

BYLAWS OF THE
COSSATOT READING COUNCIL
ARKANSAS STATE READING COUNCIL

(Adopted August 12, 1991)

ARTICLE I - Name and Area Served

The council shall be called the Cossatot Reading Council, serving the area of Little River, Sevier, Howard, and Polk Counties.

ARTICLE II - Nature and Purposes

Section 1--Nature:

The Cossatot Reading Council shall be a professional organization for individuals who are genuinely concerned with the improvement of reading programs and teaching procedures, both developmental and remedial, for children and adults, and with providing adequate guidance in all situations in which reading serves as a vital aid to learning.

Section 2--Purposes: The purposes of the council shall be:

1) to encourage the study of reading problems in all educational levels; 2) to stimulate and promote research in developmental, creative, corrective, and remedial reading; 3) to study the various factors that influence progress in reading; 4) to publish the results of pertinent and significant investigations and practices; 5) to assist in the development of more adequate teacher-training programs; 6) to act as an intermediate clearing house for information relating to reading; 7) to disseminate knowledge helpful in the solution of problems related to reading; 8) to sponsor conferences and meetings planned to implement the purposes of the council and national association; 9) and to promote mutual understanding and cooperative work among educators in the elementary grades, junior high, high school, special areas, college, and leadership positions.

ARTICLE III - Membership and Dues

Section 1--Eligibility: Membership in the council shall be open to all persons engaged in the teaching or supervision of reading at any school level, to parents, and to all others interested in the purposes of the council.

Section 2--Active Members: Membership in the council shall become effective upon payment of council dues for the fiscal

year beginning July 1 and ending June 30.

Section 3--Council Dues: Dues for annual membership in the council shall be nine dollars (\$9.00). Dues are payable to the treasurer for the fiscal year on or after the preceding May 1 and shall apply to the year beginning July 1, and ending June 30.

Section 4--International Dues: Membership in the International Reading Association shall be strongly recommended. Dues to the International Reading Association, which provide members with voting and discount privileges and a journal subscription, may be paid to the council membership chairperson or directly to IRA Headquarters.

ARTICLE IV - Officers

Section 1--Officers: The elected officers of the council shall be a president, a vice president, a treasurer, a secretary, and a director of membership. Any member in good standing, who is also a member of the International Reading Association, is eligible to election as an officer of the council.

Section 2--Term of Office: The term of office of the vice president shall be one year. The vice president shall then automatically succeed to the office of president for a period of one year. The terms of treasurer, secretary, and director of membership shall be one year; however, these officers may serve a second term immediately following their first term in office.

Section 3--Time of Assuming Office: Each officer shall assume the duties of office following the spring election.

Section 4--Duties of Vice President: The vice president shall serve as chairperson of the Program Committee, shall coordinate internal programs, and fulfill such other duties as are assigned by the president. The vice president shall assume and perform the duties of the president in the event of the absence, incapacity, or resignation of the president. Should the office of president become vacant, the vice president shall become president immediately and shall serve the unexpired portion of the president's term in addition to the year for which the vice president was elected. In the event that, for any reason, the vice president is unable to assume the duties of president immediately, the director of membership shall assume the duties of the president.

Section 6--Duties of President: The president shall act as the executive officer of the council. The president shall preside at all meetings of the council, shall act ex officio as chairperson of the Executive Committee, and shall exercise general leadership and supervision over the affairs of the

council, implementing its purposes.

Section 7--Duties of Treasurer: The treasurer shall: 1) maintain accurate and up-to-date records; 2) have custody of the funds of the council which shall be deposited in the name of Cossatot Reading Council of the Arkansas State Reading Council; 3) sign checks on behalf of the council; 4) cooperate fully with an annual audit and, within thirty (30) days of retirement from office, turn over to the successor all funds, accounts, and books of the treasurer.

Section 8--Duties of Secretary: The secretary shall: 1) record the happenings of all council meetings and all meetings of the Executive Board; 2) keep a permanent book of the minutes of all meetings; 3) cooperate fully with the successor by turning over up-to-date records within thirty (30) days of retirement from office.

Section 9--Duties of Director of Membership: The director of membership shall: 1) notify total membership of the date, time, and place of all general meetings; 2) keep membership records updated; 3) maintain a current mailing list; 4) actively encourage membership in the local council; 5) cooperate fully with the successor by turning over an up-to-date record of correspondence within thirty (30) days of retirement from office.

Section 10--Interim Replacement: In the event of a vacancy in the office of vice president, treasurer, secretary, or director of membership, the Executive Board shall have the power to fill the vacancy until the next regular election.

ARTICLE V - Executive Board

Section 1--Function: The Executive Board shall exercise general supervision over the property and affairs of the council. It shall have the general power to administer the affairs of the council between council meetings and shall report its actions to the membership for approval.

Section 2--Composition: The Executive Board shall consist of all current officers and the chairpersons of the standing committees.

ARTICLE VI - Assembly

Section 1--Composition: The assembly shall consist of the Executive Board and all other members of the council.

Section 2--Function: The assembly shall be the legislative body of the Cossatot Reading Council and shall have full power and authority over the affairs of the council, within the limits set by these bylaws. It shall have authority to review decisions made by the Executive Board and to accept or reject them.

Section 3--Quorum: A quorum shall consist of 20% of all those eligible to vote in the assembly.

Section 4--Meetings: The assembly of the Cossatot Reading Council shall meet four (4) times a year.

Section 5--Notification of Meetings: At least two (2) weeks in advance of each meeting, the director of membership shall notify all members of the date, time, and place of the meeting.

Section 6--Amendments to the Bylaws: The assembly of the Cossatot Reading Council shall have the power to amend these bylaws as provided in Article XII.

ARTICLE VII - Nomination and Election of Officers

Section 1--Election: All officers shall be elected in the spring.

Section 2--Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee shall be composed of at least three (3) members appointed by the president and approved by the Executive Board. The committee shall prepare a slate of nominees annually. Each nominee must be a member of the International Reading Association. Advance consent from each nominee shall be secured by the Committee.

Section 3--Mode of Election: If the voting is to take place at a meeting of the council, the president shall give an opportunity to propose nominations from the floor for each office after the slate from the Nominating Committee has been presented including a short vita of each nominee. If there shall be more than one nominee for any office, voting shall be by ballot and a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. In case of a tie, a ballot for the two (2) highest nominees shall then be distributed. The results of the election shall then be announced.

The president shall be responsible for reporting the newly elected officers to IRA Headquarters and to the state/provincial president, vice president, and coordinator before June 1, using the official forms provided by IRA.

Section 4--Term of Office: Each elected officer shall assume the duties of office following the spring election and shall continue to serve for the duration of the term.

ARTICLE VIII - Committees

Section 1--Standing Committees: The standing committees shall be: Parent, Legislative, Publicity, Studies of Research, Literacy, and Newspapers in Education.

Section 2--Mode of Appointment and Terms of Standing Committees: The members of the standing committees shall be appointed by the president with the approval of the Executive Board and shall serve for the term of the president unless otherwise specified in the charge to the committee.

Section 3--Chairpersons of Standing Committees: The chairperson of each standing committee shall be appointed yearly by the president with the approval of the Executive Board.

Section 4--Special Committees: Special committees may be authorized from time to time by the Executive Board or members at a council meeting and shall serve for a specified period.

ARTICLE IX - Representation at the Annual Assemblies

Section 1--Representation Annual IRA Assembly:

Representation of Cossatot Reading Council at the Delegates Assembly of the International Reading Association shall be in accordance with the bylaws of the International Reading Association as specified in Article VI, Section 1, which reads in part as follows:

"Each local council of 10-50 members who have paid current dues to the [International Reading] Association shall be entitled to one delegate and an additional delegate for each 50 additional members who have paid current dues to the Association.... One person may represent only one council in the Assembly. A council may send an alternate for each delegate; an alternate may vote only when the delegate is absent."

Section 2--Representation Annual State/Provincial Assembly: Representation of the Cossatot Reading Council at the annual state/provincial assembly shall be in accordance with that specified by the bylaws of the state/provincial council.

ARTICLE X - Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the proceedings of this council, except in cases governed by the constitution, bylaws, and special rules adopted by this council.

ARTICLE XI - Dissolution

In case of the dissolution of this council, any assets remaining after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the council will revert to the International Reading Association.

ARTICLE XII - Amendments

Section 1--Origin: Amendments to the bylaws shall be proposed by 1) a quorum of the Executive Board; 2) the Bylaws

Committee; or 3) by a majority of the voting members present at a meeting of the council. All proposed amendments shall be sent to the Council Coordinator at IRA Headquarters for approval before presenting them to the members of adoption.

Section 2--Procedure for Amending: Amendments may be adopted by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present at a meeting of the council provided a quorum has been declared. (See Article VI, Section 3.) The amendments must have been presented first at the previous meeting, and/or the proposed amendments circulated to each voting member at least thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting at which the voting on the amendments is to take place.

Section 3--Incorporation: Amendments adopted as described in Section 2 shall be incorporated into these bylaws. Copies of all amendments shall immediately be sent to the Council Coordinator at IRA Headquarters and to the state/provincial president and coordinator.