



## Rochester Area Literacy Council Nominees for Executive Board 2017 – 2018



**President:** Lee Ann Townsend (elected 2016-17)

**Past President:** Cherie Gerych

### Running Unopposed

**Co-Presidents Elect:** Lynne Keefer & Jan Marchetti

**Vice President:** Joellen Maples

**Secretary:** Michelle Heckman

**Treasurer:** Jennifer Sweeney

**Co-Membership:** Maryanne Barrett & Kristen Driskill

*\*Regional Representatives are board appointed and presented after the election.*

### Biographical Information – Nominees:

#### **President: Lee Ann Townsend**



▪ **Lee Ann** is currently a K-5 Literacy Specialist and ELA RtI Coordinator with the Penfield Central School District. Additionally, she teaches as an Adjunct Professor, Department of Education and Human Development at SUNY Brockport. With 32 years of experience, Lee Ann has served as an elementary principal, classroom teacher, district ELA Coordinator, staff development trainer, lead teacher, enrichment specialist, and differentiation coach. She worked in Spencerport and Holley, NY; Greensboro, NC; and Plano, TX. As the President of RALC, Lee Ann will continue her active role on the Executive Board and her work as the Publicity Chairperson and Webmaster. Lee Ann enjoys participating in RALC events and being a part of an organization that brings inspiring educational professional development opportunities to area educators and fosters literacy education in our community. Lee Ann holds a Master of Science in Literacy Education and a Master of Science in Elementary Education from Nazareth College, a Master of Science in Educational Leadership from SUNY Brockport, and a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from the University of Texas. In addition to RALC, Lee Ann is an active member of the International Literacy Association (ILA) and the New York State Reading Association (NYSRA). She is the recipient of NYSRA's Council Service Award, 2016 and the Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching for New York State, 2004.

#### **Co-Presidents Elect: Lynne Keefer & Jan Marchetti**



▪ **Lynne Keefer** is a retired educator who served for thirty-one years in various roles: classroom teacher; reading specialist, literacy coach; mentor teacher; and coordinator of elementary English Language Arts & literacy specialists in the Greece Central School District. In addition, Lynne has taught many literacy classes as an adjunct professor at the College of Brockport and at St. John Fisher College.

She has served as co-president of the Rochester Area Literacy Council in 2012-13 and again in 2015-16 and as secretary from 2005-2007 and from 2008-09. Lynne most recently served as speaker chairperson for the NYSRA conference in November 2016. She has been a life-long member of the International Literacy Association and the New York State Reading Association. Literacy is her passion and she is committed to the Rochester Area Literacy Council in its mission of supporting strong literacy instruction for all children in the Rochester area. It is her firm belief that this organization should continue to provide a network for educators to learn and grow as professionals, to offer professional development opportunities and to support literacy development at the community level through service and programming.



▪ **Jan Marchetti** is a literacy specialist and teacher leader in the Greece Central School District in Rochester New York. She is passionate about writing and energized by the enthusiasm and ownership that students exhibit during writing workshop. She has facilitated staff development focused on a balanced literacy framework in numerous districts in New York State. She has been a literacy coach and staff developer in the Greece district for fifteen years. Prior to that, her teaching experience includes fifteen years as a classroom teacher at grades 3-6. In addition to her Master's Degree in Literacy from Nazareth College of Rochester, New York, she also holds a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from St. John Fisher College, also located in Rochester, where she received the Distinguished Leadership Award. Jan is an active member of the International Literacy Association (ILA), the New York State Reading Association (NYSRA), and is a board member of the Rochester Area Literacy Council (RALC). Jan has co-presented workshops on reading engagement, the impact of character writers on students' writing, and empowering students through writing at the local, state, and national levels.

#### **Vice President: Joellen Maples**



▪ **Joellen Maples, Ph.D.** currently serves as an Associate Professor in the Literacy Department at St. John Fisher College. Her career began as an inner city middle school reading teacher in Knoxville, TN where she taught for 13 years. In her current position, she teaches courses on diversity, critical literacy, reading in the content area, young adult literature, teaching literacy through technology, and the literacy capstone. She has presented at many national conferences and has been published in journals such as *The English Journal*, *Voices From the Middle*, and *The ALAN Review*. Her research interests include writing and presenting about young adult literature, critical literacy, and the use of technology in literature discussions. She is currently serving her third year on The Amelia Walden Committee. The Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award, presented annually by ALAN, is an award in the United States for a book that exemplifies literary excellence, widespread appeal, and a positive approach to life in young adult literature. She recently was awarded the 2016 Dr. Mark Szarejko Faculty Information Literacy Award recipient. This award is given by the Lavery Library to a St. John Fisher College faculty member who actively supports information literacy. Dr. Maples volunteers with her students at School 58 in RCSB by participating in a young adult book club every fall with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders and has her students participate in an after school literacy clinic in the spring. She loves reading young adult literature and sharing her love of reading with teachers and students.

### Secretary: Michelle Heckman



▪ **Michelle** has been RALC's secretary for the past two years. She is an ENL teacher at Harris Hill Elementary in Penfield. Previously, Michelle taught literacy in Rush-Henrietta and the city for three years. She has also acted as a consultant and educator at Röchling Tool and Mold teaching English. Her favorite part of working with ELLs is that she has the opportunity to learn about languages and cultures from all around the world. Michelle has been a member of RALC since she started her M.S. program at the University of Rochester's Warner School of Education. She attends many of the events organized by RALC and appreciates the considerable benefits of an organization that connects professionals dedicated to learning about and implementing best practices in the classroom.

### Treasurer: Jennifer Sweeney



▪ **Jennifer** is currently working as a Reading Specialist at Mendon Center Elementary School in Pittsford. She received her B.A. in Elementary Education (K-6) from Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania in May 2011 and her Master's Degree in Reading & Literacies from the Margaret Warner Graduate School of Education at the University of Rochester in March 2013. Sweeney has been an active member of the Rochester Area Literacy Council (RALC) and New York State Reading Association (NYSRA) for a few years and enjoyed going to the NYSRA Conference in Rochester, NY this past fall and the ILA Conference in July 2016. Sweeney is currently the RALC treasurer for 2016-2017. When she began as treasurer a few years ago, she established a computerized general ledger accounting system, which replaced manual systems that were antiquated and cumbersome. In college, Sweeney was the Treasurer of the Kappa Delta Sorority for three terms. There, she also replaced manual systems with a computerized general ledger accounting system. In high school, she was the Treasurer of her cheerleading team for two years. Sweeney has computer proficiency in Quick Books, Excel, Word, Publisher and Print Shop. She is detail oriented and maintains meticulous records. As a newly trained teacher, Sweeney brings with her the most recent pedagogy and innovative ideas. Her enthusiasm, both inside and outside of the classroom, and eagerness to continue to grow as a teacher and leader, continues to make her a perfect candidate for the position of Treasurer of RALC.

### Co-Membership Chairs:



▪ **Maryanne Barrett** is an educator with over a decade of experience with teaching reading and writing in and outside of the classroom. She has dedicated her career to supporting students of all ages become lifelong readers and writers. Before moving to Rochester, she was employed at Jamesville-Dewitt Middle School as a 7th grade Language Arts teacher as well as editor of the school literary magazine, homebound tutor in all subject areas and an ACT and SAT instructor for the YMCA. Moving to Rochester allowed for professional growth and new experiences including tutoring students in writing in a virtual setting through technology startup BrainChase, mentoring and supporting teachers in the classroom, and working with refugee students through Saints Place. Maryanne has continued her passion for classroom teaching and learning by becoming a part of the adjunct faculty at Monroe Community College and Roberts Wesleyan College. These appointments have allowed for Maryanne to leverage her passion for technology in both a traditional and non-traditional classroom setting. Maryanne continues her commitment to

promoting literacy in the community by being a long time member of the International Literacy Association (ILA) and the New York State Reading Association (NYSRA). In Syracuse, she was an active member of the Central New York Reading Council and was sought out to present at a number of events including “Books and Brunch” and “Literature Circles in the Classroom.” Since living in Rochester, Maryanne has been a member of the Rochester Area Literacy Council. Maryanne is the incumbent Regional Representative on the Board and also assists with the RALC’s social media presence. Maryanne is a graduate of Le Moyne College with a Bachelor’s Degree in English Education and a focus on special education. Subsequent to Le Moyne College Maryanne received her Master’s Degree in Literacy from Syracuse University where she graduated with the Research Scholar distinction. She resides in Penfield, NY with her husband and two children.



▪ **Dr. Kristen Driskill** is an Assistant Professor of Teacher Education at Roberts Wesleyan College. She is also the Director of the Pathway to Teaching Program. Dr. Driskill has spent many years working in various school districts, both local and abroad, in the areas of literacy, special education, school improvement, and curriculum and instruction. Prior to moving to higher education, she spent time as a special educator of grades Pre-K through 6, reading specialist for grades K-8, literacy coach for grades K-12, and professional development specialist for both teachers and administrators in a range of school districts. In addition, Dr. Driskill led many area teachers, administrators, and districts to revise curricula when implementing the Common Core Standards, including helping to lead the effort to create a Regional ELA Curriculum. Since arriving at Roberts Wesleyan College, Dr. Driskill has taught in various programs, focusing on literacy, planning, adolescent literacy, and curriculum and instruction. Dr. Driskill has also worked with other faculty to update various programs to best reflect current practices in the field. Since becoming the Director of the Pathway to Teaching Program in 2016, Dr. Driskill has led collaborative efforts to consistently revise and grow the program. Dr. Driskill’s experience in the field is diverse and current; therefore, she works to ensure students in the PTT program are well prepared for the demands of the teaching profession today through both coursework and field experiences. Students are well supported to learn about and experience what teachers in classrooms do by Dr. Driskill’s balance of rigor in instruction and supporting adult learners throughout the PTT Program.