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**Massachusetts Reading Association Records,
1971 - Current
(MSS-002)**

*Finding Aid Compiled by
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Volume: 8.25 linear feet (13 document boxes)

Acquisition: All items in this manuscript group were donated to Bridgewater State University by the Massachusetts Reading Association in May 2010 with additional material added yearly after creation.

Access: Access to this record group is unrestricted.

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Massachusetts Reading Association Administrative History

The Massachusetts Reading Association, or the MRA, is a professional non-profit organization of individuals whose primary purpose is to improve the quality and level of literacy in the state of Massachusetts. The MRA is an affiliate of the International Reading Association, a worldwide literacy organization with a network of 300,000 educators in 99 countries. The MRA promotes literacy for all learners through professional development, research, publications, and advocacy for the literacy community. Some of the ways advocacy is met is through an annual state conference; disseminating best literacy practices to educators and parents; advocating for literacy issues through legislation, and through collaboration with other organizations with similar goals.

The MRA was officially chartered in 1969. The organization consists of a Board of Directors and elected officials. The organization's main publication, the Massachusetts Primer, is published twice yearly and is aimed at promoting and advocating literacy.

Scope and Content Note

This is an open collection that will periodically be added to. The collection is broken down into six different series based on subject. Due to being an open collection, the box numbers for each series begin with box 1. As of 2018 there were 13 boxes of records in the collection.

Series Descriptions

Series 1: Governance and Administration, 1 box

Contains MRA constitutions, by-laws, meeting minutes, membership information, and strategic planning material.

Series 2: General Publications, 3 boxes

Nearly all this series consists of the MRA publication the *Massachusetts Primer*, published twice yearly.

Series 3: Conferences and Workshops, 1 box

This series contains information and collected material for the MRA's annual conference going back to 1971. Programs, photographs, scrapbooks, anniversary events, and other related material of the conferences are included.

Series 4: Advocacy, Committees, and Individuals, 2 boxes

Ephemera, MRA historical information, and information on specific individuals involved with the organization make up this series. The last two folders of the series contain photographs.

Series 5: Related Organizations, 1 box

Contains material about other organizations that deal with literacy awareness, such as the International Reading Association and the New England Reading Association.

Series 6: Awards and Items, 4 boxes

This four box series is made up of three flat file boxes containing a group charter, numerous awards and state proclamations, and promotional items such as tote bags and tee-shirts. One box contains folders of awards that were paper and not framed or oversize. All the awards were presented to the MRA.

**Massachusetts Reading Association
Box and Folder List****Series 1: Governance and Administration****Box 1****Folder**

1. Constitution and By-Laws, 1976-2017, undated
2. Massachusetts State Coordinator Materials, 1980-2004
3. Meeting Minutes, 1974
4. Meeting Minutes, 1975
5. Meeting Minutes, 1976
6. Meeting Minutes, 1975-1976
7. Meeting Minutes, 1977
8. Meeting Minutes, 1978
9. Meeting Minutes, 1979
10. Meeting Minutes, 1979

11. Meeting Minutes, 1980
12. Meeting Minutes, 1981
13. Meeting Minutes, 1981
14. Meeting Minutes, 1982
15. Meeting Minutes, 1982-1983
16. Meeting Minutes, 1983
17. Meeting Minutes, 1984
18. Meeting Minutes, 1984
19. Meeting Minutes, 1984
20. Meeting Minutes, 1984
21. Meeting Minutes, 1985
22. Meeting Minutes, 1985-1986
23. Meeting Minutes, 1986
24. Meeting Minutes, 1987
25. Meeting Minutes, 1987, (Some loose documents may relate to 1986)
26. Meeting Minutes, 1988-1989
27. Meeting Minutes, 1988-1989
28. Meeting Minutes, 1989
29. Meeting Minutes, 1990
30. Meeting Minutes, 1991
31. Meeting Minutes, 1992
32. Meeting Minutes, 1993
33. Meeting Minutes, 1993

Box 2

Folder

- 1a. Meeting Minutes, 1994
- 1b. Meeting Minutes, 1995
- 1c. Meeting Minutes, 1996
2. Meeting Minutes, 1997
3. Meeting Minutes, 1998
4. Meeting Minutes, 1999
5. Meeting Minutes, 2000
6. Meeting Minutes, 2001
7. Meeting Minutes, 2002
8. Meeting Minutes, 2002
9. Meeting Minutes, 2003
10. Meeting Minutes, 2004
11. Meeting Minutes, 2005
12. Meeting Minutes, 2006
13. Meeting Minutes, 2009
14. Meeting Minutes, 2013
15. Meeting Minutes, 2016
16. Meeting Minutes, 2017
17. Membership Information, 1992-2000, undated

18. Strategic Plan Report, c. 2005
19. MRA Articles of Organization from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, January 1998

Series 2: General Publications

Box 1

Folder

1. MRA Connection, 1995-2005
2. Massachusetts Primer, 1973-1976
3. Massachusetts Primer, 1977-1980
4. Massachusetts Primer, 1981-1985
5. Massachusetts Primer, 1986-1988
6. Massachusetts Primer, 1989-1990
7. Massachusetts Primer, 1991-1992
8. Massachusetts Primer, 1993-1994
9. Primer, 1995-1997
10. Primer, 1998-1999

Box 2

Folder

1. Primer, 2001/2002
2. Primer, 2002/2003-2004/2005
3. Primer, 2005/2006-2008/2009
4. Primer, 2010/2011-2011/2012
5. Primer, 2012/2013

Box 3

Folder

1. Primer, 2013/2014
2. Primer, 2014/2015
3. Primer, 2016-2018
4. Primer, 2019 (No. 1 only)

Series 3: Conferences and Workshops

Box 1

Folder

1. Annual Conference: Call for Proposals, 1990-1993
2. Annual Conference: Contribution Acknowledgment Cards, 1980-1992
3. Annual Conference: Flyers, 1982-1994
4. Annual Conference: Pre-Conference Information, 1971-1981
5. Annual Conference: Pre-Conference Information, 1982-1998
6. Annual Conference: Pre-Conference Information, 2002-2006
7. Annual Conference: Programs, 1974-1981
8. Annual Conference: Programs, 1982-1991
9. Annual Conference: Programs, 1992-1998

10. Annual Conference: Programs, 1999-2003
- 11a. Annual Conference: Programs, 2004-2010
- 11b. Annual Conference: Programs, 2011-2012
- 11c. Annual Conference: Programs, 2016-2018
12. Annual Conference: Photographs, 1975-1977
13. Annual Conference: Photographs, 1978
14. Annual Conference: Photographs, 1979
15. Annual Conference: Photographs, 1980-1997
16. Annual Conference: Photographs, 2004-2005
17. Annual Conference: Photographs, undated
18. Annual Conference: Scrapbook, 1972-1984
19. Annual Conference: 25th Anniversary Celebration, bookmarks, 1994
20. Annual Conference: 25th Anniversary Celebration, Correspondence and Planning Materials, 1993-1994
21. Annual Conference: 25th Anniversary Celebration, "History of Past Presidents," undated
22. Annual Conference: 25th Anniversary Celebration, suggestions, 1994
23. 30th Anniversary Celebration, Scrapbook, 1999
24. Annual Conference: Correspondence, Press Releases, Certificates, and other, 1981-2006
25. Annual Conference: Carol Spafford materials, 2002
26. Annual Conference: Conference Guide, 2006
27. Leadership Workshop, 1991-2009

Series 4: Advocacy, Committees, and Individuals

Box 1

Folder

1. Celebrate Reading Committee, 1990-1994
2. Contests, c. 1984
3. Diversity Committee, 2002-2003, undated
4. Historical Information, Helen Forsgard, display, 1996-2006
5. Historical Information, Helen Forsgard, writings, undated
6. Historical Information, "Ye Olde Briefe History," 1973-1980
7. Legislative Advocacy, 1985-2003, (Includes Letters from John Kerry and Ted Kennedy)
8. Literacy / CAGS, 2003, (Includes e-mail addresses)
- 8a. Literacy Leaders (Directors of Reading), 2001-2011
9. Newspaper in Education Community, 1984-2002
10. Parents and Reading Committee, 1989, 1992-1994, 1999-2000, undated
11. Scholarships and Grants, 1976-2005
12. Studies and Research Committee: Publications, 1989-2007
13. Website, undated
14. Teachers as Readers: Publications, 1996-1997
15. Teachers as Writers: Publications, 1997, 2002
16. Local Councils, 1984-1993, undated
17. Special Interest Groups, 2002, 2007
18. MRA Ephemera, undated
19. Barbara Bush, Letter and Photograph, 1990

Box 2

Folder

1. Individual Members – Sylvia D. Brown, 1977
2. Lori DiGis, 2011, (Includes Letter from Governor Deval Patrick)
3. Norma Farber, 1955-1980
4. Helen A. Forsgard, 1979-2009
5. Henry Hobaica, Photographs, undated
6. Individual Award – Diane L. Lowe, 2011
7. Julie Marek, 1982
8. Elaine Bukowiecki, 2006
9. Joan Tuttle, 1989-1993
10. Joan Vincent, 1985
11. Evelyn L. Wall, 1992-1993
12. Nancy Witherell, 2012, undated
13. Various Members, c. 2006 (BSC Grad Program in Reading Materials)
14. Photographs – “Presidents, etc,” 1975, 1977, undated
15. Photographs of People Unidentified, undated

Series 5: Related Organizations

Box 1

Folder

1. International Reading Association Legislative Material, 1981-1989
2. International Reading Association Legislative Update, 1983-1987
3. International Reading Association Directory, 1982-1983
4. Handbook for Legislative Advocacy in the United States (by International Reading Association), 1983
5. International Reading Association Miscellaneous Publications and Promotional Material, 1985, 1991, 2017, undated
6. International Reading Association Non-Massachusetts State Councils and Chapters, 1981-1982
7. Non- International Reading Association Reading Associations, 1981-1997
8. ESEA Chapter 1 of Title I, Program Directive, 1990
9. New England Reading Association, 1985
10. General Reading Skills Material, undated

Series 6: Awards and Objects

Box 1

- MRA Charter (framed), May 15, 1978
- IRA Horizon Award, 1997
- IRA President’s Cup Award, 1999

Box 2

- Massachusetts Senate Award, 1979
- IRA President's Award, 1985, 1986
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts Proclamations, 1984, 1989, 1990, 1993, 1994, 1998
- IRA President's Cup Award, 2001
- IRA Horizon Award, 2010

Box 3

Folder

1. MRA Achievement Awards, 1986, 1993, 2002, 2005, 2010, 2011, undated
2. MRA Advocacy Awards, 2005-2007, undated
3. MRA Awards of Excellence, 1989, 1993, 1999, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2016, 2018, undated
4. President's Award, 1993, 1999
5. Service Award, 1985
6. Twentieth Year Commendation Award, 1989
7. Twenty-Five Year Commendation Award, 1994

Box 4

- Tee-shirt
- Tote Bags
- Plastic Bags and other bags