



# Eastern Iowa Reading Council

## *Fall 2024 Newsletter*

### **10 reasons to go on a literacy adventure with us this year:**

#### **1. Earn graduate or recertification Credit**

Attend the September 19th meeting at 6:30pm at Lambert Elementary to find out how to earn 1 hour of renewal or graduate credit by attending six meetings.

Download registration information and the class reflection packet at [www.aea1.k12.ia.us/eirc](http://www.aea1.k12.ia.us/eirc) and click on "Links and Handouts". You can also earn an additional credit by doing the state book study or attending the summer conference.

#### **2. Become a member of EIRC and the Iowa Reading Association (First year teachers join free)**

- Join Eastern Iowa Reading Council and the Iowa Reading Association for \$50. Membership is valid until August 2025.
- First year teachers receive a FREE membership
- Retired members and college students pay only \$25.



#### **3. Gain new or more in-depth knowledge on recent developments in education**

EIRC provides you with the opportunity to join an important organization where you can network with others and gain new ideas and strategies in a casual atmosphere. Membership in EIRC will also help you meet Iowa Teaching Standard 7 and develop professionally.

Our programs this year include ways to engage readers in literature, the writing and publishing process, and published authors.

#### **4. Connect through Technology**

- Facebook - Eastern Iowa Reading Council
- Website - [www.aea1.k12.ia.us/eirc](http://www.aea1.k12.ia.us/eirc)
- Online Reservations on website

#### **5. Make new friends**

EIRC covers the counties of Buchanan, Delaware, and the western part of Dubuque. Meet teachers and administrators from other schools and form new friendships. Join a group of educators dedicated to reading and education.

#### **6. Be guided by an executive board who plans great speakers and programs**

Our board works hard to provide great programs and speakers. Please contact any of them for more information or if you are interested in becoming part of the executive board. Contact information is also available on our website.

## 2024-2025 EIRC Officers and Board:

Co-President/Membership/ Newsletter/  
Basket of Books:

Diane Bean drbean1975@gmail.com

Co-President/Recording Secretary: Janonne Robbins

Vice-President: Open

Treasurer/Noisy Offering Chair: Amy Priem

Continuing Education Director/Short Story  
Contest Chair: Nancy White

Poetry Chair: Jana Sellers

Webmaster/Reservations

Chair/Continuing Ed. Co-director:

Dawn Schechtman

Corresponding Secretary: Jean Resor

Merit Council Chair: Julie Lincoln

Meeting Responses Coordinator/Door Prizes:

Deb Bader

Stuffed Animal/Book Project: Pat Johnson

Past President/Planning Volunteer: Rachael Plein

## 7. Celebrate student writers through our creative writing contest

EIRC sponsors a local writing and poetry contest for students in grades K-12. First place winners are honored at the local banquet in April.

*Nancy White, Short Story Coordinator  
Jana Sellers, Poetry Coordinator*

## 8. Participate in literacy projects to benefit the community

**Basket of Books:** EIRC donates baskets of children's books to 25 area medical offices. We currently serve Dyersville, Edgewood, Jesup, Independence, Manchester and Strawberry Point.

Donations for the project are used to purchase new books, baskets, and materials for basket liners. Books are changed yearly.

*Diane Bean and Abbie Ritze, Project Coordinators*

**Outreach Projects:** EIRC donates gently used stuffed animals, matched with books, to several programs and groups, such as HeadStart, Parents as Teachers, foster parents, police departments, Toys for the Needy, and the domestic abuse shelter. Stuffed animals come from EIRC members. The project serves Buchanan, Delaware, and Dubuque counties.

*Pat Johnson, Project Coordinator*

**Merit Council:** EIRC has again earned Merit Council status for the 2023-2024 school year. Councils achieving this honor must attend the state delegate assembly, distribute a regular newsletter, and conduct at least four local council meetings.

*Julie Lincoln, Project Chair*

## 9. Have FUN!

Enjoy time with your coworkers and friends while learning new things. Our meetings are informative and fun!

## 10. Enjoy an adventure with us!

Our first meeting will be held on September 19th at 6:30pm. Please register on our website for the first meeting by September 9th at [www.aea1.k12.ia.us/eirc](http://www.aea1.k12.ia.us/eirc).

For meetings held in-person, registration is at 5:30 P.M., a meal is served at 6:00 P.M., and speakers start around 6:30 P.M. Please RSVP even if you are NOT eating so that enough tables and chairs can be set up in advance.

**Have a wonderful 2024-2025 school year!**