

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 since July 1, 2008?

In keeping with our charge, SCOA has been working on the following:

- 1.) We have continued to send, and constantly work to improve, the monthly affiliate newsletter sent to all regional affiliate leaders. Members of SCOA rotate the responsibility of preparing the newsletter, each modifying the template to incorporate regional news and information. We continue with the affiliate NING as well.
- 2.) Through participating in the Affiliate Leadership conference, this year in Charleston, S.C., we keep abreast of NCTE policies and issues. We are supporting all affiliates in their adoption of new federal 990 policy regulations which must be in place this fiscal year. SCOA developed drafts of the policies with the help of Millie Davis; the policies are posted on the affiliate webpage.
- 3.) Three convention sessions are in place for Philadelphia: a) one concurrent session will focus on the outstanding accomplishments of award-winning affiliates; b) the second concurrent session highlights the work of student affiliates, bring attention to pre-service teachers. The third session is the Monday workshop, which is designed to feature new voices to the council as well as concurrent-speaker's bureau educators. The day-long session will feature six speakers presenting their ideas for how to blend the "canon" of old with emerging "canonical" texts and authors.
- 4.) Two state affiliates in Iowa and Florida are working with the Pathways program. We will continue to monitor the progress and share information with other affiliate regions to promote this staff development program.
- 5.) Membership challenges continue to be on the forefront of affiliate concerns and efforts. We are searching for ways to encourage new membership and retention of members in a variety of ways.
- 6.) We completed an analysis of the Affiliate Survey (not done in 2008) to guide the work of SCOA in the coming year.
- 7.) We have instituted quarterly conference calls with members of SCOA to provide another communication tool for supporting affiliates.

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

- 1.) Affiliates and SCOA are actively participating in the NCTE Centennial preparations. Specific suggestions to affiliates for what might constitute their celebratory foci are being featured in the affiliate newsletter. In Philadelphia, we will utilize the session for affiliate leaders on Friday afternoon to generate specific affiliate plans.

- 2.) We continue to promote the National Day on Writing and the Gallery of Writing. At the Charleston meeting, all affiliates shared ideas and several actually started affiliate/state galleries.
- 3.) As the Common Core Standards emerge, the affiliates are poised to support the position of NCTE concerning the document and its impact on teachers, students, and schools. We have already begun to alert affiliates of the communication from Kylee Beers to the NCTE membership and await the next information concerning the impact that the NCTE committee had influencing the Standards committee.
- 4.) We continue to study the Affiliate Survey for information about affiliate work and challenges.

Strategic Governance: Over the past few years, the NCTE Executive Committee has established outcomes and priorities relating to these key topics in our field: Multimodal Literacy and Technology, Research and Teaching, English Language Learners, Professional Development, Closing the Achievement Gap, Reading Research, 21st Century Literacies, Meeting the Needs of Audiences Currently Unserved/Underserved by NCTE, Attracting, Supporting, and Advancing Early Career Educators, and International Involvement, "Global English", and NCTE. Does your group have research findings or suggestions to contribute that are relevant to on-going work on these strategic governance topics?

1.) NCTE always needs to be aware that, although trends in research subjects may change constantly, classroom practice is on a much slower "learning curve." Thus, continued research on existing English practices as well as 21st century changes will support teachers.

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 since July 1, 2008?

- Sponsored 2 programs for the 2008 convention in San Antonio.
- Submitted proposals (which have been accepted) for the 2009 conference. One session will feature round table discussions on various aspects of censorship; a second session will feature noted YA authors discussing how censorship affects their work.
 - Defending Intellectual Freedom, chaired by Carol Bedard (11-20)
 - Censorship in all its forms: from dialogue to action, chaired by Joan Kaywell (11-22)
- Submitted candidate names for 4 committee openings
- Completed a revised draft of "Students' Rights to Write," submitted to Millie Davis for her review;
- Completed the revision of "Defending Instructional Methods," also submitted to Millie Davis for review.
- Resolutions on "Scripted Curriculum" and "English Only Policies" presented at annual meeting at 2008 conference were completed, submitted, and approved.

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

At annual we will discuss proposals for the 2010 conference. The committee will discuss the review of "Students' Right to Write" and decide how to move forward.

Strategic Governance: Over the past few years, the NCTE Executive Committee has established outcomes and priorities relating to these key topics in our field: Multimodal Literacy and Technology, Research and Teaching, English Language Learners, Professional Development, Closing the Achievement Gap, Reading Research, 21st Century Literacies, Meeting the Needs of Audiences Currently Unserved/Underserved by NCTE, Attracting, Supporting, and Advancing Early Career Educators, and International Involvement, "Global English", and NCTE. Does your group have research findings or suggestions to contribute that are relevant to on-going work on these strategic governance topics?

Censorship and its chilling effect is present in several of the aforementioned areas including Multimodal Literacy and Technology and 21st Century Literacies. The use of filters in an attempt to "protect" students often restricts the information they can obtain on a wide array of subjects. The committee suggests that NCTE conduct a study among members to ascertain how filters restrict learning.

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?*

Please provide the NCTE Executive Committee a report with suggestions and recommendations by February 1, 2009.

[Robert Shafer Memorial Award](#) (Sponsored by the Standing Committee on International Concerns)

What major actions or projects have been completed by your group since July 1, 2008?

1. Worked with connecting with other groups: IBBY, IRA and with the international projects that CCCC's has done.
2. Made contacts with literacy groups outside the United States as well as the IFLA reading committee

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

1. Project to connect US literacy teachers with teachers and projects outside the United States.
2. Calendar of literacy events around the world
3. Support and gain knowledge of world-wide literacy projects.
4. Connect with Arte Publico for support in bringing well-known Hispanic authors to NCTE

Strategic Governance: Over the past few years, the NCTE Executive Committee has established outcomes and priorities relating to these key topics in our field: Multimodal Literacy and Technology, Research and Teaching, English Language Learners, Professional Development, Closing the Achievement Gap, Reading Research, 21st Century Literacies, Meeting the Needs of Audiences Currently Unserved/Underserved by NCTE, Attracting, Supporting, and Advancing Early Career Educators, and International Involvement, "Global English", and NCTE. Does your group have research findings or suggestions to contribute that are relevant to on-going work on these strategic governance topics?

Margaret (Peg) Hill, 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 since July 1, 2008?

SCR continues to advise the editors of *Research in the Teaching of English*. To promote research at NCTE, the SCR planned a series of program slots for the 2008 annual meeting, including a full slate for the Saturday Day of Research. In addition, we awarded three Promising Researcher awards.

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

Together with the editors of RTE, we are working to increase the diversity of authors published in this journal. Arnetha Ball and others are editing a special issue with this in mind.

Strategic Governance: Over the past few years, the NCTE Executive Committee has established outcomes and priorities relating to these key topics in our field: Multimodal Literacy and Technology, Research and Teaching, English Language Learners, Professional Development, Closing the Achievement Gap, Reading Research, 21st Century Literacies, Meeting the Needs of Audiences Currently Unserved/Underserved by NCTE, Attracting, Supporting, and Advancing Early Career Educators, and International Involvement, “Global English”, and NCTE. Does your group have research findings or suggestions to contribute that are relevant to on-going work on these strategic governance topics?

Yes, as a group consisting of the leading literacy scholars, our work can significantly contribute to the key topics of adolescent literacy, assessment, writing, multimodal literacy and technology, research and teaching, English language learners, reading research, and new literacies.

Joanne Larson, 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 since July 1, 2008?

Sponsored session at Conference; Attend Advocacy Day; Initiated monthly teleconference

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

Developing better communication lines to grassroots

Strategic Governance: Over the past few years, the NCTE Executive Committee has established outcomes and priorities relating to these key topics in our field: Multimodal Literacy and Technology, Research and Teaching, English Language Learners, Professional Development, Closing the Achievement Gap, Reading Research, 21st Century Literacies, Meeting the Needs of Audiences Currently Unserved/Underserved by NCTE, Attracting, Supporting, and Advancing Early Career Educators, and International Involvement, "Global English", and NCTE. Does your group have research findings or suggestions to contribute that are relevant to on-going work on these strategic governance topics?

Fred Barton, Chair