

NEEMA Board Minutes

Saturday, May 5, 2007

Face-to-Face Meeting

Finalized 9-29-07

Present:

Kathy Lowe, Nancy Grant, Irene Kwidzinski, Diane Beaman, Jenifer Smolnik, Alexis Baker, Carolyn Markuson, Harriet LaPointe, Katrina Palazzolo, Susan Ballard

Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:18 a.m. by Jen Smolnik.

Secretary's Report:

Motion to approve the minutes from 2-13-07 (Kathy/Irene). Passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Doug sent a Treasurer's Report. As of April 30, 2007,

Checkbook Balance\$29169.67

Leadership Finances

Income

Ads & Sponsors\$2800.00
Registrations14312.28
Exhibit Tables1200.00
Book Sales995.00
Pier IV Dinner800.00*
TOTAL\$\$20107.28

Expenses

Postage, Printing, Supplies\$590.12
Transportation & Speaker Fees1409.32
Refunds390.00
Food & Drink6835.39
Hotel1021.40
Pier IV Dinner1127.60*
TOTAL\$11373.83

NET\$8733.45

This Treasurer's Report represents all invoices received paid; outstanding bills include Mark Ciccarelli; ALA books (8 were returned) have not been received. Doug will pursue outstanding purchase orders (income). Actual cost per person was \$52.25 (fee was \$50.00). Difference was speakers/guests (gratis). Motion to accept the Treasurer's report (Carolyn/Susan B). Passed.

Discussion regarding if NEEMA has an account that can earn interest on our balance. We do not have a savings account. But there is interest in NEEMA pursuing an account where we can gain interest on our money. Motion made to create an ad hoc task force to assist the treasurer (Nancy/Irene seconded). Passed. Jen appointed **Carolyn as chair of the ad hoc committee regarding assisting the treasurer for a year to help make transition for a new style account.**

In addition, a motion was made that **Susan Ballard pursue a “free” credit card in the name of NEEMA** (Carolyn/Nancy). Passed. Kathy suggested a Capital One credit card or Citibank to accrue points.

State Reports:

Connecticut-CEMA reported by Chris Barlow, CEMA rep to NEEMA

- **Conference** Registrations are already being sent out for the CEMA (CASL)/CECA Annual Conference, October 23, 2007: PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE CONCEPTUAL AGE: A REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR 21ST CENTURY LEARNERS. This will be a joint with CECA (Connecticut Computer Educators Association). Two Keynote speakers: Dr. Henry Lee and Will Richardson. Registration includes a one-year membership in both organizations. If you already have a 07-08 membership, it will be extended to 08-09. The term of membership in CEMA will be conference to conference.
- **Audrey Church Workshop** on April 30, “Developing and Assessing Collaborative Lessons Directly Related to Connecticut Standardized Test Strands”. This was highly successful with over 100 participants split evenly between elementary, middle and high school LMS and classroom teachers. Keynote speaker was Audrey Church, coordinator of the School Library Program at Longwood College in Virginia, and author of Leverage Your Library Program to Help Raise Test Scores: A Guide for Library Media Specialists, Principals, Teachers, and Parents Other participants included Mary Anne Butler, State Dept. of Ed. Secondary Science Consultant for Grades 9-12; Jennifer Borck, State Dept. of Ed. Consultant, Middle and High School Literacy/English Language Arts and Marlene Lovanio, State Dept. of Ed. Math Consultant for Grades 9-12 and two elementary Library Media Specialists from the town of West Hartford as presenters. The workshop included a keynote address and concluding remarks by Church, as well as breakout sessions by grade levels. There seemed to be a general consensus was this was a unique opportunity for classroom teachers to hear from a former LMS as to what we do, how we can help them and how we can both work together to improve student test scores.
- **Name Change** CEMA has changed its’ name to CASL—Connecticut Association of School Librarians. The change will be phased in over time, with the first step already taken to change our ListServ to CASL-L (with a new host) and a new web site <http://ctcasl.com>. CEMA-L will be taken down May 15. The formal change will not take place until the annual conference in 2008 due to the joint conference this October with CECA.
- **Constitution Updates** During April, CEMA members voted electronically on the following revisions to our association’s Constitution and By-Laws.
 - Duties of the officers and of the Board because of changes in the structure of the Board from committees to teams. Teams are a group effort. No longer will one person be solely responsible for a task; instead, a team of people will share the responsibility. This restructuring will allow more people to be involved in the future of our professional association.
 - Duties of the officers and the annual election because of the increased use by the Board of technology for communication and productivity. During May, members will vote electronically for officers in the annual election. More people are expected to participate in the election because it is easier to vote electronically. The results will be quickly available because a computer will compile them.

- Added a new position of Vice-President Intern to provide training for a person to become Vice-President and then President. The Board hopes that more people will be interested in leading the organization if the route to leadership is gradual and includes training.

Massachusetts-MSLA reported by Kathy Lowe, MSLA President

- **Conference** Our 2007 conference, *School Libraries in a 2.0 World*, will take place November 11-12 in Sturbridge. Keynote speakers are Chris Harris, Sara Kelly Johns and Brian Kenney. Nancy Polette, Meredith Farkas, and Allison Zmuda are featured presenters. Sessions topics include advocacy, social networking, children's and YA literature, new developments in instruction technology, collaboration, long range planning, and state and national standards.
- **Legislation/Advocacy** Our annual Legislation Day and Bookmark Contest Awards were held at the State House in March. We lobbied legislators to support our bill (H564) to include school libraries in the Education Reform Law. Members attended Legislative Breakfasts in their regions during April. Last week, the language of our bill was proposed in the House as an amendment to the budget, but it was not considered. The same amendment will go before the Senate next week. A hearing with the joint Committee on Education is scheduled for September. We have filed this for 6 years now, and if it doesn't pass then we are considering other tactics.
- **Student SIG** The MSLA Student SIG held a successful mini-conference at Simmons College on March 24th for students in GSLIS programs covering such topics as collaboration with teachers, relationship with principals, storytelling, book talks, and bookmaking for children. Several MSLA members volunteered to do presentations. Kathy Lowe was the keynote speaker.
- **DOE** Sandy Kelly and Valerie Diggs will meet with the DOE next week to discuss our new *Massachusetts Recommended PreK-12 Information Fluency Standards* and other school library issues. There is no one in the DOE overseeing school libraries so we are hoping that they will at least link to our standards. Also, there are new players in education in Mass – and we are getting to know them and hoping someone will take some interest in our cause and the inequities not only with school libraries but just the inequities in education within the state.

New Hampshire-NHEMA reported by Alexis Baker, NHEMA rep to NEEMA

- **Conference** is May 17 & 18 at the Mt Washington Hotel. State Commissioner, Lyonel B. Tracy, is coming to their conference and presenting about how LMS can help personalize education according to the Commissioner's own theme of "follow the child." In addition, AASL's Linda Williams will be presenting in the same session. Diane Beaman wrote a letter for the Commissioner that will appear in the conference flyer. Overall, NHEMA is hoping to have DOE more aware of what we do.
- **Role in Literacy Action Plan** Committee of 57 people on a state Literacy Action Plan but no LMS was even represented throughout the process until two days left to comment on the document. And that is only because Diane Beaman heard about this and called them!
- **NHEMA survey** via Survey Monkey has happened. State is helping to analyze the data – the results will be available this year.

Vermont-VEMA reported by Merlyn Miller, VEMA rep to NEEMA

- **Name change** VEMA has polled the membership electronically regarding an organization name change. The voting was quite close between two names VASL (Vermont Association of School Librarians) and VSLA (Vermont School Library Association). The board decided to do one more electronic poll between these two names and the favored choice will be voted on at our annual meeting later this month. Because we are in the process of switching to a new webmaster, we will seek a new domain name. The board also decided to change the logo and is considering a contest, offering a prize for the winning entry. We hope to have everything ready to go at our fall conference.
- **Curriculum Update** A volunteer task force comprised of VEMA members has been updating a curriculum document that is nearing completion and will be printed and released to our membership hopefully by our fall conference.
- **Conference** The Vermont Library conference co sponsored by the VEMA and VLA will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, May 15 and 16, 2007 at the Sheraton Burlington Hotel and Conference Center. Our 2007 speakers are Archer Mayor and Tracey Campbell Pearson. This year's conference titled "Hands on Vermont" highlights a "hands-on" approach to librarianship: trying new technology, implementing programs, creating advocacy groups, and much more.

Rhode Island-RIEMA reported by Sarah Morenon, RIEMA rep to NEEMA

- **Conference and Annual Meeting** We held our annual meeting April 27 in Warwick RI. Our keynote speaker, Bernie Dodge, was caught up in nasty weather in NY so he did not make it. However, Will Hobbs, author of many children's books, stepped up to our request and was the morning speaker and lunch speaker. The theme was Challenges, and workshops were held on censorship and other related topics. It was well attended and there were a substantial number of vendors. Some handouts are available online, see below. Dr. Frances Gallo won the Berube prize for best admin advocate for libraries. She had been working for the Providence Public School District as deputy superintendent and now is the superintendent of Cental Falls School District in RI.
- **RIEMA Blog** There is now a RIEMA blog available on the www.RIEMA.org website. First topic is 'circulation'.
- **Providence Summer Reading** Providence LMSs are collaborating with the public library staff to create a summer reading list for our students. It blends the public library theme of clues and mysteries with curriculum related fiction and nonfiction. It's really lovely, if I do say so myself. It will be available at <http://www.providenceschools.org/index.html> or at the Public Library site provlib.org.

Maine-MASL reported by Nancy Grant, MASL rep to NEEMA

- **Conference** will be Nov, 4, 5, 6, 2007 in Augusta with Toni Buzzeo. The conference includes both state and school libraries.
- **State news** Governor is asking to drop from 200+ districts to 26 districts to save on administrative costs. There have been some revisions – he wants to save on transportation. At Nancy's school they have ATM classes – asynchronous transfer mode – some of the high school students are taking college courses via email. The Governor wants fewer superintendents. Our concern for librarians is that our librarians not be similarly consolidated. This consolidation is in the legislature -- minimum district size in an urban area is 2500 to 1200 in rural areas. [MASL](#) has sent out a letter with a white paper with a copy of School Libraries Work! [Click on the link to see their position paper.](#) The Governor's goal is to get at the administrative level – but we don't want school libraries consolidated along with it.

AASL report submitted by Irene Kwidzinski, AASL Director

- Two reps going to ALA – Susan Ballard and Merlyn Miller.
- **Concerns and Commendations for local affiliate.**
Concern 1 – Role of LMS in literacy/reading instruction
Marilyn Joyce sent the following via email. I would like to see the AASL Board develop a position statement related to the LMS's role as it relates to reading. Some of my concerns are: the emergence of the literacy coach (Can the LMS be considered a literacy coach? If not, how can the LMS collaborate with the literacy coach?), the need for greater communication between the reading researchers (e.g., Don Leu and the UConn group) investigating the "new literacies" and the LMS's who teach the new literacies, a trend that some administrators prefer to fund technology over books, the lack of a updated position statement from AASL on the LMS's role in teaching reading strategies and promoting reading (The only current position statement on reading is "The Value of Independent Reading in the School Library Media Program" and that was last revised in 1999). I'm wondering if we should ask the AASL Board to reactivate the former reading committee or form a new committee charged with writing a position paper on the role of the LMS as it relates to reading. But maybe this was already addressed by the old reading committee or the new 21st Century Library Learning Standards? Or is it being addressed by the Strategic Plan's advocacy component? What are the thoughts of members of the NEEMA Board? Is this an issue that needs to be addressed?
- Irene suggested that we sign on with Maine's position paper and that we should ask for AASL to produce a position paper more explicitly stating our role with reading. We will ask them to re-assess/update the position paper. Carolyn mentioned that [IRA has a position paper](#) on the role of libraries in literacy. **Irene will work with Marilyn to come up with something to put forth something. Carolyn suggested that we talk about this issue in VIEWS.**
- **Concern 2-Advocacy** A second concern about creating toolkits to enlist parents and community, police department, and State Departments of Ed (getting an LMS on every state committee to have a voice—even if there is no specific state person because we need to “follow the money”) members as advocates for our programs. We are still concerned that the public doesn't understand what we do, some of our own are holding us back. Also even some of the sessions of our national association are “how to make bad practice work” --- like fixed scheduling. Concern that the national association is undercutting itself. We have standards – so we should have to meet them. Susan suggested that we “dust off” an old awareness program and get strategic as a regional association about getting our role out to people.

Harriet suggested that we re-assess our audience – more parents, PTA, realtors, etc, rather than principals and administrators. If parents think that their kids are not getting something, parents will be banging on the door. Harriet sent out a letter with the report cards with everything she had done with the kids in the grade during that quarter. Harriet partnered with PTA to co-sponsor some workshops. If we tell parents what we are doing then they will be our strongest advocates. Give parents the data. This has to be done school by school, community by community. Diane also added that we need to target our Department of Eds in each state.

- **States should email Irene with what they have already done regarding this advocacy concern so far.**
- Every state can customize the David Loertscher book for every state. **Email Kathy Lowe with whom she should send the sample Massachusetts book to in each state.**

AECT no report

Leadership Conference:

- See the Treasurer's Report to see that we did make a profit on this year's Leadership Conference.
- Lots of positive feedback on the conference evaluation (see attached conference evaluation summaries by Jenifer). We had 91 attendees on Thursday and 75 attendees on Friday. We need to consider why people don't go to the conference in downtown Boston. One suggestion is to provide explicit information on public transportation within the conference flyer. Also tell presenters that they will be presenting in a room with a lot of light. Also, we should consider the other side of the room that was larger. The conference was a success that seemed to work well. Carol and Ross didn't charge us anything and their transportation was inexpensive. A motion was made that NEEMA **provide a donation to CISSL in appreciation of their presenting in the amount of last year -- \$300** (Susan Ballard/Carolyn).
- Ideas for Conference 2008 – Merlyn and Sue Ballard (also with the help of Valerie Diggs) had an intriguing idea. Dr. Henry Jenkins is our first preference for 2008. Also, in light of our discussion of advocacy, we might want to do another pre-conference. Discussion of other possible speakers included Nora Mann, MA Assistant Attorney General (617-573-5384 or Nora.Mann@state.ma.us) and (from MSLA) Stephen Abram, Sirsi/Dynix about techno-schism <http://stephenslighthouse.sirsidynix.com/>. Abram brought in local teenagers and got kids to talk about how they live their life. Also pursue SIRSI/DYNIX as sponsor. We should also consider Keith Michael Fiels, Executive Director of ALA, and Sarah Kelly Johns too.

But don't call it an advocacy conference. Irene mentioned that we really need to make sure that elementary schools are included in the program – Where do we start in elementary? And how do you start?

- **Sue and Merlyn are going to get out a Conference '08 game plan and then they will get it out to people to preview.**
- Also, plan is to have a late March date for Leadership. And Carolyn suggests that we authorize the committee to have weather insurance.

Old Business:

Gas Stipend We arranged to pay drivers to today's meeting a \$30 stipend for gas.

Elections

Currently, the results of the elections are as follows: 38 ballots were received with the following results: 38 votes for Merlyn and 38 for Katrina and one write-in candidate. Results of the election were verified.

Membership reported by Merlyn Miller, Membership Chair

- NEEMA active memberships as of May 5, 2007 total 166. At our April 29, 2006 meeting in Londonderry our membership total was 117. So we have successfully increased our numbers this year by 42%.
- Continuing to compare membership totals with last year:
 - CT's membership increased from 13 to 24
 - MA's membership increased from 50 to 63
 - VT's membership increased from 23 to 30
 - NH's membership increased from 15 to 23
 - ME's membership increased from 1 to 14
 - RI's membership increased from 3 to 5
- **Merlyn would like to do a new membership form for the 2007-2008 year that will feature a 90th birthday banner. She would also like to make some minor changes to the form such as including a note that every member's first initial and last name are listed on the NEEMA website. She will come up with a draft to send to all to approve.**
- We will continue offering a reduced rate to our state organization members.
- We addressed the issue of membership for folks adding membership to their conference registration fees. Our current membership form states that our membership year runs from Sept 1, 2006 through August 31, 2007, but our conference registration forms offered memberships from March 2007 through August 31, 2008. It was agreed that at this time we

will not change our membership calendar. We will continue to allow members to renew their membership at conference, basically giving them 5 months of free membership.

FOSL No report

Web Site No report

New Business:

Hall of Fame

- Acting on Doug Maitland's suggestion at Leadership that in honor of NEEMA's 90th Anniversary that we create a NEEMA Hall of Fame (with criteria). Harriet LaPointe has agreed to serve as the Hall of Fame Committee Chair.
- The location of the current NEEMA archives was discussed. Carol Gordon has the archives in her basement. The Hall of Fame celebration will take place at our spring Leadership Conference.
- **Harriet will need a contact person from each state to get the names of people who have made an impression on our profession** and a nominating process. We can print up certificates and it would also be nice to see all of the honorees – invite them to a dinner and invite them to the conference for just the cost of the food. Like a baseball hall of fame – a freshmen class. We can also include people over the 90 years.
- Susan Ballard has a book called NESLA with all presidents up through the 70's. Maybe we can bring the book up to date.
- We should also contact people who indicated on the conference evaluations that they would be willing to help. Also ask Audrey Friend. Carolyn and Diane said they would help Harriet.
- Also make sure we get some media coverage.
- Susan Ballard suggested that we should consider some budgeting for this.

Name change

How do we go about an official name change at both the organization level and state level for the state of New Hampshire? **In addition, Carolyn will look at what domains are available.** Diane suggested that we consider a .info site. Carolyn said that we will have to make a constitutional change for this. We will have to vote at the annual meeting.

NEEMA Board Recruitment

We need to get new people into this organization. We should pursue some of the people who volunteered on the conference forms. We used to have a booth at state conferences, and we should revive that. In the meantime, we need to identify a chair for the Constitution who can report in the fall on what this would entail for us to change our name back. Suggestion by Carolyn to look at names of members who are not on the Board to consider for positions. **Kathy Lowe will**

send the email for Debbie Owen, Wellesley HS. Also, Diane Lane Cileno (Carolyn has contact info).

Membership Listserv Kathy Lowe will work on reviving the Yahoo Groups. Nancy suggested that **Kathy also look at Google Groups. Susan Ballard will email Merlyn for a list of email addresses for all members and she will also send them to Kathy Lowe for inclusion on a listserv.**

NEEMA Views no report

Constitution Revisions

- We are considering a name change
- We are suggesting that we change to a two-year presidency.
- We need a Constitution Chair.

News

Remind people of the 2020 Vision-Fischbowl blog slideshow. **Sue Ballard will send us the link**

<http://www.lps.k12.co.us/schools/arapahoe/fisch/fischbowlpresentations.htm>

As Nancy Grant says, "You have to teach kids that format – using the right technique at the right time is critical." The media is the message.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 1:25 p.m. (Nancy/Jen).

Proposed Meeting Dates

- Saturday, September 29, 2007Face-to-face in Londonderry @ 10 a.m.
- Saturday, November 17, 2007Virtual Meeting @ 9:00 a.m.
 - Everyone dials the number below at 9:00 – and you'll be connected through Foonz 712-432-5555
- Saturday, February 9, 2008.....Virtual meeting @ 9:00 a.m.
 - Everyone dials the number below at 9:00 – and you'll be connected through Foonz 712-432-5555
- Leadership Conference will be late March.
- Saturday, May 10, 2008Face-to-Face in Londonderry@10 a.m.

State Conferences:

- Connecticut Oct. 23, 2007 (Joint with CECA) Hartford, CT
- Maine November 4-6, 2007
- Mass. November 11 & 12, 2007
- New Hampshire May 17 & 18, 2007 Mount Washington Hotel
- Rhode Island April 27, 2007 Warwick, RI
- Vermont May 15 & 16, 2007 Burlington, VT
- AASL October 25-28, 2007 Reno, NV
- AECT Oct. 23-27, 2007 Anaheim, CA

- ALA June 21-27, 2007 Washington, D.C.
- NELA October 14-16, 2007 Sturbridge, MA

Affiliate Assembly

Fri., June 22 Affiliate Assembly, 8-10 p.m. Washington, D.C.
Sun., June 25 Affiliate Assembly 8-12 noon Washington, D.C.

Respectfully submitted,

Katrina Palazzolo