**[LRA Legislative Advocacy Report (March](http://lareading.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/LRA-Legislative-Advocacy-Report-March-2014.pdf)** 2018)

Submitted by Gerri Settoon

Legislative Advocacy Chairperson

The ILA Advocacy Award application was sent in on December 15 for the year 2016 - 2017. The award packet application uses the prior year information. Thanks to all our caring and dedicated council members who helped by scheduling legislators and community leaders to their council meetings or inviting them to functions at their schools. The award is not possible without these events. Please keep up the good work in legislative matters by again inviting these leaders to your events. Not only do you gain their support of your literacy organization, but you help our members to become more proactive in legislative matters.

We have been fortunate for the past several years to obtain the ILA Advocacy Award. It could not have been obtained without the proactive engagement of our state and local council officers, local council members, conference committees, and Advocacy Committee members. We need legislative and community information for the 2018 - 2019 year. We cannot secure the Award again unless we have your help.

Do remember to invite a invite a legislator, community leader or public official to your next meeting or to your school for functions such as Young Authors Awards Celebration, Literacy Week, Spring Council Awards Dinner, and next year’s African-American Read-in-Chain, Read for the Record, Open House, International Literacy Day, etc. If possible, schedule a Breakfast or Tea to honor their literacy contributions to your council, school, district, or to our state. As a benefit to you, they may decide to join your council. Not only do they increase your membership roster but they can help you with advocacy achievements. These influential members may also help you with grants, donations, prizes, and books for children. Partnerships can be a great benefit to a council. Let me know if you have interactions in your council with a community, state, or national leader! Thanks for your hard work in growing your membership and contributing to the achievement of the IRA Advocacy Award!

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