

**Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English Language Arts
Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, October 13, 2005
Sheraton Hotel, Madison**

DRAFT

Present-Lynn Aprill, Chris Van Hoof, Bill Schang, Jacki Martindale, Marti Matyska, Cindy Johnson, Ruth Wood, Kathy Nelson, Mary Graber, Erin Olkowski, Emily Thymus Ihrke, Gerhard Fischer, Penny Parsons, Carol Conway-Gerhardt, Mari Sue Bethke, Susan Dobbe Chase, Scott Oates, John Zbikowski, and Orin Mueller

I. Call to Order

President Bill called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Secretary's Report-Chris Van Hoof

Ruth moved to approve the minutes as written. Mary seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

III. Officer Reports

A. 1st Vice President-Lynn Aprill

- The number of registrations is down at this point (about half of what we've had the last few years.) The group discussed possible reasons for the decline (unaware of switch to a fall convention, cuts in school travel budgets, etc.) Hopefully this is a one-year transition period.
- Great Source is sponsoring a "First Time Attendee Reception". 42 people are eligible to attend, and Jacki, Penny, and a Great Source representative will host the reception.
- Glencoe is sponsoring a continental breakfast.

B. 2nd Vice President-John Zbikowski

John reported the following plans for the 2006 convention: the date is Nov. 3, 2006; the place is the Madison Marriott West; the theme is "Popular Culture"; and the keynote speaker has not been decided, but possibilities were discussed.

IV. Treasurer's Report-Scott Oates

The convention program was copied at UWEC rather than Eagles at a substantial savings. With the move to a fall convention, Scott anticipates the majority of membership renewals occurring in the fall. The October 05-06 budget will be presented for approval at the annual meeting. Jacki made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, Carol seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

V. Committee Reports

A. District Director-Mary Graber

Mary handed out the updated copy of the District Director list. Cindy will use registration information to determine districts of attendees, and Jacki

will attempt to recruit directors from that list.

B. Membership-Cindy Johnson

- Convention information-123 people are registered for the convention. Eleven are new members, and 42 are first time attendees. Many people did take advantage of the \$20 convention special.
- Election results-Everyone on the ballot was elected.

C. Publications

i. *Update-Trista Dauk*

Bill shared a written report from Trista, outlining some ideas for upcoming issues of the *Update*. The following plans were made for the next issue: Emily will write a brief book review for *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night*, Carol will write an article about this year's award winners and an article about upcoming awards, Lynn will write a convention highlights piece, Kathy will write about challenged books (*The Perks of Being a Wildflower*), Gerhard will write about the state of the state, Bill will write a president's perspective column, and John will write about next year's convention. Articles should be submitted to Trista by October 28, 2005. Jacki offered to write a book review for *The Life of Pi* with teaching ideas for the next issue.

ii. *Wisconsin English Journal-Ruth Wood*

- The Fall 2005 *WEJis* in production at Eagles. The cover will not be in color because it was not necessary given the graphic that was chosen. Student interns are currently assisting with the publication, and Ruth predicts this will continue for the foreseeable future.
- Cindy is willing to help Ruth edit the Spring 2006 issue which will feature DeLong Middle School in Eau Claire
- Joanne Katzmarek will edit the Fall 2006 issue about reading.
- Suggestions for the Fall 2007 issue include oral language, pop culture, and challenged books.

D. Professional Issues-Debbie Kinder

Those hosting the first time attendee breakfast will ask for input from new teachers in terms of how WCTELA can support them with regards to PI-34. Ideas from this meeting should be shared with Debbie.

E. Intellectual Freedom-John Z.

The Perks of Being A Wildflower was recently challenged. John facilitated contact with CCBC and NCTE.

F. WCEE-Ruth Wood

The group plans to meet prior to the February Executive Board Meeting. They are looking for specific ideas/problems concerning student teaching so the meeting can focus on a specific critical issue and perhaps attract greater attendance/participation.

G. WCEL-Tom Scott

No report

VI. Liaison Reports

A. DPI Liaison-Gerhard Fischer

- Writing-Gehard reported on the Hessen/Wisconsin Writers' Exchange. Writing assessment is a hot topic at the state level, and Gerhard asked about the role of technical writing/applied writing/business writing in the English curriculum/classroom. How do we communicate what good writing is, and who decides? These are issues we must address.
- WKCE-The 4th and 8th grade tests have two writing prompts and other embedded field test items, so one student's version may look different than another's. In addition, the Language Arts portion of the 4th grade test is entitled, "Revising and Editing." This information led to a brief discussion about the fragmentation of English on standardized tests.
- Oral language-Gerhard expressed concern about the future of oral language instruction in the state. After discussion, Penny moved to sponsor a WCTELA executive board member to attend the WCA convention to act as a liaison. Mari Sue seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Kathy Nelson agreed to represent WCTELA at the next WCA convention.

B. Awards-Carol Conway-Gerhardt

The change from a spring to fall convention raised some questions about when awards should be given. The Outstanding 1st Year Teacher, Outstanding Student Teacher, and Publication awards will not be given until the Fall 2006 convention. The fall convention works well for the Promising Young Writers award. All other award winners have been received, and Carol will announce them at tomorrow's awards ceremony.

C. NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing-Erin Olkowski

The entries are due in the spring, and most of the judging occurs during the summer. If you are interested in judging, contact Erin.

D. NCTE Affiliate-John Zbikowski and Emily Thymus Ihrke

John and Emily will be going to the NCTE convention in Pittsburg. John will be WCTELA's official voting delegate.

E. Literary Magazine-Mary Hoppe

No report

F. Video Productions: Bill Schang

No report

G. Website-John Zbikowski

The convention program and registration materials were online, and several board members made use of the convenience. John was asked to post intellectual freedom information to the website. Voting for officers/directors can be done from the WCTELA website with a link to Zoomerang. The group decided to continue with a single link to NCTE's homepage.

VII. Old Business

- After brief discussion, Madison was selected as a more convenient location for the February 10, 2006 executive board meeting than Stevens Point or WI Dells. Lynn will make arrangements and notify board members.

- John, Chris and Cindy will draft a motion for the annual meeting to change the bylaws concerning the term of membership.

VIII. New Business-None

IX. Adjournment At 8:50 p.m. Cindy moved to adjourn the meeting. Penny seconded the motion, and the motion carried.