

Standing Committee on Affiliates

Charge: *In order to promote the professional competence and strengthen the public voices of [affiliates](#) and their individual members, the Standing Committee on Affiliates is charged:*

- *to seek ways of improving two-way communication between and within affiliates;*
- *to keep up-to-date with NCTE policies, structural changes, and focal issues and inform affiliate groups in a timely fashion;*
- *to organize affiliated events at [NCTE conventions](#) and encourage affiliate members to attend;*
- *to take an active role in bringing Affiliate concerns to the [NCTE Executive Committee](#);*
- *to encourage members of affiliates to [join NCTE](#) and [become active](#) in NCTE programs and projects;*
- *to encourage greater use of NCTE resources (e.g., [Pathways](#), [cosponsored speakers](#), professional development opportunities at the local level); and*
- *to encourage and support Affiliate activities in support of the 2009 NCTE [National Day of Writing](#).*

What major actions or projects have been completed by your group pursuant to your charge since July 1, 2010?

Monthly newsletters, prepared and edited by members of SCOA, are posted on the Connected Community of NCTE and made available to all affiliates. Each contains news and information important to each of the affiliates.

1. Members of SCOA “met” quarterly via conference call or web conversation, using Elluminate, to discuss important issues facing affiliates. We have found this regular communication more effective than just relying on email.
2. The Affiliate Leadership Conference was held in Denver in July 2011. Approximately 70 attendees gathered, including members of the Early Career Teachers of Color group. The three days of learning, planning, and conversation were rich—we studied together the positions NCTE is taking on the Common Core Standards as well as the new NCLE initiative. Several affiliates shared success stories of work they are doing in their respective states/regions/provinces; of particular note was the emerging focus on student affiliates of NCTE and how SCOA might continue to improve the connections between those groups, the affiliates, and NCTE. We believe that the student affiliates are a key source for future leadership in all levels of the organization.
3. SCOA sponsored a series of three web seminars this year, an initiative we are very pleased with as we refine the process. Affiliate member attendance has grown with each seminar, and plans are underway to continue this process in the coming year; the first web conversation will be focused on Student Affiliates and is planned for late September or early October.
4. Concurrent sessions at the Orlando convention were held, one focusing on those affiliates who received Affiliate Excellence Awards; those gathered learned from the efforts of those outstanding affiliates. The other session was a gathering of young educators in their early careers, sharing teaching ideas on a “national stage.” This type of session will continue in Chicago as well as a session focusing on Student Affiliates again (there’s a theme emerging!)
5. Affiliates have been invited to share their histories with others during the Chicago convention by creating posters for display.
6. New representatives have been selected for Regions 2, 7, and 8 for the SCOA committee; Glenda Daulerio (PA) will represent Region 2, Molly Berger (WA) will represent Region 7, and Jean Boreen (AZ) will represent Region 8.
7. A new chair of SCOA has been identified: Claire Lamonica (IL) will become chair during the Chicago convention.
8. The Affiliate Survey was refined and sent out with a due date of July 15, 2011. To date, only a handful of affiliates have submitted their reports.
9. SCOA continues to support participation in Advocacy Day, either in Washington, D.C., or at the state level. A number of affiliates have accepted this challenge.
10. We once again successfully recognized a number of affiliates in Orlando for their fine work with journals, websites, newsletters, multicultural initiatives, membership growth, and overall excellence.

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

1. As noted above, we are focusing on the role that Student Affiliates might play in NCTC. While there is clearly a history of these affiliates across the country at various universities, we are interested in working toward a stronger network of these groups, connecting them more closely to their local affiliates, and nurturing leaders in English education from within their ranks. Some affiliates currently have very close working relationships with the student affiliates in their areas. We hope to extend that pattern.

Dave Wendelin, Chair

Standing Committee Against Censorship

Charge: *To solicit and receive reports of [censorship](#) incidents from NCTE members, constituent groups, and sources outside the Council; to serve as a resource on current patterns of censorship; supporting the anti-censorship service office at headquarters; to develop written guidelines for students' Right to Write, including advice for schools dealing with situations in which student writing is taken as threatening to the safety of other students, where freedom of expression must be weighed against individual or school security; to develop a written position on whether the narrowing of the curriculum that occurs in response to high-stakes testing can be understood as censorship. Such a position may be related to your Right to Write work, but it may also warrant a separate statement; and to develop a written position on whether the restriction of student language to English may be an act of censorship, and whether schools in which students speak multiple languages but where only English is evident in print materials is an instance of censorship.*

What major actions or projects have been completed by your group pursuant to your charge since July 1, 2010?

- We have 3 programs on the 2011 convention dealing with censorship including one that is with our sister organizations: ALAOIF and NCAC.
- We have appointed new members and one member to finish the term of a committee member who passed away this summer.
- We have written letters as individuals to the various places where there has been challenge made about classroom materials.

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

- We want to develop a policy statement of sorts for the use of classroom libraries.
- We hope to draft a new resolution on Exemplar Texts for the 2011 conference.

Teri Lesesne, Chair

Standing Committee on International Concerns

Charge: *To develop knowledge of and relations with the council's counterparts in mother-tongue literacy organizations in this hemisphere; to identify organizations for teachers of mother-tongue literacy in countries in the western hemisphere, as well as other areas of significant migration to and from the US, and make recommendations to the [NCTE Executive Committee](#) in order to promote knowledge exchange among the organizations.*

- *What organizations exist in this hemisphere whose mission is complementary to our own?*
- *What kinds of collaborations with these groups seem practical and advisable?*
- *What organizations serve teachers of mother-tongue literacy in other countries sending significant numbers of students to the US, including those in Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe?*

To advise the NCTE Executive Committee and staff about how the council might provide specific help to teachers about the ways educational and literacy practices in other nations may affect their students and the interactions they are experiencing with their students, for example: through appropriate publications and conference planning efforts;

- *What can we learn from conferences and publications for mother-tongue literacy organizations in other parts of the world? How can we best share this information with NCTE members?*

What major actions or projects have been completed by your group pursuant to your charge since July 1, 2010?

The standing committee has decided to focus on English Language Learners (K-20) from Spanish-speaking countries. A group of committee members have shifted their attention to the Mexican border towns, mostly due to the border violence that has recently erupted in many border towns in both countries. In addition, educators from border areas help to provide insights as to the nature of shifts in identity among Hispanic populations, as students attempt to reconcile their experiences with the demands of schooling, steeped in an atmosphere where accountability is in the forefront. We were able to bring presenters from Mexico and U.S. border towns to present their work with ELLs at the annual conference.

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

We are currently working with Arte Publico to sponsor a panel of Hispanic authors of adolescent literature and sponsor practitioners who use this literature in the classroom so they may share their experiences.

Angelica Fuentes, Chair

Standing Committee on Research

Charge: *In order to encourage and disseminate research relevant to NCTE and its individual members, the Standing Committee on Research is charged:*

- *to advise the [NCTE Executive Committee](#) and other Council groups on emerging research findings, particularly those germane to focal issues identified by the Executive Committee;*
- *to make ELA researchers and the Executive Committee aware of under-researched areas and areas where findings are contradictory, and encourage members of the Council to undertake studies in one or more of those areas;*
- *to consider producing papers that summarize major research studies in language that practitioners at all levels can understand; and*
- *to continue to participate in presenting a strong research strand at the [NCTE Annual Convention](#) and pursue topics and themes that will attract a broader audience.*

What major actions or projects have been completed by your group pursuant to your charge since July 1, 2010?

We organized a vibrant research strand for the annual conference

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

Together with the editors of RTE, we are working to increase the rigor of research on literacy.

Joanne Larson, Past Chair

Valerie Kinloch, Chair

NCTE/SLATE Steering Committee on Social and Political Concerns

Charge: *To influence public attitudes and policy decisions affecting the teaching of English language arts at local, state, and national levels; to implement and publicize the policies adopted by NCTE. As part of its political action function, [SLATE](#) (Support for the Learning and Teaching of English) will serve as NCTE's intellectual freedom network.*

What major actions or projects have been completed by your group pursuant to your charge since July 1, 2010?

- Members participated in NCTE Advocacy Day – April 2011
- Chaired the committee for the Intellectual Freedom Award
- Sponsored a free 1/2-day workshop on advocacy (through NCTE advocates) at the 2010 Annual Conference

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

- Identifying people to replace outgoing SLATE Steering Committee members
- Consider ways to partner with other committees to provide advocacy information as a session/workshop at the annual convention (such as what was offered at the 2010 convention)

Sandra Whitaker, Chair