

## Achievement Awards in Writing Advisory Committee

**Charge:** The NCTE [Achievement Awards in Writing](#) program makes use of an advisory committee and state coordinators.

**Achievement Awards Advisory Committee:** To advise staff on the nature, policies, and procedures regarding the [NCTE Achievement Awards](#), including the following issues: development of a specific plan for involving more public schools in the awards, especially those with large non-white populations; revision of the structure of the award to mitigate the negative effects of competition on student identity and learning; consideration and development of diversified awards: that recognize remarkable improvement or growth in writing; that recognize multi-modal composition (digital or non-digital); and that recognize remarkable risk-taking with the process of writing, instead of the exclusive focus on the final draft; and consideration of revising the Achievement Awards procedure, to eliminate the test-like, single-draft, timed essay as part of the award criteria, since recent developments in high-stakes assessment already privilege those who write quickly; and to consider and make recommendations for ways that your work might interface with NCTE's [National Day on Writing](#).

### Major Actions:

The AAW Advisory Committee worked this year to improve promotion of the contest in response to our charge from the Executive Council. We composed an advertisement which will run in the November 2013 issue of the *English Journal*. Since the submission deadline for the contest has been moved to February, we hope this prominent placement of an ad ahead of the annual convention will encourage more participation.

At the Las Vegas convention in November 2012, the committee presented and discussed prompts of the revised writing piece. After several follow-up emails and a conference call, the 2014 prompt was submitted to NCTE. Our plan is to have the committee always working a year ahead on the prompts for this portion of the contest since the contest deadline has been moved to February. At the Boston convention in 2013, we will be working on the 2015 prompt.

In Las Vegas, we also debated the inclusion of home schooled students. The result was the addition of home schooled students to the Eligibility paragraph on the contest flyer.

At the Las Vegas convention, we welcomed a former state coordinator, Anne Weir, to our committee. After the Chicago convention in 2011, we had decided we would like a sitting member of the committee who could offer insight into the experiences of the state coordinators.

### Strategic Governance and Council Initiatives:

In Las Vegas, our committee suggested several strategies to improve promotion of the contest and the transparency of the selection of judges and scoring of the writing.

While we are excited about our ad in *English Journal*, we would like to do more to communicate the benefits of the AAW contest, especially to schools which have traditionally declined or felt unable to participate. We are hoping to work with NCTE to generate more contacts with English departments, former state coordinators and judges, and students. We have watched with some interest the proliferation of electronic newsletters from NCTE. Perhaps this could be an avenue for some of this communication.

<http://www.ncte.org/volunteer/groups/aawardcom>

Tom Beach and Jennifer Beach, Co-Chairs

## Committee Against Racism and Bias in the Teaching of English

**Charge:** *To investigate and make recommendations to counteract racism and racial bias in teaching materials, methods, and programs for English and language arts; to develop guidelines for Teacher Quality for Educators who Teach Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Students, with careful documentation from the research base for your recommendations, based upon the NCTE 2004 policy document concerning Teacher Quality; to recommend to the [NCTE Executive Committee](#) guidelines for or considerations related to professional development of inservice and preservice teachers regarding teaching linguistically and culturally diverse students, with the assistance of appropriate scholars and experts, as well as careful documentation from the research base for your recommendations; to create principles for assessment for linguistically and culturally diverse students, with the assistance of appropriate scholars and experts and careful documentation from the research base for your recommendations, based upon the 2004 NCTE framing statements on assessment; to participate in developing NCTE as the professional home for conversations about English Language Learners in English-dominant classrooms; and to identify the research base for your recommendations, and to recommend research on matters for which you can discern no research base.*

<http://www.ncte.org/volunteer/groups/racismbiascom>

*Sheila Carter-Tod, Chair*

## Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues in Academic Studies Advisory Committee

**Charge:** *To develop plans to assist teachers in making schools, colleges, and universities safe and welcoming places for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender nonconforming, intersex, queer, and questioning people, and their allies to initiate and sustain conversation about the relevance of gendered, sexual, and affectional identities to reading and writing lives, to teaching lives, and to the well-being of students; to promote inquiry into issues of sexuality and gender identity and expression in the teaching of literacy and literature; to encourage proposals for presentation of such inquiry through public meetings such as the [NCTE Annual Convention](#); to support individuals in the production of publishable written reports of such inquiry; and to select excellent proposals for inclusion in Annual Convention.*

### **What major actions or projects have been completed by your group pursuant to your charge since July 1, 2012?**

1. The Committee is planning proposals for the 2014 Washington, DC convention. Topics and presentations under consideration will provide instructional resources for teachers.
2. The Committee is in communication with the NCTE Gay Straight Educators Alliance (GSEA) to collaborate on a few topics through 2015.
3. The Committee established a series of standards topics that we would like to address at each convention through 2015. These topics include the following:
  - a. "LGBT Issues 101: How to Start Addressing LGBT Topics in Your Classroom and Why It's Important (Elementary, Middle, Secondary, and College)"
  - b. "Children's and Young Adult Literature with LGBT Characters and Themes: What's Available and How You Can Use Them In Your Teaching"
  - c. "In and Out of the Classroom: Bullying Prevention, Challenging Homophobia, and Supporting Inclusion Now"
  - d. "Inclusive Curricula and Language Use"

### **What projects, initiatives, or studies are "in progress" at this time?**

The Committee members discussed various issues of interest and concern and ways to better position our ideas and strategy with actions for incremental progress toward results and success with other groups in NCTE.

The following action items are in progress:

- a. ACTION: Communicate with the NCTE Executive Committee and invite Executive Committee members to attend the annual Advisory Committee meetings to share updates and hear members' concerns.
- b. ACTION: Seek representatives for the review of future NCTE convention proposals to advance LGBT presence and materials.
- c. ACTION: Announce open positions and seek curriculum vitae and statements from potential candidates to submit their nominations in a timely manner prior to and during conventions.
- d. ACTION: Seek representatives for the review of future NCTE convention proposals to advance LGBT presence and materials.
- e. ACTION: Submit additional query to NCTE headquarters about request for accommodations through designated gender-neutral restrooms at NCTE conventions.

- f. ACTION: Become proactive and seek collaborations with strands and assemblies by planning in advance.
- g. ACTION: Seek convention proposals and office nominations to enhance the LGBT presence in NCTE.
- h. ACTION: Plan for conference sessions with effective strategies to enhance the LGBT presence in NCTE, NCTE conventions, and schools and universities.
- i. ACTION: Develop a list of ideas and topics to present at every convention.

**Strategic Governance and Council Initiatives:** Over the past few years, NCTE has established the [National Center for Literacy Education](#) (NCLE) to advance collaboration and inquiry among educators teaching literacy in all disciplines. Through the strategic governance process the Executive Committee has also established goals and priorities relating to these key topics in our field: [Teacher Evaluation](#) and Performance Assessment of Teacher and Student Learning, among others.

**How do you see the work of your group contributing to or benefiting from these initiatives?**

Our group can increase opportunities for academic collaboration in these areas and ensure that we are practicing intentional inclusion. This means that we must remain proactive and integrate literacy education alongside LGBTQA issues and concerns in English language arts education.

**What additional information do you need about these topics or initiatives?**

Teacher evaluation is a hot topic alongside the human rights of allies, LGBTQA-identified educators, and their students in our schools, college, universities, and communities. It would be helpful to promote more language of inclusion in the academy as well as the humane treatment of students and professional educators with human diversity.

<http://www.ncte.org/volunteer/groups/lgbtadcom>

*R. Joseph Rodriguez, Chair*

## NCTE Excellence in Poetry for Children Award Committee

**Charge:** To recommend on a regular basis every two years a living American poet to the NCTE Executive Committee for the NCTE Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children (<http://www.ncte.org/awards/poetry>) in recognition of his or her aggregate work; to sustain the collection of poetry books of award winners, past and future, in the University of Minnesota, Kerlan Collection (<http://special.lib.umn.edu/clrc>); to recognize and foster excellence in children's poetry by encouraging its publication; and to explore ways to acquaint teachers and children with poetry through such means as publications, programs, and displays.

### What major actions or projects have been completed by your group pursuant to your charge since July 1, 2012?

The 2012 of the NCTE Excellence in Poetry for Children Award Committee members (Mary Napoli, Rebecca Kai Dotlich, Elaine Magliaro, Terrell Young, and Barbara Young, chair) continued to read the works of several poets being considered for the Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children. Discussions occurred through email exchanges, and cases were put forth for several worthy poets. The final discussion and vote took place during a closed session of the committee at the 2012 convention in Las Vegas. Joyce Sidman was selected as the 2013 recipient of the award and Barbara Ward, committee chair, announced Ms. Sidman's selection during the Books for Children Luncheon at the convention.

Prior to and after the convention, the 2012 NCTE Excellence in Poetry for Children Award Committee read copies of all poetry titles published during 2012 in order to select the Poetry Notables for that year. The committee met at the 2012 convention, and the final list was chosen by vote of the committee, and then members wrote annotations of the titles, obtained book images, submitted both of those for each book to the chair, who compiled and edited them, wrote an introduction to the article, and submitted it to the editor of *The New England Reading Association Journal* for publication. Following are the titles selected for the Notable Poetry List for 2013. (The books were all published in 2012.)

### Poetry

- Coombs, Kate. (2012). *Water sings blue: Ocean poems*. Illus. by Meilo So. San Francisco: Chronicle Books.
- Corcoran, Jill. (2012). *Dare to dream...Change the world*. Illus. by J. Beth Jepson. Tulsa, OK: Kane Miller.
- Elliott, David. (2004). *In the sea*. Illus. by Holly Meade. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press.
- Florian, Douglas. (2012). *UnBEElievables: Honeybee poems and paintings*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster/ Beach Lane.
- Grady, Cynthia. (2012). *I lay my stitches down: Poems of American slavery*. Illus. by Michelle Wood. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers.
- Harrison, David. (2012). *Cowboys: Voices in the western wind*. Illus. by Dan Burr. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mill Press/Wordsong.
- Hoberman, Mary Ann. (Ed.). (2012). *Forget-me-nots: Poems to learn by heart*. Illus. by Michael Emberley. New York, NY: Little Brown and Company/Hachette Book Group.
- Hopkins, Lee Bennett. (Ed.). (2012). *Nasty bugs*. Illus. by Will Terry. New York, NY: Dial Books for Young Readers.
- Hughes, Langston. (2012). *I, too, am America*. Illus. by Bryan Collier. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.
- Jensen, Dana. (2012). *A meal of the stars: Poems up and down*. Illus. by Tricia Tusa. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin Books for Children.
- Katz, Susan. (2012). *The president's stuck in the bathtub: Poems about the presidents*. Illus. by Robert Neubecker. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin Books/Clarion Books.
- Levine, Gail Carson. (2012). *Forgive me, I meant to do it: False apology poems*. Illus. by Matthew Cordell. New York, NY: HarperCollins.
- Lewis, J. Patrick. (2012). *Edgar Allan Poe's pie: Math puzzlers in classic poems*. Illus. by Michael Slack. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.
- Lewis, J. Patrick. (2012). *If you were a chocolate mustache*. Illus. by Matthew Cordell. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press/Wordsong.

- Lewis, J. Patrick. (Ed.). (2012). *National Geographic book of animal poetry: 200 poems with photographs that squeak, soar, and roar!* Washington, DC: National Geographic Society.
- Lewis, J. Patrick, & Yolen, Jane. (2012). *Take two!: A celebration of twins*. Illus. by Sophie Blackall. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press.
- McLaughlin, Timothy P. (Ed.). (2012). *Walking on earth & touching the sky: Poetry and prose by Lakota Youth at Red Cloud Indian School*. Illus. by S. D. Nelson. New York, NY: Abrams Books for Young Readers.
- Singer, Marilyn. (2012). *A stick is an excellent thing: Poems celebrating outdoor play*. Illus. by LeUyen Pham. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin/Clarion Books.
- Singer, Marilyn. (2012). *A strange place to call home: The world's most dangerous habitats & the animals that call them home*. Illus. by Ed Young. San Francisco: Chronicle Books.

### Novels in Verse

- Newman, Leslea. (2012). *October mourning: A song for Matthew Shepard*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick.
- Rose, Carolyn Starr. (2012). *May B*. New York, NY: Random House/Schwartz & Wade.

All of the 2012 committee members were part of a conference presentation spotlighting the Poetry Notables at the annual convention in Las Vegas.

Since Barbara Ward had served two three-year terms on the NCTE Excellence in Poetry for Children Award Committee, her term expired after the 2012 convention. Nancy Hadaway was invited to chair the committee, and she accepted. She appointed the 2013 committee which included two previous members who had served one three-year term, Mary Napoli and Terry Young, and four new members, Darcy Bradley, Kathryn Button, Mary Lee Hahn, and Amy Ludwig VanDerwater. Due to health reasons, Mary Napoli had to resign from the committee in the spring, and Lesley Colabucci replaced her.

Terrell Young and Barbara Young are also profiling Joyce Sidman as the 2013 recipient of the Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children for an article for *The New England Reading Association Journal* for the next journal.

Nancy Hadaway submitted the proposal for a session to honor the 2013 Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children winner, Joyce Sidman, at the 2013 convention. The 2013 committee members will also participate in the session. The committee chair has been in contact with the members via email regarding the convention session with Joyce Sidman. The committee chair has also scheduled a meeting of all committee members at the convention.

### **What projects, initiatives, or studies are “in progress” at this time?**

Copies of all poetry titles published during 2013 have been requested from publishers for the committee members in order to select the Poetry Notables for this year. The committee will have initial discussions via email this fall prior to our committee meeting at the 2013 convention, and the final Poetry Notables list will be selected by vote of the committee, and then members will write annotations of the titles, obtain book images .

The committee will begin to discuss through email exchanges worthy poets to be considered for the 2015 award.

Based on the initial ideas of Barbara Ward, Nancy Hadaway is exploring the possibility of a project to tape the living Poetry Award recipients reciting some of their favorite poems for archival purposes and possibly posting these on YouTube or in the University of Minnesota Kerlan Collection.

### **Strategic Governance and Council Initiatives:**

Over the past few years, NCTE has established the [National Center for Literacy Education](#) (NCLE) to advance collaboration and inquiry among educators teaching literacy in all disciplines. Through the strategic governance process the Executive Committee has also established goals and priorities relating to these key topics in our field: [Teacher Evaluation](#) and Performance Assessment of Teacher and Student Learning, among others.

**How do you see the work of your group contributing to or benefiting from these initiatives?**

Spotlighting poetry and the possibilities that it offers in literacy education is important since some teachers feel intimidated by this genre.

**What additional information do you need about these topics or initiatives?**

None

<http://www.ncte.org/volunteer/groups/poetrycom>

*Nancy Hadaway, Chair*

## Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction in Children's Literature

**Charge:** To select the recipient of the annual [Orbis Pictus Award](#) for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children and up to five honor books; to propose a session on nonfiction books for children and plan a session featuring the award winning author at NCTE's [Annual Convention](#); and to promote the use of nonfiction children's books in the classroom.

As committee chair, I am grateful for the support provided by the NCTE staff members, Debbie Zagorski and Linda Walters, who continue to supply encouragement, information, and patience.

### What major actions or projects have been completed by your group pursuant to your charge since July 1, 2012?

Since July 2012 the committee announced the winner, honor, and recommended books, from those nonfiction books published in 2011, in an article of reviews for *Language Arts* and at the national conference in Las Vegas in November 2012. The committee acknowledged a number of authors and illustrators at the children's literature luncheon. Melissa Sweet, Candace Fleming, Monica Brown, and Julie Paschkis, were honored. Later the authors participated in a round table author discussion about writing and illustrating books for young readers. The committee's selection of the 2012 Orbis Pictus Award Books was intensive and challenging because of the number of excellent and varied books published for young readers. Features and content were diverse and sometimes controversial; new forms such as the memoir and first-person biography, as well as superb photographs and design continue to renew, expand and invigorate the genre. The concerns about sources and documentation in books for the youngest readers continue to be part of committee discussions.

The books presented at the 2012 conference, whose authors were honored, are as follows:

Winner of the 2012 Orbis Pictus Award:

- ❖ *Balloons over Broadway: The True Story of the Puppeteer of Macy's Parade* by Melissa Sweet (Houghton Mifflin Books for Children)

Honor Books for 2012:

- ❖ *Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart* by Candace Fleming (Schwartz & Wade Books)
- ❖ *Father Abraham: Lincoln and His Sons* by Harold Holzer (Calkins Creek)
- ❖ *Pablo Neruda: Poet of the People* by Monica Brown, illustrated by Julie Paschkis (Henry Holt and Company)
- ❖ *Terezin: Voices from the Holocaust* by Ruth Thomson (Candlewick Press)
- ❖ *The Mangrove Tree: Planting Trees to Feed Families* by Susan L. Roth and Cindy Trumbore (Lee & Low Books, Inc.)

Recommended Books for 2012:

- ❖ *Billions of Year, Amazing Changes: The Story of Evolution* by Laurence Pringle, illustrated by Steve Jenkins (Boyd's Mills Press)
- ❖ *Far From Shore: Chronicles of an Open Ocean Voyage* by Sophie Webb (Houghton Mifflin Books for Children)
- ❖ *For the Birds: The Life of Roger Tory Peterson* by Peggy Thomas, illustrated by Laura Jacques (Calkins Creek)
- ❖ *Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans* by Kadir Nelson (Balzer +Bray Imprint of Harper Collins Publishers)
- ❖ *Harry Houdini: The Legend of the World's Greatest Escape Artist* by Janice Weaver, illustrated by Chris Lane (Abrams Books for Young Readers)
- ❖ *Inkblot* by Margaret Peot (Boyd's Mills Press)
- ❖ *Me...Jane* by Patrick McDonnell (Little, Brown and Company)
- ❖ *Thunder Birds: Nature's Flying Predators* by Jim Arnosky (Sterling)

During the committee meeting in Las Vegas at the November 2012 conference, members discussed the nonfiction book titles that had been reviewed to that point in consideration for the 2013 award.

In December, the committee engaged in online discussions about book titles and then began the voting process. After a three-hour telephone conference in January 2013, the committee had a final vote and selected the winning, honor, and recommended books. The results were provided to Debbie Zagorski and she arranged for a press release to be posted on the NCTE website. The release appeared just before the other book awards were announced in January, which had been a goal of the committee. The committee members wrote book reviews on the award winning titles and they were compiled into a review article and submitted to *Language Arts*. The 2013 collection will be presented at the November conference in Boston. The following books have been selected for the 2013 collection:

Winner of the 2013 Orbis Pictus Award:

- ❖ *Monsieur Marceau: Actor without Words* by Leda Schubert, illustrated by Gérard DuBois (Roaring Brook Press)

Honor Books for 2013:

- ❖ *Citizen Scientist: Be a Part of Scientific Discovery from Your Own Backyard* by Loree Griffin Burns, photos by Ellen Harasimonwicz (Henry Holt & Company)
- ❖ *Electric Ben: The Amazing Life and Times of Benjamin Franklin* by Robert Byrd (Dial)
- ❖ *The Mighty Mars Rovers: The Incredible Adventures of Spirit and Opportunity* by Elizabeth Rusch (Houghton Mifflin)
- ❖ *Those Rebels, John and Tom* by Barbara Kerley, illustrated by Edward Fotherington (Scholastic)
- ❖ *We've Got a Job: The 1963 Birmingham Children's March* by Cynthia Levinson (Peachtree Publishers)

Recommended Books for 2013:

- ❖ *A Black Hole is NOT a Hole* by Carolyn Cinami DeCristofano, illustrated by Michael Carroll (Charlesbridge Publishing)
- ❖ *Abraham Lincoln & Frederick Douglass: The Story Behind an American Friendship* by Russell Freedman (Clarion Books)
- ❖ *The Amazing Harry Kellar: Great American Magician* by Gail Jarrow (Calkins Creek)
- ❖ *Beyond Courage: The Untold Story of Jewish Resistance During the Holocaust* by Doreen Rappaport (Candlewick Press)
- ❖ *The Case of the Vanishing Golden Frogs: A Scientific Mystery* by Sandra Markle (Millbrook Press)
- ❖ *Chuck Close: Face Book* by Chuck Close (Abrams Books for Young Readers)
- ❖ *Hands Around the Library: Protecting Egypt's Treasured Books* by Susan L. Roth and Karen Leggett Abouraya, collages by Susan L. Roth (Dial)
- ❖ *Life in the Ocean: The Story of Oceanographer Sylvia Earle* by Clarie Nivola (Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux)

### **What projects, initiatives, or studies are "in progress" at this time?**

Since June 2012, the annual change in the committee occurred. Two members, Lisa Morris-Wilkey and Deborah Thompson rotated off of the committee; they are no longer involved in book selection, but they will be part of the presentation of the 2013 books at the annual convention. Two new members joined the committee, Dr. Marie LeJeune and Dr. Ruth Lowery. Continuing members of the committee are Dr. Cyndi Giorgis, Dr. Joyce Herbeck, Dr. Sue Parsons, and Ed Sullivan along with Fran Wilson, committee chair. The members are reviewing books published in 2013 in consideration for the 2014 award selection. The members of the committee reflect a range of professional experience, regional representation, diversity, and expertise with children's nonfiction literature. The committee will host several authors and an illustrator during the author presentation at the fall convention in Boston. The existing Orbis Pictus committee, under the leadership of Fran Wilson, will select the 2014 winning, honor, and recommended books in January, submit a review article to *Language Arts*, and present the 2014 collection at the NCTE convention in Washington D.C. In January, the committee will also begin to read and evaluate submissions for the 2015 award under the charge of Dr. Cyndi Giorgis, the incoming Orbis Pictus Chair.

Promoting the use of nonfiction children's books in the classroom is part of the charge of the committee. In February, an additional phone conference was arranged for the committee members to generate some ideas for supporting teachers in this time of new standards, which places an increased focus upon the use of nonfiction in

classrooms. Committee members have helped to publicize the Orbis Pictus Award and support teachers with the selection and use of quality nonfiction titles through presentations at local, state, and national conferences throughout the year. These presentations have been well received, and the committee plans to continue this effort during 2013-14.

While presenting at conferences, members of the committee have discovered that teachers and librarians are eager for professional development that recommends quality nonfiction titles as well as instructional ideas for their use in the classroom. The integration of nonfiction into literacy programs at any grade level continues to be a challenge and an issue, especially with the adoption of the English Language Arts Common Core Standards by the majority of the states. The Orbis Pictus Award Committee can support teachers by providing guidelines for the selection of quality nonfiction books as well as by providing instructional ideas for using these books in the classroom to address specific standards. The committee plans to continue to explore additional ways to support teachers and is hoping to do this through some possible future publications.

<http://www.ncte.org/volunteer/groups/orbispictuscom>

*Fran Wilson, Chair*

**Program to Recognize Excellence in Student Literary  
Magazines Advisory Committee**

**Charge:** *To advise the NCTE staff liaison on any changes that should be made in the Program to Recognize Excellence in Student Literary Magazines; to review judging criteria; to develop and review criteria for selecting Highest Award winners; and to select Highest Award winners.*

*For more information on the Program to Recognize Excellence in Student Literary Magazines Program for all senior high, junior high and middle schools (<http://www.ncte.org/awards/student/preslm>).*

No report submitted.

<http://www.ncte.org/volunteer/groups/preslmadcom>

*Tom Feigelson, Chair*

## Promising Young Writers Advisory Committee

**Charge:** The NCTE [Promising Young Writers](#) program makes use of an advisory committee and state coordinators. Their charges are as follows:

**Promising Young Writers Committee:** To advise staff on the nature, policies, and procedures regarding the NCTE Promising Young Writer Awards, including the following issues: to develop a specific plan for involving more public schools in the awards, especially those with large non-white populations.

To prepare a written set of recommendations for the Executive Committee regarding the following: revision of the structure of the award to mitigate the negative effects of competition on student identity and learning; consideration and development of diversified awards: that recognize development of English Language Learners in writing in their first language as well as English composition; that recognize remarkable improvement or growth in writing; that recognize multi-modal composition (digital or non-digital); and that recognize remarkable risk-taking with the process of writing, instead of the exclusive focus on the final draft.

### What major actions or projects have been completed by your group pursuant to your charge since July 1, 2012?

Since July 1, 2012, the committee has completed one major project that addresses our charge: we have revised the rubric used by judges to score student writing, making it more applicable to a variety of media/genres. This revision is directly in keeping with the committee's charge to "recognize multi-modal composition (digital or non-digital)," and indirectly addresses the need to "mitigate the negative effects of competition on student identity and learning" by inviting submissions in forms that may be valued less often in traditional academic contexts.

### What projects, initiatives, or studies are "in progress" at this time?

Last spring, members of the committee piloted, evaluated, and co-wrote/submitted a research article about a possible revision to the program in order to 1) make recommendations to NCTE based on that experience, and 2) publicize the PYW program via a public forum like a professional journal.

The pilot involved using an online forum to invite a single, "best writing" submission (in any medium or genre) from students, and then having students revise that submission over three "rounds" based on feedback from other students, then from a panel of judges, and finally from a "famous" published author.

This pilot was relatively successful at inviting submissions from a significant number of students in a variety of genres (thereby addressing the committee's charge regarding increasing participation and multi-modal composition). However, it was largely ineffective at promoting substantive revision and "risk-taking with the process of writing."

While the piloted revision was only somewhat successful for the middle school student participants, the journal article we wrote describes the positive effects on the panel of judges (teacher candidates in a university writing pedagogies course) of this piloted revision, which provided an opportunity for them to practice responding to the middle schoolers as real writers.

**Strategic Governance and Council Initiatives:** Over the past few years, NCTE has established the [National Center for Literacy Education](#) (NCLE) to advance collaboration and inquiry among educators teaching literacy in all disciplines. Through the strategic governance process the Executive Committee has also established goals and priorities relating to these key topics in our field: [Teacher Evaluation](#) and Performance Assessment of Teacher and Student Learning, among others.

### How do you see the work of your group contributing to or benefiting from these initiatives?

Our group's efforts at piloting a revision to the program address goals that the National Center for Literacy Education has emphasized in its recent (2013) report, *Remodeling Literacy*. For example, that report indicates the value of collaboration, and we created a collaboration across middle schools, a university teacher education program, and members of a national committee that led to learning for all three groups.

**What additional information do you need about these topics or initiatives?**

I would like to learn more about the 2012 position statement on teacher evaluation and the accompanying initiatives in motions 39-42. I believe a different system of teacher evaluation (and for evaluation of student learning) that does not rely on the current types of standardized tests will indirectly affect the PYW program. For example, our program's previous emphasis on a thematic writing submission has begun to be associated with the kind of "timed writing" genre common to standardized testing. This association goes against the committee's charge to increase participation in the program by mitigating the negative effects of competition, inviting a variety of media/genres for submission, and encouraging risk-taking in the writing process.

<http://www.ncte.org/volunteer/groups/pywadcom>

*Michael Sherry, Chair*

## Public Language Awards Committee

**Charge:** To select the recipients of the annual George Orwell Award for Distinguished Contribution to Honesty and Clarity in Public Language and The Doublespeak Award. The NCTE Orwell Award <http://www.ncte.org/volunteer/groups/publiclangcom/orwellaward>, established in 1975, recognizes writers who have made outstanding contributions to the critical analysis of public discourse. The NCTE Doublespeak Award <http://www.ncte.org/volunteer/groups/publiclangcom/doublespeakaward>, established in 1974, is an ironic tribute to public speakers who have perpetuated language that is grossly deceptive, evasive, euphemistic, confusing, or self-centered.

### **What major actions or projects have been completed by your group pursuant to your charge since July 1, 2012?**

This year we awarded the Orwell Award to *Buried in the Sky* by Peter Zuckerman and Amanda Padoan. Peter received a standing ovation upon accepting the award. We awarded the Doublespeak Award to the American Petroleum Institute's API's Chief Economist John Felmy for public statements regarding regulation. Two people accepted invitations to join the committee for the coming term.

### **What projects, initiatives, or studies are "in progress" at this time?**

We have received 4 submissions for the Doublespeak Award and 1 for the Orwell Award. The committee will consider them after the deadline date of September 15. We also put an announcement in our *InBox Newsletter* in early August 2013.

<http://www.ncte.org/volunteer/groups/publiclangcom>

*Kenan Metzger, Chair*