

Dear Attendee,

I welcome you to the Northern Ohio Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators 9th Annual Conference!

This year we strived to grow as a region, while providing events that would motivate, educate, and inspire attendees to move forward on their writing and illustrating career paths. I am proud to acknowledge our success. Currently, we have 315 active members, an evident growth from 259 active members in March of 2010. Among these members are writers and illustrators at all stages in their careers. Among these members are some of the most gifted and knowledgeable people I know. Among these members are some of the most generous people I know.

Generous...an understatement!

A true word can't be said for the generosity that I have witnessed over the past few years. It is one thing for me, being the Regional Advisor, to neglect my family, my writing, and my personal agenda in order to perform my obligations to the members of the Northern Ohio SCBWI and National SCBWI. I am a volunteer, but a volunteer that truly believes in this organization and what it stands for. I am aware of my time restraints and the need to prioritize. It is another thing to ask an individual without the Regional Advisor title to do the same. Yet, I've found I don't have to ask. My Executive Board, volunteers like myself, are Northern Ohio SCBWI members who go above and beyond in their efforts to assist me. And they go above and beyond in their efforts to assist you. I am truly grateful for all of them and their devotion to this organization. Below I've listed their names and titles, please help me thank them!

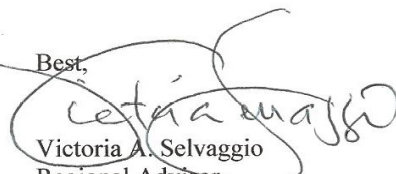
Laurie Lazzaro Knowlton, Regional Advisor Emeritus
Jean Daigneau, Active Former Regional Advisor
Sophie Cayless, Illustrator Coordinator
Gloria Reichert, Membership and Volunteer Coordinator
Denise Parsons, Events Coordinator
Lisa Amstutz, Website Coordinator and Ohio Listserve Moderator
Tiffany Laufer, Marketing Coordinator
Rhenee McGraw Harris, Publication Coordinator
Emily Levin, Conference Committee
Carole Calladine, Conference Committee

Non-board Positions:

Anne Beekman, Website Designer
Sherry Carnahan, On-line Registration Designer
Pete Selvaggio, Spouse, Never-ending Support and Compliant Volunteer (He can't say "NO")

In addition to thanking these members, I thank you for your continued support! May this event help further your knowledge and encourage you to continue pushing yourself toward your publication goals.

Best,


Victoria A. Selvaggio
Regional Advisor
Northern Ohio SCBWI