> Reimagining our future, reigniting our purpose, to leave a legacy of excellence!

## President's Project

Greetings Chapter Presidents,
I'd like to propose a President's Project. This initiative is not a new idea but a continuum of past president, Ingrid Williams's initiative. Childrens literacy is paramount to future success and the keystone to all the disciplines we embody as educators as well as an overall quality of an individual's life! Book Smiles (booksmiles.org) is the organization we previously worked with, and they have impressively expanded their outreach since we last worked with them. They most recently attended a NJEA Professional development Conference and offered books for the educators attending!

The objective would be to collect gently used children's books, pre-school to $5^{\text {th }}$ grade, to be redistributed to underprivileged children through Book smiles. I'm in need of a chairperson/persons so if any of you wonderful educators have an individual in mind, please let me know but check with them first. The more hands the better! The main concern is delivering the books which can be done in small drop-offs to the sites listed in the attachment or have a larger drop off (which means collecting \& driving to Pennsauken).

## Timeline:

## September:

I will make a presentation to everyone during the business meeting.
The presidents will discuss how to best market it to our members and give suggestions on how to collect the books. They will present ideas on methods of collecting the books from their chapters and distributing the books to Book smiles as well as other institutions. As an example, Nemours Hospital for Children in DE has a book garden. Ronald McDonald specifically asks for children's books, especially written in the Spanish language. I'm sure there are other organizations worthy of our support.

As stated, there is an organization in Pennsauken, South Jersey called Book Smiles (booksmiles.org) that is already collecting books and distributing them to schools. We could give them all or some of the books that we collect, but hopefully we could find other organizations in the northern and central part of the state that do the same thing. Maybe some of our members would want to take them into schools where they teach? Or into schools where they used to teach? There are so many possibilities. I know some of the chapters already collect books and if they want, they can continue to do what they have already been doing. I would just ask that they keep a count on the number of books they collect and distribute so we can "count" their numbers toward our total.

## October-May

Have chapters collect the books. The committee will collect the books from the chapters throughout the year as needed, at state meetings and at the state convention and sort them for distribution.

More thoughts:
Publicity on Instagram, Facebook and on our state website will be important. Scouting yard sales and asking friends and family members who have children's books just sitting on their shelves will be great places to start.

Perhaps we can have a competition between chapters?? Use the total number of books a chapter collects and divide that by the number of chapter members to get an average number of books collected per member. It can't be based on the total number of books the chapters collect because the bigger chapters would have a distinct advantage. Maybe each chapter could recognize the person who collects the highest number of books for their chapter?

Thoughts? Suggestions?

## See EVENTS Below!!

## TEACHER BOOK PICK-UP REGISTRATION

(2023-2024 School Year)

## Book Pick-up is a 2 part registration process.

First, use the form below to make your registration donation that activates your 2023-24 (July 1, 2023-July 1, 2024) subscription to pick up books for your classroom and students.

Second, when you receive your emailed confirmation, click the link for Sign Up Genius to sign up for your time slot!

## Your yearly registration fee is $\mathbf{\$ 2 5}$ !

Consider making an additional gift to support our operating expenses.
We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit and exist solely through the generous gifts of our donors.

## September 2023

September 14th! Save the date! Back to School Giveaway. The first 100 teachers to sign up can take 100 books during this special evening, filled with food and fun! Get onto our social media so you can be among the first registered teachers to sign up!

# BOOKSMILES BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT 10,000 Books for 100 Registered* Teachers! 

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023 4:30-6:30 PM

Join us at the BookSmiles Book Bank for a Back to School event for our registered teachers.

*If you have not yet registered for the 2023-2024 school year, scan the QR code to update your registration to be able to grab 1 of 100 available spots for this event!

Due to limited spacing, only 100 registered teachers can attend. We will post the Sign Up Genius form for this event on Tuesday, August 29, 2023 at 7:30 PM

50 slots available 4:30-5:30 pm
50 slots available 5:30-6:30 pm

The BookSmiles Book Bank is located at 7300 N. Crescent Blvd., Unit 10, Pennsauken, NJ

