

**Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English Language Arts
Executive Board Meeting
Friday, August 12, 2005
Lowell Hall, Madison**

DRAFT

Present-Bill Schang, Cindy Johnson, Lynn Aprill, Marti Matyska, Ruth Wood, Dianne Graf, Emily Tymus Ihrke, Bonnie Frechette, Trista Dauk, Chris Van Hoof, Tom Scott, Mary Graber, John Zbikowski, Penny Parsons, and Scott Oates

I. Call to Order

President Bill Schang called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

II. Secretary's Report-Chris Van Hoof

Ruth Wood's name was added to those present at the April 21, 2005, Executive Board Meeting. Tom moved to accept the minutes as amended. Ruth seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

III. Report on October Convention-Lynn Aprill and Marti Matyska

- A. The convention overview/registration material has been emailed to Eagles, and it should arrive in teachers' mailboxes just as school starts.
- B. The program includes three speakers-Michael Day, keynoter speaker; Terry Truman, author; and Jeff Golub, luncheon speaker.
- C. WCEE will meet on Thursday afternoon, and the executive board will meet Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m. (Pizza will be provided).
- D. Lynn suggested offering a welcome reception for first time WCTELA convention attendees, and she knows a publisher who would be willing to sponsor the gathering. Everyone agreed it was a good idea, and the time slot will be from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.. **Bonnie and Ruth offered to help with this reception.**
- E. Lynn is still looking for sectional presenters, so if you or someone you know is interested, please contact Lynn immediately.
- F. **Mari Sue and Mary (District 3) volunteered to provide table decorations for the luncheon.**
- G. After discussion, the group decided that the Pooley, Chislom, and Secondary Teacher of Excellence awards will be given at this year's fall convention. **Nominations for the Chislom Award should be sent to Bill Schang no later than August 31. Bill, in consultation with other board members, will determine the award winner.**

IV. Treasurer's Report-Scott Oates

- A. Scott reported current cash on hand as \$13,305 in the checking account with an additional \$1,200 in savings.
- B. A written summary of income and expenses was presented.
- C. In order to determine convention profits from Spring 2005, mailing

expenses for convention publications were included as convention expenses, which left a net profit of approximately \$7,100. WCTELA had a verbal agreement with WCA that profits would be split on a per capita basis. Scott will determine WCA member attendance at the convention and send the appropriate check to WCA.

- D. Scott has found a more accurate source for mailing labels. The DPI has a free excel spreadsheet with every licensed teacher in the state which can be filtered for English teachers only. This database gives school addresses, but information will be sent to members home addresses as well.

V. **Membership Report-Cindy Johnson**

- A. Cindy presented an update of membership (see written report).
- B. Cindy presented several ideas for increasing membership including offering 1 year, 2 year, 3 year or lifetime membership, increasing the nonmember rate to encourage joining, and sending renewal notices on a monthly basis to current members. After much discussion, the group decided that **Cindy and Scott should get together and explore ways to increase membership and present a recommendation to the board at the October board meeting.**
- C. For the October convention, nonmembers will pay \$15 more than members as an incentive to get people to join WCTELA when they register for the conference. In addition, we will be offering a "Convention Special" where a standard membership can be renewed for \$20 rather than \$30.

VI. **Wisconsin English Journal Report-Ruth Wood**

- A. David Beard, production editor, has left UW-River Falls, but David Furniss has agreed to do what he can to keep the *WEJ* at UW-River Falls. There will be an intern who will help with the editing of the fall issue and will also be involved with the spring issue.
- B. The Visual Literacy issue for this fall is nearly complete, and Ruth suggested it may warrant a nomination for a national award. Lynn Aprill motioned to have the cover printed in color if the cost is \$500 or less. Mary Graber seconded the motion, and the motion carried. **Ruth will check with Eagle Printing on the cost of printing the cover in color.**
- C. The plan for future issues of the *WEJ* includes the following: Joanne will edit the Fall 2006 issue focusing on reading; if we are still interested in highlighting a school for the Spring 2007 issue, we need to consider a northern or southern school; and we need to find a topic and an editor for the Fall 2007 issue. Oral language and writing were suggested as possible topics for the publications committee to consider.
- D. **Scott and Ruth will bring extra copies of previous issues of the *WEJ* to give to new members at the convention.**

VII. **District Director Report-Mary Graber**

- A. Mary presented an updated list of district directors, and she is also preparing a slate of district directors.
- B. Bill will update the officer list for review at the October meeting.

VIII. Constitutional Changes-John Zbikowski

- A. According to current bylaws:
 - Membership runs from May 1-May 1.
 - We are supposed to hold at least one open meeting and two executive meetings each year.
 - Election of officers/directors is to be done by mail and concluded 30 days prior to the annual business meeting.
 - Officers and directors are to take office immediately after the annual business meeting.
- B. **A committee consisting of John, Chris and Cindy will examine the bylaws and make recommendations** for change at the October 13 board meeting. If the group approves of the changes, the bylaws can be changed at the annual business meeting the following day.
- C. In order to comply with the bylaws pertaining to the election of officers, **nominations for officers and directors need to be sent to Bill and Mary by August 21.** They will forward the nominations to **Cindy by September 1, and she will send them out to current members via email no later than September 13. Bill will contact Joanne K. about accepting a 2nd Vice-President nomination,** with the term to begin in October 2005. Bill Schang appointed John to the currently vacant 2nd Vice President position with the understanding that John will take the position of 1st Vice President after the October business meeting.

IX. Update Discussion

- A. Roxanne Biffert has resigned as editor of the *Update*.
- B. Bill Schang appointed Trista Dauk as *Update* editor. Scott suggested establishing standing features such as the following:
 - President's Perspective, DPI-State of the State, District Directors' Spotlight, Something for Monday Morning, From the Pages of NCTE, Calendar of Events, and a Review of Literature. **Trista will email her ideas to the publications committee and she will present their recommendations at the October board meeting.**
- C. The anticipated schedule for the *Update* includes three issues: an August/September issue which will provide convention overview/registration information (mailed to all 300 license holders), a December issue to review the convention (sent to membership only), and a spring issue which will include a call for proposals (sent to all 300 license holders).

X. Report from Gerhard Fischer-(Written reflection)

- A. A committee consisting of Tom (chair), Emily, Bonnie, Lynn, and Carol

was established to address Gerhard's question concerning what WCTELA plans to do in response to PI-34. **Tom will contact members of the committee via email, and the committee hopes to have a report at the October board meeting.**

- B. The group agreed that the direction of oral language is a concern that needs to be addressed at future meetings.
- C. If Gerhard is putting a "Writing Task Force" together, the following members are interested in being involved: Emily, Scott, Dianne, Penny, Ruth, and Mary. **Tom will forward these names to Gerhard.**

XI. Miscellaneous

- A. Lynn moved that WCTELA pick up the cost (\$75) of Liz Dixon's lunch at the NCTE Secondary Luncheon. (Liz is WCTELA's winner of the Secondary Teacher of Excellence Award). Mary seconded the motion; the motion carried. Carol will give Liz the check at our state convention when Liz receives her award.
- B. Scott moved that WCTELA become a signatory to WSRA's letter to Senator Luther Olsen. Penny seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Bill noted that we request the right to preview any substantive changes made to the draft. Tom Scott reported that WCEE also agreed to become a signatory.
- C. Scott nominated John and Emily to be our voting delegates at the NCTE business meeting. Tom seconded the motion; the motion carried. There is \$1000 in the budget to help support travel to NCTE for the voting delegates, and John and Emily will decide how the money will be allocated.
- D. The group agreed to affirm the nomination of Ben Knoll for an NCTE award.
- E. The group suggested the following meeting schedule for the remainder of the year: Thursday, October 13, February 10-11, and a summer meeting in August. Exact dates, times and location will be determined by the president.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.