

Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English
Executive Board Meeting
Country Springs Hotel, Stevens Point
Saturday, February 03, 2007 Minutes

Members Present: Trista Dauk, JoAnne Katzmarek, John Zbikowski, Lynn Aprill, Marti Matyska, Bonnie Frechette, Kathy Nelson

- I. John Zbikowski called the meeting to order at 8:12 a.m.
- II. Secretary's Report-Kathy Nelson: Minutes of the November 2 meeting were approved with the following correction: in paragraph 20, John's report about the election should read "using Zoomerang for the election resulted in ballots being returned at double the rate of past elections that used a paper ballot only."
- III. Treasurer's Report—Scott Oates (in absentia)

"We're fine." Approx. \$18K in checking. We made about \$4K on Convention. Convention took in over \$12K w/ \$8K expenses (including \$5800 payment to hotel, approximately \$1300 for program printing and mailing, and approximately \$900 for speaker and award winner expenses, with about \$800 still owed by one or more school districts).

Scott suggests a need for software to disaggregate the finances and recommends that John approach Chris as to the need. JoAnne approved, Lynn seconded, and the board approved treasurer's report.

Scott suggested a lump sum payment of \$1K for convention registration/membership secretary. Lynn moved, Trista seconded, and the board approved the lump sum payment.
- IV. Committee Reports
 - a. Membership Registration—Chris Kutz (in absentia)

A total of 136 convention registrants either became members or renewed their membership along with their registration in November. Current membership total is about 200.
 - b. Publications
 - i. Journal—Ruth Wood (in absentia) Ruth identified the featured school for spring issue as Arlington. Some members asked whether Ruth meant Arrowhead. David Furniss is guest editor. JoAnne Katzmarek will guest edit the fall issue. Joanne talked about the fall issue mirroring convention theme and with deadline moved ahead to assure the readiness for convention distribution. JoAnne reported the committee had agreed to have the fall issues parallel convention theme and spring ones to feature a school.
 - ii. Update—Trista Dauk reported the difficulty some contributors had

meeting deadlines, her reluctance to reject their good work even though it was late, and her conversion to an online publication fan. Projected publication dates: March 1, September 1, and January 1 Updates.

- iii. Website—John Zbikowski asked whether members would prefer to receive fully formatted Updates in attachments 4-5 times bigger than present ones. The consensus was to stay with compact attachments for now even if it meant doing without animations. John has investigated acquiring new domain name to reflect our recent name change—WCTE.us is available, but consensus was that this wouldn't work. Bonnie moved, Lynn seconded that John pay \$19 to make a secure bid on WCTE.net, which is currently owned by another organization, with the minimum bid of \$100 required by the registrar. Board approved.
- c. Intellectual Freedom—John reported as out-going chair that we need someone perhaps from state library association as new chair—He/She needs to be a member of our organization. John will follow up on Lynn's earlier contact of Megan Schliessman at CCBC for a recommendation.
- d. Wisconsin—CEL Report—Lynn Aprill: Several Wisconsin CEL members attended the two-day CEL workshop at NCTE in Nashville. Membership in CEL not restricted to department chairs; many departments in state no longer have chairs. She reported the benefits gained from attendance.
- e. Wisconsin –CEE Report—Lynn Aprill: Barbara Dixson and Debbie Kinder co-chairs. Marti Matyska reported that only two WCEE members attended the WCEE meeting at the convention. Again the difficulty acquiring list of English educators in Wisconsin colleges of education interferes with our strategic goals/initiative to focus on new teachers and professional development. Tom Scott had been at work on this.—Joanne said she'd ask for names at her Associate Deans' meeting in March.
- f. Archivist—Emily is expecting a box of materials from Helen Dale from Scott Oates.

V. Liason Reports

- a. Pooley Foundation—Marty Wood (in absentia) acknowledged possibility of revising Pooley charter and putting the funds to new uses in line with current WCTE priorities. Discussion was to use funds similar to past but increase publicity and emphasize eligibility of classroom or action research. We will publicize as usual; and in addition Nelson will send the announcement as Broadcast Fax when Aprill submits.
- b. Awards—Carol Conway-Gerhardt (in absentia) Recommends a common deadline of May 15 for all awards except HS Teacher of Excellence—March 1. Presentation details moved to first VP report.

9:40 – 10:10 Break

Chisholm Award—Meritorious Service to the Profession—Board nominated/not

in packet. Nelson will follow-up with letter of recommendation and invitation of recipient's department. Discussion of which award recipients provided with rooms and meals. Consensus was to provide Outstanding Student Teacher(s) and Hoefs first-year-teacher award winner with lodging at the convention, as stated in award announcement.

- c. WCA—Kathy Nelson—JoAnne moved, Trista seconded, and motion was approved to again support Nelson's attendance at March conference.
- d. DPI—Gerhard will be missed. Search for successor at DPI has been opened to external applicants. John will draft letter to Deborah Mahaffey at DPI on behalf of WCTE stating importance of language arts consultant and suggesting some potential candidates and will circulate among board before sending.

VI. Officer Reports

- a. Director at Large—Lynn Aprill.
 - WEAC convention/call for proposals. WCTE should have a presence at WEAC.
 - Piloting a presentation next month at UW-Eau Claire to promote WCTE to students in the pre-service program there. If successful, the presentation can be made by Lynn and other WCTE board members at other colleges that prepare English teachers.
 - Survey report. Lynn shared results of WebMonkey survey about how WCTE could serve teachers. Teachers contacted at random responded at a greater rate than WCTE members. Lack of knowledge of WCTE was surprising. Consensus was to keep gathering data.
- b. Second VP—Emily Ihrke (in absentia):
 - a. News about the 2008 Convention:
 - Friday, October 10, 2008
 - The Pyle Center, 702 Langdon St., Madison
 - A block of rooms has been set aside at the Lowell Center (50 for Thursday; 10 for Friday)
 - We will pursue another hotel option as well (Concourse?)
 - Possible theme: Literacy for a Global Audience
 - b. Twentieth Century Literary Map Project, a featured part of the 2007 NCTE convention. Since WCTE has been discussing the future of the Wisconsin literary map, perhaps this NCTE initiative presents an opportunity for us? More info at <http://www.ncte.org/groups/affiliates/officer/126207.htm>. Emily would be interested in discussing this initiative.
- c. First VP—JoAnne Katzmarek. Convention date is Nov. 9, Madison Marriott West, Middleton. Identified keynote speakers: Tim Lensmire, Elizabeth Kahn, Buchanan. Looking for luncheon speaker, preferably a writer. Convention fees were considered and decision was to keep the same.

- d. President—John Zbikowski mentioned need to compile an up-to-date list of officers and directors. Lynn is preparing a listing of current directors/officers. John will contact Brad Van Epps about filling the directorship vacated by Mary Graber. Lynn agreed to take the post of District Director Liaison. As Director At Large, Lynn is also chair ex officio of the Nominating Committee.

VII. Old Business

- a. Calendar of Meetings and Publications—dates discussed. Summer Board Meeting—July 19-20 Madison; Fall Board before/after Convention; Winter Feb. 22-23; John will contact Gerhard for availability of Pyle for summer. September distribution of Convention Preview. May 1—one-page convention email.
- b. Association management. Marti looked into it and it was prohibitively expensive. Decided to stay with Chris Kutz doing convention registration and maintaining member list.
- c. June 22-23 NCTE regional meeting in Chicago. Look at Donna Pasternak and Nelson to attend on behalf of WCTE.

VIII. New Business: State Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of NCTE (ALAN)
Affiliate: ALAN now has state reps to encourage increased membership in ALAN. John Zbikowski suggested that WCTE could sponsor an ALAN affiliate. Discussion of this was postponed until next meeting.

IX. Trista moved and JoAnne seconded to adjourn and John closed the meeting at 11:52 a.m.