

# **NESLA Board Minutes**

**Monday, November 17, 2008**

**Virtual Meeting**

**FINAL 2-9-09**

## **Attendance:**

Merlyn Miller, Ann Perham, Chris Barlow, Teri Caouette, Susan Ballard, Carolyn Markuson, Doug Maitland, Zach Berger, Sharon Silva, Charlie White, Irene Kwidzinski, Sylvia Norton, Andrea Ange, Gerri Fegan, and Peg Becksvort.

## **Call To Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. using foonz.com

## **Secretary & Treasurer Reports**

Motion to approve the October minutes (Doug/Carolyn) Passed. Doug Maitland reported that the balance in the NESLA treasury is \$20,800.13. Motion to accept to the Treasurer's Report (Carolyn/Susan) Passed.

## **State Reports:**

**Connecticut-CASL** submitted by Chris Barlow, CASL rep. to NESLA

*Conference* was a huge success. A number of changes in the format were made, and they were well received. Although the attendance was down somewhat from two years ago, when we last held our individual conference, it still went off very well. The conference started off on Sunday, November 9 with the pre-conference, and a hands-on workshop by Kathy Schrock on Web 2.0. This was very well attended with approximately 70 participants. (Kathy had asked for about 50 to enable more individual attention in groups, but we weren't going to turn away those who wanted to come. Last year she had a session during our joint CEMA-CECA conference which was standing room only and then some...) We also had authors doing book signings during the pre-conference including Carmen Agra-Deedy, the conference afternoon keynote. There were two keynote addresses, Toni Buzzeo in the morning and Carmen Agra-Deedy in the afternoon. Good mix of sessions between technology and 21st Century Skills and Reading and Literature, elementary and secondary. During the conference, the 2010 list of Nutmeg Book Award nominees were presented for the teen and intermediate lists. This list will be made public in February.

*Annual Meeting/Officers* Our annual meeting was also conducted at the conference, which was primarily just to approve the budget for the year. In the past a slate of officers was proposed and voted on, but under our bylaws, this doesn't have to be voted on until the spring. We plan to have a list of candidates by late March. We will, however, be looking to replace Sewell Pruchnik, CASL's long-time Treasurer and will be needing a candidate for the position of VP intern. Under our bylaws, this position is fairly new (within the last couple of years). The person serves as VP intern for a year, learning the position of VP, moves to VP the following year, and then President.

*Joint Conference* Following up on our joint conference last year, and was reported at the last NESLA meeting, David had met with the CLA over last summer to discuss a joint conference with them in the spring of 2010. At that time we had not heard from CECA about going back with them to have a joint conference. Since then, David has heard from CECA who again wanted to hold a joint conference. A discussion was held at our last CASL Board meeting on November 5, regarding this. It was proposed by David and approved by the Board that we move forward with discussions with both CECA and CLA to have a joint conference with both.

In the case of CLA, it would likely be one day out of their three-day conference, which would focus on school libraries. While the details still have a long way to go, since this was just approved, it would appear that this would be the best of both worlds.

*Fall Festival* Prior to the Conference, we held our annual Fall Festival that honored our various award winners. Awards were given in eight different categories ranging from an Administrator's Award, to Classroom Teacher to the overall program. Janet Roche, past president of CASL was also given the CASL Service Award for her outstanding contributions to CASL and dedication to the profession in her role as Library Media Specialist. In addition, Irene Kwidzinski was the recipient of the CASL President's Award in recognition for her work in many capacities on the CASL Board. At the last Board meeting, Irene was also given an honorary membership in CASL, which has only been presented to a few other recipients.

#### *CASL Committees*

- CASL's Advocacy Committee has the most going on of CASL's three committees (Advocacy, Professional Development and Membership). Among the areas the Advocacy Committee is actively working on is how CASL can recruit people to the library media specialist profession because Connecticut is facing a shortage of professional library media specialists. This includes improving connections with Nancy Disbrow, head of the department at Southern Connecticut State University and Maureen Hinkley at Fairfield University, the two schools in the state that offer School Library Media Specialist certification. As part of this, our December 3 Board meeting will take place at Fairfield with school library students at both Fairfield and Southern being invited to participate along with those from the ARC program in the state. CASL is also looking into how can we get the state to mandate that there should be a certified LMS in every Connecticut school. One of our committee members has been investigating this--in particular a similar resolution that was passed in New Jersey. We want to see how we can get something similar in CT.
- Professional Development committee is looking into a one-day workshop for the late winter or spring. Among the ideas being discussed are bringing one of AASL's Licensed Institutes to Connecticut? Fairfield University has already offered to host it and/or have something separate on their own or with us. On a side note, but on the same topic, one of the Advocacy Committee's members attended one-day AASL Advocacy Workshop in New Hampshire. Overall, it was felt at least this particular one wasn't worth it.
- Membership Committee is looking into steps to increase membership in CASL and AASL. They are being asked to come up with ideas for encouraging new LMS to join CASL. Don't know what the membership enrollment final numbers were after the conference, but prior to it membership enrollment was down slightly from last year.

#### **Maine-MASL** submitted by Teri Caouette, MASL rep to NESLA

*Conference* MASL had a very successful joint Maine Library Conference with the Maine Library Association. It was held in beautiful Bethel Maine at the Maine Sunday River Resort. Guest speakers included Kate Braestrup, who wrote the book *Here If You Need Me*. She was both inspiring and entertaining. YA book author Ellen Wittlinger spoke about her popular and sometimes controversial works. Our guest speaker Beth Edmonds, President of the Maine senate and also a librarian, spoke and advised the audience of librarians of the need to speak out and contact our legislators. Surveys indicated that conference attendees enjoyed the change of venue to the Sunday River Resort and were pleased with the workshops that were presented. MASL awarded Betsy York the 2008 Walter J. Taranko Maine Library Media Specialist of the Year Award and Betsy Webb from Bangor as Administrator of the Year Award.

At our November MASL meeting, we discussed at length on how we might like to proceed for future conferences. We plan to revisit our mission of continuing education and support for school libraries and school library personnel. An annual joint conference may not be the best way to accomplish our goals. The Maine Library Association now has one-year appointees and there may not be enough continuity, allowing for experienced people from that group to run a large joint conference. Other options are being discussed including a joint conference every other year and a series of workshops the interim years. We are also pursuing other organizations that might wish to have a joint conference with MASL.

### *MASL issues*

- In the coming year MASL work will focus on developing a statewide curriculum for Info literacy that aligns with AASL standards and the Maine Department of Education standards. Much work has already been completed on this document. Committee chairs will be developing a wiki and our school librarians will be contributing to the document.
- The other focus is to get our updated "School Librarians Handbook" completed. The progress was unveiled at the annual meeting held during the Maine Libraries Conference. School librarians are enthusiastic and we hope to have it on our web site as soon as possible. Many librarians wish to have it out even if it is only in draft form. Members will be receiving a "hard" copy. This will also be on the MASL web page as a resource to Maine School Librarians.
- Librarians throughout Maine are concerned about the possible position losses with the financial situation in our state. Librarians in Maine are not mandated at the elementary and middle school level even though we contribute to student success. We are meeting this fall to develop strategies to plan how to get information to our legislators.

MASL board members at the November board meeting were open to the possibility for a joint retreat with NESLA board members.

### **Massachusetts--MSLA** submitted by Sandy Kelly, MSLA President

*Conference* MSLA Survivor 2008, was very successful. Speakers included Debra Kay Logan, Judi Morellion and Cassandra Barnett. We had 14 guest authors at our popular authorfest and the dinner speaker was author Michael Tougis, author of *Ten Hours Until Dawn*. He spoke to our conference theme on the common characteristics of those who have survived difficult circumstances. Monday keynote was Terry Young author of *School Libraries Work* published by Scholastic.

*Standards* MSLA's executive board approved our new Information Literacy Standards at our October meeting. The standards are posted on the MSLA website and will continue to be edited before we publish an abridged version. They were also distributed to conference attendees.

*MSLA Annual Bookmark Contest* This years' theme will be "Libraries – Learning for Life."

*Chelmsford High School Library Grand Opening* MSLA Standards Chair, Valerie Diggs will celebrate the newly remodeled school library on Friday, December 5th from 3:00 – 6:00 pm. Carolyn Markuson, Carol Gordon and Ross Todd will be in attendance. Ross has offered to give a free workshop that evening. Contact Valerie for more information and if interested in attending. ([vdiggs@maschoollibraries.org](mailto:vdiggs@maschoollibraries.org))

*Potential study* to be done by Carol Gordon and Ross Todd at Rutgers on the impact of school library programs on standardized test scores.

### **New Hampshire—NHEMA** submitted by Andrea Ange, NHEMA rep to NESLA

Keene just wrapped up their Pumpkin Festival and our schools are voting on the Ladybug Picture Book Awards and preparing for the holidays with tons of projects right now. The buzz on the listserv this month: cost of databases, lack of funds for same, periodicals for middle school students, how to circulate Playaways and how to support gifted and talented students.

*Advocacy* NHEMA hosted the AASL Advocacy Institute on October 10th. While most attendees now understand how to define advocacy, the institute was not quite what we expected. Our President, Sharon Silva contacted the AASL about the workshop and they have been very

responsive to our needs. We will be hosting another AASL workshop in the near future. On the bright side it was very nice to have an attendee from Connecticut at our conference. At this time our committee is planning to contact the NH Commissioner of Education about certain school districts not filling vacant LMS posts. We are in the process of gathering the information from New Hampshire Department of Education and NEA-NH about which districts are currently understaffed. At our meeting it was discussed that this may be a union issue, and is definitely a Department of Education issue.

*Conference* Doug Johnson, Lita Judge and Susan Pfeffer will be our guest speakers at our Live! From Your Library! May 7th and 8th conference. Attendees will have opportunities to meet with our presenters at workshops and in the vendor hall. We're planning great workshops on technology, advocacy, book reviews and more. Did I mention the shopping? The North Conway Grand Hotel is located right in Settler's Green -- a shopper's Mecca.

*NEASC* It was the general consensus of the NHEMA board that the new draft of the NEASC Standards for 2011 dilutes the importance of the library and puts in 21st Century Learner Standards, without actually pointing out the necessity for the school's LMS to assist with this part of student education. Though a savvy principal should understand that we are central to the 21st Century Learner Standards, it is a concern of our constituents that without specifying the inclusion of the LMS, a principal and the school might overlook the need of trained librarians when it comes to implementing the 21st Century Learner Standards. As a group we feel that NESLA might need to point this out to NEASC. **Is it possible for NESLA to meet with the leaders of NEASC about this?**

**Rhode Island--RIEMA** submitted by Zach Berger, RIEMA President

Recent topics of discussion at RIEMA Board and committee meetings and on the RIEMA listserv, and upcoming RIEMA events:

- *Topic #1 Elimination of school library positions statewide* As discussed in the October 2008 RIEMA Report to NESLA, four Rhode Island school districts have cut high school librarian positions for the 2008-09 school year. In each case, school enrollment is currently above 1,000, which according to state regulations requires the staffing of two full-time librarians in each of the affected schools. Of the four districts involved, three have officially applied to the RI Board of Regents (BOR) for waivers to the state's staffing level requirements. Two of these districts had their waiver requests approved prior to the start of the school year. The third district's request has only just recently been approved; the waiver request was not submitted to the BOR until October 15 (well after the second librarian position was cut), and approval was granted on November 3. The fourth district still does not appear to have submitted a waiver request at all.
- *RIEMA Response to Topic #1* The chairperson of RIEMA's Save School Libraries RI (SSLRI) task force committee has been in regular communication with the BOR over these waiver requests and staffing cuts. RIEMA obtained copies of relevant documents and has reviewed them. One letter from a school superintendent to the BOR references a staffing waiver request that inaccurately cites the staffing level regulation as written in the Basic Education Plan (BEP). The SSLRI chair is in the process of reaching out to legal specialists to determine the impact of this inaccuracy on the approval of the waiver request. RIEMA's application for a Sociological Initiatives Foundation (SIF) community-based research grant – the monies from which would have been used to collect and analyze data from school library programs statewide in order to advocate for school library services – has been turned down. The RIEMA Executive Board is looking into other options for funding this initiative.
- *Topic #2: RI Department of Education Basic Education Plan revisions* Rhode Island's Basic Education Plan (BEP) was first drafted in the early 1960s and has had partial revisions in the 1980s and 1990s. The section of the BEP devoted to school library programs, services, standards, and curriculum is outdated, and includes requirements for

school library staffing levels. It has just come to RIEMA's attention that the Department of Education has begun work on the BEP revisions but has not contacted RIEMA for any input.

- *RIEMA Response to Topic #2* RIEMA has no formal liaison at the state Department of Education. RIEMA officers are working to establish this relationship and have followed up with the member of the Board of Regents who is in charge of supervising the BEP revisions. A request has been made to the BOR to alert the RIEMA president at the first available opportunity to begin a discussion to fully incorporate RIEMA's input into the crafting of an updated BEP. It may be necessary to make this request several times to initiate such a discussion.
- *Topic #3: RI Commissioner Search Public Forums* The Board of Regents recently held a series of public forums to gather the input of citizens and stakeholders for the appointment of a new Commissioner of Education who will take over when the current commissioner steps down at the end of the 2008-09 school year.
- *RIEMA Response to Topic #3* Several RIEMA Board members attended the forums, gave testimony and supporting documents (including copies of School Libraries Work!), and obtained BOR contact names and phone numbers. At this time no candidates have been lined up, but the BOR intends to conclude its search by February of 2009. Note: It was at these BOR public forums that RIEMA learned that revisions of the BEP were underway without RIEMA's knowledge or involvement.
- *Topic #4: Constitution and By-Laws Task Force* As reported in October 2008 report, the RIEMA Board recognizes the need to examine its current constitution and by-laws to determine how RIEMA is or is not able to meet the current and future needs of our profession; to align our education, technology, advocacy, and community goals with the best available state, regional, and national goals of affiliate organizations; and to foster active participation from RIEMA members and other educators throughout this process.
- *RIEMA Response to Topic # 4* The Task Force conducted its first meeting on November 3. Our first priority is to examine and revise our mission statement, and then formalize our organization's goals to fulfill the mission statement. From there, we will examine the extent to which any changes to the constitution or by-laws are necessary. Membership participation in this process will be encouraged through listserv and blog postings. Our goal is to make an introductory announcement at the 2009 Annual Conference, and have any and all revisions ready for a vote at the 2010 Annual Conference. And yes, it is my intent to include a vote on the renaming of RIEMA to RISLA (or something similar).
- *Topic #5: Public Relations and L-TV* The RI Library Association (RILA) has approached RIEMA about co-sponsoring its long-running, award-winning public access cable television program, L-TV (which stands for Library-TV).
- *RIEMA Response to Topic #5* Co-sponsorship would require a significant financial outlay but would allow a certain percentage of programs to be devoted to issues important to RIEMA and its members and patrons. RIEMA will consider co-sponsorship if webcasting or streaming of L-TV programming will be available to reach the largest possible audience. RIEMA would also like some creative control over L-TV production once a financial commitment is made. A full vote by the RIEMA Board will occur soon.

*Event #1: RIEMA Annual Conference* – Friday, April 24, 2009, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Warwick, RI  
The president (or appointed representative) of each New England school library organization is invited to attend the RIEMA Annual Conference. RIEMA will pick up the cost of registration. The RIEMA Board is happy to extend this invitation but is unable at this time to underwrite any travel or hotel accommodations related to conference attendance. *Current Annual Conference details:*

- Conference theme (tentative): Navigating the 21st Century Information Landscape
- Keynote speaker: Dr. Jamie McKenzie will speak about 21st Century skills based on AASL and ISTE Standards
- Dr. McKenzie will also present an extended workshop on related topics
- Author speaker (confirmed): Lois Lowry
- Special presenter: Christopher Harris on using gaming literacy to support curriculum

*Event #2: Upcoming NEISTE Conference* RIEMA and the Rhode Island Society of Technology Educators (RISTE) are co-hosting the next biannual meeting of NEISTE – the New England chapter of ISTE – in Newport, RI, with a dinner on Friday, November 21, and breakfast, lunch, and conference on Saturday, November 22. The dinner will be held at La Forge Casino Restaurant and the Saturday conference will be at the Hotel Viking. All school library organizations are encouraged to participate and attend NEISTE meetings and conferences. For more information on becoming a NEISTE member, see [www.neiste.org](http://www.neiste.org), or contact your state's ISTE chapter.

**Vermont** – VSLA submitted by Merlyn Miller, VSLA rep. to NESLA

*Attracting Library Media Students* The University of Vermont Library Media Studies Sequence continues to attract graduate students and practicing educators who wish to attain a library media specialist endorsement from the Vermont Department of Education. Six core courses belong to a strand within the UVM Masters of Education in Curriculum and Instruction. They are available during a two-year cycle, one course per semester. Offered through Continuing Education in a blended format, the courses include face-to-face classes, online work and videoconferencing sessions at Vermont Interactive Television sites throughout the state. Currently there are about 20 aspiring library media specialists in the 2007-2009 cycle. Some of them have already been hired to fill vacant jobs and are working on emergency or provisional licensures. For further information, check the UVM website: [http://learn.uvm.edu/?Page-library\\_media.html](http://learn.uvm.edu/?Page-library_media.html) (This information is quoted from an article in the October issue of VSLA News written by Judy Kaplan, coordinator of the UVM School Library Media.)

*Green Mountain Book Award* is in its fourth year -- a reader's choice award for Vermont students in grades 9-12. More information about the GMBA including the 2008-2009 handbook can be found on the Department of Libraries website:

[http://dol.state.vt.us/sites/libraries/files/gmba/gmbahandbook08\\_09.pdf](http://dol.state.vt.us/sites/libraries/files/gmba/gmbahandbook08_09.pdf)

The 2008-09 list includes: *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing* by Anderson; *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic* by Bechdel; *The Plain Janes* by Castellucci; *Bucking the Sarge* by Curtis; *13 Little Blue Envelopes* by Johnson; *The Astonishing Adventures of Fanboy and Goth Girl* by Lyga; *Inexcusable* by Lynch; *Dairy Queen* by Murdoch; *His Majesty's Dragon* by Novik; *Miracle in the Andes* by Parrado; *It's Kind of a Funny Story* by Vizzini; *Black and White* by Volponi; *Assassination Vacation* by Vowell, and *The Book Thief* by Zusak.

*VSLA Fall Conference* held at U32 in Montpelier on October 23 was a huge success with very high attendance. The VSLA board had decided to support the conference financially so that registration could be reduced to \$10.00. In addition, the first 25 who registered received a copy of the author/presenter's book and all those attending received a flashdrive. Keynote speaker, Susan Ballard was the highlight of the conference!

**AASL Director's Report** submitted by Marilyn Joyce

*National Board for Professional Teaching Standards* Last week, I posted the following message: Ann Martin, President of AASL, is looking for nominees to serve on the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) and help revise the standards for Library Media. New England would benefit from representation on this committee. I know we have many potential candidates among our NESLA members. I need your recommendations. (And don't hesitate to nominate yourself. Recommendations are due Nov. 18. If necessary, we can discuss this further during the virtual meeting. Several people asked about the time and travel

commitment. So far, no answer. If you are still interested, let me know ASAP so that I can submit your name by tomorrow's deadline ([mzjoyce@midmaine.com](mailto:mzjoyce@midmaine.com)).

*Learn4Life* AASL has officially launched its Learn 4 Life (L4L) initiative. This is the implementation component of the new standards. For a press release, go to <http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2008/october2008/AASLlearning4life.cfm>

*ASCD's Whole Child Initiative* The AASL Board is considering a request to sign on to ASCD's Whole Child Initiative. <http://www.wholechildeducation.org/> This makes sense. It addresses an Affiliate Assembly concern from Region II requesting the AASL form a partnership with ASCD. ASCD initiatives are certainly compatible with AASL initiative (e.g., Partnership for the 21st Century Skills and the AASL Standards for the 21st Century Learner). The suggestion was made that we asked ASCD to insert some language about school libraries into the Whole Child documents. More to follow once the Board acts....

*ALA Midwinter in Denver* Plans are underway for ALA Midwinter and Affiliate Assembly meetings. It is time to start thinking about concerns and commendations. Below is the updated schedule for Midwinter meetings: 2009 Midwinter

Thursday

9:30 am - 12:30 pm AASL Executive Committee I

1:00 – 4:00 pm AASL Strategic Planning

4:30 – 6:00 pm AASL/ALSC/YALSA Jt. Executive Committee

Friday

9:00 am – 5:00 pm AASL Strategic Planning

1:30 – 5:00 pm ALA Financial Planning Seminar

8:00 – 10:00 pm Affiliate Assembly Executive Committee

Saturday

8:00 am – 12:30 pm AASL Board II

10:30 am – 12:30 pm Affiliate Assembly Discussion Group

1:30 – 5:30 pm All Committee Meeting

a. 1:30 – 3:30 pm

b. 3:30 – 5:30 pm

Sunday

8:00 am – 12:00 pm Affiliate Assembly

12:00 – 1:00 pm Candidates Forum

10:45 am – 12:15 pm ALA Council I

1:30 – 2:30 pm PBA

2:30 – 3:00 pm BARC/Divisions

**AASL Region I Director-Elect** submitted by Ann Perham

*Our Wiki* All affiliates are requested to update our wiki: Leaders, conference dates/events, ETC  
Access: <http://aaslregion1.pbwiki.com/> Each member should have received an invitation to join and establish a password (login is email)

*NESLA and AASL* promotion at state conferences:

- 10/23 and 10/24: Teri Caouette was the NESLA/AASL rep as MASL
- 11/2 and 11/3: Carolyn Markuson attended the MSLA conference and set up a PR table for NESLA/AASL information. Complimentary registration and table was extended by MSLA.
- 11/9 and 11/10: Irene Kwidzinski was the NESLA rep at CASL
- AS YET UNSCHEDULED for coverage: RIEMA (4/24/09) and VSLA (5/12 and 5/13/09)
- NHEMA – still need coverage and DATES of the conference

*School Library Journal Summit* – 11/13 to 11/14/2008 in Hollywood, Florida – was attended by 5 Region I delegates: David Bilmes, Kathy Lowe, Sandy Kelly, Gerri Fegan and Ann Perham. The

topic was "Remixing Library Collections for Digital Youth". Panels representing vendors, academic librarians, and school librarians discussed the future of print, reference, audio in the digital age. Keynote speakers were Anastasia Goodstein (author of *Totally Wired: What Teens and Tweens are Really Doing Online*) and Scott Traylor, CEO and Founder and Chief of KID 360KID (addressing primarily the use of gaming in the curriculum). We had an opportunity to discuss future summits with Brian Kenney and made the strong recommendation that the topic shifts back to problem-solving the future of school libraries by gathering leaders in the field of school libraries as well as the leaders of academic libraries, public libraries, publishers, legislators, departments of education, and business. This would be a return to the focus of the first summit that was held in New York City in 2003.

*Connecting with Cassandra Barnett, president-elect of AASL:* The Massachusetts delegation had the pleasure of having Cassandra Barnett speak at the conference, presenting sessions on the new AASL standards. At the SLJ Summit, we had the pleasure of continuing the conversation on a variety of topics, including her plans for her presidency of AASL. She shared with us her challenges of making appointments, visiting the states, and developing her theme. Cassandra is considering a positive theme that may mirror Barack Obama's "Yes, We Can" idea .... Something that speaks to the idea that we must promote our programs by helping others....considering assessment too.

*Concerns, Commendations:* The due date for concerns and commendations is 6 months away, but it's not too early to be thinking.

**AECT Report** submitted by Charlie White, NESLA rep. to AECT

*2008 AECT Annual Convention* held last week in Orlando was clearly a great success. The attendance for the 4-day event exceeded 800 International attendees and over 1000 North American members. The feedback from the attendees indicated that the diversity in the program was a significant feature. The convention evaluation will be going out shortly but the planners have already received a lot of positive feedback. The keynote speakers were noted as among the best in recent years, presentations were of high quality, and the Featured Research sessions were once again well attended and received. New social events highlighting key AECT entities were well received, with the ECT Foundation Mentor recognition and Intern scholarship awards highlighted on Wednesday evening.

*International Student Media Festival* was also in session with the number of students participating exceeding 500. With teachers, parents and siblings attendance exceeded 900. The awards show was certainly the highlight of the event but the over 150 students who attended a special program Wednesday at the NASA center also found an outstanding experience. Thursday they spent the day turning their still and video shots into a featured program for their school. The ISMF continues to grow and the number of entries exceeded 1200 this year.

*2009 AECT Convention* will be October 27-31, 2009 at the beautiful Galt Hotel & Spa in Louisville, Kentucky. The call for proposals will be live on December 15th. If you want to be a part of the new and exciting AECT annual convention get your proposal in early. There will also be a special super early bird registration available when the registration goes live in early January. Bring your colleagues and friends to the Louisville conference. Our confirmed keynoters include (a) Peter Goodyear, Professor and Director of the CoCo Lab at the University of Sydney, with a strong interest in computer supported collaborative learning and cognition, and (b) Andrei Podolski, Professor Emeritus and Cognitive Psychologist from Moscow State University with a strong interest in multi-cultural issues in education and in socio-cultural approaches to instructional design; we have invited a high-level program officer from NSF to be the third keynoter but she has not yet confirmed.

*AECT Events in Second Life* The 2008 AECT "On the Horizon... Rays of Change" Convention. Thursday, November 6th we hosted a simultaneous audio feed from the RL presentations into SL hosted at EdTech Island Amphitheater [<http://slurl.com/secondlife/EdTech/163/141/25>]. Our

presenters included Tom Atkinson of UCF, Lisa Dawley of BSU, Alice Bedard-Voorhees of CMCC, Steven Hornik of UCF, Bill Freese of MSU, Ross Perkins of BSU, and Rob Sephenson from the Tech Museum of Innovation. Download [the AECT SL Schedule](#) now and please join us for this exciting line up of presentations! [Click here for our the AECT in SL Archives Page!](#) Remember, AECT members and non-members can now meet whenever and where ever in Second Life. As the most successful current virtual environment in terms of adoption and growth, Second Life represents a vehicle for AECT members to share and gain expertise as well as network with other professionals.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Membership Report** submitted by Merlyn Miller, NESLA Membership Chair  
Membership is only at 73 and 38 of those are from Vermont! The membership chair needs to get the updated membership form to all the state websites and especially to our own website. My school switched this fall from Microsoft Office to NeoOffice, and now Open Office and my images and documents do not transfer easily.

At any rate, my goal is to get the NESLA logo from Katrina into a format that I can insert into my membership form, membership confirmation letters, new member welcome letters and membership renewal reminders. Then I will get those all completed and mailed before the end of November, and we should see the membership numbers rise up to where they should be.

Unfortunately, it is going to take a long time to get school business offices to make the switch from NEEMA to NESLA.

### **NESLA Views**

Peg Hallisey will be working with Sue Ballard on the Views and planning future issues.

### **Old Business**

#### **Leadership Conference**

With Jon Kotter's usual speaking fee of \$80,000 out of our reach, he has offered to do a phone-in and/or video connection to speak to us, but that can't happen until fall. We would like to be given the opportunity to be some of the first to read his new book as a group and will continue to maintain a conversation with him about this through Irene Kwidzinski. As for his book, *My Iceberg Is Melting*, we envision making this a group read so that everyone who registers would receive a copy of the book and arrive prepared to participate in a discussion of the book possibly led by Nate Greenberg. Sue Ballard is going to talk with Nate for his suggestions regarding such a plan that might mimic the leadership training he organized for Londonderry. Keeping Mr. Kotter in mind for a fall conference of some kind (late September), we moved on to a discussion of an alternative leadership conference for the spring. Because our profession so often works in isolation, NESLA needs to find a way to bring leadership opportunities to our organization membership. Offering a leadership "retreat" for our six state counterparts would serve the two purposes of 1) leadership training and 2) allowing our AASL director, Ann Perham to meet everyone face-to-face.

Using the board members attending the virtual meeting, we came up with the best date for a spring "retreat" as Friday, March 27 and Saturday, March 28. This way, hopefully most folks will be able to arrive Friday afternoon/evening, spend the night and work through Saturday in true "retreat" style. Sue Ballard is going to ask Nate Greenberg to contact the SERNSC conference facility..

Carolyn suggested each state might be willing to kick in a little financial assistance and thereby subsidize their own group's costs.

If anyone has ideas for leadership speakers for the retreat, please contact Carolyn and/or Irene.

## **New Business**

### **NEASC Standards**

The second lengthy discussion concerned the new NEASC standards and how school libraries are included or not included. There was much confusion as those of us with internet access tried to look at the NEASC website during the virtual meeting to find school library references.

Because these new standards are still in draft form, the board feels it is very important to have our organization respond to the changes in a formal way. NEASC will have a conference in December and Doug made the motion that we send a NESLA representative to the conference, in particular to attend a December 5 session, NESLA will cover the registration/conference costs (approx \$265) for the rep we send (Irene) Passed. Kathy Lowe was suggested as an excellent candidate to attend the NEASC conference on NESLA's behalf and Merlyn will contact Kathy to see if she is available and interested. In the meantime, Ann is going to compare the current standards and the proposed standards for us. The result may be a letter of concern or commendation. Doug pointed out that each state should be given to weigh in with their thoughts and ideas as well. Carolyn is going to talk to Janet Allison regarding us sending a rep to the NEASC conference as well as having her attend our spring leadership conference.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:58pm.

## **Future Meeting Dates**

Virtual meeting will be February 9, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

Face-to-Face meeting May 30, 2009 in Londonderry, NH

Respectfully submitted,

Merlyn Miller (edited and formatted by Katrina)