



NEEMA VIEWS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NEW ENGLAND EDUCATIONAL MEDIA ASSOCIATION

VOLUME XXIII NUMBER 2

WINTER 2008

DATES OF INTEREST:

April 4
NEEMA Leadership
Boston, MA
www.neema.org

April 28
RIEMA Annual
Warwick, RI
www.ri.net/RIEMA/

May 13-14
NHEMA Annual
Nashua, NH
www.nhema.net

May 13-14
VSLA Annual
Burlington, VT
www.vsla.info

June 26-July 2
ALA
Anaheim, CA
www.ala.org

October 17-19
AASL Fall Forum
Chicago Area
www.ala.org/aasl

November 2-3
MSLA
Sturbridge, MA
www.msla.org

November 4-8
AECT
Orlando, FL
www.aect.org

November 10
CASL
Cromwell, CT
www.ctcema.org

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Returning to Our Roots: Or, NEEMA by another name



In May 1918 at Simmons College, Boston, MA, the first meeting of the New England School Library Association (NESLA) was held. In the early seventies NESLA morphed into the New England Educational Media Association, or NEEMA as most of us know it. Though I can't personally speak to why the NESLA's leadership decided to propose a name change then, I think am fairly safe in asserting it was to acknowledge the dynamic nature of our profession and the need for us, as information specialists, to not only need to deal with information in a linear format, but also acknowledge the rapid and pervasive changes that were occurring related to how information was delivered through a wide variety of media. Name changes also occurred throughout the region as state organizations embraced similar conceptualizations.

The name NEEMA has served us well as this year we proudly celebrate ninety years of service to

New England, however, the NEEMA Board began to consider whether it continues to accurately represent who we are, and what we do. To that end, a constitutional amendment is being proposed to return to our original name, and to the image we feel it helps to convey.

We are not unlike our colleagues in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Vermont in making this proposal. The Connecticut Educational Media Association (CEMA) is now CASL - the Connecticut Association of School Librarians. The Massachusetts School Library Association (MSLA) was formerly know as the Massachusetts School Library Media Association (MSLMA). And until relatively recently, the Vermont School Library Association (VSLA) was the Vermont Educational Media Association (VEMA). We hope you will agree to support our suggestion when it is presented at the annual meeting of the association on April 4th during the Leadership Conference in Boston.

And while we were discussing our proposed name change, the Board also determined that it was time to revisit the question of the length of the term of office for the President. As our Treasurer and Secretary positions are two-year, we felt it was important to also align the Presidency. Thus, we are proposing that the term for President be two years. The terms for President-Elect and Past President will be one year. Elections for President-Elect will take place in odd-numbered years. The term of the Past-President shall be served in even-numbered years. Look for the ballot inside this edition of VIEWS and cast your vote as regards our future Leadership! Speaking of Leadership, I hope to see you at the Leadership Conference April 4th in Boston. Check page two of this edition for the latest news on this event which is shaping up to be one of our best ever—DON'T MISS IT!

Susan Ballard

NEEMA LEADERSHIP Friday, April 4th

**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION
EXTENDED TO 3/11/08**

Leadership Conference

*Where Soulja Boy Meets Herman
Melville: What Remix Culture Can Tell
Us About the New Media Literacies*

Visit  www.neema.org for
registration brochure



Featuring
Dr. Henry Jenkins
Director,
Comparative Media
Studies Program
and
Professor of Literature,
MIT

John J.
Moakley
Federal
Courthouse
Boston


.....
**Also Featuring
Christopher Harris
and
Carol Gordon**
.....



Reaction Panel Announced:

We have assembled a great group of panelists who will be responding to some of the issues raised by Dr. Jenkins. Our panel members include:

Nate Greenberg, Superintendent
Londonderry, NH School District
AASL Distinguished Administrator, 2007 and
School Library Journal/Greenwood Publishing
2007 Administrator of the Year

Ruth Kaplan, Esq. PTA Representative
Massachusetts Board of Education

Janet Roche, President
Connecticut Association of School Librarians

Sara Kelly Johns, President
American Association of School Librarians

**Sylvia Norton, School Library/Technology
Planning Coordinator**
Maine Department of Education/
Maine State Library

**Student Participants from the
Boston Public Schools**

Lodging and Pre-conference dinner:

For participants interested in overnight accommodations, a conference rate of \$189 has been negotiated for 4/3 and 4/4 at the Seaport Hotel for rooms reserved **by March 18th. 1.877.SEAPORT (877.732.7678)** - reference New England Educational Media Association.

A Pre-Conference dinner at Anthony's Pier IV is also available for \$50. Come celebrate NEEMA's 90th birthday and the inception of the NEEMA Hall of Fame.

ATTENTION !!! ALA AND AASL Members: This March when you receive your ALA ballot in the mail, you will see a former AASL President is in the running for the Presidency of ALA and a fellow New Englander is running for the Presidency of AASL.

Why is it Important for you to vote in the ALA/AASL Elections? As a school library media specialist you want ALA to be responsive to your issues and concerns, so consider **J. Linda Williams** for ALA President. Linda is a school library media specialist and has been active in both ALA and AASL including service as AASL President. For more information, please go to Linda's website:

<http://www.electlindawilliams.org/>

As a school library media specialist in New England, you want AASL to address regional issues so consider **Sylvia Norton** for President Elect of AASL. Sylvia is presently the School Library/Technology Planning Coordinator for the Maine Department of Education/Maine State Library. Sylvia is also a former President of NEEMA and continues to be active in the association. She is presently serving as a member of the AASL Board of Directors, on the Executive Committee and as the Division Representative to ALA Council.

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!



J. Linda Williams



ALA polls will open on March 17, 2008 and close on April 24, 2008. In order to be eligible to vote, your ALA and AASL membership must be current as of January 31, 2008. Check your membership status online <http://www.ala.org> or by calling 1-800-545-2433 x5.

PROPOSED NEEMA CONSTITUTION CHANGES

The NEEMA Board proposes revising the NEEMA Constitution and Bylaws to reflect these changes (in red) :

The membership will be asked to vote on the proposed changes at the Annual Meeting, April 4, 2008. The NEEMA Constitution and Bylaws will be posted on the NEEMA website at <http://www.neema.org>

Revised Fall 1994; Fall 1988; Spring 2003; Spring 2004; Spring 2008

Constitution ARTICLE I – NAME The name of this organization shall be the **New England School Library Association**, (The “Association”).

Bylaws ARTICLE II – ELECTION OF OFFICERS

SECTION 4. The term of the President shall be two years. The term of President-Elect and Past President shall be one year. The President-Elect shall be elected on odd-numbered years. The term of the Past-President shall be on even-numbered years. The term of the Secretary and Treasurer shall be two years. The Secretary shall be elected on the odd-numbered years and the Treasurer on the even-numbered years. Transition of officers will occur in September.

AASL Fall Forum



The AASL Fall Forum is a multi-day national institute held during non-AASL National Conference years.



Assessment, Part II: Constructing and Interpreting Viable Tools for Effective Student Learning in the Library Media Center

**October 17-19, 2008 Oak Brook Hills Marriot Resort, Oak Brook, Illinois
(Chicago area)**

Join AASL for a special one-and-a-half day workshop investigating assessment from three perspectives: program assessment, providing a base for continuing dialogue with administrators; student assessment, reviewing collaborative models of information literacy within curriculum applications; and item analysis, identifying, gathering, and interpreting data.

AASL 2008 Fall Forum attendees will:

- compare and contrast various components of authentic assessment with an emphasis on identifying those best suited for assessment of information literacy standards.
- practice interpreting and applying authentic assessment data to curriculum development and cross curricular collaboration.
- apply authentic assessment data to various curricular areas at a variety of educational levels.
- use authentic assessment data to develop rigorous and relevant library programs and enhance library literacy curricula on various educational levels.

Find out more information about the 2008 AASL Fall Forum: <http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/conferencesandevents/fallforum/fallforum.cfm>

NEW ENGLAND EDUCATIONAL MEDIA ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL BALLOT FOR THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Merlyn Miller _____

Write-In _____



Brief Biography for Merlyn Miller

Current position: Teacher/Librarian, Burr and Burton Academy in Manchester, Vermont, 1990-present. New England Educational Media Association: President-Elect 2007-2008, Membership Chair 2005-present, Vermont Representative 2004-Present, and NEEMA member since 1995. ALA/AASL Activities: Annual Conference Committee member 2007, Appointments Committee member 2006-present, currently serving as Chair. Chair of AASL’s State Department Information Inquiry Task Force, 2007-Present and AASL member since 1992. Vermont School Library Association: AASL Delegate 2004-Present, NEEMA Representative 2004-Present, Treasurer 2000-2003, President 1998-2000, Regional Representative 1995-1998 and VSLA member since 1991.

I did my undergraduate work at the College of St. Joseph and my graduate work at the State University of New York, but I have worked in school, public and academic libraries in some capacity nonstop since 7th grade so that means 44 years in the library world and there is no other place I’d rather be!

TREASURER

Douglas Maitland _____

Write-In _____

Brief Biography for Douglas Maitland

Doug Maitland, Swampscott (MA) High School Library Media Specialist for over 30 years, retired in 2001 but remains professionally active as a member of the New England Educational Media Association Governing Board and has served in the capacity of Treasurer since 1976. He possesses a BS from Salem State College (MA) and an MLS from the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks. Doug also has experience as a librarian at the College level.

Doug has been the recipient of numerous awards including having been elected by his peers as Swampscott High School Educator of the Year in 1991, is a two time recipient of the New England Educational Media Association President’s Award and the distinction of having been bestowed the honor of being named a lifetime member of the association.

Please fold and tape, or place in a separate envelope, add postage and mail to the address on the reverse side. Ballots must be postmarked by April 4th.



**Katrina Palazzolo
Library Media Specialist
Sage Park Middle School
25 Sage Park Road
Windsor, CT 06095**

AASL AFFILIATE ASSEMBLY MIDWINTER RECAP

1) A proxy for ALA President candidate, **Camila Alire**, and **J. Linda Williams** (in person) spoke to the Affiliates regarding their respective platforms.

2) Region 1 Delegates (**Merlyn Miller** (VT); **Valerie Diggs** (MA); **Janet Roche and David Bilmes** (CT); **Peggy Becksvoort** (ME), and **Sue Ballard** (NEEMA) worked with Region 1 Director-Elect, **Ann Perham**, and Region 1 Director, **Marilyn Joyce**, on formulating draft language regarding concerns/commendations from the region which will be forwarded to Affiliate when finished so that they can be discussed and voted up or down at Annual for submission to the AASL Board. **Irene Kwidzinski** (CT) was also at Affiliate as she is the chair-elect and **Kathy Lowe and Sandy Kelly** (MA) were also in on discussions. A concern that we are working on is asking for assistance/strategies/tool kit from AASL on how to recruit and retain members in the affiliate organizations (and) to encourage members to join the division. Region 1 is considering a commendation for the Maine State Dept. of Ed which includes a school library media specialist on every one of their content area standards committees.

<http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aboutaasl/aaslgovernance/affiliateassembly/aaforms.cfm>

3) **Keith Curry Lance** reported that the second round of the AASL Longitudinal Survey "School Libraries Count" is now open and all Affiliates are asked to encourage member participation at: <http://www.aaslsurvey.org/index.php> There is a new question related to use of Social Networking Tools. Last year's results are also available at this site.

4) **Hilda Weisburg** announced that the division is interested in getting more AASL members on the ALA Ballot for Council and distributed nomination petition forms.

5) **Debbie Abilock** reviewed proposed Knowledge Quest themes for 2008 and asked for suggestions from the delegates present which she will pursue.

6) The AASL Blog (**Alice Yucht**) would love to have a designated blogger from every Affiliate to contribute news/info to the Blog - they are hoping for a quarterly blog presence.

7) The Standards/Guidelines Implementation Task Force (**Sue Ballard**) will be developing a member focus group with whom they can share ideas/drafts as they finalize the Implementation Plan due to the Board in June. They will also be creating a blog/wiki for at-large member contributions/suggestions. Info will be

forthcoming via the AASL Blog and Hot Links and participation is encouraged. The TF has filed an interim request with the Board for some immediate actions to assist affiliates in transitioning from Info Power to the new standards/guidelines.

8) The Advocacy Committee (**Deb Logan**) and Legislative Committee (**Doc Roth**) are working to create a "rapid response" data base for Advocacy and Legislative issues. They have asked each state affiliate to provide them with names and contact info for the Affiliate (Advocacy and Legislative Chairs or, if none, next best contact); State Library Association counterparts; contacts at Higher Ed or certification programs, etc. This led to a discussion in Region 1 that we may need a similar regional "rapid response" listserv, blog or Wiki. .

9) The Quantitative Standards Taskforce (**Nancy Dickinson**) is trying to fill in the blanks on their report. A draft was distributed and they sent a template to each state asking them to fill in info re state requirements for facilities (subdivided in a number of areas therein), collection, budget and staffing school and system level.

10) AASL Executive Director, **Julie Walker**, did a presentation on the Partnership for 21st Century Skills, of which AASL is a member (Julie is on the Board). The Partnership has launched Route 21, a one-stop-shop for 21st century skills-related information, resources and community tools. <http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/route21/index.php?limitstart=20>

Deedy named spokesperson for School Library Media Month

Carmen Agra Deedy, award-winning author of "*Martina the Beautiful Cockroach: A Cuban Folktale*," has been named national spokesperson for the 2008 School Library Media Month, which will be celebrated in April. School Library Media Month is sponsored by the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), and celebrated by schools around the country.

Deedy has been writing and telling stories for almost 20 years. One of her most beloved books, "*The Library Dragon*," tells the story of an overprotective school librarian with a fiery technique. "I love librarians," Deedy said, "I visit hundreds of schools every year, and I can see the difference in those schools that are wise to the value of library media specialists. I look forward to working with AASL to spread the good word about school libraries."

School Library Media Month, begun in 1985, is celebrated in conjunction with National Library Week (April 13-19). This year's theme for both events is "Join the Circle of Knowledge @ your library." For more information, please visit <http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aasliissues/aasladvocacy/schoollibrary.cfm>.

Views of the States



NEEMA Hall of Fame CASL encourage for nominations for this as there have been a number of Connecticut people who have served the region and NEEMA. Janet Roche will post some names that she knows of on the CASL Board wiki, inviting anyone else who has suggestions to post on wiki also.

CASL Fall Festival will be October 15, 2008 at same location as 2007. Awards presentations will also take place then as well as marking 15th anniversary of Nutmeg awards.

Janet Roche has been in contact with president of CECA

(Connecticut Educational Computer Association) to come up with a joint statement of common vision. This was in part inspired by the recently released MASSCUE and MSLA joint statement.

Awards process. Janet proposed creating a common date for all nominations for awards and applications for awards/grants/scholarship to be due on same date of November 1.

CASL will have a presence at the CEA New Teacher Conference: April 5, 2008 at Mohegan Sun and will likely be sharing table with iConn.

We are phasing in our new name of CASL and have decided on a slogan which is based on suggestions that will

play off CASL Name: Collaborating to Advanced Student Learning

Our new logo is also being finalized, with final suggestions made at a recent Board meeting. The plan is for final draft to be sent out to Board and that hopefully we will reach a consensus without the need to readdress it at the next meeting in April.

Upcoming workshop on Web 2.0 on May 17, 2008 at Simsbury H.S. presented by Shannon McNeice, Janet Roche, and Katrina Palazzolo is planned.

Submitted by Chris Barlow

The Board felt the NEEMA Hall of Fame Award of great importance and **we put the award information front and center on our homepage**, including an online submission form.

Our **state librarian is retiring** and our organization has been asked to provide the search committee with input as to the questions to ask, as well as what skills/talents the committee should be looking for. The VSLA board created a survey to enable our membership to weigh in on the suggested questions and important qualities of the state librarian.

Also on our homepage, <http://vsla.info>, is a link for additional information regarding a recent **Library Confidentiality Bill** that was introduced in the Vermont Senate. Here is an excerpt from that link: "...S. 220, "An Act Relating to the Confidentiality of Library Patron Records," in response to VLA's request for a stronger and clearer law protecting

the confidentiality of our library patrons. The bill as introduced is very similar to a draft proposed by VLA (and to laws in many other states), but we intend to recommend a few amendments, most notably one to include school libraries. In December, the Vermont School Library Association decided to join our effort...."

One of our board members testified and the following is an excerpt from her testimony "Confidentiality of patron records is critical to a person's freedom to pursue all topics, whether for academic reasons, anything from Greek mythology for a history class to breast cancer or HIV for a health class, or for personal reasons. Without guaranteed confidentiality, students may censor themselves from pursuing these topics of interest or concerns for fear of their reading list being revealed to others. Think, for example, about the young male who's interested in reading books about ballet,

or the young girl who has questions about pregnancy or STDs -- whether it be in regard to her own lifestyle or a peer's. And as a librarian, there's no greater thrill than to see young people get enthusiastic about reading. Our code of ethics is designed to not only support, but also promote, that excitement.

If we're going to raise a generation of young people that understands the value of privacy in a free society and that respects the privacy of others, it's important to show them that same respect and let them experience privacy themselves."

The VSLA Board **has been working for a few years to reinstate the School Library Coordinator position** in the Department of Education. We have recently learned Peter Drescher has been hired as the Education Technology Coordinator for the VT Dept. of Ed.

Submitted by Merlyn Miller



More Views of the States



MSLA has been busy **legislatively lobbying** the Education Committee to move our bill H564 out of the Committee and into the House for a vote. The bill will add the words “school libraries” to Chapter 70 laws. Special recognition was given to the state’s regional library system folks who joined us at the State House in September. Maureen Ambrosino wrote an excellent piece called *Birth of a Library Activist: Or, How I Went From Being a Quiet Bystander to a Raging Library Activist*. She submitted it to *School Library Journal* and they published it in the January issue in “graphic” format. If you do not have a hard copy go to <http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/info/CA6515886.html>.

MSLA has set up an **advocacy committee that will develop presentations** for school

Over the past year and a half, a committee consisting of educators and community members has been working with the Department of Education to **develop a Literacy Action Plan for the 21st Century, PreK – 16**. It was published this past summer. NHEMA has taken on an active role to advocate for the school library media specialist as being integral to the successful implementation of the *Literacy Plan*. Sharon Silva, NHEMA President and Dr. Cathy Higgins, State Educational Technology Director recently presented a workshop on this topic at the *New Hampshire Association of School Principals Winter Conference*. The primary focus of the plan is reading instruction and

administrators, teachers and parents. The presentations will advocate for strong school libraries in the Commonwealth. In addition, we will include the MLA/MSLA Joint Statement on Similarities and Differences in school and public libraries and other position statements that have been adopted.

The recent edition of our newsletter MSLA Forum is now online. Thank you to Susan Babb and Lucie Gallagher of NMRLS who wrote an article on the benefits of membership in our state’s regional library systems. In addition, as president, I included a segment on the benefits I personally receive from my region in my President’s Message. The forum is online at <http://maschoollibraries.org/content/view/412/213/>.

January brought a number of MSLA Executive Board members to Philadelphia for the **ALA midwinter conference**. Executive Director Kathy Lowe and I met with Michael Colford, Robin Brenner from the Boston region, along with representatives of a graphic novel publisher to **discuss**

assessment. Cathy and Sharon emphasized the role of technology integration and utilizing the NH ICT Literacy Portfolio for assessment as well as the research linking student achievement and school libraries.

The NHEMA Conference will be held on May 13 and 14 at the *Radisson* (formerly the *Sheraton*) in Nashua. It will not be a joint conference with the NH Library Association this year. Our theme for the conference is “Collaborate for Literacy at Your Library.” Keynotes will include Tony Buzzeo, Cynthia Lord and Stephen Abrams. It is unfortunate that the NH conference is coinciding with VT this

the future plans for a joint symposium on graphic novels. This event is in the planning stages and MSLA is pleased to be a part of this event.

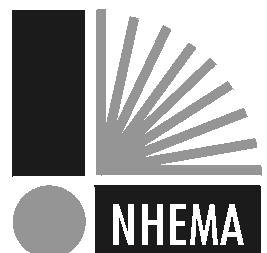
In addition, we have begun planning for **the 2008 Annual Conference** called “Survivor MSLA” to be held November 2-3 at the Sturbridge Host Hotel. Mark your calendars for a weekend focused on Information Literacy Standards, both the new AASL Standards released in Reno last November and the MSLA Draft Infloquency Standards. MSLA member Valerie Diggs is currently representing MSLA with the Department of Education in the revision of the Massachusetts ELA Curriculum Frameworks. As Curriculum Chair she is also working to align MA draft infolit standards with the national standards and the research strands being included in the new Frameworks. Speakers lined up for “Survivor” include Terry Young, author of *School Libraries Work*, a compilation of the research done across the country that indicate school libraries improve student achievement. We also will have Judi Morellion, Deb Logan and Cassandra Barnett.

Submitted by Sandy Kelly,

year. We were at the mercy of the only venue able to financially and physically meet our needs. Next year, we hope to work closely with NEEMA to avoid such a conflict.

The new AASL Standards for the 21st Century Learner will be an important topic at our conference this year and we will be looking at other ways to role out and implement any forthcoming action plans.

Submitted by Sharon Silva



More Views of the States



This past fall **all high school librarians and high school teachers in Maine were given MacBooks**. MASL developed a survey for school librarians as a way of planning to meet the needs of school librarians in Maine. Nancy Grant has developed the survey and is awaiting responses. Workshops will be planned by MASL to meet the needs of high school librarians.

There was also a **change of officers for MASL**. Jeff Small is the current president of MASL and Peg Becksvoort is the vice president. MASL sent Peg Becksvoort as our delegate to the AASL Affiliate Assembly at Midwinter.

We are planning a **2008 Fall Conference** and the date will be third weekend in October. Peg Becksvoort MASL Vice President will be one of the conference chairs.

Plans for 21st Century Skills in Maine will be spearheaded by Sylvia Norton. MASL is **updating a school librarian's handbook** for all school libraries, especially for new librarians to our state. We are also looking carefully at our website to include information for school libraries on ALA/AASL and NEEMA activities.

One of our big concerns in Maine is still the **consolidation of school districts**. MASL's concern is to educate people about the role of school libraries. MASL has already done some preliminary education

Submitted by Teri Caouette



Plans are being finalized for the **Annual Conference** that will be held on Monday, April 28, at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick, RI. The keynote speaker is AASL President Sara Kelly Johns and author Richard Peck will be presenting.

Rhode Island library media specialists will have a **voice at the Rhode Island Department of Education**. RIEMA president Jackie Lamoureux will be serving as a member of the RI Committee of Practitioners, and advisory group that offers input on implementation of the provisions of NCLB.

RIEMA members Donna Good and Phyllis Humphrey **represented RIEMA at the ISTE meeting** in Vermont. RI was the only state to have librarians there. Donna suggested the NEEMA Board might be a good place to encourage LMS's to get involved and represent their states' ISTE committee. The next meetings are in Maine and RI.

Budget woes continue to be an issue. RIEMA is developing a brochure with facts advocating for school libraries which our members can use. Also, we are sending a letter of support on behalf the RILA about our mutual concerns regarding children's services to public and school libraries. Upcoming retirements and budgets cuts in the Office of Library and Information Services may impact services to children.

Submitted by Sarah Morenon



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Merlyn Miller, Rep to NEEMA
(see *President-Elect*)

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NEEMA Views

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