

**Wisconsin Council Teachers of English
Summer Board Meeting Minutes – DRAFT
29 July 2009**

Book Recommendations

- Erin – *The Omnivore’s Dilemma* by Michael Pollan
John – *Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc* by Mark Twain
Tom – *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* by Barbara Kingsolver
We Can’t Teach What We Don’t Know by Gary Howard
Penny – *The Glass Castle* – Jeanette Wallace
Coming Home (author of *Marley and Me*)
Lisa – *Rethinking Homework* – Cathy Vanderott
What Student Writing Teaches Us
Exemplars
Catherine Compton-Lilly – *Children, Literacy, and Language* by
Paula Wolfe – Graphic novels – especially Shakespeare
The Arrival by Sean Tan
A Thousand Steps to World Domination
Lynn – *The Life and Times of the Last Kid Picked*
Interpreter of Maladies
Emily – *City of Thieves* by David Benioff
Donna – *July, July* by Tim O’Brien
The Madonnas of Leningrad
Fun Home by Allison Bechdel
Scott – *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy
Emilie – *The Brief Wonderful Life of Oscar Wilde* by Juno Diaz
Relentless Pursuit by Donna Foote
Jacki – *The Inheritance* by David Sanger
Pillars of the Earth by Ken Follett (sequel – *World Without End*)
Barbara – John Cabot Zinn – *Island of Santy*
JoAnne – *Loving Frank*
Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie
Pat Osowski – *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*
Middlesex
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Sharing session

9:10 a.m.

Emily led us in sharing yesterday’s work –

Room 217 – Jacki reported that Erin, Lisa, and Emilie worked on district director information. What is the role of the district director? How might these directors revitalize the organization? Programs and strategies? They came up with a 1-2 year timeline to get started on

these initiatives. Considerations included PDP's, school districts, etc. Erin said she would email the timeline to everyone, but they will report back later in the agenda.

Room 225 – The Exec. Board worked on the directory and clarified roles, addresses, etc. We spent the rest of the day we worked on the responsibilities of each of the roles on the executive board. We created a set of documents that defined these roles and responsibilities. Discussion on how these role sheets will be published—paper, electronically??

9:23 a.m. – Regular Board Meeting was called to order

Kathy informed us that Madison in Feb. 2011 will be hosting the NCTE Research Assembly (usually the 3rd week)

- 1) Agenda – we will move the report on the WEJ up in the agenda to above Emilie's report to accommodate Kathy and Paula ; Tom moved to approve and Penny seconded the agenda
- 2) Minutes – Tom moved to approve, Lisa seconded

Skip to 5f3) WEJ – Emily read a report on where Ruth is with her last edition at this time. Ruth will be stepping down as editor, and a new editorial team has been selected. She and David Furnass are working on this issue which should be out before the conference. This would be the anniversary edition. Jacki has something to include from the Wisconsin ELA Guidebook. Emilie will scan and send to Jacki to include.

Future of the Journal – (See Emily's list for the list of team members). Emily stressed the importance of the Journal for our group. She also reported that she talked to Mary Louise Gomez previous to the meeting. Discussion of questions:

When is the new team's first issue expected out?

What is the expected schedule for the WEJ? The proposal was to continue twice a year; one a themed issue around the convention topic and one non-themed issue.

Are there certain topics that should be included within the contents of the WEJ? Tom suggested that the journals highlighting a school weren't very useful—he'd like to see a more scholarly journal. Lisa agreed and suggested a topical approach to the journal with a column about how this topic may be approached in the classroom (best practices). Donna is concerned with themed issues because we then exclude people, so we need to make sure that everyone knows there is room for other topics besides just the theme. Paula wants a spot for innovative practices from teachers without it being a big research article. Cathy suggested a column on diversity in literacy. New literacy studies and technology was suggested by Dawnene. Emilie read the actual proposal sent in by the UW-Madison team, which was very comprehensive as far as articles is concerned. They plan to contact each middle and high school in the state to encourage articles.

What would we like to communicate with the editorial team regarding directions for the WEJ? Must dos? Don't dos?

Barbara made the motion and Penny seconded to formally accept the editorial board presented by Emily. Motion carried. Emily went on to read the bios of those involved on the board. Scott asked about funding. Paula discussed the possibility of a print version. We discussed the format of the publishing at length. Both print and online versions were discussed. Paula suggested the first year would have one online/paper and one online only edition. Catherine suggested that the last issue they receive would be the last paper issue and then we would be online only after that. Much happy discussion about it being the 50th anniversary edition and the convention theme is "English...For a Change," so this would be the change. JoAnne suggested that Mary Louise write an article about the changes in the Journal which would be included in this last print issue. Paula asked about regular articles that we would like to make sure were in the journal. The DPI report by Emilie was definitely recommended. JoAnne pointed out that we need to make sure we have a Wisconsin focus in the Journal. Paula and Catherine suggested consolidating the Update and the Journal, sending out the Update as a link rather than an attachment. Pat suggested that if we are online we then have a member forum to discuss what is going on in the classroom, etc. We had a blog, a listserv, and a bulletin board over the years for discussion, but none of them went very far. Lisa suggested having an online discussion with a featured author as a member benefit. John brought up that we do ask our award winners to submit their papers for publication, which we need to keep in mind.

3) Treasurer's Report from Tom (see attached) Lisa moved to accept the treasurer's report, Penny seconded. Motion carried.

4) DPI report – Emilie shared information about the new Common Core National Standard Initiative. Much discussion followed about their recommendations and what we perceive as the abandonment of literature and concentration on skills in the ELA Common Core standards. Emilie reported that the state committee will continue to work on the new state standards document, but they cannot be approved based on what we know about the national initiative. ACHIEVE is a big part of this committee, and NCTE is at odds with ACHIEVE. There was a LOT of concern about the motivations behind these standards (i.e. global markets, capitalism), and also the moral and ethical considerations inherent in the Humanities which are not addressed in these Common Core National Standards at all.

5) Committee Reports

a) District Director Liason – Jacki (see attached report) shared yesterday's discussion by the district director group. We received a handout with regard to district directors' annual timeline of duties and event ideas. The district directors came up with some great ideas for getting new and current members more involved and networking. This was followed by a discussion of funding, program ideas, past programs, other groups to network with, etc.

We ended the morning with JoAnne discussing the voting process and figuring out how we can do both print and electronic voting efficiently and who is in charge of each. Still confusion about this, but it will be taken care of this year.

b) Membership – Tom – 295 members are on our rolls. We have two tasks—assure the accuracy of the rolls as far as expiration dates and addresses, and sending out renewal reminders on a monthly basis. There is a third task—membership cards, which is spotty at the moment.

c) WCEE – Barbara – WCEE is comfortably alive and meets at the convention during a break-out session. One direction is to become affiliated with the national CEE.

d) WCEL – Tom – Yesterday we discussed that members may not know what CEL is and how we might define that group for our membership. Donna brought up the difficulty with having meetings during sectionals and suggested that we instead have break-out tables at the breakfast for those groups to meet (WCEL, WCEE, District Directors, etc.) Tom likes the breakfast idea, so Donna needs a blurb on which groups want to meet and about what.

e) Awards – Carol couldn't be here, but Emily announced that we have a teacher of excellence, a first-year teacher, 2 student teachers, a teacher-leader, and a possible Chisolm award winner. Discussion ensued. No decision has been made about the Pooley, but there are three applicants for the research award. There are no nominations for the Burris award this year.

f1) Website – John handed out a sheet with website activity. Last meeting we discussed the possibility of a variety of web options, like blogs, multiple emails, password protection, etc. After investigating, John wasn't comfortable with purchasing anything yet. He looked at some neighboring affiliate websites to see what they offered and handed out very detailed information on various hosting and design options. John also met with WSRA's webmaster and got information on what they do with their website. We decided to make a website committee to further discuss this.

f2) We are in need of an Update editor. We sent an email to Linda Barrington yesterday to see if she would be interested in serving in this capacity. We need a simple Update about our summer meeting and the upcoming conference. Erin volunteered. Erin asked for email content by next week Sunday (August 2nd) so she can get it out before August 14th.

g) Archives – Emily discussed what the archives might mean as far as an electronic version of the Journal is concerned.

6) Officer Reports

b) 2nd V.P. – Lynn reported on the plans so far on the 2010 convention, which is tentatively set for Eau Claire in October. The theme is "Finding a Balance," and Lynn is in discussions with Hilve Firek as the keynote speaker.

c) 1st V.P. – Donna reported that her convention is all set. A convention secretary was hired to put together packets, etc. She is looking into co-sponsors for the

breakfast. Donna ask that we please register for the conference and reserve our hotel rooms soon. We discussed using the Facebook page to coordinate pre-service teachers staying with UWM students to defray costs. Presenters are expected to register for the convention. Donna got over 40 proposals by March, and she had to turn some proposals down, which is great!

- 2:09 d) President's – Emily Ihrke hosted a WCTE sponsored meeting at the AP Lit Reading and 15 people attended - half college, half high school. None of the attendees were currently members but Emily and Tom will follow up regarding becoming members. Emily will try to do this again if she attends the reading in the future.

Emily met with Michigan's affiliate's 1st vice president and discussed co-hosting a conference event in 2011 – the year NCTE is in Chicago. They have discussed possibly meeting in Green Bay to focus attention on teachers in UP and Northern Wisconsin and highlight Native American issues. We could consider finding ways to help teachers satisfy the Native American Studies requirement for licensure, venues through Native American connections etc. There was also a suggestion to consider collaborating with the Minnesota Council as well. This is just an idea for further thought.

7. Old Business - none

8. New Business

Poetry Out Loud is looking for regional coordinators, similar to CESA districts. These are paid positions and interested people should contact Jacki Martindale. She is also trying to team up with the Wisconsin Academy of Poets who could do workshops in schools to build up interest in POL.

Emily and Donna received an email from Charles Reis from the Poet Laureate Commission suggesting that WCTE allow his organization keep the Wisconsin page updated instead of WCTE. Emily will email him and confirm that the WCTE agrees that his organization can maintain the page.

- 2:30 motion to adjourn by Donna, seconded by Jackie.