



**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH  
MIDDLE LEVEL SECTION—2014 SLATE OF NOMINEES**

Under the constitution of NCTE, every spring each Section (Elementary, Middle Level, Secondary, College) elects members of its own Section Steering Committee and members of the Section Nominating Committee. The following nominations were made by a nominating committee elected by the section membership in spring 2013. The Middle Level Section Nominating Committee this year consists of Justin Stygles, Rowe Elementary School, Maine, chair; Elizabeth Dinkins, Bellarmine University, Louisville, Kentucky; and Laurie Henry, University of Kentucky, Lexington. Names on the ballot are presented in random order. The biographical information concerning the nominee's experience and service to NCTE was supplied by the individual nominee. The committee's nominations were printed in the March issue of *Voices from the Middle* and posted on the NCTE website.

*Please vote on the enclosed ballot and return it to reach NCTE, P.O. Box 3097, Champaign, IL 61826-3097, no later than June 1, 2014. Please use the enclosed return envelope.*

**MIDDLE LEVEL SECTION STEERING COMMITTEE  
Term to expire in November 2018**

Section Committee members elect a chair who represents section concerns on the NCTE Executive Committee. Through correspondence and meetings once or twice a year, the members identify and explore issues of section concern. Often the Section Committee will suggest new programs or revisions of present Council programs that may benefit section members. The Committee helps plan section conferences and portions of the NCTE Annual Convention that will be of interest to section members.

*(Vote for two of four.)*

**LAURIE SULLIVAN**



Grade 6 English/language arts teacher, High Rock School, Needham, Massachusetts; district professional development coordinator. **Formerly:** Elementary assistant principal. **Membership(s):** NCTE, IRA. **Award(s):** Boston College Summer Dissertation Award, Boston College Excellence in Teaching Award, Boston College University Fellowship Award.

**Position Statement:** The conversations surrounding the ideas and practices in middle school literacy are perhaps the most dynamic in education today. For students, the middle years are the point where the power of story and life experience converges to create new understandings. For educators, the centrality of the classroom and the creativity it takes to engage middle school learners is paramount to the continued academic success of our students. Building deep, vibrant academic experiences requires all teachers to be reflective experts. The middle level steering committee provides teachers and NCTE with the opportunity to share best practices and shape policies that are needed to build engaging and responsive classroom experiences. Given the challenges that our profession continues face, NCTE and the middle level steering committee are in the critical position of advocating for students, families and teachers.

**CHRISTOPHER LEHMAN**



Author; international speaker; president, Christopher Lehman Consulting. **Formerly:** Senior staff developer, Teachers College Reading and Writing Project, Columbia University; literacy coach, middle school, high school teacher, New York City Department of Education.

**Membership(s):** NCTE, IRA, Association for Middle Level Education. **Publication(s):** *Falling in Love with Close Reading; Energize Research Reading and Writing; Pathways to the Common Core.* **Program Contribution(s):** NCTE, IRA, numerous state reading conferences.

**Position Statement:** The future of education is already here: it is in the innovative ideas and heartfelt passions of educators and the students we serve. In an environment of increasing pressure and political discontent around our profession, the Middle Level Section must amplify the true stories of classrooms, impact policy creation at its inception, and be a source of continual renewal. In this position I will bring my deep knowledge of pedagogy, experiences working alongside educators around the world, skills as a writer and speaker, and absolute belief in the power of learning, to support the voices and ideals of our education community.

**MARGARET HALE**



Clinical associate professor, University of Houston, Texas; NCTE/SLATE Liaison for Texas Council of Teachers of English Language Arts; co-director, Tweens Read Book Festival. **Formerly:** Middle school literacy coach, middle school English teacher, Webmaster, West Houston Area Council of Teachers of English. **Membership(s):** NCTE, ALAN, IRA. **Publication(s):** *English in Texas, Texas Voices, R & E Journal.* **Program Contribution(s):** Presentations at NCTE, TCTELA, IRA, Texas Middle School Association Conference, New Jersey Writing Project in Texas/ Abydos Literacy Learning annual conferences.

**Position Statement:** With the current state of education, teachers need strong advocates in their professional organizations who will make sure their voices and needs are heard. Teachers also need leaders who will provide strong input about programs offered through their professional organizations such as NCTE. As a member of the Middle Level Section Steering Committee, I will rely on my experience as a middle level English teacher and literacy coach to provide a voice for middle level English teachers within NCTE.

**JIM JOHNSTON**



Consultant, New England reading-president elect, advisory board Central Connecticut Writing Project. **Formerly:** Middle school classroom teacher, adjunct at Central Connecticut State University. **Membership(s):** NCTE, IRA, CRA, NERA. **Award(s):** Halle Award (2010), Celebrations of Excellence. **Publication(s):** *NERA Journal, Voices From the Middle, A Middle Mosaic* (chapter). **Program Contribution(s):** NCTE, NMSA, NERA.

**Position Statement:** The Middle Level Steering Committee could offer assistance to our members who are interested in submitting a presentation proposal for any event that will help middle level education. They could offer assistance in finding places for middle level students to have their work published. They could assist teachers and students in finding places where the students can discuss their reading on line. Another way to assist our members is in the formation of teacher study groups. Our teachers need on-going discussions and searches for answers to their instructional questions.



## MIDDLE LEVEL SECTION NOMINATING COMMITTEE

### Term to expire in August 2015

Members of the Section Nominating Committee choose candidates for the Section Committee and the Section Nominating Committee for the following year. The person receiving the most votes serves as chair.

(Vote for three of six.)

#### KATIE SHEPHERD DREDGER



Assistant professor, reading education, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia. **Formerly:** Secondary English language arts educator, school-based staff developer/literacy coach, middle level ELA/reading lead teacher. **Membership(s):** Committee Against Racism and Bias in the Teaching of English, NCTE, IRA, LRA, VATE, VSRA. **Award(s):** Exemplary Program Award, Virginia Tech, English Education (2012). **Publication(s):** *English Journal, Language Arts, The ALAN Review, Journal of Media Literacy in Education, CITE Journal* (English). **Program Contribution(s):** NCTE, LRA, VATE.

**Position Statement:** We can act locally while also using the wide reach of our connected technological world to nurture mentorship in our profession. I respect what I learned from my mentors and pay this forward by supporting connections between experienced and early career professionals. In recognizing the joy and honor in teaching diverse middle level students, I will work toward nominating leaders that practice compassionate education. Balancing current conflicting expectations means having the courage to put students first.

#### JUDY ARZT



Instructor for middle school teachers and others at University of Saint Joseph, CT. Focus: technology and literacy, YA literature, writing process, portfolios. **Formerly:** 7–12 ELA teacher, Windsor, CT. **Membership(s):** NCTE, ACE, NEATE, ISTE, CWPA. **Award(s):** NEATE Article of Year, NCTE Writing Program Certificate of Excellence. **Publication(s):** *Connecticut Reading Association Journal, Writing Across the Disciplines, New England Leaflet, Writing Center and Library Collaborations* chapter. **Program Contribution(s):** 20+ presentations for NCTE including CEE and ACE; ISTE; CWPA; IWCA; NEWCA; Computers and Writing Conference. **Position Statement:** Advocate for NCTE and IRA Position Statements on 21st Century Literacies and Multimodal Literacies. Middle school students need experience with digital tools for global collaborations, storytelling, digital citizenship and multimodal literacy. Cross-disciplinary and cross-grade level collaborations strengthen middle-school students' education. Will advocate for media literacy, social justice, educational equity, closing the digital divide, and access to resources for students in poverty.

#### JULIET DUGGINS



Secondary English teacher, Jordan L. Mott Middle School, Bronx, NY; 7th grade lead ELA teacher, 7th grade academy lead, NYC teaching collaborative coach, learning conference celebration coach, lead Wilson Reading System teacher, middle school quality initiative liaison. **Formerly:** NYC teaching resident, ambassador, and recruiter for the New Teacher Project. **Membership(s):** NCTE, PDK, KDP, Learning Leaders. **Publication(s):** *Educate Engage Empower, Teaching Matters Inc., Reading Literacy in an International Context, Hartlynkids.com*.

**Position Statement:** As educators our goals are to continuously work to remove the obstacles that get in the way of student and faculty's learning. As a member of the NCTE's Middle Level Section Nominating Committee, I will uphold the goals of the NCTE and our fellow educators.

#### BRIAN R. HORN



Assistant professor of elementary and middle level literacy, faculty liaison, Chicago Teacher Education Pipeline, Illinois State University, Normal. **Formerly:** 8th Grade middle school language arts teacher, 5th grade teacher, 2nd grade teacher. **Membership(s):** NCTE Policy Analysis Network. **Publication(s):** Articles in *Voices from the Middle, Networks: An Online Journal for Teacher Research, Equity and Excellence in Education*. **Program Contribution(s):** NCTE, AERA, Free Minds, Free People.

**Position Statement:** NCTE needs to continue to serve as a resource for teachers and teacher educators committed to action for social justice in an increasingly unjust national climate. As a member of the nominating committee, I will support candidates who advocate for youth and teachers in the middle school context.

#### LORI GOODSON



Assistant professor, Kansas State University, Manhattan. **Formerly:** Middle Level Section Steering Committee, middle level language arts teacher, Kansas Association of Teachers of Education president. **Membership(s):** NCTE, IRA, Phi Delta Kappa. **Award(s):** NCTE Hoey Award; Kansas Master Teacher, Emporia State University; National Board Certification and Renewal. **Publication(s):** *Voices from the Middle, English Journal, Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy, ALAN Review*, co-editor. **Program Contribution(s):** NCTE, World Congress on Reading, IRA.

**Position Statement:** Educators must be involved in their profession and speak out on various issues, especially at the Middle Level, which we know is such a critical time for our students. NCTE and its nominating committee, which generates a slate of candidates for offices, provides the opportunity for members to have that voice—and to share the concerns of the educators they represent—at a national level. I am excited about the possibility of assisting more Middle Level members in stepping up for the benefit of our students and our profession. It's through these opportunities that our profession becomes stronger.

#### DOROTHY A. FONTAINE



Middle school English teacher, Wakefield School, The Plains, Virginia. **Membership(s):** NCTE, ASCD, CEL. **Publication(s):** *Increase Your Word Power: Using Your Senses to Improve Your Vocabulary*; "Househunting with ESL Students" (*NCTE Ideas Plus: Book 20*). **Program Contribution(s):** Presentations at VAIS, CEL, MLA, AAALS.

**Position Statement:** Our profession needs strong, creative representation in the public arena now more than ever. While this is not news—teachers have been under fire for a long time—it is because NCTE is a vibrant, active, inclusive organization that we have the opportunity to find effective advocates who understand the amazing work we do and are able to communicate that fire to the public. Via this committee, I would like to help NCTE find candidates to field who are not only leaders within the organization but worthy representatives outside of it.