

NEEMA Board Minutes
Tuesday, February 7, 2006
Virtual Meeting

Finalized 2-26-06

Present:

Sue Ballard, Carol Gordon, Dot Grazier, Marilyn Joyce, Dianne Kimball, Irene Kwidzinski, Kathy Lowe, Carolyn Markuson, Merlyn Miller, Sylvia Norton, Jenifer O'Connor, and Katrina Palazzolo,

Call To Order:

Past-President Carol Gordon called the meeting to order 5:06 p.m.

Secretary's Report:

Motion to accept the minutes of September (Dot/Merlyn). Motion passed.

Carol then verified the people and positions on the current NEEMA Board Address List. The following are the conclusion. Remove Audrey Friend as she is no longer Finance Chair. Table the discussion of AECT position. Representatives from Massachusetts are Kathy Lowe as President of MSLMA, Valerie Diggs and Sandy Kelly. Remove Linda Sherhouse as she is Past - President of NHEMA. Dot Grazier is now President from NHEMA. Carol will call RI to check on them. Carol will email Peg Hallisey to see if the web site will be enough information for her instead of receiving separate emails via our Board email list.

Treasurer's Report:

Tabled for next Face-To-Face.

State Reports:

Connecticut CEMA: Submitted by Rebecca Cochrane, Representative to NEEMA

Connecticut's **Information and Technology Literacy Framework** was adopted by Connecticut State Department of Education in January 2006.

Irene Kwidzinski is chairing CEMA's **2006 Conference** Committee. We have **Lois Lowry** scheduled thus far. The conference will be held November 5 and 6, 2006 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cromwell, CT. The Committee meets once a month. For 2007 we are planning a joint conference at the new convention

center in Hartford with CECA (CT Educators Computer Association). Planning is in the preliminary stages.

CEMA has **reorganized the board into working groups: Advocacy, Professional Development, and Management.** Working groups meet for the first part of the board meeting and then we gather together and report results and decisions, leaving time for discussion. We are hoping this change will make meetings more efficient and more effectively uses our time.

As a result of the work by the CEMA Board's Professional Development "working group," it is planned that **CEMA's Annual Fall Festival will be broken into Regional Festivals** so as to encourage participation throughout the different regions of the state.

CEMA will be **sponsoring a table** for the CEA New Teacher Conference on March 18 at the Foxwoods Resort. Three LMSs will be available to promote the mission of the organization as well as answer questions from new teachers about our role as instructional collaborators within schools.

CEMA's IP2 Committee has scheduled several **workshops** this year. A recent workshop was held on Saturday, January 28, 2006 at Sheehan High School in Wallingford presented by Sue Ballard entitled, [A Data-Driven Food Chain: Evidence Based Budget Development](#). Upcoming workshops include a panel discussion on [Current Issues Facing School Library Media Specialists](#) on Saturday, March 25, 2006 at Sage Park Middle School in Windsor, CT, and ALA Copyright Specialist, Carrie Russell, will be presenting Saturday, April 29th at Cheshire High School.

Maine MASL: Submitted by Nancy Grant, Representative to NEEMA

The **Maine Libraries Conference** date is set for September 17-19, 2006 at the Augusta Civic Center, with a Cultural theme. This is a joint conference for school and public librarians.

School librarians are hunting for resources to support the new Maine law: An Act to Require Teaching of Maine Native American History and Culture in Maine's Schools (more information at: <http://www.maine.gov/education/edlets/2005/adlet/05adlet026.htm>). One source being used is: www.oyate.org/books-to-avoid/index.html, "a site maintained by a Native organization that reviews books for authenticity about Indian peoples".

The **Maine Educational Assessment testing plan for 4th, 8th & 11th graders has changed.** The College Board SATs are now being given in place of the MEAs for all 11th graders, on Saturday, April 1. The 8th grade MEAs are available in an online version, as all the 8th graders have state-leased iBooks. The Information Literacy process assessment is not a part of either assessment

and has been left up to the local schools to decide how to assess.

In December 2005, **school librarians viewed the proposed revisions of the Maine Learning Results** (Maine's State Educational Standards document: <http://www.maine.gov/education/lres/lres.htm>). With support from the School Library/Technology Planning Coordinator, Sylvia Norton, each of the seven content standards committees included a school librarian. Two of the changes in the English/Language Arts Content Standards show the worth of this. Local school districts are required to assess these standards.

Proposed revisions to the E/LA standards:

C. RESEARCH: Students participate in inquiry by identifying research questions, refining them as necessary; accessing a variety of PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SOURCES; summarizing, synthesizing and evaluating the quality of sources; and communicating the answer/s to research questions, applying the conventions of documentation. Students use technology when appropriate to present findings orally, in writing, or using mixed media.

F. MEDIA: Students recognize and can explain the effects that both print and non-print media have on listeners, viewers and readers. They develop an awareness of the effect that the media has on civic discourse and decision-making.

Massachusetts MSLMA: Submitted by Kathy Lowe, MSLMA President

The **MSLMA board met online** in January using Chatzy.com. Our two virtual meetings (January and April) are appreciated by members who have a long drive to Weston.

Randy Testa from Walden Media provided MSLMA Conference Committee members with 15 tickets to a **pre-release screening of the movie *The Lion, the Witch and The Wardrobe*** at the Loew's Theatre in Boston on December 3rd.

The Legislative Committee met in January to begin planning for MSLMA's lobbying day at the State House on March 22nd. **Exhibits will focus on the ways school libraries add value to their communities.** The committee is asking members to provide displays as well as photos and quotes from students, faculty and community members for a PowerPoint presentation showing how they value their school library program.

The **MSLMA bill to include school libraries in the Education Reform law** has still not been reported out of committee. Many MSLMA members testified in favor of the bill before legislators from the joint House-Senate Education Committee who held a Listening Tour in several locations across the state before the holidays.

A new task force has been established to work with our Membership committee to **reach out to librarians employed at independent schools** and encourage them to join MSLMA.

The Professional Standards and Curriculum Committees have joined forces under the leadership of Valerie Diggs to **develop an Information Literacy Skills Standard modeled after the *Recommended Instructional Technology Standards* currently posted on the Massachusetts DOE's Curriculum Frameworks website**. MSLMA hopes to develop this new standard with the cooperation and approval of the DOE and with the ultimate goal of dissemination through the DOE's website.

The **2006 conference committee** will hold its first meeting on February 7 to consider a theme and begin to decide on speakers and workshop sessions. The conference will be in Sturbridge, MA October 29-30, 2006.

The **winter issue of Media Forum Online** focuses on literacy and will be posted on the MSLMA web site this week. It features a reprint of an article from *From Now On* by Jamie Mackenzie on the school librarian's role in teaching reading and includes MSLMA members' responses to Mackenzie's views. The theme of the spring issue is student achievement.

Southeast Area Directors are planning **two meetings focusing on managing/training library support staff**. Boston Area Directors, with the director of the Boston Regional Library System, will co-host the Boston region's **first Legislative Breakfast** at the Boston Arts Academy/Fenway High School Library on March 9th. Metrowest Area Directors held meetings in October and January that included **school tours, discussions of NEASC visits**, and meetings with the MLA president and staff of the Metrowest region. Other area directors are working with their regional counterparts to plan and attend their region's Legislative Breakfasts.

Executive Director Doris Smith is investigating the **purchase of liability insurance for the association** and whether insurance covering individual board members should also be purchased.

MSLMA board member Mary Moniz continues to **work with MLA to refine a joint statement on school/public library cooperation**. This will be the third joint MSLMA/MLA statement. The others are on collection development and the similarities and differences between school and public libraries.

MSLMA wrote a **letter to legislators supporting amendments from B.E.S.T (Business and Education for Schools and Technology) to the Governor's wireless technology bill which would bring wireless devices to 15 middle schools around the state** over several years, in preparation for a statewide

wireless initiative. B.E.S.T's amendments add requirements for better professional development, maintenance, technical and instructional support and coordination and reduce the local financial commitment. MSLMA wants to ensure that should this legislation pass, library teachers play an integral role in providing training for teachers and instruction for students in the use of these devices.

MSLMA will have an **informational display at the Title I conference in Hyannis**, May 10-13 and is encouraging members to present with their literacy specialists and/or classroom teachers at future conferences.

MSLMA president Kathy Lowe, past-president Ann Perham, and Affiliate Assembly representatives Valerie Diggs and Sandy Kelly attend the ALA Mid-Winter Conference in San Antonio in January. Kathy is a member of the School Library Task Force, chaired by Barbara Stripling, which presented an interim report to ALA Executive Board (attached). MSLMA will send president Kathy Lowe, the president-elect (to be elected in April), and two Affiliate Assembly representatives to the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans in June.

New Hampshire NHEMA: Submitted by Dot Grazier, NHEMA President

Considering becoming a School Library Media Specialist?

This one-day session will be presented by the New Hampshire Educational Media Association (NHEMA) on Friday, April 7, 2006 from 8:30-3:00 p.m. at the NH Department of Education in Concord, NH. The cost is \$25.00 and includes a box lunch. This session will inform teachers, public librarians, school library assistants, public library assistants and other interested individuals in the responsibilities of being a school librarian, the options to becoming certified, and educational opportunities from the area institutions of higher learning to become certified.

New Hampshire Educational Media Association's Spring Conference

The theme for this year's conference will be Learn @ Your Library. It will be held Wednesday, May 24, 2006 at Plymouth State University. This conference features a Best Practices Workshop in the Todd Trevorrow Commemorative Series for Managing Knowledge in a Digital Era: "But Did It Make a Difference? Assessing Library Instruction." More information about this series can be found at http://www.nhcuc.org/library_bestpractices.pdf.

What do we know about our contemporaries and ourselves?

One of the Governing Board discussions has been how to develop an awareness of the school libraries in our state and how they compare to other states. Some of this data is needed to ascertain whether New Hampshire school libraries are meeting the new state minimum standards. Some is needed for individual school libraries to fight for improvement, and some is needed to simply ground our impressions in realities. Thus, NHEMA is working on a two-prong approach.

- Data has been gathered from the web on library standards in other states. Emily Graves has volunteered to put this data into a spreadsheet which will be published on the NHEMA website. This will help us to compare our state against others in the nation. Many thanks to Emily for taking on this challenge.
- In 1998-1999, NHEMA conducted a survey under the direction of Kay Klein. We have taken this survey on staffing, space, finances, and scheduling in its original form and added questions on time allocation, paraprofessional needs, outreach programs, technology, volunteers and fund raising. To this survey we are considering adding the questions from the Colorado Study so that we will have a means of comparing nationally. This is still in draft form and will hopefully be available on SurveyMonkey.com in April. It will be promoted in the next On-Line or by sending postcards to members. This is jointly being handled by the Information Power Committee and the Governing Board.

With these forms of data, we hope to be providing useful information for individual school libraries and for the state as a whole.

Revising the Constitution and Bylaws

The revised Constitution and Bylaws is being published in the next newsletter with a ballot enclosed. The changes are basically as follows: To simplify these changes for our busy members, the following are the highlights:

- Voting will be able to be handled by email.
- There will be a President and a Vice-President. The added position of Conference Chairperson will be in charge of coordinating joint conferences with NHLA as well as assisting those interested in producing NHEMA only conferences. Continuity of this expertise is needed.
- The added position of Member Services will coordinate and report back to the board on webpage development (Diane Beaman), Online publication (Tracy Pryne), and listserv concerns (Gale Grainger) so that communication is maintained but also allows these hard workers to not attend every governing board meeting.
- There is a single position of secretary, which is a recording secretary only. All Board Members will handle their own correspondence.
- Two "at large" members are added to expand our input from the membership.
- The Advocacy and Government Relations committee chairperson will keep the membership informed on current and pending state and national legislative. This chairperson will also serve as a liaison with NEEMA, the New England Educational Media Association. Continuity here also was lacking.
- The Standards and Certification committee chairperson will carry on our interest in state standards and certification. This person will also serve as the liaison to NHASCD, the New Hampshire Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.
- The previous standing committees of Intellectual Freedom, Public Relations, Technology, Scholarship and Awards and Information Power remain unchanged.

Rhode Island RIEMA: Submitted by Phyllis Humphrey, RIEMA President

RIEMA's **upcoming conference** is scheduled for April 28 at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick. The keynote speaker is Dr. Ross Todd and their luncheon author is Mark Patinkin. (Web page is <http://www.riema.org>--go to the News Link).

RIEMA will also be participating in the **NEA Read Across America** event that takes place at the Warwick Mall. RIEMA will have a booth; students can stop to make bookmarks, pick up reading lists, and enter their name and their librarian's name in a drawing for a gift certificate. Every 2 hours another name will be drawn.

RIEMA will also partially sponsor "**Under the Spell of Books**" which is an author celebration at RI College that will take place in June on a Friday

evening and a Saturday. During this conference, several authors are featured and participants have an opportunity to not only hear them speak but to also attend workshops. The Friday evening is geared toward students and parents; it always has a theme with related activities along with one or two of the main authors.

A big issue for RIEMA this year has been our **involvement with the RI Department of Ed who is overseeing the Commissioner's decision regarding the staffing of school library media specialists in the Providence Schools**. We have mentioned this before, but the thrust is that the Superintendent requested a waiver to RI law regarding staffing. The District's intent was to solve some of their budget woes by cutting LMS positions. The Commissioner denied the waiver, thereby upholding the law with the condition that the state organization (RIEMA) work with the administration and the media specialists to improve library services for Providence students. The Commissioner has given Providence and RIEMA a year to demonstrate improved services. At the end of the year, the Commissioner will re-evaluate the situation. A lot hangs on the outcome. All of RIEMA's energies have been put into this.

Vermont VEMA: Submitted by Merlyn Miller, Representative to NEEMA

The VEMA board this year is an **issue-oriented board**. Our current president, Dan Greene, wanted to deal with issues rather than have meetings that simply are report readings and the new format seems to be working well. Rather than try to tackle too many issues, and succeed at none, we are currently **concentrating on professional development and mentoring**. We have six professional development-related offerings that will be offered to our members "soon". They are:

1. **Integrating information Literacy Skills into the Curriculum**
2. **Book Clubs and Book Discussion Groups**
3. **School and Public Library Programs**
4. **School Community and Curriculum Review/Update**
5. **Integrating Technology into your Library**
6. **Media Literacy**

Our mentoring of new librarians and students in the UVM course of studies is also in place. We have matched up new librarians with experienced VEMA members.

Three VEMA board members **met with the Comm. of Education Richard Cate to discuss the reinstatement of the Department of Education's consultant**, and the Commissioner hopes to fill the position at least as a half-time position by the next fiscal year. (Please note, this is NOT a promise on his part, but he would like to do it).

Keynotes for the May 16 & 17, 2006 Vermont Library Conference are Howard Frank Mosher and Norma Fox Mazer. An additional feature of this year's conference is a Vermont authors' reception. To date, 80 Vermont authors have responded they will attend. They are: Laurie Alberts, An Na, Alfred Andrea, Michael Barker, Susan Bartlett, Philip Baruth, Harry Bliss, Elizabeth Lee Bluemle, Robert Buck, David Budbill, Michael Caduto, Marialisa Calta, Laban Carrick Hill, Deborah Pickman Clifford, Howard Coffin, Annette Compton. Sharon Darrow, Ann B. Day, David Dobbs, Eugenie Doyle, Crescent Dragonwagon, Beth Dugger Kanell, Judith Edwards, Amy Ehrlich, Tony Eprile, Marc Estrin, Mary Gow, Helen Gow, Lynda Graham-Barber, Thomas Christopher Greene, Michael Hahn, Samuel Hand, Hervie Haufler, Mary Hays, Shelby Hearon, Ellie Hilferty, John Hilferty, Mary Holland, Ruth Horowitz, David Huddle, Helen Husher, Florence Baker Karpin, Garrett Keizer, Leland Kinsey, Bette Lambert, Jeffrey Lent, Harry Mazer, Laura Williams McCaffrey, Ann McKinstry Micou, Nancy Means Wright, Jean Merrill, John Miller, Susan Milord, Stephen Morris, Rita Murphy, Anne Stuart Ohlrogge, Grace Paley, Katherine and John Paterson, Burt Porter, Susan Provost Beller, Charmane Rae Kelley, Susanne Rappaport, Virginia Ray, F.D. Reeve, Jan Reynolds, Marjorie Ryerson, Leda Schubert, Gregory Sharrow, Warner Shedd, Laura Stevenson, Tanya Stone, Chris Tebbetts, Catherine Tudish, Kathryn Mademann Vaughan, Doug Wilhelm, Elizabeth Winthrop, Suzi Wizowaty, Archer Mayor, Karen Speerstra, and Chris Bohjalian

AASL:

Irene Kwidzinski sent out report (below) from January 2006 in San Antonio, TX and asked if there are any questions. Carol suggested that Irene's article be placed in the next NEEMA Views. Sylvia and Irene are not aware of any New England states where the 65% is an issue.

Marilyn Joyce sent the Statements of Concern (attached). The timeline is listed below in her report. Discussion of the Statements of Concern will be put on the April agenda of NEEMA Board for discussion and follow-up. The final Statements of Concern are due to Marilyn by May 15th. Carol suggested that this information as drafts go up on Members Only section of web site. We can do a lot of virtual conferencing on these. Each state can have their own recommendations and commendations and NEEMA can endorse. If three states have the same issue, we can get them together in a group.

NH has re-applied to be an AASL affiliate.

There is going to be an AASL meeting in New Orleans.

AASL Report: submitted by Irene Kwidzinski, AASL Director, Region I

Will the Battle Ever End? Defining the Role of School Libraries

School libraries are under attack---again. ALA understands that and created a School Libraries Task Force chaired by Barbara Stripling last year.

It is difficult to explain all of the issues and how it may affect you. In order to educate yourself, I encourage you to check out the links listed here and keep

looking for news on this issue. ALA has really begun to focus on the crisis of school libraries in answer to AASL and its members' concerns. To strengthen AASL's influence in ALA and to keep their focus on school libraries, I strongly encourage you to bullet your votes in the ALA elections beginning in March and select school librarians for positions in ALA. If you are not a member of ALA and AASL, now is a good time to become one---before the dues go up and to vote. Make AASL a strong voice for school libraries in ALA.

At the ALA mid-winter conference in January, **AASL and ALA approved a resolution on the Instructional Classification of School Librarians**. For the full wording of the resolution go to (full wording is below)

<http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/article/CA6302342.html> .

In the resolution, ALA points out that although **some agencies understand our instructional role, there are others who do not, namely NCES** (National Center for Educational Statistics) and the proposed 65% Solution (www.firstclasseducation.org).

Ten states are seriously looking into the 65% Solution to solve their education woes. This is a threat to school libraries. The resolution is ALA's swift response to the 65% solution, but it doesn't end there. AASL has established an Instructional Classification Task Force (see press release <http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2006/februray/alacouncil65percent.htm>). This task force is a direct result of a concern expressed by CEMA, NEEMA and other school library associations.

Check out these articles to get a sense of the atmosphere:

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/headline/metro/3624104.html>

http://www.ajc.com/wednesday/content/epaper/editions/wednesday/metro_340ec472b11fd1b000b5.html

We need to be the best that we can be. Every one of us is a model of a school librarian in our school and our community. There is no one else to show them who we are and what we can do. It is an awesome and exciting responsibility.

2005-2006 ALA CD#35 2006 ALA Midwinter Meeting

**This resolution was adopted by the ALA Council, Sunday, January 22, 2006,
San Antonio, TX**

ALA Resolution on the Instructional Classification of School Librarians

WHEREAS, School libraries are classrooms in which school librarians teach and students and teachers learn—where students read, utilize print, non-print, and technology resources, and learn to use information for projects and reports efficiently, effectively, and ethically, with the goal of developing lifelong learning and literacy skills and strategies; and

WHEREAS, Multiple research studies, more than 60 since 1965, have affirmed that there is a clear link between school library media programs staffed by state-certified school librarians and increased student achievement (Library Research Services Web site at <http://www.lrs.org/impact.asp>); and

WHEREAS, School librarians are recognized by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) as teachers whose teaching can be measured to meet standards for professional teaching excellence and by the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science as teachers who are critically important for student achievement (<http://www.nclis.gov/info/schoollibraryactivities.html>); and

WHEREAS, School librarians are teachers who serve as crucial partners in ensuring that states and school districts meet the reading requirements that are part of *No Child Left Behind* (P.L. 107-110); and

WHEREAS, In Part B, Subpart 1, Section 1208 of *No Child Left Behind* (P.L. 107-110), Instructional Staff is defined as "principals, teachers, supervisors of instruction, librarians, and school library media specialists"; and

WHEREAS, Despite the vital role school librarians play as teachers and collaborators with classroom teachers, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) classifies school librarians as instructional support staff rather than instructional staff; and

WHEREAS, *No Child Left Behind* and NCES conflict in their classification of school librarians; and

WHEREAS, Educational researchers stress that policymakers should recognize the limitations and negative effects of using only the NCES-defined category of "Instruction Expenditures" without including "Instructional Staff Support Services" for determining classroom instruction expenditures (See the Standard and Poor's report in *School Matters* entitled "The Issues and Implications of the **65 Percent Solution**"; and

WHEREAS, Since 1985, there has been a decrease in library expenditures per student (See *Fifty Years of Supporting Children's Learning: A History of Public School Libraries and Federal Legislation from 1953 to 2000* at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2005/2005311.pdf>), resulting in fewer up-to-date, quality resources at a time when students are being encouraged to read more, not

less; and

WHEREAS, Failure to classify school librarians as instructional staff and to recognize the impact of state-certified school librarians on student achievement, especially in reading, may result in a critical loss of funding for library positions and resources and a dangerous deterioration of library services for our nation's children; and

WHEREAS, ALA must take the lead role over the next several years to communicate with state and national government leaders about the importance of, and the role played by, school librarians in student achievement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Council of the American Library Association directs the ALA Executive Director to communicate annually through a letter to the Governors of every state the critical need for them to demonstrate their commitment to quality education for every child by including school libraries in all state education priorities and rejecting publicly any policy that would dismantle school libraries and reduce or eliminate the staffing of those libraries by state-certified school librarians; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Council of the American Library Association directs the American Library Association School Libraries Task Force and the ALA Executive Director to communicate through a letter to all legislators of every state that is considering the "65 Percent Solution" legislation the vital importance of including "Instructional Staff Support Services" with "Instruction Expenditures" in determining the percentage spent on "classroom instruction"; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Council of the American Library Association directs the ALA President to communicate through a letter the important relationship between staff classifications and funding as related to school libraries to: President George W. Bush; all members of the United States Congress; U. S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings; National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Commissioner Mark Schneider; NCES Education Finance Task Force Chair Linda Champion; and all chief officers of state education agencies and state library agencies; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Council of the American Library Association directs the ALA Committee on Legislation to work with the ALA Washington Office to request that the NCES issue an interpretation that recognizes the teaching role of school librarians and includes librarian salaries and library resources as essential additional components to "Instruction Expenditures" until reauthorization of NCES at which time we request that a new definition be given to designate school librarians as instructional staff and school libraries within the category of "Instruction Expenditures," and to that end the Committee on Legislation and the ALA Washington Office to educate the federal Department of Education and the United States Congress about the importance of classifying school librarians as instructional staff and the danger of any proposal that would dramatically cut resources to our nation's school libraries; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Council of the American Library Association directs the ALA Executive Director to communicate with all ALA chapters and AASL affiliate assembly chapters this resolution, and seek the endorsement of this resolution by all chapters.

Adopted by the ALA Council Sunday, January 22, 2005 San Antonio, Texas

AASL Affiliate Assembly Highlights from Midwinter Conference in San Antonio, TX, Sunday, January 22, 2006: Submitted by Marilyn Joyce, AASL Director-Elect

Messages from AASL President Linda Williams

AASL President Linda Williams welcomed the Affiliate representatives and reminded us about the AASL Travel to State Affiliates. She is scheduled to visit New Hampshire this year and Vermont during 2006 – 2007. The President-elect or Past-President will visit Connecticut next year. The visit can be a conference, institute or other program with a large group of affiliate members.

Then Williams explained the actions taken by the Board of Directors on the concerns from the June 2005 Affiliate Assembly.

65% Solution

A continuing topic of concern is the 65% solution. As stated in an AASL press release, “many states are considering the ‘65 percent solution’ mandating that 65 percent of school funding be spent on ‘direct classroom instruction’ – as defined by categories established more than 30 years ago by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Despite the vital role school library media specialists play as teachers and collaborators with classroom teachers, the NCES classifies school librarians as support staff and not instructional staff. As a result, states that adopt the 65% solution and rely on the NCES definitions are putting their school library media centers—and the students they serve—in jeopardy.”

On January 22, 2006, the ALA Council adopted a resolution calling for a coordinated national effort to classify school librarians as instructional staff and to recognize the impact of state-certified school librarians on student achievement.

Timeline for 2006 Concerns and Commendations

It is time to determine the commendations and concerns that we will present to the 2006 Affiliate Assembly. During the regional caucuses, representatives from Region I had the opportunity to develop a timeline for writing and submitting commendations and concerns.

2nd Week in March – Affiliates send via e-mail drafts of their states’ commendations and concerns to the Region I Director-elect, Marilyn Joyce (mzjoyce@midmaine.com).

Last Week in March – The Region I Director-elect compiles and posts the commendations and concerns to the NEEMA list. Regional representatives provide feedback via e-mail.

April 29 – The Director-elect will request time at the NEEMA Board meeting for a face-to-face discussion of commendations and concerns.

May 15 – Final versions of the commendations and recommendations are due to the Region I Director-elect

May 30 – Deadline for submission of commendations and concerns to Affiliate Assembly Chair and the AASL Staff Liaison.

June 23 and June 25 - The Affiliate Assembly will meet to discuss and vote on the concerns and commendations at ALA Annual in New Orleans.

Forms for the commendations and concerns are available in the 2006 AASL Affiliate Assembly Delegate Handbook. They are available for download from <<http://www.ala.org/aasl/affiliates>>. The Handbook also has helpful information on how to prepare the concerns and recommendations.

Messages and Announcements from Committees

- Representatives from the Legislative Committee, Taskforce on School Libraries, and other committees made a number of announcements. Below are some of the highlights.
- Members are encouraged to participate in a variety of AASL committees. There are openings for people who can attend face-to-face meetings or participate virtually through electronic meetings. A full list of committees and Committee Volunteer Form is available at: <http://www.ala.org/aasl>
- Members are encouraged to vote in the upcoming ALA elections and support candidates representing AASL. This will give school library media specialists more clout in ALA. Plans are underway to make voters aware of candidates who are members of AASL.
- Grants for Improving Literacy Through School Libraries are now available at: <<http://grants.gov>>. Before applying, schools must register at <<http://www.ev.gov/programs/>>.

Mega Issue

The meeting concluded with a discussion of the following mega issue: How does the profession remain viable in the future? Affiliates shared activities that helped to address the issue.

Old Business:

Membership: Merlyn summarized the membership data that she has to date and posed several questions about membership. She submitted a report to the Board (below). Merlyn said that she was given a list of 165 members and only 77 have renewed. Merlyn went through the Board Member list and there are 14 members that do not have current memberships. Jenifer said that she has received ten new memberships. Merlyn says there is a lot of confusion because people are sending their memberships to various people. Merlyn wants help on the re-design of the Membership form. She is concerned about getting the numbers up. Carol suggested that Merlyn email Carolyn when she returns from Hilton Head regarding these concerns. The Board also talked about getting this information on the web site.

Submitted by Merlyn Miller, NEEMA Membership Chair

Of the 189 NEEMA memberships that expired in 2005, only 77 have been renewed (actually the 77 figure includes both renewals and new members).

28 -- Massachusetts

21 -- Vermont

15 -- New Hampshire

11 -- Connecticut

1 -- Maine

1 -- Rhode Island

There are many confusing issues surrounding membership because not everyone sends their membership checks to me. Some are sent to their own state membership chairs, and some were sent to last year's NEEMA membership chair, and some are sent to me. I'm still not sure of the best way to straighten this all out for next year and would greatly appreciate advice. Is there someone to help me update the membership form? I would like to verify if the nine bullets on last year's form still hold true. I also want to verify the fees for annual, student/retiree and dual memberships.

I have not been told what type of statistics about membership you would like me to keep track of, so please let me know.

May I use last year's form as a template this year? [If so, I need to have someone send me a copy of the template.] When do membership forms for next year get mailed? Do I send NEEMA membership forms to state membership chairs or do I send the forms to state conference organizers or some place else entirely? Do I send a form to be posted on the website? Do the forms need to be in color? (I noticed last year's forms have some color on them but I do not have access to a color copier at my school.)

Since our numbers are currently so low, what can I/we do to improve? What types of activities have taken place in the past to bring up those membership renewal numbers?

FOSL: FOSL has an action plan together. Carol now needs a Chair for FOSL to keep us on task with the Action Plan – what needs to be done. No takers for the job despite Carol's encouragement.

Web Site: The site is finally up and content is being put up on the site. Carol says that we are ready to take this site over. Carol has the software. Carol feels that she can easily transfer the current information to the web site. Dan is working on the finer points of the site. Carol thinks that she might be able to install the software on February break and get some content up.

NEEMA Leadership Conference 2006: The proposed Conference Agenda is listed below. Right now, Jenifer has 26 people signed up for the Leadership Conference. She receives a couple of registrations per day. She says she has ten new members who updated membership with registration. She has received from Merlyn mailing labels and a list of web addresses. Jenifer will be doing a mailing just to remind people to sign up for this. Carol has already mailed a flyer and a brochure. It might be hard to get some NH people to the conference because it is during their vacation week. Most of the current registrants are from Massachusetts. Carol has emailed all of the Presidents and has asked them to put up the information. Carol said that NEEMA did get an extension until Feb. 9 for registrants to stay at the Seaport Hotel at the Conference rate.

Currently, there are 6 people signed up for pre-conference dinner at Anthony's Pier IV. We don't have a time for the dinner. We think it is 5:30 for a cash bar and 6:00 for dinner. We will invite the speakers to the pre-conference dinner. Jen needs a meal count by Feb. 27th. Jenifer will call the count into the caterers. Carol has heard from Pam Stater (sp) from Scholastic. A check will be sent to Doug for \$1500 for the breakfast. Pam can't come to the conference but she is sending four names. Carol has emailed her on that. Scholastic is just coming for the day, and not for the evening. Carolyn is going to email Baker & Taylor who will spend \$400 to take out an ad. We have not heard from Sagebrush or Thomson Gale. A request was put in at ALA but no one has heard anything yet. Jenifer will follow up with calls. Carol is working on the program and she is getting the bags. A decision was made to take the poster session off the program due to lack of volunteers. Fran Zilonis is moderator on the Roundtable. Rebecca Cochrane can't represent Connecticut. Dianne Kimball emailed several people – Jeri Van Leer declined. Jenifer also tried to contact Art Skerker, but haven't heard from him yet. Dianne says that she can represent CT. Carol said that it is important to have balance. Dianne will continue to try to contact Art. Nancy Grant? Try Nancy again, because she would be good. Valerie and Sandy?

Valerie will be there. Dan Green is definitely on. Merlyn is not on. Gretchen in Maine has been replaced by Teri Caouette. Carol needs questions regarding what accountability means for school libraries. Email Carol with questions related to that theme. The questions below are ones that she proposes.

- Any questions about leadership? What does accountability mean for school libraries?
- States can bring up their issues.
- How is technology supporting accountability? NCLB?
- How are the states dealing with legislation that recognizes school libraries as instruction and not support?
- How is evidence-based practice being implemented in New England?
- What is the outlook for federal funding for technology?

Dot Grazier had a question about how states were coping with Bush's budget. Carolyn asked Kathy about inviting Connie Louie? Carolyn will call and ask her.

Annual Meeting as part of conference. We are going to ask Ross to do a wrap-up and evaluation. Carol did change the break to the afternoon because she did have a hard time fitting everything in one day. She has already contacted Patricia from Sebastians' about the change. Kathy will also write personal perspective.

Proposed Conference Program submitted by Carol Gordon

New England Educational Media Association Leadership Conference
Making School Libraries Part of School Reform
March 3, 2006
The Moakley Federal Courthouse, Jury Assembly • Boston, Massachusetts

In a time of intense educational change and profound growth in accessible information, both somewhat driven by networked information technology, the challenge for teacher-librarians to chart a preferred future for the information environments of schools is both complex and potentially confronting. It is time to acknowledge our past, reflect on our achievements, and chart a course for the future. (Todd, 2001)

Conference Agenda

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 8:30 – 9:15 | Registration and Continental Breakfast |
| 9:30 – 10:30 | Dr. Ross Todd
From Information to Knowledge: Managing the infoglut and leading school reform |
| 10:30 – 11:30 | Dr. Steven Arnoff
Data Rich, Information Poor: A Knowledge-based Approach to Curricula Revision and Organizational Change. |
| 11:45 – 1:00 | Lunch
Poster Session: Making School Libraries Count in the Age of Accountability |
| 1:00 – 2:00 | Susan Ballard
Connecting the Dots by Connecting the Data |

2:00 – 2:30	Break Poster Session continued
2:30 – 3:30	Dr. Carol Gordon and the Londonderry Action Research Team Beyond Information Literacy: A Four Dimensional Approach to Accountability
3:30 – 4:15	Roundtable: Dr. Mary Frances Zilonis, Moderator What Does Accountability Mean for School Libraries?
4:15 – 4:30	Ross Todd Wrap-Up Conference Evaluation

NEEMA Views:

Sue has some reports for NEEMA Views and Carol said that she thought it would be great to get VIEWS out prior to the conference. Carolyn thinks we should put something in VIEWS about the 65% Solution. Sue inquired about getting email addresses for members to send electronic versions of NEEMA Views. Jenifer will provide Sue with new members.

Executive Director: Tabled for next Face-to-Face

New Business:

Would we **include discussion of the 65% Solution** on the Roundtable? Carolyn thinks we should put something in VIEWS so that our members are aware.

The **FOSL position** is important because we have been talking about strengthening our relationship with NEASC. We need someone who is going to work with Janet Allison. Carol urges us all to think about this FOSL position. Carolyn says that the most convenient state is Massachusetts due to convenient contact. Kathy will put it on next week's agenda for Massachusetts.

Carol stated that we need to **institutionalize the web site** – our domain. Carolyn says that our domain name is safe until 2014. Carolyn says that we have paid for the domain name up until 2014. We have to pay a monthly fee for the hosting and technical aspects. Sue says that presently an electronic bill comes to her and she says that quarterly she sends a bill to Doug. One suggestion is to abandon the web site and just do a blog. Sue says that right now the billing works. Sue added that she also likes a clean web site too (in addition to a blog).

Support for AASL Regional Director. Right now we pay \$500 to support January and June Conferences. Carolyn suggested that we table that discussion to a face-to-face meeting.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m. by Carol Gordon (Carolyn/Dot).

Proposed Meeting Dates

- April 29th (Sat) 2006 Face-to-face in Londonderry (confirmed)
- Annual Meeting as part of conference.

News:

State Conferences:

Connecticut	Nov. 5 & 6, 2006 Cromwell
Maine	Sept. 17-19, 2006, Augusta, ME
Massachusetts	Oct. 29 & 30, 2006
New Hampshire	May 24, 2006 Plymouth, NH
Rhode Island	April 28, 2006 Warwick, RI
Vermont	May 16 & 17, 2006 Burlington, VT
AASL	Oct. 13-15, 2006 Warwick, RI
AECT	Oct. 10-14, 2006 Dallas, TX
ALA	June 22-28, 2006 New Orleans, LA
NELA	Oct. 22-24 2006 Burlington, VT

Respectfully submitted,

Katrina Palazzolo, Secretary