

**Minutes of the Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English Language Arts
Executive Board Meeting
Saturday, February 9, 2003
Holiday Inn, Stevens Point, WI**

I. Call to Order

Debbie Kinder called the meeting to order at 8:40 A.M. Members present included Debbie Kinder, Marti Matyska, Lynn Aprill, Jacki Martindale, Chris Van Hoof, Bonnie Frechette, Trista Dauk, Lydia Longwell Lewis, John Kurschner, Ellen Last, Eric Dimmitt, Mari Sue Bethke, Cindy Johnson, JoAnne Katzmarek, Bill Schang, Scott Oates, Jim Vollmer, Tom Scott, John Zbikowski, and Ruth Wood.

II. Secretary's Report

Bonnie Frechette moved to accept the September 14, 2002 minutes with corrections, and Mari Sue Bethke seconded the motion. The motion passed. Spelling corrections included Zibikowski, and Dauk-not Smith.

III. Treasurer's Report

Scott Oates reported that the budget is on target at this point in the year, and he reminded the group that \$10,000 was placed into CDs last spring. Last year's convention did not make money, but it was not a loss either. Debbie Kinder encouraged district directors to spend the money allocated to them.

IV. Committee Reports

- A. District Director Liaison: Mari Sue Bethke reported on the Friday night director's meeting. Cindy Johnson was welcomed as a new director, and district events and future plans were shared. Mari Sue Bethke and Mary Graber will be looking for directors to host rooms at the WCTELA convention. This would involve introducing the speaker, reporting problems, etc. Once the program has been finalized, directors can sign up for sessions they plan to attend, and hosts will be recruited for the remaining sessions. It is likely that this process will be finalized at the executive board meeting on Thursday night prior to the convention. An updated list of district directors was distributed and corrections were made. JoAnne Katzmarek will try to find someone to represent District 9.
- B. Membership: Trista Dauk agreed to chair this committee, and she reported on the following: a detachable card for individual member's record keeping has been designed, the design ideas will be forwarded to Judy Knoll for inclusion with renewal forms, and Trista will get a list of which schools belong to which CESA from Carol Conway-Gerhardt or from Ellen Last at DPI
- C. Publicity: Publicity is taken care of by the convention planners and the membership committee; therefore, the board decided there is no need for this to be a separate committee.
- D. Publications
 1. Update-Debbie Kinder explained that Roxanne Biffert is willing to continue as the editor, but she is currently working on National Board certification and did not have the time to put the winter issue together, so the convention preview was sent without an *Update*. Debbie indicated that the next *Update* should be published after the convention. Tom Scott expressed concern about the convention previews being bulk mailed to schools rather than being sent to specific individuals. Scott Oates will attempt to track down what happened. In the meantime, Tom Scott will send the preview information to John Zbikowski so it can be put on the website, and directors can send it out as a link to others. Scott Oates suggested that the president draft a letter explaining why there will not be a winter *Update* and advertising the Pooley Award. John Zbikowski also noted that the Pooley information needs to be updated on the website.
 2. Wisconsin English Journal-Ruth Wood reported that there was no fall issue because not enough material was submitted. She is still looking for successful lessons in writing for the next issue, and those ideas should be sent to Ruth as word documents. The deadline for this material is March 1. Ruth explained a grant proposal that includes visiting districts, highlighting their work, and celebrating good teaching. Ruth Wood and David Beard from UWRF will spearhead the effort and are currently looking for funding sources. The cost of publication is WCTELA's current contribution to the project and additional financial backing will be discussed and formalized at the May board meeting.

3. Website-John Zbikowski reported that he has posted the most recent issue of the *Update*, and he will post the convention preview information after he receives it from Tom Scott. If you have any feedback on the website, you should email John.
4. Wisconsin Authors Video-Bill Schang gave an update on the progress of the video. Ben Logan was scheduled for a fall shoot, but he fell ill and the shoot is being rescheduled. Marti Matyska organized some footage of Native Americans which was shot in the fall. Eric Dimmitt has agreed to help provide an urban perspective to the project, and Mari Sue Bethke is compiling a packet of supplementary materials.
- E. Professional Issues-Debbie Kinder reported that she has not received a response to her letters objecting to teacher candidate exams. Contacting Governor Doyle's office may be the next tactic.
- F. Censorship/Intellectual Freedom-Emily Tymus attended the conference last year, and we are looking for someone to attend this year.
- G. Conference on English Leadership-At the convention there will be a joint meeting of CEE and CEL on Thursday afternoon.
- H. Wisconsin Conference for English Education-Debbie Kinder reported that the group is gearing up to work on content guidelines and NCATE visits. The group is also working to get more educators attending the Thursday afternoon meeting in May.
- I. Archivist-No report available

V. Liaison Reports

- A. DPI Liaison Report-Ellen Last reported on the following:
 - Implementation of the ELA guide continues with CESA presentations.
 - Standards are about to be reprinted, so if you notice any technical errors, let Ellen know.
 - NCTE has taken a strong stance opposed to the reading approach required by ESEA as specified in the resolution passed unanimously at the NCTE convention.
 - ELA assessments continue. Oral language assessment was piloted in grades 4 and 8, but statewide results are not available yet.
 - Standard setting for the enhanced WKCE will take place next week. New cut scores will be established.
 - PI-34 is in its pilot year for DPI. The focus will be on rubrics, content standards, and institutional processes and documentation.
- B. Regional Affiliate Representative Report: Chris Van Hoof reported on the NCTE regional meeting held in St. Louis.
 - New software for membership was expected in January, 2003. Debbie Kinder will contact Millie Davis to find out if the software is available yet.
 - In a legislative session, a valuable worksheet was provided; it was suggested that our legislative committee complete the worksheet.
 - Kent Williamson, Executive Director of NCTE, spoke of the Republican agenda which seems to include privatizing education and discrediting public education.
- C. Wisconsin Communication Association Report-Eric Dimmitt reported the following:
 - Membership in WCA is up, and the group likes the dual format of the convention.
 - The executive board met and wants to continue the joint convention.
 - The group is also interested in providing support for the 4th and 8th grade teachers doing oral language assessment.
 - Emily Tymus is looking for judges for the NCTE Writing Achievement Awards. If you know of someone to help out, you should contact her.

VI. Officer Reports

A. 2nd Vice President's Report

Jacki Martindale reported on the details of the 2004 convention.

- The location is still under consideration. After much discussion, it was decided that Marti Matyska would check in the Milwaukee area for the dates of May 6-8 or April 29-May 1. If Marti needs to break the contract with the Paper Valley in Appleton, it must be done soon.
- A possible theme is Linking Theory and Practice: Getting the Job Done.

- Kyleen Beers was mentioned as a possible keynote speaker. She has a new book entitled, *When Kids Can't Read*, focusing on secondary reading.
- The possibility of inviting Wisconsin authors (such as Larry Watson, Jessica Doyle, Jane Hamilton, Constance Weaver, and Peggy O'Brien) and providing stipends was discussed.
- Issues to pursue may include 4MAT, 6-traits, Intellectual Freedom, teacher education programs, and Leave No Child Untested.

B. 1st Vice President's Report

Tom Scott reported on this year's convention.

- The brochures have gone out.
- The focus of the convention is reading.
- Those responsible for various awards were reviewed, and all awards are taken care of. A complimentary lunch will be provided for the winner only, not for guests, and these should be booked in advance. Student winners will have a breakout session after lunch to read their writing.
- On Thursday at 8:00 P.M. , Who Wants to Be a Millionaire will be played.
- Debbie Kinder will contact Jack Kean about a PI-34 session.

C. President's Report

Debbie Kinder mentioned the need for a new 2nd V.P. Everyone was encouraged to consider it, and partial sponsorship to the NCTE convention comes with the position.

VII. Old Business

A. Elections

Debbie Kinder expressed the need to get more directors, including young teachers from all levels.

B. Executive Director

Scott Oates spoke about establishing a director position. This person may take care of the yearly business of WCTELA, and it is envisioned as a position similar to the convention manager's role. Scott Oates will contact past presidents and draft a proposal for this position.

C. Arts in Education Liaison

We need someone on this committee to represent us, or we need to eliminate it from the agenda. Jacki Martindale suggested contacting Penny Parsons, and Debbie Kinder agreed to contact her.

VIII. New Business

A. Wisconsin State Reading Association (WSRA)

The possibility of coordinating efforts with WSRA was discussed. Joanne Katzmarek agreed to be the liaison for this group. Debbie and Joanne will invite leaders of WSRA to the Friday social to discuss future joint efforts. They will contact WMLE as well.

B. Executive Director Position

John Kurschner made a motion to create a description for the director position to be voted on in the spring called the executive director. Trista Dauk seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

C. Continuation of Joint WCTELA/WCA Convention

Tom Scott made the motion to continue conventions with WCA, which Scott Oates seconded. Motion passed.

D. Summer Retreat

The summer retreat will be July 31-August 1.

E. Next Board Meeting

The board will meet at 6:00 P.M. on Thursday. Pizza will be served.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Van Hoof
Secretary

