 million requested.

The House of Representatives was much more supportive of the increase in reading funding than was the Senate. In fact, the House had the requested \$26 million increase in their budget until the very end of conference with the Senate.

I believe the House was so strong on the initiative because of the great work of FLCA members Karen Reed and Patricia Rouse in testifying in the House budget committee.

Another item of interest is House Bill 511(www.leg.state.fl.us) which includes a provision that exempts certain school districts from submitting district-wide reading plans to the Department of Education for approval. The only districts exempted from this requirement are those that meet certain requirements regarding school grades, class size and financial audits.

The reading plans approved by DOE are very important for the overall reading strategy within a school district. Districts must demonstrate their commitment to reading coaches, research-based reading curriculum, and dedicated reading blocks for students. It is too soon to tell how this legislation will impact the progress of reading in those districts that are exempted from the reading plans.

As we look to next year and the legislative priorities of the FLCA, we need to begin to develop greater relationships with the legislative members so they better understand the good work of reading coaches and the success we are having in classrooms. I will need members of the FLCA to go out and meet with their elected officials in their districts to tell your stories of success and impact.

I look forward to continuing to work with all of you at FLCA to keep reading as the core value of education in the State of Florida.

Respectfully,

Patricia Levesque
Governmental Affairs for FLCA



Area Representative Reports

Area 3

By: Patricia Rouse, Area 3 Representative
Belle Vue Middle School Reading Coach
Leon County Public Schools

Greetings! My name is Patricia Rouse and I am currently in my third year as a Reading Coach at Belle Vue Middle School in Tallahassee, Florida. My passion is reading, but my mission is to spread the love of reading to students, parents, and educators across the nation.

One of my newest appointments is to serve as the Area Three Representative for the Florida Literacy Coaches Association. It is an honor and challenge that I will assume with vigor and dedication. In February, I had the pleasure to present to the commission the need for funding in the area of Reading. This opportunity allowed me to discuss the need for Reading Coaches at every school, continued support of the Just Read, Florida! Office, and the gains my school has made in the area of reading since my appointment there. Additionally, we urged the committee to support Governor Crist and his proposal for a \$26 million reading budget. As a group of literacy coaches across the state and nation, we need FLCA as a tool that will facilitate the promotion of literacy in our schools.



Call for Authors

The *Coaching Update* invites reading coaches, administrators and other interested authors to submit original articles related to areas of literacy education and/or coaching. Articles regarding other subjects that may be of interest to coaches are welcome and will be placed accordingly. The editorial review committee strongly encourages articles for the following sections:

- Research Review: The latest or interesting research published on coaching.
In the Spotlight: The latest text or website detailing best practices in coaching.
Success Stories: Summary of action research coaches have conducted in their school or district.

Authors are requested to follow the guidelines below:

- Submit unpublished articles that are not currently under review by any other publication.
- Manuscripts should be 5-10 pages typed, double spaced, left justified only, and without hyphenation.
- Follow APA, 5th edition guidelines (Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association).
- Submit articles electronically in Microsoft Word compatible (.doc or .rtf) format to mangusm@lake.k12.fl.us.

Publication schedule

Article submission deadlines

1st Friday of each month for next month's issue
July 6, 2007
August 3, 2007
September 7, 2007
October 5, 2007
November 9, 2007
December 7, 2007
January 4, 2008
February 1, 2008
March 7, 2008
April 4, 2008
May 2, 2008

Newsletter publication dates

1st Monday of each month
August 6, 2007
September 3, 2007
October 1, 2007
November 5, 2007
December 3, 2007
January 7, 2008
February 4, 2008
March 3, 2008
April 7, 2008
May 5, 2008
June 2, 2008 (June/July issue)

Florida 
**Literacy Coaches
Association**

Membership Registration
Valid August 1, 2007 – July 31, 2008

Name:

Work Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

District:

School:

Instructional level: K-5 6-8 9-12
 District Office College/University Other

Alternate Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Work Phone:

Fax:

Home Phone:

Email:

Alternate Email:

Yearly Membership Cost: \$10.00 (Valid August 1 to July 31)

**Checks & money orders are accepted.
Please make checks payable to:
Florida Literacy Coaches Association**

Mailing address:

**Florida Literacy Coaches Association
C/O Vicki Gillmore
4404 Bluewater Drive
Panama City, FL 32404**

