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NWCA Information

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NWCA

National Writing Centers Association Minutes

NCTE, November 20, 1999

Present: Sharon Thomas, Neal Lerner, Jenny Jordan, Howard Tinberg, Donna Sewell, James Inman, Pam Childers, Joan Mullin, Michael Pemberton, Kelly Lowe, Suzanne Swiderski, Catherine Oriani, Paula Gillespie

In Eric Hobson's absence, Michael Pemberton called the meeting to order.

The minutes from 4/16/99 were approved.

Secretary's report: the document that spells out the duties of officers of the board needs to be revised. Paula will send copies around for members to read and revise, so incoming officers can get a clearer idea of what needs to happen when.

Question: Since we are entitled to either a guaranteed session or an all-day workshop, do we want to plan a workshop? The consensus was, yes, because of the response to this year's session on writing centers in secondary schools. Paula will pursue this.

Treasurer's report: We are doing so well that we run the risk of being audited for having a balance of over \$20,000.

NWCA Press report: Sales of current titles are giving the press enough revenue to pay some of the advance back to NWCA. Currently, there are no manuscripts under consideration.

New Business:

NWCA Newsletter: Kelly Lowe reported that the cost of doing the newsletter was remarkably low. He pointed out that it is a potential publicity vehicle, and asked who could get it besides NWCA members. The board decided that since there was money in the treasury, it would be a good use of funds to pull the ballot out of the current issue, substitute an update, advertise NWCA 2000, and mail it to all NCTE members. The next newsletter will be out on February 1.

Regionals: The represented regionals gave their reports

Writing Center Journal report: Joan Mullin commented that our discipline faces a problem: some who submit articles take editors' comments as rejections; others get angry. Some submit articles with little or no research in written sources. She said that we need to encourage writers and talk about what it means to publish and research in our field.

Traveling exhibit: This collection of handouts, books, forms, and flyers has been very well received. However, we need to regularize the sale of artifacts. We probably need to hire someone, not a NWCA official, to staff the booth and be responsible for the exhibit.

Welcome additions to the exhibit: We need a list of all books about writing centers, with publishers and cost, in handout form. We could also publish this list on the NWCA website, with links, where appropriate, to publishers. We will put out a call to ask for titles.

Graduate Research Scholarship: We need to publicize this more, perhaps in letters to graduate directors of English or rhetoric and composition departments. We can announce it on the WAC and WPA listservs, in the CCCC program and other places. This raised the often-discussed need for a publicist.

Publicist: This topic has come up at several board meetings, and we always agree we need one, but it always remains an idea. Perhaps the past president and the newsletter editors can serve that function together.

There was a report on mission and assessment.

Report on NWCA 2000: We clarified the way the NWCA will fund the national and the way profits, if any, will be split.

New Secretary: We agreed to vote online, since there might not have been a quorum. Leigh Ryan has agreed to be nominated for secretary.

Questions about WCJ and NWCA Press: A question was raised about the succession of editors for *WCJ*. Joan pointed out that editing the journal is enormously time-consuming, too much for one person and demanding of graduate student help. There is a long learning curve involved. Currently, the *WCJ* does not belong to NWCA. Do we want to become an umbrella organization for it? Board input is vital, Joan said. The possibility of a six-year editorship was raised. In any case, the editor must give formal

notice before resigning. The possibility of regularizing the succession was raised. The board will discuss it.

Byron Stay started NWCA Press, and the relationship to NWCA is purely financial.

Distinguished Scholarship awards: Last year the president made copies of all nominated articles and distributed them to awards committee members. Joan reported that the committee did not want formal criteria for the awards to be specified.

Passing the Gavel: As Eric was absent, Michael Pemberton passed the gavel to himself and took over as president for a term of two years.

The meeting adjourned when Jen Jordan's beautiful new baby girl made a grand entrance.

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:

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subscribe wcenter <your name>  
set wcenter mail ack
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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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Furman University

Muriel Harris (ex-officio)
Writing Lab Newsletter
Purdue University

Bobbie Silk
At-Large Representative
Clarke College

Joan Mullin (ex-officio)
Writing Center Journal
University of Toledo

Jon Olson
At-Large Representative
Penn State University

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