

Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English (WCTE)  
Annual Business Meeting  
Monona Terrace Convention Center  
Madison, Wisconsin  
Saturday, May 2, 1998

Call to Order: Jeff Maas, WCTE President, called the Annual Business Meeting to order at 8:17 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: Carol Conway-Gerhardt, secretary, distributed minutes from the May 2, 1997, Annual Meeting and made a request for correction of names for the Foundation Board of Directors. It was determined that there were two names submitted instead of the three that were listed: Mark Heike and Donna Hitchens. For clarification, Walter Daumler and Katherine Conover were confirmed as the Directors of District 2 at the time of the May 2, 1997, Annual Business Meeting; shortly after the May 2 meeting, however, Penny Parsons replaced Katherine Conover. Carolyn Majak moved and Mary Graber seconded the motion that the minutes be accepted as corrected by adding Donna Hitchens to the Foundation Board of Directors; Mark Heike had already been listed.

Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Marty Wood, treasurer, distributed two handouts. He commented that last year WCTE had around 500-525 members. Now the group has 620 members.

He noted that the deposits from the convention were at \$13,000 with the expectation of being \$5,000 ahead at the completion of the convention. The Balance Sheet includes \$9,000 from the convention. Today WCTE is at \$11,634.70, which Marty indicated was good.

Marty Wood presented the proposed budget, indicating that WCTE always proposes a deficit budget. He requested that members look over the line items of the budget to determine if there is anything to cut. John Kurschner asked Marty if he would provide suggestions for altering the budget. Bill Shang suggested cutting back on the video from \$400 to \$200. Someone else suggested cutting back the amount for the two NCTE liaisons from \$1,000 to \$700. Jack Kean stated that he did not want to see WCTE cut back on its NCTE affiliate when NCTE is coming to Wisconsin in 2000. Carolyn Majak commented that the cost of speakers has escalated, but in order to balance the budget, NCTE may be asked to help WCTE get well-known speakers.

Marty commented about the tightness of the budget and noted that we have a potential dues increase. Jack Kean moved to delay the motion to accept the budget until WCTE considers the raising of the dues.

**Foundation/Trust Officer:** Jack Kean moved to elect Mary Louise Tammi and Wilma Clark to another term on the Foundation. Their terms were ending as of May 30, 1998. Al Meninga seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**President's Report:** Jeff Maas asked how the group should go forward with its recommendation to change the name of the organization. Jack Kean volunteered to find out the process. Jack also moved that the Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English (WCTE) change its name to Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English Language Arts (WCTELA). Kathleen Lindas seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Twenty people were present for the vote.

Kathleen Lindas asked if a press release was being sent. Pam Rennhack indicated that she would send a press release. The question followed about who is responsible for publicity. In the current need for publicity, Connie Russell was named to announce the Chisholm Award. Maureen Mack was named to announce the Lee Burress Award.

Claire Roeker-Martin was named Second Vice-President for the organization.

The summer retreat will focus on "where we have been and where we are going." Jeff Maas and Pam Rennhack will work on the continuity of the organization. As soon as the retreat is planned, notice will go out to members.

**First V.P. Report:** Pam Rennhack, incoming President, congratulated Jeff Maas, outgoing President, on his accomplishments as President. She then discussed the intention of raising membership dues to \$30. She noted that there has not been a dues increase in more than seven years, that the fee is \$5 for students, and that the dues will be \$20 for first and second year beginning memberships. July 1 would be the date to notify continuing members about the increase in dues and the reason for the increase. Old fees would hold through June 30; new fees go into effect on July 1, 1998. John Zbikowski made a motion for the dues increase as presented, Jack Kean seconded the motion; the motion carried.

Pam Rennhack's two-year term is over for the NCTE Literary Magazine position. Mary Hoppe is the new State leader.

**Second V.P. Report:** John Zbikowski, incoming First Vice-President, provided a draft of a letter to Superintendent John Benson regarding new teacher guidelines. Pam moved that the letter be sent as written with amendments; Jack Kean seconded the motion; the motion carried.

Jack Kean moved the approval of the 1998-99 budget as amended: 1) provide \$200 for WCEE; 2) lessen the amount for D.D.L. to \$700; and 3) lessen the amount for video production to \$200. Mary Hoppe seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Membership Report:** Mary Graber presented the Membership Committee's report. She mentioned the past year's committee contributions: 1) pursued ways to have the organization become more visible; 2) updated the membership application; 3) made arrangements to have the membership application available and visible in all of the mailings from the organization; 4) reviewed the number and location of membership display tables the members managed at other conventions; and 5) indicated the commitment to have more display tables at other conventions in 1998-99. Everyone was reminded of the WCTE motto: "Every member is a member of the Membership Committee."

Old Business:

New Business: Pam Rennhack, formally introduced as the new President, took over the meeting.

It was noted that John Benson had heart surgery on May 1. The recording secretary was asked to send get-well

wishes to Superintendent Benson.

Adjournment: Jeff Maas moved that the meeting be adjourned. Jack Kean seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.