**SIG – Specialized Reading Professionals**

July 8, 2014

In attendance: Jack, Vicki, Rita, Wolfram, Evan, Jen, Earl

1. Update report to IRA – Wolfram reported on the progress for this. Form 990 is on hold while IRA deals with IRS and non-profit status. 501-3-C status is also on hold until IRA finalizes discussion with IRS. As of February of this year (2014), that still had not been clarified.

Wolfram and Vicki completed the annual report for IRA and it has been submitted.

2. Membership – one new person joined at IRA; 3 or 4 since then. Current active total is 104 members.

3. Treasurer’s Report – Reimbursed Vicki for gift for Rita. No other expenses.

4. Webinars.  Jack, Rita, and Vicki have talked further about our proposed webinars with a few lead people who organize these and gathered pertinent information on cost, technical requirements, etc.  Vicki and Rita think these could involve our membership in important work during the year and there is the goal of advertising the SIG and bring in new members.

Vicki and Rita have talked with Misty Sailor. Tentative plan is to have two webinars – one in January, one in April. This would be in conjunction with a graduate course at University of San Antonio. Cost would be free. Up to 100 people could participate online in addition to graduate students at the University of Texas, San Antonio. Webinar would be archived and on our website.

Possible speaker ideas: Julie Coiro, who could possibly use it as one of her board presentations. Jack asked if board members are allowed to do make presentations to SIGs. Jack suggested that if a council needs to be involved, then maybe the Texas Association for Literacy would be willing to participate. Jack also suggested Don Leu as a possible speaker. Vicki will talk with Julie.

Vicki is forming a small committee to work on the webinars, taking direction from the Board.

5.  Session at IRA, St. Louis.  Our session will now be in the non-reviewed category and the call for the proposals are out with final submission due July 30. To hold a 2-hour session, we will need to report strong membership numbers. Jack will be contacting former members and ask that they bring pay their dues to keep their memberships active.

Barb is working on session to be submitted to IRA. Jack will present “What’s Hot” as a main keynote speaker. (Good news – IRA reversed its decision on not publishing “What’s Hot” in *Reading Today* – they are now going to publish it after all.) Jack suggested a second speaker or some break-out sessions. Another possibility is to have someone talk about something from the “not hot” side, such as Linda Gambrell talking about motivation.

Idea is to plan for two hours and be prepared to cut back to one, if we don’t meet the expectation for number of members.

Earl suggested a panel discussion on the controversies surrounding Common Core in various states.

Rita commented that what we really want is rigorous standards, no matter what they are called. Rita and others suggested that we should avoid putting the words “Common Core” in the title of the proposal.

Wolfram commented that at IRA 2014 most of the SIG sessions were scheduled at the same time making it difficult to attend more than one.

The possibility of “synching” with some other SIG sessions in the future was discussed. Not for 2015 but possibly the year after.

Total at IRA 2014 was 8000+ – up from the past.

6. Goals for 2014-2015: What is it we hope to accomplish?

* Webinars
* Rita suggested 2 roles – 1. Advocates for reading specialists and 2. Distributing professional information affecting our members– we should be in the forefront of standing up for specialized literacy professionals and getting information to SLPs to keep them abreast of advances in the field
* Reviewed mission statement:
  + **Specialized Literacy Professionals is a special interest group of the International Reading Association. Our mission is to keep abreast of recent efforts to develop standards and assessments for those delivering reading/literacy services; to actively communicate with other professional organizations; and to take a proactive stance on issues involving literacy professionals.**
  + **Specialized Literacy Professionals sponsors conferences for Reading and Literacy coaching, advocates for professionals in reading and literacy education, and regularly publishes the newsletter, *The Literacy Professional.***
* Jack suggested a return of the face-to-face conference possibly (but not for 2015 – perhaps 2016, 2017)
* Rita suggested that Teacher Evaluation is a hot topic, and one of the big questions is how to evaluate reading specialists and literacy coaches. This could be something that our SIG gets involved with. Possibly help IRA with the distribution of a survey. (Side note: Rita suggested taking a look at PA’s attempt at developing a rubric for reading specialists: <http://www.pdesas.org/Instruction/Frameworks>)
* Evan is developing a Facebook page. Send photos to Evan from IRA. Should we increase our social media presence?
* Newsletter – Jack feels we should do another hard copy newsletter before moving to an online version. Seemed to be a general agreement on this.
* Find a publisher for the coaching article!

7. Elections

* Forms were distributed at IRA.
* Jack is going to send an email blast looking for nominations
* Jen, Rita, Evan – terms all expire with new elections

8. Article Update

* Not accepted by RRQ and LRA
* Rita sent a summary of the findings to *Reading Today* and has been in conversations with the editors of *Reading Today.* It seems likely that the summary will be published there.

9. Position Statement update

* Rita and Ginny have been involved with this. Looking to publish one position statement that combines reading specialists and literacy coaches.

Next Meeting: TBD