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## Biography:

**Doris Walker-Dalhouse** I am honored to be nominated as a candidate for the position of Vice-President-Elect of the Literacy Research Association. For the past 19 years LRA has been the professional community in which my thinking about literacy has been challenged. My thinking about literacy has also been expanded by the knowledge shared and by my interactions with established and emerging scholars engaged in important literacy research using multiple paradigms.

I am currently Professor of Literacy in the Department of Educational Policy & Leadership at Marquette University. I retired from Minnesota State University Moorhead, Moorhead, MN, as Professor Emerita of Literacy after 21 years of employment. As an African- American former faculty member and elementary teacher in the Moorhead, MN/ Fargo, ND area, I appreciated and grew from the experiences of working and living in a community of Native Americans, Germans, Latinx, Scandinavians, and African-Americans. I continue to grow in my understanding of the needs of a large urban community in Milwaukee with multiple forms of diversity, as well as, working in a Catholic, Jesuit institution guided by the principle of Cura Personalis or care for the whole person.

I completed my undergraduate degree in elementary education at Kentucky State University and masters and doctoral degrees at The Ohio State University. I am fortunate to have been given the opportunity to present at the LRA Annual Conferences and to serve LRA as a member of the Board of Directors (2006-2008), Co-chair of the Race, Ethnicity, and Multilingualism Committee (2003-2006); Chair, Outstanding Student Award Committee (2015-2018); Member, Outstanding Student Research Award Committee (2013-2015), Fry Book Award Committee (2008-2012); Member, Editorial Review Board of the Journal of Literacy Research (2016-2018: 2019-present); Co-Chair Area 8: Literacy Learning & Practice in Multilingual and Multicultural Settings (2013-2015); and one of three Co-Chairs of the Culturally Responsive Literacy Instruction Study Group (renamed in 2019 as the Culturally Sustaining Literacy Pedagogy Study Group (2014- present).

Throughout my career I have focused on the socio-cultural aspects of literacy. My research, conducted in after-school reading programs with preservice teachers and struggling readers and their families, focuses on sociocultural factors in the literacy development of ethnically and culturally diverse learners. I have published in numerous professional journals including Teaching and Teacher Education, Negro Educational Review, Childhood Education, The Reading Teacher,



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Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy (JAAL), Literacy Research & Instruction (LRI); Reading and Writing Quarterly, Journal of Reading Education, and Young Children; co-authored book chapters and articles in research yearbooks and coauthored *Be That Teacher!: Breaking the Cycle for Struggling Readers* (Teachers' College Press).

### **Candidate Statement:**

In a review of my position statement developed when I ran for the LRA Board of Directors in 2013, I stated and still believe that LRA is a unique organization recognized for its leadership in establishing the research agenda in literacy nationally and internationally, disseminating research through its quality publications and by shaping, supporting and changing educational practices and policies through the high standards of research it espouses. I believe that our organization strives to provide an inclusive intellectual forum for civil and engaging discussion of different research paradigms, domains, philosophies, and practices.

I will work tirelessly and with a sense of fairness, respect for others, care in acknowledging differences in opinions and experiences of others and a sense of purpose to meet the aims of Governance, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, and Communications specified in the LRA Strategic Plan. With the help of the LRA community, I will use my voice to:

1. Promote the advancement of our mission through civil discourse and inclusive practices. I vow to listen intently and act purposefully in the best interest of the LRA membership to both support and expand the range of diversity among members within LRA. I challenge each of us to listen more and engage in dialogue together that acknowledges our past and encourages collaboration and unifies us in achieving our shared vision. My previous experiences serving on the Board of Directors of the Literacy Research Association (LRA), International Reading Association (IRA), and Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers (ALER) makes me believe that I can work well with others to “engage in decision-making that facilitates a relationally healthy, financially sound, and publically visible organization with the larger goal of establishing a voice in the national conversation about the role of literacy research in social change.”
2. Advocate for policies and practices that provide greater paths for leadership, opportunities for research collaboration and publication, informal mentoring networks, and additional seed research grants to support the work of scholars at all levels of career development. To accomplish this goal, I think that it is important that we review current policies, procedures, and programs to provide any additional support needed to



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increase their effectiveness in meeting our mission. I believe that we must also determine if new initiatives need to be considered that will better prepare us to communicate the relevance of our research in helping to meet the challenges faced by educators at all levels in multiple school settings who are faced with the realities of changing political policies and social issues.

3. Support the greater use of print and digital platforms to communicate research focused on new and emerging question in literacy with the public and the larger professional community; share research in support of social changes by impacting policies and practices in literacy development and instruction in national and international settings; translates reading research to make it more accessible for policy makers and the public to be used in advocating for education reform in literacy instruction for students across all forms of diversity. If I am fortunate enough to be elected, I pledge that I will honor my commitment to serve you with integrity, honestly, and care for all in supporting the continued growth and development of LRA as a premier literacy research organization.