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NWCA Information

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NWCA

National Writing Centers Association Executive Board Meeting Minutes, NCTE, November 21, 1998

Present: Joe Law, Christina Murphy, James Inman, Howard Tinberg, Ron Weisbergh, Steve Reno, Terry Riley, Richard Williams, Michael Pemberton, Pam Childers, Steve Sherwood, Eric Hobson, Paula Gillespie, Al DeCiccio, Neal Lerner

Al called the meeting to order. Introductions.

Secretary's report: Paula distributed minutes from CCCC and a roster that included new board members.

Treasurer's report: Neal distributed report to Board members.

Writing Center Journal report: Al reported that the new issue is in the works. It will be larger than usual. There are 950 subscribers, 800 of whom are active.

Bloomington Conference: There will be a business meeting and panel on accreditation: how we can make it more particularized? Keynote speakers will be Muriel Harris and Ed White. NWCA will refund \$5.00 per registrant to ECWCA.

Regional Conferences: SCWCA has posted its call. It will be in Little Rock, hosted by Sally Crisp. NEWCA will be in April at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine. Al DeCiccio will be the keynoter. MAWCA will be in Delaware, March 20. SEWCA will be in Charlotte in early February.

Old Business:

Accreditation: This topic still stirs lots of feeling, but members support it. Dennis Paoli, Marcia Silver, and Jo Koster Tarvers are writing an article that will be published in one of the publications.

Graduate Scholarship Requests: There have been none recently. Michael remarked that we need to do more to publicize the scholarships.

New Board Members: Jon Olson, at-large representative, and Ellen Mohr, Community College representative, were re-elected. Bruce Pegg and Jo Koster Tarvers were also elected.

NWCA and NWCA Press: We will attempt to make explicit the relationship between NWCA and NWCA Press.

We moved that Byron be re-appointed editor of NWCA Press. We did not have a quorum, but we decided to go with a simple majority

NWCA Directory: After a discussion of options, the board decided for expediency's sake to have a Milwaukee printer handle and distribute the directory at cost to members. The board will support the cost of 75 copies to take to regional and national conferences.

New Business:

We welcomed the European Writing Centers Association to the board.

The constitution needs to be amended. We will commence with that electronically.

The board voted unanimously to grant up to a maximum of \$750.00 plus registration to help Anna Challenger cover her costs to travel to the Bloomington national conference.

The board voted to establish a committee on scholarship awards. Those board members who are up for awards should not vote on those specific awards. Eric will work with the board to establish a committee.

The board voted to give copies of the Murphy, Law, and Sherwood *Writing Centers: An Annotated Bibliography* to the scholarship awards recipients in addition to the plaque.

Eric moved that NWCA give him seed money to have NWCA mugs made up to sell at conferences. He will look into possible problems with sales tax. The board supports the idea.

We will establish a committee, chaired by Neal Lerner, to establish annual research grants.

We began a discussion of a name change to the International Writing Centers Association. Eric will pursue this idea.

Michael Pemberton announced that the SIG at CCCC will be an extension of last year's, an examination of new directions in writing center scholarship. Speakers will be Nancy Grimm, Beth Boquet, and Eric Hobson.

The writing center pre-convention workshop proposed by Neal was discussed. If it succeeds like last year's, it will be the only sold-out PCW that CCCC offers.

Al handed over not one but two gavels to the ambidextrous Eric Hobson. The organization expressed its deep gratitude to Al for his dedication and presented him with a plaque and a shirt from the Baseball Hall of Fame.

National Writing Centers Association Executive Board Meeting Minutes, CCCC, March 26, 1999

Present: Paula Gillespie, Jim McDonald, Sara Kimball, Susan Callaway, Jon E. Olson, Beth Boquet, Michael Pemberton, Eric Hobson, Al DeCiccio, Neal Lerner, Meg Carroll

NWCA Conference 1999: Ray Smith reported on the NWCA convention to be held April 15-18 in Bloomington, Indiana. 460 people have registered. There will be over 160 presentations, with 14 posters and 3 workshops fully subscribed at 30 each. Lodging is tight, but if people still want to register and need lodging, they should contact Ray for help. He detailed the entertainment and meal planning. The conference schedule is posted on the website. The board meeting will be on Friday, April 16, and will take place during concurrent sessions, but this was the only way to fit the meeting into the regular conference times. The biggest problem so far has been finding enough parking. He reported mailing information on the conference to 4,000 people.

Treasurer's Report: Neal distributed the report to Board members.

New Business: We need regionals to be willing to host a conference in summer or fall of 2000.

Next NWCA Conference: Eric gave a report on the NCTE global conference, which NWCA hoped to attach itself to, perhaps through pre- and post-conference writing center workshops, but the global conference is being postponed. The European regional NWCA members were enthusiastic about having a meeting, but as they waited to hear about NCTE's plans, they lost steam. Eric would like to have the next NWCA conference abroad. Al asked why we can't have a representative on the NCTE board. Eric will inquire. Jon said that MAWCA was considering hosting the next NWCA conference. Al mentioned, in connection with NCTE, that in the CCCC program's listing of areas of interest, many writing center sessions were not included.

Grants Committee: There is no news on the research grants, but Eric thanked the committee. There will be a report at the NWCA board meeting. To fund the grant, pens and NWCA mugs are being offered for sale for a donation to the grant fund. *The Writing Center Journal* has offered to match funds up to \$1,000.

NWCA Newsletter: Kelly Lowe is willing to act as editor, and his school will give support. We have not been good about communicating with members, and the newsletter will help. It might be ready for a summer mailing.

NCTE Distinguished Service Award: Al, Michael, and Eric are nominating Muriel Harris.

Traveling Exhibits: Eric has boxes of materials he mails out to regional meetings. He asked what kind of presence we have at the regional meetings. He suggested that we need to be represented at other conferences as well, such as the Penn State and Wyoming conferences. Susan Callaway suggested that instead of NWCA Press sending books to sell at regional conferences, we have display copies and order forms. She said that at MWCA, books were sent (and they sold well), but the MWCA staff had no instructions or prior notification.

Scholarship Awards: In the past the selection proceedings have been laissez-faire, but now that there are more and more publications, we need to set guidelines on how to select books. There were two committees of six to choose the awards, and Eric hopes that these committees will reconvene to suggest guidelines.

Graduate Research Support: Applicant Anne Geller has been informed of her acceptance. Al and Neal have met her and have offered mentorship and help in the Boston area. Eric has asked her to submit a budget. The flyer (see end of minutes) will be revised to include asking for a budget and letters of support (and perhaps we can suggest some ideas for budget items, since new researchers might not anticipate some of the expenses we know they will encounter). A question was raised about asking for a budget, since the applicant may need the money most immediately to pay current living expenses. Michael suggested making a basic grant and then adding to it for specific budgetary items.

Constitution: The changes to the current constitution might not require a full membership vote, but there was sentiment in the committee that it should be sent out to all members anyway. If we change the name, we will need a 2/3 vote first of the board and then of the membership. It was noted that it is difficult to get 2/3 of the members of any organization to vote. An amended constitution and a ballot for new officers could go out in the new newsletter.

Networking Among Regionals: We agreed that this was important and will be discussed at NWCA.

Accreditation: Eric wants us to decide at NWCA whether to go ahead with this, and if so, to act on it quickly.

Paula distributed the list of duties to board members for revision.

National Writing Centers Association Research Grant Guidelines

Purpose: The National Writing Centers Association (NWCA) serves to strengthen the writing center community through all of its activities. To encourage advancement of existing theories and methods and the creation of new knowledge, the NWCA offers its Research Grant. This grant supports quantitative, qualitative, theoretical, and applied projects associated with writing center research and application. (**Please note:** Applicants seeking support for theses and dissertations are not eligible for this grant; instead, they should apply for the NWCA Graduate Research Grant.)

Award: \$500.00-\$750.00

(Note: NWCA reserves the right to modify the award amount.)

Application: Complete application packets contain the following items (electronic applications accepted):

1. Cover letter: Addressed to the current NWCA President, the letter should do the following:

- request NWCA's consideration of the application
- introduce the applicant and the project
- specify how grant monies will be used (materials, travel, conference registration, etc.)

2. Project Summary: 1-3 page summary of the proposed project, its research questions and goals, methods, schedule, current status, etc. Locate the project within the relevant, extant literature.

3. Curriculum Vitae

Process: Upon receipt of the application, the NWCA President will forward copies of the complete packet to the Board for consideration, discussion, and vote. Applicants can expect notification 4-6 weeks from receipt of application materials.

Stipulations:

1. NWCA support must be acknowledged in any presentation or publication of the resulting research findings.
2. Copies of resulting publications or presentations must be forwarded to NWCA in the care of the Executive Secretary.
3. Upon completion of project, the recipient must submit a final project report to the NWCA Board, in care of the Executive Secretary. If project extends more than one year from receipt of grant monies, recipients must file a progress report to the Executive Secretary at the one-year point.
4. Recipients are strongly encouraged to submit a manuscript coming out of the supported research to one of the two NWCA-affiliated publications, *The Writing Lab Newsletter* or *The Writing Center Journal*, or to the National Writing Centers Association Press, with the understanding that they are willing to work with the editor(s) and reviewer(s) to revise the article for eventual publication.

For further information or to discuss project's fit to the award's guidelines, feel free to contact the current NWCA President. Names and addresses of the President and Board members are available on the NWCA Homepage at <http://departments.colgate.edu/diw/NWCA.html>.

Computer List

Writing center personnel with Internet access may be interested in a list devoted to discussion of writing center practice and theory. WCENTER is for anyone interested in writing centers.

To subscribe to WCENTER, send a message to: listproc@listserv.ttu.edu
Leave the subject line blank. In the message window, type a two-line message:
subscribe wcenter <your name>
set wcenter mail ack

NWCA Web Site

For information about the National Writing Centers Association, visit the NWCA Web site at: <http://www2.colgate.edu/diw/NWCA.html>

Back Issues

1981 1.2	1993 13.2, 14.1
1986 6.2, 7.1	1994 15.1
1988 8.2	1995 15.2, 16.1
1990 10.2	1996 16.2, 17.1
1992 12.2, 13.1	1997 17.2

Checks should be made out to *The Writing Center Journal* and sent to:

The Writing Center Journal
Joan Mullin
Writing Center
2801 W. Bancroft
University of Toledo
Toledo, OH 43606-3390

Photocopies are available of all other issues at ten cents a page.

National Writing Centers Association An NCTE Assembly

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Neal Lerner
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Mt. St. Mary's College

Jo Koster Tarvers
At-Large Representative
Winthrop University

Bruce Pegg
At-Large Representative
Colgate University

Joan Mullin
Writing Center Journal
University of Toledo

NWCA Honor Roll

Outstanding Service Award

- 1984 Muriel Harris
- 1987 Joyce Kinkead
- 1991 Jeanette Harris
- 1994 Lady Falls Brown
- 1997 Byron Stay

Outstanding Scholarship Awards

- 1985 Stephen North, "The Idea of a Writing Center"
Donald A. McAndrew and Thomas J. Reigstad, *Training Tutors for Writing Conferences*
- 1987 Edward Lotto, "The Writer's Subject is Sometimes a Fiction"
Irene Lurkis Clark, *Teaching in a Writing Center Setting*
- 1988 John Trimbur, "Peer Tutoring: A Contradiction in Terms?"
Muriel Harris, *Teaching One-to-One*
- 1989 Jeanette Harris and Joyce Kinkead, "Computers, Computers, Computers"
- 1990 Richard Behm, "Ethical Issues in Peer Tutoring"
Lisa Ede, "Writing as a Social Process"
Pamela B. Farrell, *The High School Writing Center*
- 1991 Lex Runciman, "Defining Ourselves: Do We Really Want to Use the Word 'Tutor'?"
Jeanne Simpson and Ray Wallace, eds., *The Writing Center: New Directions*
- 1992 Alice Gillam, "Writing Center Ecology: A Bakhtinian Perspective"

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Muriel Harris, "Solutions and Trade-offs in Writing Center Administration"

1993 Anne DiPardo, "'Whispers of Coming and Going': Lessons from Fannie"

Meg Woolbright, "The Politics of Tutoring: Feminism Within the Patriarchy"

1994 Michael Pemberton, Ethics Column in *Writing Lab Newsletter*

1995 Christina Murphy, "The Writing Center and Social Constructionist Theory"

Joan A. Mullin and Ray Wallace, eds., *Intersections: Theory-Practice in the Writing Center*

1996 Peter Carino, "Theorizing the Writing Center: An Uneasy Task"

Joe Law and Christina Murphy, eds., *Landmark Essays on Writing Centers*

1997 Peter Carino, "Open Admissions and the Construction of Writing Center History: A Tale of Three Models"

Christina Murphy, Joe Law, and Steve Sherwood, eds., *Writing Centers: An Annotated Bibliography*

1998 Nancy Grimm, "The Regulatory Role of the Writing Center: Coming to Terms with a Loss of Innocence"

1999 Neal Lerner, "Drill Pads, Teaching Machines, Programmed Texts: Origins of Instructional Technology In Writing Centers"

Eric Hobson, ed., *Wiring the Writing Center*

Graduate Student Research Awards

1986 Evelyn J. Posey, "Microcomputers, Basic Writing, and the Writing Center"

1987 Mary Kilmer, "Writing Centers and Content-Area Courses"

- 1989 James Bell, "Perceptions and Behaviors of Writing Center Tutors"
- 1991 Eric Hobson, "Centering Composition Instruction: The Roles of Writing Centers in Composition Programs"
- 1995 Deborah D'Agati, "Writing Center Tutor Training and Classroom Response Groups"
- Neal Lerner, "Teaching and Learning in a University Writing Center: An Ethnographic Study"
- 1996 Stuart Blythe, "Conceptualizing the Technologies of Writing Center Practice"
- 1999 Anne E. Geller, "Selected (Graduate-Student) Writing Center Tutors Reflect on their Teaching Experiences During their Initial Semesters on the Job"

National Writing Centers Association Membership Form

The Assembly:

The National Writing Centers Association, an NCTE Assembly, was founded in 1983 to foster communication among writing centers and to provide a forum for concerns. Comprising directors and staffs of writing centers at universities, two-year colleges, and public schools, the NWCA is governed by an Executive Board that includes representatives from the regional writing center organizations.

Publications:

The Assembly sponsors two publications. *The Writing Lab Newsletter*, edited by Muriel Harris at Purdue, provides a monthly forum for writing center concerns during the academic year. *The Writing Center Journal*, edited by Joan Mullin and Albert C. DeCiccio, offers in its two issues per year longer articles on writing center theory and research.

Awards:

NWCA offers the following awards: (1) an award to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to writing centers, and (2) awards to recognize outstanding publications on writing centers. In addition, small grants are available to graduate students whose research focuses on writing centers. NWCA also supports regional association conferences with speaker grants.

Meeting:

The NWCA meets twice a year, once during NCTE and once during CCCC, and during a National Writing Centers Association conference in alternate years. At NCTE, NWCA sponsors either a day-long workshop, or an Active Writing Center; at CCCC, the assembly sponsors a special interest session, along with an exchange of writing center materials. Executive Board meetings are always open to the membership.

Name: _____

Preferred Mailing Address: _____

Options	U.S.	Canada	Overseas
NWCA Membership	\$10	\$10	\$10
<i>Writing Center Journal</i>	\$10	\$15	\$15
<i>Writing Lab Newsletter</i>	\$15	\$20	\$40
Membership + <i>WCJ</i>	\$20	\$25	\$25
Membership + <i>WLN</i>	\$25	\$30	\$50
Membership + <i>WCJ</i> + <i>WLN</i>	\$35	\$45	\$65

Make checks payable to NWCA; mail to Neal Lerner, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences, 179 Longwood Ave., Boston, MA 02115-5896. Phone: 617-732-2824; e-mail: nlerner@mcp.edu. NWCA cannot send out invoices nor process purchase orders.