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NWCA Information

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NWCA

National Writing Centers Association Minutes

CCCC, April 13, 2000

Attending: Sonja Bagby, Penny Bird, Beth Boquet, Lady Falls Brown, Anna Challenger, Pam Childers, Al DeCiccio, Julie Eckerle, Karl Fornes, Paula Gillespie, Allison Holland, James Inman, Neal Lerner, Kelly Lowe, Ellen Mohr, Jon Olson, Dennis Paoli, Michael Pemberton, Jill Pennington, Karen Rowan, Leigh Ryan, Donna Sewell, Bobbie Silk, Byron Stay, Denise Stephenson, Patti Stock, Marcy Trianosky

President Michael Pemberton called the meeting to order at 8:13 p.m.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the meeting in Denver on November 20, 1999 were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Neal Lerner noted that we cleared \$1,600 from our NWCA meeting in Bloomington, IN. Irene Clark received the first research grant of \$700. Neal added that \$2,000 had been given to MAWCA as seed money for the national conference in Baltimore in November. He also noted that we had given Anna Challenger a \$500 travel grant to help with her trip from Greece. We have \$18,000 left in the budget.

MAWCA folks have raised the question about using credit cards to register for the National Conference, as well as to pay dues. In the past, we discovered it was expensive. It has come up on ebay—paypal.com—Internet service that it can be done for free. Moved and seconded that Neal will take charge of investigating

Writing Lab Newsletter: The publication is doing well and not losing any money.

Writing Center Newsletter: Kelly Lowe reported on the new newsletter, explaining that the second one will be easier to do since the template is now in place. Sending it first class meant that more people received it. Kelly indicated that support from his college has been good.

Hoping that this newsletter will become a forum for NWCA, Kelly asked that representatives from regional organizations and schools send him information, and that information from the CCCC meeting should be included. He reminded people that this newsletter offers an

informal, chatty forum, and indicated that photos may be included.

NWCA Press: Byron Stay reported that we have been repaying NWCA \$1,000 every November and now have a little more than \$2,500 in our account. We continue to sell steadily, and expect to sell out of *Perspectives* at CCCC. Asked about reprinting some texts, Byron said he has explored this area; there is no point in reprinting several hundred copies of little requested texts, but it may be possible to get several copies done at a time.

Byron mentioned that he talked with Bobbie Silk and they identified six possible chapters in *The Writing Center Resource Manual* to either add or revise, depending on interest. These are (1) A chapter on graduate students, (2) The psychology of writing centers (emotional issues), (3) ESL issues, especially in Eastern Europe, (4) Writing center resources, (5) Writing center assessment (perhaps a book?), and (6) New technology and software in writing centers. We could do some chapters now and sell as a supplement to *The Writing Center Resource Manual* and then include these chapters in a separate section for those who buy new copies.

NWCA Press is considering one proposal for a book from Beverly Moss with a tentative title of *By Any Other Name: Writing Groups Inside and Outside the Academy*.

Byron added that we want more publications directly related to writing centers and attractive to administrators and tutors. James Inman added that he is working with Clint Gardner to set up the online resource for those who work with OWLs. Proposals are being considered for various chapters.

Reports from Regionals: Representatives reported on their regional meetings and other news.

Report on the NWCA Conference: Leigh Ryan reported that things are set for the Omni Hotel in Baltimore, MD, Nov. 2-4, 2000. Proposals have been reviewed and notification of acceptance or rejection has been accomplished.

Reports on Book Awards: Al DeCiccio asked if copies of the nominated articles could be made available at the SIG so people could know what was considered; it was pointed out that probably no one would read them at the meeting, but a list could be put in the newsletter.

Michael indicated that questions about qualifications according to publication dates were left to the committees. He commended Bobbie Silk and her Scholarship Awards committee for their good work.

Old Business:

Accreditation/Assessment: Michael asked to leave this report till the end of the meeting. He has been talking with people from WPA about working with their organization to develop guidelines.

Name Change: The Board voted to put the proposal for a name change to the membership to see whether or not they want a change; if 2/3 approve, they can express preference for what change they want to see take place. At this point, we are unsure as to whether to consider that second vote as majority rules or to take it as an advisory vote; we will concern ourselves with that once we see what the vote actually is. The vote will be requested through the newsletter.

New Business:

Proposal from the editors of *The Writing Center Journal*: Al DeCiccio and Joan Mullin wish to propose the editorship for 3 years, with new co-editors being put into place before the final year. Acceptance of this proposal was moved and seconded, and it was approved. We will work on a proposal to formalize the shift. Patti Stock suggested that we check with NCTE for models of contracts with journals.

Tax-exempt status for regionals: Michael and Neal have talked with people at NCTE about this status for regionals; however, it is problematic that they have their own treasuries and don't report to NCTE. Regionals could apply, but the reporting responsibility will go along with that.

Accreditation/Assessment: Michael reminded the Board that at the business meeting in April, the Board voted to accept the four principles articulated by Kevin Davis:

1. (a) Make a self-assessment available to members; (b) Involve NWCA in post-assessment conversations; (c) Design a workshop for self-assessment.
2. Create a list of resource persons for assistance within a given region.
3. Start establishing connections with WPA.
4. Assemble and distribute data on self-assessments.

Graduate Student Requests: Julie Eckerle asked for future discussion about the status and professional development of graduate student writing center administrators. She discussed submitting a proposal in November that will request graduate student representation on the NWCA Board, as well as a formal statement that would outline the ideal circumstances for and treatment of graduate student administrators. She mentioned Jon Olson's offer to be a liaison, and the support of graduate students for the proposed chapter on graduate students in *The Writing Center Resource Manual*.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Leigh Ryan, Secretary

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>.

Maxwell Award

Congratulations to **Jean Kiedaisch**, Director of the Academic Support Programs at the University of Vermont, for winning the *2000 NCPTW Ron Maxwell Award for Distinguished Leadership in Promoting the Collaborative Learning Practices of Peer Tutors in Writing*. The *Maxwell Award* recognizes an individual for dedication to and leadership

in collaborative learning in writing centers, for aiding students in together taking on more responsibility for their learning, and for promoting the work of peer tutors. Its presentation also denotes extraordinary service to the evolution of the National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing.

Jean has been part of the Conference from the outset—she brought peer tutors to the first one in 1984. She co-hosted the Conference in 1991, not because the University of Vermont couldn't sponsor the Conference itself, but rather as an attempt to widen the circle of collaborative practice. She has offered counsel as part of the Conference steering committee for many years. A collaborative learning philosophy guides her work on her campus and in her discipline, even as it informs her Conference presentations and those of her tutors. What she practices among her peer tutors she also practices among her professional colleagues. As letters of nomination put it, "Her passion for peer tutors shines through her work." She leads "quietly" and with an "unflappable manner." "I've always felt she was ready to lend a hand, even when she was unable to attend the Conference." "She has shared her ideas freely."

The *Maxwell Award* honors leadership that is demonstrated in a variety of ways, including but not limited to the following:

- Building a record of bringing peer tutors to present at the Conference;
- Giving service to the NCPTW through hosting the Conference, serving as program chair, leading in the search for future sites, etc.;
- Fostering leadership skills among peer tutors;
- Showing evidence of leadership in collaborative learning on the home campus;
- Developing innovative peer tutoring programs in the home community;
- In general, welcoming and meeting new challenges in leading a Center guided by a collaborative learning philosophy.

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:

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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	1998 18.2 19.1
1986 6.2, 7.1	1994 15.1	1999 19.2 20.1
1988 8.2	1995 15.2, 16.1	2000 20.2
1990 10.2	1996 16.2, 17.1	
1992 12.2, 13.1	1997 17.2, 18.1	

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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Writing Lab Newsletter
Purdue University

Bobbie Silk
At-Large Representative
Clarke College

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Writing Center Journal
University of Toledo

Jon Olson
At-Large Representative
Penn State University

Albert C. DeCiccio (ex-officio)
Writing Center Journal
Rivier College

Bruce Pegg
At-Large Representative
Colgate University

NWCA Honor Roll

The Muriel Harris 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"

Irene Lurkis Clark, "Collaboration and Ethics in Writing Center Pedagogy"
- 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"
- 1999 Neal Lerner, "Drill Pads, Teaching Machines, Programmed Texts: Origins of Instructional Technology In Writing Centers"
- Eric Hobson, ed., *Wiring the Writing Center*
- 2000 Elizabeth Boquet, "'Our Little Secret': A History of Writing Centers, Pre- to Post-Open Admissions"
- Nancy Maloney Grimm, *Good Intentions: Writing Center Work for Postmodern Times*

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 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.