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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**

November 19, 1993

Pittsburgh

NCTE

**Board Members Present:** Lady Falls Brown, Ray Wallace, Byron Stay, Sally Fitzgerald, Christina Murphy, Eric Hobson, Diana George, Al DeCiccio, Kathleen Shine Cain, Pat Dyer

**Guests Present:** Donna Reiss, Tom Waldrep, Ken Resch, Steve Fields, Joyce Kinhead, Tom MacLennon, Garry Ross, Alan Jackson, Jim McDonald, Martha Marinara

President Lady Falls Brown called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Minutes of the March meeting were approved.

### **Executive Secretary's Report**

Nancy Grimm, Executive Secretary, distributed the financial report indicating a treasury balance of \$5450.70. She reminded members of NWCA services including starter folders, dissertation research support, and regional conference support. Grimm also distributed a list of board members indicating regional representative replacements and members elected over the past summer. The new at-large representative is Eric Hobson and two people will share the community college position, Barry Brunetti and Clara Fendley.

### **Old Business**

Lady Falls Brown reminded the board of the importance of serving as reviewers for writing center proposals submitted to the CCCC convention. She expressed appreciation for the support of CCCC Chair, Jacqueline Jones Royster regarding NWCA concerns. Members were also informed that the CCCC's Writing Center Research Roundtable will have a position on the program after some confusion regarding whether it was a guaranteed spot or had to compete on a yearly basis. Because the roundtable had been on the program for years, participants had assumed it was a regularly featured event. Royster clarified that the session competed for a spot on its own merits.

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## Reports

- a. Writing Lab Newsletter. No report.
- b. Writing Center Journal. Diana George reported that the next issue will be mailed in December and will include work by Nancy Welch, Carol Severino, Dave Healy, Wendy Bishop, Barbara Cambridge, and Jean Kaidesch and Sue Dinitz in addition to the annual bibliography. She also indicated that the spring issue of *WCJ* is already shaping up. In response to questions, George clarified that each submission to *WCJ* is reviewed by two members of the editorial board and the three editors. The editors are pleased with the timeliness, depth, and helpfulness of the comments made by the editorial board.
- c. 1993 NCTE Workshop. Ray Wallace reported that 38 people attended the workshop. He reminded the board that only six people can be listed on the program as workshop presenters.
- d. 1994 NCTE Workshop. Byron Stay reported that next year he plans to propose a workshop that will look at models of writing centers in a manner similar to what Harris and Kinkead did in their book, *Writing Centers in Context*. He stressed the importance of meeting the needs of two year college and high school teachers at the NCTE workshop.
- e. 1994 CCCC Special Interest Group Presentation. Sally Fitzgerald and Molly Wingate will be presenters at this session.
- f. WCenter. Lady Falls Brown indicated that WCenter is alive and well. Eric Crump continues to report on WCenter in a column, "Voices from the Net," in *Writing Lab Newsletter*. David Healy has started a tutor list.
- g. NWCA Conference (New Orleans). Byron Stay and Ray Wallace reported plans for a highly interactive conference. Thanks to the efforts of Tom Waldrep, Richard Riley, the U.S. Secretary of Education, will be the keynote speaker. Chris Murphy will conduct the concluding session which will pull together comments from the six catalyst sessions as well as the concurrent sessions and WCenter. Catalyst sessions include the following: Writing Center Directors' Symposium, Writing Centers as Teaching Communities, Writing Centers as Electronic Communities, Writing Centers as Research Communities, Writing Centers as Administrative Communities, Writing Centers as Electronic Communities. Registration forms for the

conference will be mailed soon. The conference is scheduled to begin about 3:00 p.m. April 13 and end at noon on April 16. Social events, including Cajun dance lessons, will be an important part of the conference. Stay and Wallace need volunteers to work at the conference.

h. NWCA Breakfast (CCCC). No report.

i. Committee Reports. None.

### **New Business**

a. Nominations were solicited for second vice-president. The two nominees, Sally Fitzgerald and Chris Murphy, spoke briefly. Members discussed whether, because of the limited attendance, the election should be conducted by mail. The board agreed that the by-laws need to be clarified regarding voting procedures but moved to proceed with the election. Stay counted ballots and announced Murphy as the winner.

b. Discussion was held concerning the length of term for regional representatives. Terms are supposed to be for three years, but some regions find it difficult to place a person in this position for three years. Members discussed the need for continuity but also urged that regions make an effort to send a representative to the national meetings. They recommended increased communication with regionals to clarify responsibilities and the relationship with the national board. A motion was passed to revise the by-laws to have each region determine the length of term for representatives to the national board.

c. The position of executive secretary will be open after CCCC 1994. Alan Jackson was nominated, but again discussion of by-laws revealed that those nominated for an officer position must already be members of the board. Caution was advised about overriding the by-laws. A motion was passed to move this year's election for new at-large board members forward to be completed before CCCC. The deadline for nominating candidates for the two open at-large positions is January 10. Nomination forms are available from Nancy Grimm.

d. Byron Stay will solicit nominations for the NWCA Scholarship Award.

e. Ray Wallace will convene the committee for deciding on the NWCA

Service Award which is presented every three years. Nominations should be sent to Wallace.

Items remaining under new business (Starter Kit revisions, Relationship with Writing Center people in K-12 and two-year colleges, and Certification Program) were deferred to the next meeting.

### **Announcements**

Alan Jackson asked members to take the remaining NWCA flyers for distribution.

Lady Falls Brown turned the gavel over to Ray Wallace who will serve as president for the next year.

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Maloney Grimm