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## NWCA Information

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## NWCA

### **National Writing Centers Association Executive Board Meeting-CCCC-Chicago, April 2, 1998**

Present: Al De Ciccio, Dennis Paoli, Brenda Robertson, Susan Callaway, Carl Glover, Bruce Pegg, Muriel Harris, Ellen Mohr, Pam Childers, Michael Pemberton, Jeanne Simpson, Beth Boquet, Byron Stay, Paula Gillespie, Jo Koster Tarvers, Jon Olson, Jim McDonald, Marcia Silver, Bobbie Silk, Carol Haviland, Stephen Newmann, Neal Lerner, Joan Mullin, Eric Hobson, Meg Carroll, Marcy Trianosky

After introductions, the minutes of the last meeting (NCTE, 1997) were approved.

The Treasurer's Report was submitted by Neal Lerner and amended to include an additional \$8,000 revenue from the national conference.

NWCA 1999 Conference Report: Ray Smith, program chair of the 1999 NWCA conference, gave his report on the progress that was being made. He announced the dates and a web page. The conference will be called "WC2K: Meeting the Challenges of the New Millennium." Ray sought recommendations for a keynote speaker. Mickey Harris asked if it could be a tutor, selected from proposals based on nominations. 3-tiered conference fees were suggested, fees for ECWCA members, non-ECWCA members, and a reduced rate for students and part-timers.

NWCA Press report: A limited number of copies of *The Writing Center Resource Manual* were available during the conference at the NWCA table, and the other publication, *Weaving Knowledge Together*, will be available shortly after the conference ends.

Welcome European Affiliate: A unanimous vote welcomed the new affiliate.

Assessment/Review/Accreditation: Dennis Paoli, Marcia Sliver, and Jo Tarvers gave their report. Al got the guidelines for the WPA accreditation procedure. CRLA will send a packet of information. Marcy gave the history of her own assessment experiences at Hollins, when she had Joan come in and assess their writing center. Byron commented that we should be sure that our accreditation system does not penalize centers for a lack of budget and equipment.

There will be a discussion on WCENTER as we search for what to call our process, and we will discuss diversity, size, budget, institution, and institutional placement. We will also discuss standards: what should they be? How many criteria? How should standards be applied? Who should apply them?

We agreed that we should assess/review/accredit ourselves rather than let universities do it. The process should be harmless and painless.

The questionnaire developed by the committee has been posted at the NWCA website.

A discussion followed. The following points were raised: It was recommended that NWCA fund outside visitors. An internal review (within the university) can work. WPA evaluators will make comments on writing centers if asked to.

Questions were raised: can a self-study help internal reviewers ask the right questions? How can we measure effectiveness of a writing center for the school? How does accreditation support what the institution wants from us?

And more discussion: Joan said that as the national organization, we're supposed to be the experts. Jo pointed out that the accreditation process can be a way of educating the institution. Bobbie asked how, if the institution does not want to be educated?

Jeanne pointed out that administrators have money for accrediting. Small schools need accreditation to draw students. Large schools can serve as models for others. Beth asked if we could start with assessment and move towards accreditation.

Al moved that we move forward with our inquiries into accreditation/assessment/review. All agreed.

Congratulations to Nancy Grimm, winner of the Scholarship Award for the outstanding writing center article of the year, "The Regulatory Role of the Writing Center: Coming to Terms with a Loss of Innocence," *The Writing Center Journal* 17 (1996): 5-29.

Respectfully submitted, Paula Gillespie, secretary.

## **Outstanding Service Award**

In our last issue, we announced a process for nominating candidates to receive this award at our national conference. Upon consultation with the NWCA Board, we discovered that we made a mistake: the outstanding service award is to be given every three years. Therefore, we will make the appropriate announcement in time to recognize the outstanding service award recipient for the year 2000.

## **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](mailto:listproc@listserv.ttu.edu)  
Leave the subject line blank. In the message window, type a two-line message:

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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**

### **Officers**

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**Neal Lerner**  
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*Writing Center Journal*  
Univeristy of Toronto

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**Ray Smith**  
*ECWCA Representative*  
Indiana University

**Byron Stay**  
*NWCA Press*  
Mt. St. Mary's College

**Bruce Pegg**  
*At-Large Representative*  
Colgate University

## 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"

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"

### **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"

## 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, 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 in-