

WCTE Winter Board  
Saturday, February 28, 2009  
Pyle Center, Madison

Members Present: Lynn Aprill, Emilie Amundson, JoAnne Katzmarek, Barbara Dixon, Emily Tymus Ihrke, Carol Conway-Gerhardt, Jacki Martindale, John Zbikowski, David Furniss, Ruth Wood, Marti Matyska, Karen Kelley, Donna Pasternak, Tom Scott, Erin Schwane

CALL TO ORDER: President Emily Ihrke called meeting to order and members introduced themselves sharing something personal about themselves or recommending a book/movie.

APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES: Corrections to Pre/Post Conference Minutes' Meeting included the correction of the following names: Schang, Frechette, Meri Sue Bethke

TREASURER'S REPORT: As Tom distributed his report, he reminded us of our recent fiscal year change. He pointed out that while our past convention was one of our least expensive, the discounts in the registration fees perhaps left us with a lower gain than we'd hoped. After answering a few questions mostly about our professional development/marketing past practices reflected in our budgets, his report was approved.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

##### Communications/Publications

Newsletter The absence of the *Update* was attributed to no one sending Trista any news and perhaps her impending delivery. Marty agreed to compose a job description for our newsletter coordinator with the chance that Trista might want to pass the job along to someone new. Donna mentioned that Jason from UWM had previously expressed an interest in the job.

Website John distributed a usage report that resulted in speculations as to what prompts peaks of hits. Evaluation of our current website revealed needs which might be better filled with the purchase of our own server, which Jacki offered some of her Poetry Outloud funds to support. A motion passed for John to spend no more than \$300 to make these changes.

Journal--Emily, along with the entire board, gave thanks to Ruth, David and River Falls for years of service for their work on our Journal. They, in turn, offered apologies for lack of issues over the past year and assured that the issue now titled the Fall 2008 issue currently at the printer would be in the mail soon and that Ruth would see that the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary issue would be out by June. John shared that Scott Oates wants Eau Claire/himself to be dismissed from the printing/distribution they've done in the past.

The board discussed changes in the *Journal* including moving the responsibility from a single individual to a shared responsibility of an editorial team. We clarified the distinction between an editorial board and an editorial team and agreed on having a working team rather than a "review" board. John shared past boards' decision favoring practioners' authorship over academic "juried" works, and he distributed copies of the Winter 1998 *Update* issue with a call for Journal Editor article and with its corresponding article, which explained the absence of the then late journal. A motion passed to solicit in both our *Update* and *Journal*, the WSRA list serve, and other publications for an editorial board for our *WCTE English Journal* which would include a "robust" description. Emily agreed to chair an ad hoc committee of Ruth, Donna, Erin, and Joanne, to search for a new editorial board with Karen and Lynn drafting a job description for the new committee's approval.. The *Update* Coordinator may be part of that board. Lynn and Karen agreed to forego lunch to adapt the above mentioned *Update* to our present situation.

After Carol passed on the WCTE tablecloth. To Marti, Emily summarized our morning's progress and noted we'd return for Carol's report after a ten minute break at 10:30.Emily reconvened at 10:40.

#### WCEE

Barbara discussed the momentum she's built at the fall convention session and invited UW System folks to attend an April 10 CEE Roundtable she'll host as part of the every other year meeting of all UW-Systems' English Department at UW-Stevens Point.

#### Awards

Next discussion moved to Carol initiating a discussion of all our awards. Deadline Dates were revisited

and a need for more publicity of winners discussed. Many awards were reviewed and we became aware of some awards' nominations coming due.--especially NCTE Outstanding Teacher of Excellence. Questions arose about budgeting consideration of awards.

#### DPI

Emilie distributed her DPI Report and emphasized that past meeting on Standards Revision were important and it is critical we keep talking! She highlighted distinction between administrators and teachers' views of Standards. She distributed the slick WI State Superintendent's Adolescent Literacy plan booklets. Again she suggested that we collaborate with other groups such as WSRA and look for ways to implement this. Wisconsin Response to Intervention Summit is huge and the concept ballooning not only elementary but also with 6-12 readers.

Erin offered to represent us at Alverno's upcoming Linking Literacy and Listening Conference at her student rate of \$25 and Lynn volunteered to attend the Green Bay Rtl Summit. Motion: Future budgets should include moneys for members to attend and or present at WI events on behalf of WCTE passed.

A second motion passed for WCTE to support the attendance of Erin and Lynn to attend the above specified events on behalf of our organization.

Finally, Emilie recommended we might collaborate with the Lorine Niedecker annual presentation of Wi Poetry Festival October 3-4, 2009.

#### Video Production Report

Marty reported that she and Bill has these close to being finished.

#### Officers' ReportS:

##### District Director

Clarification of duties were discussed to distinction between Past President/District Directors Liaison duties. District Directors are to attend board meeting. Past practice that summer meeting often was more a planning session and has been the District Director's responsibility for planning. Jacki reported the lack of attendance at informal, optional meetings she's conducted around the state for Poetry Outloud. Concern was expressed of a need for a District Directors' meeting. Also frustration was expressed over lack of clarity of all official duties/past practices of board members, officers. Many reported they just learned their of responsibilities as their terms were ending causing guilt and perhaps the burn-out of previous officers.

Jacki will plan a DemDem, a Conference Call/Power Point Combo, for new directors with Emilie and Lynn assisting to be done some school day around 4:30. To conclude her report, she distributed Jacki invitations to the State Poetry Outloud championship.

Emily adjourned at 12:39 for lunch and reconvened at 1:25.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Report

Lynn expressed concern that we'd be hosting our state convention w/in a few weeks of the NCTE's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary national convention in Chicago. She noted with today's economy, some schools would not likely release teachers to attend both. She discussed that while there's a need for support of NCTE and yet that there might be a need for a state one anyway. She wanted to look at geographic location of WCTE attendees to decide if we should move the state convention to the western part of the state.. She's decided on the "Finding a Balance" Theme and wants Hilve Firek, who impressed her during her recent CEL presentation and with her book published by Heinemann, for her key note speaker.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> VP Report

Donna reported that she's nine breakout conference proposals even though they are not due until 4/4. She's heavily promoted the proposal prospects to various organizations. Tom has arranged a pre-conference workshop w/ Kylene and Bob. Donna's hoping UW-M School of Education will co-sponsor their workshop. Further discussion centered on the logistics of workshops, a writing marathon,, meals, vendors' area, and the need to move the board meeting to Wednesday night. She will not be discounting rates registration rates except for a slight reduction for students/retirees. Then a motion passed to charge

students and retirees half the regular registration fee. She will be sending "Save the Date" postcards to 5500 300 licensees and a Conference Preview will be emailed and on our website. Each District Director should be responsible for securing an email address for each department chair for every school in his/her district.

#### President

Emily's report included her plans to attend the AP reading and promote us there. She plans to see the reappearance of our *Journal* and planning a work session which might include a (fluid) organizational chart and officers' duties and responsibilities. A Thursday workday with District Directors separated from the officer with each charged with a different task. Suggested dates July 28-29 for this summer session will be confirm next week.

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### ELA Standards Revision

Emilee returned to the Standards discussion sharing a need for a transparent shift from our 500 main standards to two w/ 5-8 focus areas with four grade level bands (w/o specified grade levels) and infused 21<sup>st</sup> century literacies. The committee is integrating rather than using the stand alone standards we currently use. Administration and School Board wants check lists of grade level standards for ease in accountability. This is just the opposite of the English teachers' views, who want to honor the developmental nature along with the integration of standards. We're challenged on implication of this on the WKCE; yet this assessment currently doesn't reflect standards--it's a reading assessment. Ideally, we'll use an online document rather than paper, with hyper-links and portals. Proposed standards include two: Language Arts Reception (reading, listening, viewing) Expression of Language Arts (speaking, writing and representing) The "Arts" piece is vital and needs to be saved.

It will establish a balance of new literacies and cannons/common cultural capital.

We must not let the arts aspect of Language Arts be lost in Disciplinary Literacies. We must protect our content in language arts. What is it that is thinking like a Language Arts practitioner? Should we continue holding onto a dead canon--privileged list. We need to strengthening the core discipline without losing our discipline especially the critical/creative elements. Some view as a skills driven rather than a humanities literary and aesthetic experience-driven discipline.

Someone questioned if we should write a resolution stating out position and that NCTE might already have written one. Emily will check and be in touch w/Karen, Erin, Tom and Emilee. Motion passed supporting Emily checking NCTE Resolutions and Position Statements and may write a letter to DPI on behalf of the board to reflect our support of it with the board's support.

##### Strategic Planning Committee

Tom reported that much of what the committee had discussed has already been discussed today. Also the need for the Executive Director position may exist but our organization may not be large enough to support one at this time. The District Representative Folders Lynn put together are needed for all offices to be passed along to new officers. Tom shared that CEL officers all outlined their responsibilities and passed along. Someone suggested they be online but many thought a hard copy might be better.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Emily suggested that we bring job descriptions along this summer. Donna suggested that this be done at the meeting. Karen suggested include sample documents so people don't have to recreate everything from scratch and calendar of to-do's. Donna suggested 2<sup>nd</sup> VP should get a binder w/everything! Donna announced she was nominated in the Conference of English Education for NCTE.

Standing Strategic Committee will be on-going with a membership focus. Tom suggested a May meeting. Finally, Emily adjourned the meeting at 3:38.