

President-Elect

Overview

My term as president-elect officially began at the 2008 NCTE convention in San Antonio. Planning for the 2009 conference in Philadelphia was the focus of my work. Throughout the course of the year I participated as a member of the presidential team overseeing the council.

Fall and Winter 2008-2009

In the fall of 2008, I prepared the call for proposals for the 2009 NCTE convention in Philadelphia. The theme for the conference is "Once and Future Classics: Reading Between the Lines." At the 2008 conference in San Antonio I worked with staff to prepare a list of potential speakers as well as to invite presenters who contributed to our convention goal of having participants "come early and stay late." A tentative lineup of presenters for Thursday afternoon and the final session on Sunday was secured.

In January, I participated in a NAEP Writing Steering committee meeting in Washington D.C. and following this work attended the NCTE legislative planning meeting in the capital. A small group of council leaders lead by Katie Van Sluys and guided by Barbara Cambridge developed a legislative platform. At this time I invited the secondary section member at large, Jennifer Ochoa, to be the chair of this committee in 2010.

In February, convention planning went into full gear in Orlando, site of the Executive Committee meeting (and the site for the 2010 NCTE convention). Following the EC meeting, representatives from each section and additional council members reviewed proposals for the Philadelphia convention and made recommendations for the final program. I remained in Orlando for an extra day to work with Jacqui Joseph-Biddle balancing the program and insuring that no important areas had been overlooked.

I also gave a keynote presentation and 2 workshops at the Missouri Association of Teachers of English conference held in Osage Beach, Feb. 26-28.

Spring and Summer 2009

In March, I chaired the 2008 Distinguished Service Award committee. After many productive online conversations with committee members Janet Alsup, Wanda Porter, and Jeff Williams, the group selected a recipient for this award to be presented at the 2009 convention in Philadelphia.

In the spring, I wrote an NCTE presidential perspective paper called "Crash: The Currency Crisis in American Culture" which advocates for the importance of literature in students' lives. The paper was a response to my concern that in the urgency to prepare students for college and the workplace that the study of literature may be squeezed out of the K-12 curriculum. The essay was published in the NCTE Inbox.

http://www.ncte.org/library/NCTEFiles/Press/Jago_final.pdf I will be presenting this paper at the Association of Literary Scholars and Critics conference September 11, 2009.

I spoke at the North Harris County Association of Teachers of English conference in Houston, Texas.

The April, Executive Committee meeting was held in Washington, D.C. in conjunction with NCTE Advocacy Day. After being briefed by Washington Partners and hearing from education aides from both sides of the aisle, I was able to meet with President Obama's special assistant for Technology, Science, and Innovation. Susan Crawford was a former student of mine who now works in the West Wing. The focus of all members' visits to legislators was the National Day on Writing and the Comprehensive Literacy Bill.

In April, I traveled to Philadelphia, site of the 2009 NCTE convention to meet with Philadelphia schools administrators to discuss local teachers' involvement. With the help of Kent Williamson and Jacqui Joseph-Biddle, we planned a pre-conference day for principals.

In May, I spoke at the IRA convention in Minneapolis and met with the executive director and president to discuss council matters and feedback to Senator Kennedy's office regarding the Comprehensive Literacy Bill.

In July, I attended the Executive Committee retreat in Urbana where we continued to work on designated focal issues and strategic governance.

In September, I will be giving a keynote address at the Tennessee Council of Teachers of English conference and in October speaking at the Florida Council of Teachers of English convention as well as presenting at the Northwest Regional Convention in Vancouver.

I look forward to continuing to serve the Council.

Carol Jago, President-Elect

Vice President

During 2008-09, the main thrust of my work for the Council has been working with Affiliate groups; reaching out, speaking and listening to teachers; and laying the groundwork for NCTE's 2010 Convention in Orlando, Florida. Below is a brief (and I mean brief) synopsis of my past year's activities. I could write a book about my first year on NCTE's presidential team.

Summer 2008 Activities

- Attended the NCTE EC Retreat meeting members of incoming and outgoing Executive Committee.
- Continued doing advocacy work regarding students and parents.
- Educated myself regarding the use of technology.

Fall Activities

- September 2008: Attended the Presidential Retreat in Chicago.
- November 2008: Attended and participated in 2008 NCTE Convention in San Antonio, TX. Most of my time spent speaking to classroom teachers learning about their concerns and the kinds of topics they would like addressed at the 2010 Convention. I thought it was important that I connect with classroom teachers and other professional educators who attended the Convention. In addition, I made sure that I attended sessions that had few attendees, and I was the last person to leave the reception for the local committee to honor and show appreciation for their work.
- November and December 2008: Wrote and submitted an article for the assessment issue of *Language Arts*. It was accepted for publication and published.
- Fall 2008: Put a review committee together for 2009 NCTE Convention General Sessions.

Winter Activities

- January 2009: Attended and participated in Legislative Platform meeting in D.C. Helped to write platform for NCTE.
- January – February, 2009: Reviewed proposals for general sessions for 2009 NCTE Convention
- February 2009: Attended EC meeting in Orlando, FL.
- March 2009: Attended CCCC Conference in San Francisco, CA.
- March 2009: Attended CLAS (Colorado Affiliate) Conference.
- March 2009: Participated in Pathways; topic = assessment.
- Winter 2009: Put together team to review candidates for Literacy Award Recipient.

Spring Activities

- Late March 2009: Served as Chair of the Literacy Award Selection Committee. Wrote report for Executive Committee on behalf of the committee recommending Lisa Nutter for the 2009 award.
- April 2009: Called politicians who represent Colorado to make appointments to speak with them on April 23, 2009. Met with 6 different people from Representative Polis's, Salazar's, Bennet's, and Perlmutter's offices. Even met one of Polis's aides in Boulder as well.
- May 2009: Met with Local Planning Committee for 2010 NCTE Convention in Orlando, FL.

Yvonne Siu-Runyan, Vice President