

**Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English Language Arts**  
Executive Board Meeting  
Saturday, February 11, 2006  
Best Western East Towne Suites, Madison, WI

Minutes-Amended July 27, 2006

1. The meeting was called to order by Lynn Aprill. The agenda was approved.
2. The minutes of the October 13, 2005 meeting were approved.
3. Treasurer's Report – Scott Oates  
Cindy Johnson has resigned as membership secretary. It is time to move the infrastructure operations out of Eau Claire. What to include in the job description for membership secretary:
  - a. Applicant should be literate
  - b. Savvy with Excel, Zoomerang, etc.
  - c. How many hours
  - d. Pay: \$15 per hour up to \$1,000
  - e. \$11.50 per hour=no filing of employer 1099 for Social Security, etc.  
Suggestion: Circulate the job description by next Friday.
4. Publications and Website
  - a. *Wisconsin English Journal*: Ruth Wood
    - i. The next issue will feature DeLong Middle School. The formula: Two adults and one student intern spend a day in Eau Claire to conduct interviews with school staff. The issue will include the convention call for proposals.
    - ii. JoAnne Katzmarek will edit the issue after that.
    - iii. Ruth is willing to continue as executive editor, with revolving guest editorships.
    - iv. Suggestions for fall 2007 themed issues: oral language, popular culture (film, news, etc.)
  - b. *Update*: Trista Dauk (in absentia) sent a list of possible stories and deadlines. Seeks “something for Monday morning.”
    - i. John will provide information on convention keynote speaker.
    - ii. Scott will write a case for constructivism.
    - iii. The featured District Director is Dianne Graf.
    - iv. Lynn is asking WEAC for permission to reprint a poem.
    - v. Awards announcement: direct student teacher and first-year teacher nominations to Barbara Dixson, not Scott Oates. Marty Wood handles Pooley awards. Other awards to note: High School Teacher of the Year, Chisholm, etc. One Director's position (Mary's) is opening up.
  - c. Website: John Zbikowski. The convention call for proposals is up. JoAnne suggested the possibility of offering course credit for participation

in the convention. John will investigate how to do this at UW-Whitewater; JoAnne will investigate how to do this at Point. Ruth will do the same at UW-RF. Need to emphasize that the convention is a way to work on the PDP and align it to standards. Point has a three-credit independent reading course.

5. Professional Issues: No report.
6. Intellectual Freedom: No report.
7. Wisconsin Conference on English Leadership: Tom Scott and Lynn Aprill reported that focus on a pressing concern to local districts seems to increase attendance. Carol: What districts want is teacher leadership, e.g., coaching, how to work with difficult people. Needed: A strand on some issue of high concern in teaching. A broad strand—piggyback on adolescent literacy. Get teachers to understand about interpreting kids' culture to them. Other issues: Writing, the gender issue, adolescent literacy, e.g., using popular culture to facilitate adolescent literacy, "what are boys not reading."
8. Wisconsin Conference on English Education: No report.
9. Elections: Mary Graber will have a list of who's up for reelection by the summer meeting. Second Vice President will stay on the official rotation: university, elementary/middle, and high school. Suggestion: draft a revision to the bylaws. Bring nominations to the summer retreat.
10. Awards: Carol Conway-Gerhardt confirmed the contact persons for the various awards. Erin Olkowski: Achievement awards. Barbara Dixon: Hoefs, outstanding student teacher awards. Suggestion: Schedule the awards reception for the end of the day so that winners can attend school and still attend to pick up awards, and also so that it won't drag out the lunch. Perhaps the awards could be presented at the end of a keynote session.
11. Pooley Foundation: Scott Oates (for Marty Wood): Marty would like online access to the accounts. He needs a signed form from a member to obtain this. Bonnie Frechette moved, and John Zbikowski seconded, authorizing this bank action on behalf of the board. Approved.
12. Second Vice President: No report.
13. First Vice President: John Zbikowski reported.
  - a. Report on affiliate activities at NCTE convention in Pittsburgh
    - i. Affiliate Networking Meeting: Joanne Yatvin spoke. Joanne was WCTE president in 1981. She outlined the many issues teachers face that affiliates can help with, such as removal of trade books,

scripted materials, standardized curriculum, emphasis on test scores rather than learning.

- ii. Annual Business Meeting: NCTE's new slogan was presented: "Providing professional development tailored to various career stages and to all levels of education, from preschool through graduate school."
- iii. Affiliate Breakfast: Participants addressed "What can affiliates do.?' Among affiliates, membership fluctuates with the success of conventions.
- iv. Meeting on affiliate finances: All affiliates are losing members. Important suggestion: establish a financial oversight committee. Offer a plaque if a whole department joins. Invest surplus income. Limit convention investments. Give newsletter and journal editors free NCTE memberships. If gross receipts exceed \$25,000, affiliate must pay taxes. The joint NCTE/Affiliate membership application didn't work. Rolling renewal *must* have a mail-out reminder. The Virginia affiliate monitors its website weekly. Leila Christenbury is "treasurer for life." The Pennsylvania affiliate was about to go belly-up, but they invited Millie Davis from NCTE headquarters to conduct a workshop with them, and they were revitalized.

JoAnne suggested proposing a convention session "How can WCTELA facilitate professional development" and a session on "meet the editors." There was some discussion of inviting Millie Davis to conduct a workshop for WCTELA leaders.

- b. Convention plans: Gerhard Fischer suggested inviting Scott Kiesling of the University of Pittsburgh to present an afternoon general session on "Dude" as a linguistic phenomenon. Popular culture is an interesting way to talk about Standard D in the Model Academic Standards. Another good speaker on language was Robin MacNeil on "Do You Speak American?"

14. President's Report: Lynn Aprill. Lynn attended the NCTE convention in Pittsburgh and photographed Liz Dixon receiving her award. Lynn attended the CEL workshop at which Kylene Beers and Bob Probst were presenters, and it was revitalizing. Lynn suggested networking for WCTELA members to enhance the convention, for example arranging to have dinner together, to attend the first-timer breakfast, etc. Suggestion: announce it in the *Update*, put it on the web page, have a poster at the convention. Suggestion: reserve a suite at the convention hotel for the president and others.

15. Old Business: There was discussion of moving the board meeting to Madison.

16. New Business: Further discussion of issues relevant to districts: college entrance requirements related to teacher qualifications.

17. Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

John Zbikowski