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## Minutes of the National Writing Centers Association Board Meeting

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**Minutes of the National Writing Centers Association Board Meeting**  
**March 17, 1994**  
**Nashville**  
**CCCC**

Board members present: Byron Stay, Nancy Grimm, Lady Falls Brown, Christina Murphy, Pamela Farrell-Childers, Muriel Harris, Joe Law, Jim McDonald, John Husband, Diana George, Anne Mullin, Robert Murray, M. Clare Sweeney

Guests present: Beth Rapp Young, Twila Yates Papay, Michael Pemberton, Jennie Ariail, Rick Marshall, Dave Healy, Martha Marinara, Kate Latterell, Michael Condon, Sharon Thomas, Pete Carino, Emily Jolson, Donna Reiss, Phyllis Kahaney, Molly Wingate

(Note: The attendance sheet missed a portion of the room, so the above list is incomplete.)

Past President Lady Falls Brown called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m. and, in the absence of president Ray Wallace, turned the meeting over to First Vice President Byron Stay. Minutes of the NCTE meeting in November were approved.

**Executive Secretary's Report**

Nancy Grimm, Executive Secretary, distributed the financial report indicating a treasury balance of \$6088.38. She reminded members of NWCA services, including starter folders, dissertation research support, and regional conference support. Grimm also announced new regional representatives: John Husband of the Midwest Writing Centers Association and Joe Law of the Southeast Writing Centers Association. It was brought to the Board's attention that Robert Murray is the new New England representative. Grimm announced the resignation of Clara Fendley and told the board that Jim McDonald and Pamela Farrell-Childers were the top vote getters in the election for two at-large positions. The election was conducted early this year to increase the potential pool of candidates for the executive secretary position.

**Announcements and Standing Reports**

a. Byron Stay noted that there would be another meeting on Saturday morning to make final plans for the national conference; he also distributed the conference schedule.

b. Mickey Harris reported that the *Writing Lab Newsletter* has been

reformatted and is in healthy condition with plenty of manuscripts on hand. She encouraged members to send her newsworthy items.

c. Diana George reported that the current editors were preparing their last issue and had selected David Healy as the next editor of *The Writing Center Journal*.

d. Byron Stay reported that the topic for the NCTE workshop would be "What is a Writing Center?: Models for the '90s." To suit the concerns of the audience, the planners will put their primary emphasis on high school writing centers.

e. Lady Falls Brown reported that WCENTER was doing well. She expressed appreciation for Eric Crump's monthly excerpts in *Writing Lab Newsletter* and for Dave Healy's initiation of an e-mail bulletin board for tutors.

f. Pam Farrell-Childers reported that the National Directory of Writing Centers is still available for \$15 and mentioned plans for an update.

### **Regional Reports**

a. The East Central Conference will be held May 6-7. Joan Mullin is the conference organizer. Mickey Harris will be the speaker.

b. Anne Mullin reported that the Rocky Mountain Conference will be held in conjunction with the regional MLA on October 27-29.

c. John Husband reported that the Midwest Conference will be held in Kansas City October 7-8 with Nancy Grimm as keynote speaker.

d. The New England Conference was held two weeks ago with Lil Brannon as guest speaker.

e. The Mid-Atlantic Conference, held March 1, featured Christina Murphy as keynote speaker.

### **Old Business**

a. Byron Stay reported that over 200 proposals were received for the national conference. Organizers expect approximately 400-500 people to attend. The Writing Center Directors Symposium will be held at 4:00 on Wednesday. Catalyst sessions will be held on the following days. Eric Hobson was responsible for organizing poster sessions in order to involve as many participants as possible. The poster sessions will be held at breaks in the

program. Jim McDonald has coordinated information on hotels, dining, and entertainment. Stay announced that Christina Murphy would conduct the final session that will summarize conference issues and discuss future directions. A Cajun dance band is planned for Friday night. The keynote speaker plans have not materialized. Stay expressed thanks to the members of the conference planning team: Eric Hobson, Jim McDonald, Christina Murphy, and Joan Mullin.

b. Prior to the election of a new executive secretary, the members discussed issues concerning how elections should be held. The problem of low attendance at the annual NCTE meeting was mentioned and the possibility of holding elections by mail. Another possibility mentioned was holding a national conference every year and conducting elections at that conference instead of NCTE. Members discussed the difficulty of finding regional representatives who could afford to attend national meetings on a regular basis. Farrell-Childers reminded the board that canceling the NCTE regular meeting would exclude high school members and suggested sending a letter to the schools regarding the importance of attendance at national meetings. A motion was made and approved to refer the matter to an ad hoc committee. Eric Hobson will head the committee. Byron Stay will appoint additional members including, if possible, one of the original executive board members. The committee will examine the bylaws, determine the intent of the original members, survey the current board for suggestions, and make recommendations to the board.

c. In soliciting nominations for the position of executive secretary, it was determined that no current board member had institutional support for the position. A motion was made to suspend requirements that the executive secretary be a member of the executive board. The motion was approved. Alan Jackson was elected to the board for a three-year term as executive secretary.

d. The board postponed the decision about having an annual national conference until after the New Orleans conference in April.

The meeting was adjourned in time for the NWCA Special Interest Session. During that session, Michael Pemberton received the NWCA 1994 scholarship award for his "Writing Center Ethics" column in the *Writing Lab Newsletter*.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Maloney Grimm  
NWCA Executive Secretary