



International Baccalaureate

Association of Rocky Mountain Schools

IBARMS News

Spring 2008

April 18 Year-end meeting



Soon we'll issue Evites for our April 18, 2008 meeting, so watch your inboxes to RSVP. Our location is the same as February's: [CopperFields Event Chateau](#) on the I-70 frontage road between Wadsworth and Harlan in Arvada. This is an important meeting where Active Members elect executive officers for the 2008-2009 school year, so please make sure your voice is heard.

Time to think about 2008-2009 membership

At the April meeting, we'll have available invoices for 2008-2009 membership dues (available now [here](#)). You'll be able to pay for dues from either year's budget, choosing which way works best for you.



Minutes from February meeting for approval at April meeting



Please visit the blog for [minutes](#) from:

- The [Executive Committee meeting](#)
- The [General Session](#) (please read so you can vote on approval of minutes)
- The [Diploma Breakout session](#)
- The [MYP Breakout session](#)
- The [PYP Breakout session](#)

Keystone 2008 MYP and PYP Workshops

I can almost feel the June sunshine on my shoulders and see the blue skies above as we're preparing for the Keystone conference June 29-July 2. However, the six-foot snowdrifts keep blocking my view!

We have nearly 500 participants in this year's MYP and PYP workshops, with folks coming from around the world. We also have great presenters from North America who are already preparing great lessons. This conference is going to be the best one yet!

If you haven't yet signed up, go to ibarms.org to see if there are spaces available in the workshop of your choice (MYP Visual Arts Level 2 and PYP Admin/Coord Level 3 still have openings). If you miss out on the 2008 workshop, not to worry--we are signed up with Keystone through 2012. See you in June, Nanci



Notes from the President



At the February IBARMS meeting we had the pleasure of hearing outgoing IBNA regional director Brad Richardson discuss the evolution of the IB program during his nearly quarter century involvement with the organization. Brad discussed how IB went from a fairly elitist program designed primarily for 11th and 12th graders at private international schools to the vision of broad access we know the programs for today. Although myths about the IB continue to abound, its global reach and accessibility (in North America, at least) cannot be doubted.

IBARMS has undergone a similar evolution over the past decade. In the late 90s, we were a group of ten or so Diploma coordinators around table at Piccolo's discussing exam results and dealing with internal assessment issues, all of us looking to Suzi Geimer, the patron saint of IB in the Rocky Mountain region, for guidance. After seeing the direction that organizations like the Florida League of IB Schools (FLIBS) and the California IB Organization (CIBO) were taking in offering workshops and lobbying for IB legislation, we decided to get a bit more organized.

We adopted a constitution and elected officers in 2000, and the following year established ourselves as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. IBARMS began offering 'roundtables' as informal professional development and networking opportunities to our members. We also began offering 'orientation seminars' for interested schools in the area, as well as informational meetings about the Diploma program for universities in the region. In 2002, we began lobbying for university recognition with the Colorado state legislature, and we successfully passed HB 1108 in 2003, which guaranteed at least 24 semester hours for IB diploma holders at Colorado institutions of higher learning. Wyoming schools were able to use this precedent to influence similar treatment from their state universities, and the Texas IB Schools (TIBS) used this legislation as a model for their own similar bill.

At that point we were still a diploma-centric organization, but that soon changed. IBARMS was one of the first 'subregional' groups in the world to officially recognize the MYP and PYP programs in our area, ensuring representation on our executive board from these growing programs. We also pioneered workshops that spanned the K-12 continuum and tried to make meaningful connections among the three IB programs. In June of 2005, we were authorized to hold our first official teacher training workshop for MYP in Breckenridge. We moved to our current location of Keystone the following June, and we will host our fourth such workshop this summer. We added PYP training this year, and we will be responsible for training over 500 teachers at the upcoming workshop.

We now have more than 60 members in three states in all three IB programs. We continue to expand our roundtables and seminar offerings, and have begun bringing in guest speakers like Brad Richardson, Loung Ung and Helene Tremblay to our general meetings, broadening the scope of our professional development services to our members. In the past couple of years, we have helped set up student summits, allowing our students to get together to further the IB mission, we offer community service project grants and scholarship opportunities, and we have an interactive website and newsletter to further inform our members.

We are able to do all of this through your involvement and support, without which none of this is possible. As we transition to a new leadership team for next year, I encourage all of you to become more involved in IBARMS. Volunteer on one of our committees, offer to host a roundtable or help out with one of our workshops. This is your organization, and we need your active participation as we continue to grow!

Roger Dowd, IBARMS President