

**Minutes - Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English
February Board Meeting
Saturday, February 16, 2013
Best Western, Plover, WI**

Present: Jessica Gallo, Lynn Frick, John Pruitt, Kathy Nelson, Lynn Aprill, Marti Matyska, Erin Schwane, Jack Van Treese, Denise Meyer, Marianne Potter, Jacalyn Mabon, Martha Handrick, Kathy Bay, Tom Scott, Linda Barrington, John Zbikowski, Wendy Kropid

- A. Call to order
- B. Approval of Consent Agenda (motion to approve John Pruitt; second Erin Schwane; motion approved)
- C. Approval of October's Board Meeting Minutes (motion to approve Jackie Mabon; second Marianne Potter; motion approved)
 - a. October minutes read "Agenda" at the top - should be changed
- D. Treasurer's Report – Tom Scott
 - a. Left hand three columns are what we spent for the fiscal year - convention pulled in \$13,870 - the March event \$1210.00 and memberships brought in \$1595.00. Expenses which included hotel rooms etc, came to \$22,481.93.
 - b. We made money on the convention but lost on the gathering event.
 - c. Travel was a bit high because we had to reimburse travel expenses from the previous year which generally doesn't happen.
 - d. We have resources; if we beef up attendance at our convention, that's where we make money. The pre-convention workshops are generally very profitable. Tom is confident that our income will increase.
- E. DPI Liaison's Report – Tamara Maxwell
 - a. Will be sending her report at a later date
 - b. Discussion on ACT and the new standardized test
- F. Committee Reports
 - a. Membership - Tom Scott
 - i. Initiative 1: making our website more user-friendly for people to register for convention, renew rolling memberships, join, send out reminders when memberships lapse. Denise Meyer will work on setting these things up on the website - also bypass Paypal and have money sent directly to our bank. Timeline = Linda will review convention plans in the Update, by May we'll have info. on the DPI listserv announcing the convention, by August "how to register by online resources."
 - ii. Initiative 2: increase social media and link more directly to our website and to the K-16 DPI listserv. Kathy Nelson is the social media coordinator. The suggestion was to put more people on the team. Denise Meyer suggested English Ed. students who might want to work on that initiative, posting on Twitter, finding resources and connecting them to our Twitter page, synchronous stuff to dial in and tweet.
 - iii. Initiative 3: benefits of WCTE to lure members
 - 1. Have a list of people who will be PDP reviewers as a perk of being a member.
 - 2. We could have pre-convention workshop on PDPs, where new teachers could bring their information and get advice or some PDP reviewer training.
 - 3. Jess Gallo suggested we make the journal closed and have it as a perk for membership. It was also suggested that archived articles be open but the new ones would be password protected. Having the archived journals available shows them what the journals are about to encourage membership. Jess will

check into what password protecting the journal would entail and who might be in charge of that.

b. Intellectual Freedom - John Pruitt

- iii. Initiative 1: Students' Right to Write (what can students write about? Can they write about blowing up the school without someone calling the police?) Linda Barrington suggested to check the statement on creative expression and see if that's relevant. Tom Scott asked about the connection of where a piece of writing is made public and its content.
- iv. Initiative 2: Limiting students to "English only" is a form of censorship. John Pruitt will be working on the position statement for this initiative.
- v. Jess Gallo suggested we see the statements at the July meeting and then take action at that point. Possibly Tom Pamperin and Emily Ihrke may be interested in being a part of this committee.
- vi. NCTE wants people to nominate authors, etc. for the Intellectual Freedom Award. John Pruitt asked us to find someone who is deserving and find someone not on the board to nominate them. This is something that could be sent out to the membership through the district directors.
- vii. The date for recommendations was changed to May 1.

c. Publications

- iii. Update - Linda Barrington
 - 1. Will include: convention; awards and due dates; John Pruitt's article about GSEA; Jackie Mabon's dept. on lit circles; update on membership changes; Intellectual freedom awards; social media team; director of the month, Martha Handrick; president's note; Tamara Maxwell from the DPI; encourage people to "like" on FaceBook and join the listserve; WEJ; deadline in two weeks.
- iv. WEJ - Jess Gallo
 - 1. Spring issue published toward beginning of April. Submissions have slowed. WEJ is actively seeking teachers to publish in every issue; they want a teacher voice in the WEJ.
 - 2. Marcy Glaus will be taking over as the head assistant editor on the fall issue. Dr. Gomez asked two new assistant editors to join. New editorial board members have been invited. Jess will look into closing access to the journal.
- v. Website - John Zbikowski
 - 1. Commenting on the site now requires registration and login because of bogus commenting when it was open. Tom Scott asked whether it would still be necessary to go through with the plan to put WCTE's Paypal account in his name if WCTE was now planning to bypass Paypal for online transactions. John said he thought it would be a good idea to do so.

d. Convention - Lynn Frick

- iii. Date and place: Oct 10 and 11 - Crowne Plaza, Madison.
- iv. Plans: Thursday morning PDP workshop and afternoon Tom Romano workshop and then keynote on Friday; Linda Barry as luncheon speaker; call for proposals will go out in March with deadline of June 30.
- v. Theme is "Growing Voices: A Teacher's Challenge, A Student's Goal, An Author's Mission."
- vi. Strands - Secondary Reading; Literacy; Disciplinary Literacy; where are the anxieties? RtI, PBI, initiatives out there now, show that we're addressing these issues; also topics that we are putting into the PDPs; technology.

- vii. Districts need current administrative buzzwords attached to approve teacher attendance. Lynn Frick will find out what Tom Romano's focus will be and connect it to Common Core so districts will want to send people.
- e. District Directors - Lynn Aprill
 - iii. Initiative 1: Wikispace - Create a wikispace where WCTE teachers can discuss needs in the classroom and share work to help others. Discussion of content and copyright. Denise Meyer commented on the importance of having content BEFORE the wikispace is sent out to membership - they need to have a reason to go there. Lynn Aprill will be sending a sample email out to district directors to encourage membership to send content to be uploaded to wikispace, making it clear that these items will be shared free of charge and that WCTE takes no responsibility for the quality of the content on said wikispace.
 - iv. Initiative 2: PDP reviewers - As discussed previously, we would like to have a list of WCTE members who would be willing to serve as PDP reviewers as a perk for membership. We need to email the membership about this possibility.
 - v. Initiative 3: Teacher contact - District directors were encouraged to start gathering a list of emails for English teachers in their districts and to keep in regular contact with them about pressing issues. Lynn Aprill will be sending a sample email to district directors for this purpose.
- f. Awards - Jackie Mabon
 - iii. May 1st awards are coming up, so Jackie wants nominations going out now: Outstanding Student Teacher award and First Year Teacher award and Secondary Teacher of the Year award. The chairs should be in charge of sending out information and Jackie will stay in contact with the chairs. Jackie had contacted "Teaching Today" to advertise our awards, and they want \$375 for a quarter page to advertise our awards. Could we publish state conventions and awards in the English Journal? It's free with our affiliate membership.

G. Officer Reports (35 minutes)

1. Director at large (Past President) – Kathy Nelson
 - i. Discussed having more informal get-togethers with Madison dept. chairs to make further contacts with Tamara Maxwell. They are planning to still do this. Kathy sent two emails since NCTE convention, so is trying to make this happen. Tom suggested a session at the convention for dept. chairs.
2. Second Vice President – John Pruitt
 - i. 2014 Convention: Fox Cities - 2014 - Last week in October - Paper Valley, Radisson - Retro theme - "Back to the Book" - Poet Laureate Garland, Ellen Kort (dueling poetry slam) - Nancy Pearl, David Denby?
 - ii. Jackie Mabon suggested WSRA connection with their convention, which is in the spring in Milwaukee. This would take some extensive work to build a relationship with them. Tom Scott and Erin Schwane will talk to Tamara about how this might happen. Suggestions: reserve spots for each other at the conventions - vendor tables?
 - iii. How might we set up registration for the fall with those who pay the higher fee and not membership? We have previously discussed giving those people free membership for a year and then we can count them as members. We could find no record of having taken action on this idea.
3. First Vice President – Lynn Frick
 - i. Nothing additional

4. President – Jessica Gallo
 - i. Nothing additional

H. Old Business

1. Pooley Foundation Exploratory Committee – Kathy Nelson
 - i. How else might we use Pooley Funds? Kathy Nelson reported on the committee meeting. Suggestions: Underwriting big-name speakers? Improving our online presence? Free membership on a trial basis? Creating student WCTE affiliates? Simulcast keynote speakers to multiple locations? Possible partnering with AWSA to have conventions all at the same time at one site. The committee's opinion was to not use the funds for research. We should not change things for this year, then pull the funds next year until such time as we decide how to best use them for the good of the organization.
 - ii. Limit to no more than \$4000 a year to do ANYTHING. Tom Scott suggested we figure out what our needs are before we decide how to spend the money. Where do we want to go and do we need money to do it? We need to decide what to do with it which goes along with our WCTE mission.
 - iii. Motion from Marianne Potter to continue Pooley as is for 2013 and placed on hold for 2014 pending agenda for summer board meeting for further discussion; website will reflect this; second Jackie Mabon; motion carried.

I. New Business

1. Affiliate meeting designees
 - i. July 12-14 in Atlanta; this is not a Region 2 year, but we should definitely send representatives to the next year's affiliate meeting.
2. Regional Affiliates Meeting at NCTE
 - i. Kathy Nelson and Lynn Aprill were the representatives in St. Louis in July. The NCLE website was unveiled. Ernest Morrell gave an inspirational presentation. Connections were made with Minnesota and Michigan.
3. Northwoods Retreat - Lynn Frick
 - i. Superior area, Barker's Island Inn in April 2014. Lynn has been in contact with CESA 12 Amanda Popovich. Tamara Maxwell would come up and do a talk about CCSS in the morning and Northwoods needs; afternoon perhaps Carol Jago. Similar to the Green Bay retreat in 2011 - they might have a similar Native American and rural education focus. Martha Handrick has connections to Native American speakers. Suggestion that UW-Superior might be able to connect with that; Wendy Kropid said their education students could volunteer to help with this. Topics? Workshop format with speakers in the morning and afternoon. Could also do a few topical break-outs. Erin Schwane also suggested bring a lesson to share - simple and no-cost. The board is in support of this.
4. Wisconsin Educational Leaders Alliance - Kathy Nelson
 - i. Presidents of various Wisconsin teaching organizations got together and networked about what each was doing. Then Tony Evers announced switch to ACT test and the organization was invited to the table to discuss this.
 - ii. They are continuing to develop contacts around the state. AWSA contacted Kathy and they discussed summer leadership convention - talked about having teacher break-outs for that convention. WSRA is even on board. WEAC has lost clout, so this professional organization is stepping into that role.
 - iii. Next meeting is on April 13th. Lynn Frick and Jess Gallo will attend. They are creating by-laws and official organization name selection at this point.

5. Secretary position

- i. Current secretary Karen Rigoni would like sabbatical for the remainder of this year and would like to stay active, but needs to pull away for a time because of family health issues. She would like to return in the fall at the time of the convention, so she would just miss this meeting and the summer meeting. Motion to approve Lynn Frick; second Jacki Mabon; motion carried. Denise Meyer will be secretary for the summer meeting.

6. Website Coordinator position - John Zbikowski

- i. John Z. will not be pursuing a 7th or 8th term as website coordinator. We've been working with TallGuy productions; we pay \$75 an hour for services with a \$1200 budget.
- ii. Denise Meyer discussed acting on the website in the interim and connecting it with the initiatives discussed in F.a.1. above.

J. New Business

- a. July 18-19th summer board meeting - place tbd
- b. Update on online literary map from Lynn Aprill - appropriate documentation was given to Kathy Nelson to pass on to our legal team.

K. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn at 2:50 p.m. John Pruitt, second Marianne Potter; motion passed.