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**Minutes of the NWCA Executive Board Meeting
March 29, 1996
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
CCCC**

Present: Christina Murphy, Joan Mullin, Dave Healy, Judy Kilborn, Jim McDonald, Neal Learner, Beth Boquet, Pete Carino, Ghussan Greene, Eric Hobson, Steve Sherwood, Irene Clark, Mary Jo Turley, Muriel Harris, Michael Pemberton, Joe Law, Byron Stay, Al DeCiccio, Margaret Weaver, M. Clare Sweeney, Anne Mullin, Jean Kiedeisch, Sue Dinitz, Sally Fitzgerald, Julie Neff-Lippman, Becky Bolander, Jeanette Jordan, Carol Peterson Haviland, Pamela Childers, and others.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by President Christina Murphy.

I. Minutes of the Last Meeting: Eric Hobson moved that the minutes from the NCTE Executive Board meeting (previously mailed out) be accepted, and Al DeCiccio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Introductions: Christina Murphy introduced two new board members, Ghussan Greene and Jennifer Jordan-Henly.

III. Treasurer's Report: Michael Pemberton reported on the financial state of NWCA:

Balance carried forward from Alan Jackson (12/21/95): \$6,500
Income from 1995 NWCA conference: \$2,500
Memberships: \$1,005, less subscriptions to WCJ (\$290) and WLN (\$345)
Total Income/Assets: \$9,371.99.

The 1996 CCCC expenses included booth space for NWCA Press (less contribution from *Dialogue*, *Composition Studies*, and *LLAD* at \$100 each), furniture for booth, and award plaques for best article and book, as well as a special service award, all totaling \$351.18. This leaves NWCA with a current balance of \$9,020.81.

IV. NWCA Press: Byron Stay reported on NWCA Press. Sales of *Writing Center Perspectives* are steady. Review copies have been sent to journals. *Writing Lab Newsletter*, *The Writing Center Journal*, *Teaching English in the Two-Year College*, *College Composition and Communication*, and *College English* have said they would review it. Copies of the book have been sent to Choice Magazine and the National Register, so the title should show up in Books in Print. NWCA Press borrowed \$4555 from NWCA to print 550

copies of *Perspectives* and for ISBN numbers and shipping to St. Louis for the NWCA Conference. To date the press has collected \$1994.65 in books sold and has incurred expenses of \$308. As of the meeting in Milwaukee, we had a balance of \$1686.65. The press inventory is approximately 336 books (prior to CCCC).

NWCA Press has tentatively accepted a manuscript from Carol Haviland and Thia Wolff entitled “Writing Centers and Collaborative Pedagogy: Interrogating Our Own Practices.” NWCA Press will also support the new edition of the *Writing Center Directory* when Pam Childers is ready to publish it.

V. Accreditation Committee: Joe Law reported on the status of the Writing Center Accreditation Committee, pointing out that accrediting would increase the professionalism of writing centers, especially in terms of assessment and the ability to self-evaluate, that accreditation would provide convincing materials for administrators, and it would help establish writing centers’ credibility. The committee agrees that any accreditation procedure must acknowledge our differences, and the process must keep in mind each writing center’s individual mission. The process itself would be largely a self-study supplemented by a visit from a regional accreditation committee.

The committee is considering three levels of accreditation: accredited, accreditation with distinction, and model writing center.

A motion to accept the report was forwarded by Byron Stay and seconded by Al DeCiccio. Discussion centered on the need to survey the membership about the criteria that will be used and the process. A suggestion was made to clarify the motion from approval of the document to a motion which grants the committee approval for continuing to present a more extensive report at the next meeting. The motion unanimously passed.

VI. NWCA Directory: Pamela Childers reported briefly on the history of the *National Writing Center Directory*. The McCallie School’s financial support of the printing of the first edition has never been repaid, and there is an outstanding balance of \$1407.16. The motion to repay the McCallie School was forwarded by Christina Murphy, and seconded by Lady Falls Brown. The motion addressed the reimbursement for this particular instance only and is not intended to set a precedent or commit the NWCA to a particular course of action in future circumstances or deliberations. The motion passed unanimously.

A brief discussion took place about the next edition of the *Writing Center*

Directory. Irene Clark suggested it be placed on-line; Christian Murphy suggested it also be offered on disk for those who do not have Internet access; Irene also suggested we offer to sell the list to publishers. All suggestions met with approval, and the membership publicly thanked Pam Childers for her continuing work on this project.

VII. Starter Kits: Christina Murphy introduced the subject of starter kits. These are outdated, and NWCA needs to make new kits for the various institutional levels: high schools, community colleges, and colleges/universities. Beth Boquet reported that she is going to propose for her sabbatical next year that she collect narratives, theory and practice resources, bibliographies, forms, mission statements, and other writing center materials for the new kits. Joan Mullin suggested that we might get NCTE to offer a discount coupon for *Writing Centers in Context* or for other books that would be useful to new writing center directors and tutors.

Christina Murphy forwarded a motion to endorse Beth's project and Joe Law seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. NWCA Conference: Joan Mullin announced that the next NWCA conference will be in Salt Lake City or the surrounding resort area in fall of 1997. More information will be coming out soon.

IX. Graduate Student Research Awards: Christina Murphy announced the NWCA had a request to support Stuart Blythe's (Purdue) dissertation: "Conceptualizing the Technologies of Writing Center Practice." Pam Childers seconded the motion; discussion concluded with an amended motion, offered by Christina and seconded by Pam, to double the usual award (\$250.00) to \$500.00. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Constitution: Michael Pemberton proposed that we make a small amendment to the NWCA constitution to change our fiscal year from July to June so as to be in concert with NCTE. Christina Murphy made the motion to do so in order to qualify NWCA for tax exemption status under NCTE. Eric Hobson seconded the motion and pointed out that had we previously had such an exemption, the 1995 NWCA conference would have saved at least \$3000.00 in taxes. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Announcements: Pam Childers passed out copies of the NWCA applications for membership/newsletter/WCJ, a copy of her letter printed in the *Harvard Education Letter* (January/February 1996) endorsing writing centers, and the latest *ACE Newsletter* featuring the use of computers in writing centers.

Al DeCiccio suggested that anyone who has any ideas for next year's CCCC SIG should contact him since he will be chair of the session.

Dave Healy announced that the editorship of *WCJ* would be open one year from now. He will solicit applications in future issues of *WCJ*; due date for application will be October 1, 1996.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by Joan Mullin.