

# North Dakota Council of Teachers of English

F A L L 2 0 1 0

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 Past President .....Sarah Hicks  
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## From NDCTE President: Greetings and Salutations!

Welcome to the fall edition of the NDCTE newsletter. I am the president of the North Dakota Council of Teachers of English. Let me tell you a little bit about my life. I grew up in Dickinson and graduated from Dickinson State in 1977 with a double major in Theatre Arts and English. I taught for four years in Max and Taylor then took a break for 10 years. I resumed teaching in Karlsruhe and moved to Regent to start the 1992-93 school year. I've been teaching in Mott/Regent since the consolidation in 2001. I have taught junior high and high school English over the years, but now I teach only eleventh and twelfth graders. I teach dual credit speech and college composition over ITV.

I have three twenty-

something children and one son-in-law. I live in a 1971 Champion double-wide trailer on the edge of Regent. I keep thinking I should fix it up, but I'd rather spend my money traveling, or buying swords on Ebay, or books from Barnes and Noble. I belong to NDCTE because I enjoy the professional and personal relationships I have with everyone in the organization. I love the exchange of ideas and stimulating conversations we have at Summer Conference. It is good to know that I have the same concerns, frustrations, and joys that most of you all have. It is good not to be alone in this battle of **Teenage Wills** against the **Enlightened English Ways**.

I hope you are all having a good start to your school year. I hope you have good administra-

tions and wonderful parents. I hope your kids are all alert with a good attitude toward your classes. **Remember:** we are all here in this together and will help each other when there is a problem or a concern. If you can't reach a student in a certain way, maybe one of your fellow NDCTE members has a method to try. **HAVE A GREAT YEAR!**

Claire Andrus



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## Low-Tech Lessons

### By Annie Volk, Pres-Elect

Integrating technology is great; it catches kids' attention and can make learning fun. Sometimes though, technology doesn't work. Here are a few quick "low-tech" lesson plans.

#### Action Verb/Linking Verb Post-It-Note Lesson

Create two sets of post-it-notes by writing action, linking verbs and verb phrases on each note. Be sure to write large enough for the class to read the words. Include "tricky" verbs by including a sentence below the verb so it can be determined as linking or action.

Create two teams and write two charts on the board. Place

the post-it-notes down the side and then have each student go to the board and place the verb in the correct column.

When finished allot one point to the first team to finish. Go through the verbs word by word explaining why the verb should be in the action or linking column. Tally points by adding a point to the total for a correctly placed verb and subtracting a point when a verb was in the wrong column.

The team with the most total points wins. I awarded bonus points as the prize. The points were included on their next worksheet. This would work

well with junior high and freshmen as they enjoy the action and competition. I found this idea online from some other great English teacher, but I can't locate the website.

#### Developing a Plot

Using a penny, paper clip and paper to develop a plot is definitely low tech. Here is the game. I use this in Creative Writing to teach plot. The students play the game twice keeping record of their path and then they write a story filling in the details and connecting all the points of their plot. Thanks to whoever shared this quick, easy lesson with me.

Penny plot game:

#### Next Page

*Jennifer Hess, Fargo South High School*  
*2010 Recipient of the Linda S. Christianson Literary Scholarship*

Jennifer Hess, a second year English teacher at Fargo South High School, was awarded the Linda S. Christianson Literary Scholarship for 2010. According to nominator, Gayle Hyde, she exemplifies the standards of good teaching and professionalism. Jennifer teaches multiple grade-levels. She is very well organized and never lets her load of 150 students as well as coaching speech, debate, and student congress get in her way of lesson planning and depth of instruction. She uses backward design of lesson planning to create standards-based lessons and works very hard to integrate technology and 20th Century Skills into all aspects of her teaching.

As a second year teacher, Jennifer was asked to be part of pilot for new textbooks that also involved deploying laptops in her classroom in a 1:1 ratio. Despite trepidation, Jennifer jumped in, knew when to ask for resource support, and succeeded in piloting the new textbooks. This past summer she joined other Fargo teachers to write common curriculum around the new textbook adoption.

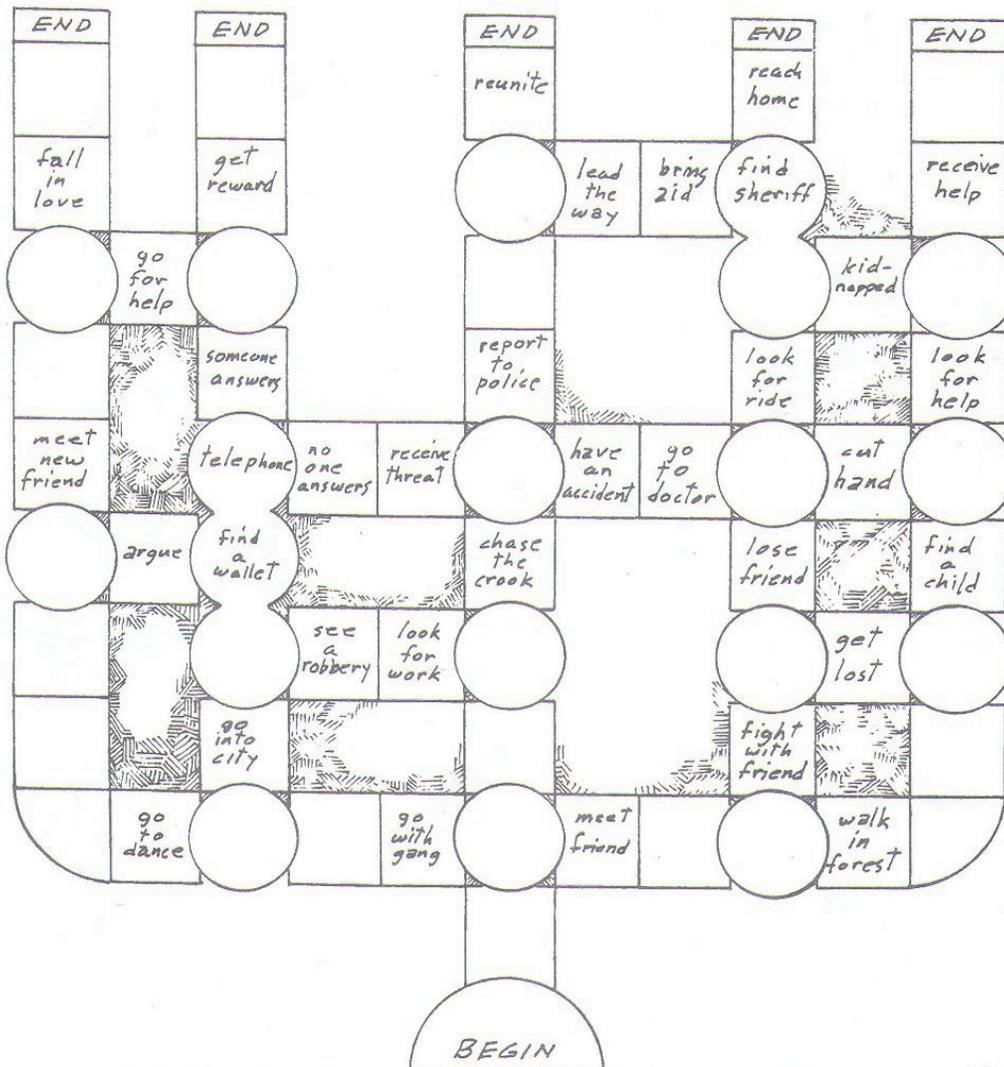
She actively engages the students in lessons that not only examine the literature she is teaching, but also connects the literature to their lives. Her 1984 project required students create movies. In their movies they had to explain a topic (privacy, propaganda, etc.) and then show its impact not only in the novel, but in at least three governments past or present. The students completed the movies the last two weeks of the school year and were engaged to the last minute of the year.

*Congratulations Jennifer on a well-deserved scholarship!*

### Plotting Game

Use this game to plan a plot that you can turn into a story. Follow the rules, using a button for a marker.

1. Flip a coin for each move; heads - one space, tails - two spaces.
2. If you land on a circle, flip the coin again; heads - move one space right, tails - move one space left.
3. When you land on squares with written instructions, write them down in the order you pass them.
4. Continue to the end of the plot board, then write a story using your game notes for the plot outline.



## 5 Ideas to Engage Your Students with Technology by Heather Woods

I've enjoyed summer conference over the years because I'm always able to take something back to my classroom. Some of my favorite websites to use with kids were stolen from other teacher's who were willing to share at conference. Consider this list a compilation.

1. **Quizlet.** This website is a great way to learn vocabulary terms in any subject so feel free to share it with the other content area teachers in your building. After entering a list of words and definitions, students can choose from a variety of methods to study including space race, flash-cards or my personal favorite, scatter. I just created a group for my Junior English class and assigned each person one unit from the workbook. After they each create a set for their unit, we'll have a whole year's worth of vocabulary entered and ready to study! Check it out at [www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com)

2. **Wordle.** Want to create a cool word cloud for your visual pleasure? Use this site to make words come alive. I start by making my list of words on a document first and then copy/paste them into the wordle box. A couple of tricks: listing a word more than once will make the word appear bigger. Using a ~ between words will signal that you want them to appear together which works well for phrases and names. Take a look by visiting [www.wordle.net](http://www.wordle.net).

3. **Comic Creator.** Thanks to West Fargo's Aaron Knodel for sharing this site at conference. Drawing isn't my forte and I'm sure a lot of students feel the same way. Fortunately, this site will let students express themselves in a comic with no artistic ability required. Visit [www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/comic/](http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/comic/).

4. **Prezi.** Goodbye Powerpoint, hello Prezi. Super easy to navigate, Prezi enables teachers to zoom in and out of words and ideas. English teachers know that not everything is linear; Prezi knows too. There's a free version for educators and if you click on the explore tab, you can look through other people's creations. Especially for those of you who have interactive whiteboards, the possibilities are endless. Start zooming on your own Prezi at [www.prezi.com](http://www.prezi.com)

5. **Dictionary.** Dictionary.com is certainly not a new concept. I use it often in conjunction with Quizlet and I especially enjoy the audio feature. How many times do we hear our students reading out loud butchering a word? A simple accent mark can really make a difference but often a written pronunciation key isn't enough. This site has a speaker symbol where you can click to hear the word pronounced. Genius! For your listening pleasure, check out [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com).



*Marianna Malm, Fargo North High School  
2010 Outstanding English Educator*

Marianna Malm, English teacher at Fargo North High School was awarded the Outstanding English Educator for 2010.

Marianna has been a long-time North Dakota educator. After completing her degree in Minot, she started her career in Williston, ND. She came to Fargo where she taught both reading and English for the Fargo Public Schools. She has served on multiple study committees, led the districts 6-Traits efforts, served on the Fargo Writing Assessment Task-Force, served on a multitude of state committees for curriculum development, assessment, benchmarking, and teacher certification, and has been a member of the state ESPB board. In addition, Marianna was also a ND State Teacher of the Year.

Marianna is the first person to help any new teacher. She has worked with the district mentor program. She assists any new English teacher in her department who may feel a little lost. Marianna is the first person with an encouraging word, a lesson idea, help on the assessment you are writing, or just a sympathetic ear.

Marianna is not only well-respected by the district, the state and her colleagues, but also her students. Her students rely on her to write many college letters of recommendation, consult her on their future plans, and ask for help on their college admissions letters. Marianna teaches Humanities and English, so she finds many opportunities to make connections for students between art, history, and literature. Her depth of knowledge is unending. Her students benefit because she spends endless hours preparing as well as evaluating each lesson. Her colleagues do not believe she has ever taught the same lesson twice the same way. Revision is her mantra and the students are the beneficiaries of her hard work.

Marianna also extends her teaching of English to Slovakia each summer. For several summers, Marianna has traveled in the month of July to Slovakia to teach English with a group from her church. Her experience has been rewarding for her, but the students in Slovakia have been enriched as well. Marianna has kept in contact with many and counts them among her friends.

**Congratulations to Marianna on her many years of  
bringing English to life for her students.**

NDCTE Board Meeting  
August 1, 2010—Pre conference meeting

**Board members present:** Claire Andrus, Anne Volk, Vickie Mayer, Maggie Townsend, Heather Woods, David Woods, Aaron Knodel, Marj Bubach, Sarah Hicks, Sue Anderson, and Laurie Larson.

Discussion regarding membership:

Before the hard copy announcement was sent, only 12 registrations had been sent for conference.

We have approximately 40 members registered for the convention.

Discussion was held on how to reach people— send out hard or emails or both? The NDCTE conference is in the NDSU and UND continuing ed. Bulletins.

In May at least the conference schedule should be mailed out. A special note could be on this “postcard” or letter so teachers could request the newsletter.

As stated in the bylaws , the newsletter editor, with the help of the President and board, is in charge of publishing and sending of the newsletter four times per year.

Articles should be in PDF and sent to Vickie Mayer.

The rotation of who is in charge of submitting an article is as follows:

President Elect- Sept/ Jan

Past President- Sept/ Mar

Secretary- Mar/ Mtg Minutes

SLATE Representative- Jan/ May

**Directors:**

NW Representative- Sept/ May

NE Representative- March/ May

SW Representative- Jan/ Mar

SE Representative- Mar/ Sept

Member at Large- Jan/ May

Articles are due the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. (An email reminder would be appreciated.)

Heather woods had the idea of requiring an article submitted to the newsletter by those taking the conference for class.

Discussion regarding attending national and regional meetings:

Our bylaws show Nat’l Convention in even numbered years. (We have gotten off track on this?)

Odd numbers we are to attend a NCTE Regional Leadership Meeting.

We are Region 4—the bylaws are incorrect—Nationals are odd and Regional Leadership Meetings are to be attended in the even years.

It was motioned and seconded by Maggie Townsend to change this in our bylaws. Seconded by Anne. Motion carried to change our bylaws.

Annie Volk will clean up the wording on the bylaws to reflect this change.

We need to “clean up” the bylaws. Some job descriptions are not complete. Also, a person needs to be in charge of keeping the bylaws, history of the bylaws, etc.

Sue mentioned the need to get all the historical information and back minutes archived. This will be reviewed and discussed at the meeting on Tues. morning.

There are several items in the bylaws that board members don’t know they are in charge of doing.

Sarah Hicks moved that we delete Article 4 Sec. 9 which states the Member at Large shall be responsible for the NDCTE Distinguished Service and Teacher of the Year Awards. Seconded by Aaron Knodel. Motion passed.

The 62<sup>nd</sup> conference was held in 1988—The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary is next year.

1936 the first president was Mabel Williams of Fargo.

No record from 1962-64.

Katherine Eagle was a president of NDCTE. (continued on page 9)

NDCTE Business Meeting  
Aug 3, 2010

I. Call to Order (7:45a.m.) and Introduction of officers.

II. Secretary Report

Moved by Gae Zetner and seconded by Mandy Wardner to accept

III. Treasurer's report—\$ 2640 in treasury

Moved Vicki and second by Annie to approve

IV. Change in bylaws

The past president will be in charge of the historical records of NDCTE and the yearly updates of awards given by the organization.

Discussion was held—some records go back to 1936---scattered record keeping.

We can only amend this bylaw change today—will vote on it next year.

Sue Anderson motioned to approve; Susan Erickson second approval of first reading.

V. Conference in 2011—75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee—August 1-2

Katherine Eagle, Byron Dorgan, Stanley Gordon West, Roxanne Saberi

K. Eagle was past president '86—writes romance and now stories about Native Americans (i.e. *Black and Blue*).

We plan to apply for a grant to get money needed to bring in speakers for jubilee conference.

VI. Discussion on moving conference date in 2012—Every third year we will have to hold conference on the last weekend in July or second weekend in August due to Eckroth music convention.

Some schools will not pay for teachers to come in the summer.

CSTAND is in Sept. and so many are already going to a conference. Many are coaches and are gone throughout the year to different events (plays, speech meets, etc.)

Would we get more people if it was during school year?

A goal could be for everyone attending to bring one person to the conference next year.

Not sure why people don't attend??

Send out a flyer with conference schedule and registration to administrators and/or English teacher chair.

Also point people to website. Don't focus it only on English teachers.

A motion was made to set conference date in 2012 to July 29, 30, 31 by Maggie Townsend. Seconded. Motion passed.

VII. Election of officers

One nominee for NW region—Maggie Townsend

Member at large---Kristi Frahm

SE region—Heather Woods

Beth Aufforth moved for unanimous ballot. Second. Motion passed.

VIII. Other Business

None

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 a.m.

# 2010 NEW BOARD MEMBERS

## Kristi Frahm- NR-S English Instructor

I am the oldest of three, and my brother and sister are also teachers in West Fargo and in Champaign, Illinois. I graduated from Enderlin Public School many years ago, and I then went on to receive my Bachelor of Science degree at Valley City State University. While at VCSU, I was a member of the Philomathian sorority, and I was married on October 6, 1979, to Donn, a member of the Philos' brother fraternity, the EBC's. (To this day, the meaning of "EBC" is unknown to anyone other than frat members!)

Donn and I have two children, Whitney, who just earned her master's degree in mass communication and is working for Fox Consulting in Minneapolis, and Kendall, an NR-S sophomore who is the #1 packer and bagger at our local grocery store and a whiz on the golf course!

I am a veteran teacher of 26 years, but this is only my fifth year at New Rockford-Sheyenne. My goal is to receive my master's degree in English in the near future. Another goal I have is to travel to New York City, sit in the audience of "Regis and Kelly," and frantically wave an "Eat Your Hearts Out, North Dakotans" poster as the "Today Show" camera pans the outdoor crowd.

My family has no pets at the house currently (thank heavens!). We have had four cats, several goldfish, and a parakeet when the kids were growing up. One of my hobbies, if you can believe it, is organizing closets, file cabinets, and desk drawers. I know this is a bit weird, but people who know me best know that one of my favorite sayings is, "Everything has its place, and if it doesn't, it belongs in the trash." Kendall doesn't appreciate this line too much.

A few of my favorites are the color navy blue, a crab salad croissant with a root beer float, a pontoon ride on a sunny day, and "girls' days." I also love shopping for shoes, crossing off items when they are completed on lists (what a sense of accomplishment!), and eating at exotic restaurants. (This last one has allowed me to sample octopus and oxtail soup! Both are delicious if cooked right!)

I am looking forward to working with everyone on the NDCTE board!

## Alan Church - Dickinson State University Associate Professor of English and Chair of the Department of Language and Literature

Raised by a single mother and the youngest of eight children, six of whom survive, he dropped out of high school in 1982. He received his GED in 1983 and began attending Mesa Community College, eventually transferring to Arizona State University where he earned his B.A. and M.A. in English Literature. After a year teaching abroad in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia from 1990-1991, Church taught Latin and English for Phoenix College and Arizona State University before returning to graduate school at the University of Washington, where he earned his Pd.D. in English, specializing in Medieval Literature and Rhetoric.

Now a college educator for twenty-five years, he has earned tenure twice, first at the University of Texas at Brownsville, then at Dickinson State University. He has taught college courses ranging from developmental writing to advanced composition and rhetoric as well as courses in literature and language, and he has published and presented articles and reviews on a variety of topics ranging from rhetorical theory to medieval literature.

As a professional educator, he has become familiar with the accreditation process and ongoing assessment that have become landmarks of contemporary higher education, and currently he serves as a Team Leader for DSU's continuous quality improvement initiative and one of DSU's representatives for the Association of American Colleges and Universities and a promoter of Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP), an AAC&U initiative for promoting liberal education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## NDCTE Board Meeting cont.' from page 5

Do we need an historian? Do we want to amend the bylaws? Should the secretary send in minutes at end of year? Do we rotate the job? The past president could do this?

College Rep. (Sec. 1) is not in list on first page of bylaws—

Sue said she will compile the historical/ award information. After she gets this done, who does she get this to—past president would be a good.

Annie Volk moved the past president be in charge of the historical records of the organization and the yearly updates. David Woods seconded. Motion passed.

This proposed motion will be proposed to general membership.

The secretary should be in charge of the bylaws.

### **NEW Business—**

Some discussion was held about changing the dates of NDCTE. Do we need to bring it to the general membership? Or do we need to recruit more? Need to publicize the 75<sup>th</sup> celebration next year.

Should the directory be online?

Sue will send that directory to all board members which will also note the date of the last membership payment.



### **Internet sources from Fall Convention—Check them Out!!**



#### Research sites - Gayle Hyde

<http://21stcenturyresearchskills.wikispaces.com/>



#### Everyman resources

[homepage.mac.com/mseffie/index.html](http://homepage.mac.com/mseffie/index.html)



websites:



Luminarium Page for Everyman



The Staging of a Morality Play



York Creation and the Fall of Lucifer



York Cycle of Mystery Plays



Simulated York Cycle



Han Holbein Dance of Death



Miracle Players Abridged Version



#### Canterbury Tales

[www.bl.uk/treasures/caxton/homepage.html](http://www.bl.uk/treasures/caxton/homepage.html)

[edsitement.neh.gov/lesson\\_images/lesson\\_287/Chaucer\\_Aloud.pdf](http://edsitement.neh.gov/lesson_images/lesson_287/Chaucer_Aloud.pdf)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=QEOMtENfOMU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QEOMtENfOMU)

[www.oup.com/uk/booksites/content/0199259127/resources/usschools.pdf](http://www.oup.com/uk/booksites/content/0199259127/resources/usschools.pdf)



## “Using Formula Writing to Ease the Pain” by Maggie Townsend

In my experiences, I have found persuasive writing to be very difficult to teach. Students often have difficulty with choosing a side and defending it. They may do this countless times a day in their real life, but it is much more difficult to do on paper. The following is a lesson I found online and then adapted to fit my needs.

Students are divided into small groups and assigned a candy bar. Their job is then to persuade the rest of the class that their bar is the best. Together the students will write a very simple essay. I found this exercise to take two 50 minute classes to complete. For the next writing assignment, students go through the same process individually and pick their own product to defend (for example Blackberry vs. Droid, Coke vs. Pepsi, Ford vs. Chevy).

Good luck and don't forget that you should sample all the candy bars in advance!

### “Battle Bars”

#### North Dakota Standards

11.3.1 Gather information supporting multiple sides of an issue

11.3.5 Use a variety of supporting details

11.3.7 Edit and revise compositions for standard writing conventions and transitional devices

11.6.1 Use conventions of grammar, usage and punctuation to edit and revise

#### Butterfinger vs. Baby Ruth Milky Way vs. PB Cups Almond Joy vs. Snickers

#### Background:

You need to imagine that there are only two brands of candy bars in the entire world—your bar and the one it competes against. Your candy bar is the best value, and it's your job to come up with as many “logical” reasons why your candy bar is the best value. Don't think about how the other groups are working on the same project for a different brand. Just focus on this, “Why is my candy bar the best value?”

#### Tasks:

1. Write a top ten (or at least 8) list of why your candy bar is the best.
2. Pick the three best reasons.
3. Write a thesis statement (one sentence) which expresses the idea that your candy bar is the best value. Remember a thesis statement previews the main points that you are going to write about in your essay.
4. Write three paragraphs—one each for your three best reasons. Each paragraph must have 3 or more sentences and your paragraphs must be linked together with transitional phrases.
5. Now you can eat your candy bar!

When we persuade people, it's important to be fair and to demonstrate that others may have differing opinions. Now take the side of your competition candy bar. Think about what one reason might make the competitor's bar the best. Interview the other group if needed.

6. Write another paragraph (at least 3 sentences) about the competitor. Link it to your first three paragraphs using transitions.

After identifying a strong, differing opinion, your job is to directly and convincingly challenge it.

7. Using what you know about candy bars, nutrition, packaging, and logic, construct one short paragraph (at least 3 sentences) with a transitional phrase to disprove the other side.
8. Turn your thesis statement into a short paragraph with an attention getter. Something that makes me want to learn more about your candy bar.
9. Write a short (at least 3 sentences) concluding paragraph. Make reference to your attention getter and re-state your thesis statement.

#### Final Product:

1. Top 10 List with all but 3 crossed out
2. 7 Paragraph Essay

**Board Meeting –Post conference  
August 3, 2010**

**Board members present-** David Woods, Heather Woods, Claire Andrus, Anne Volk, Sue Anderson, Vickie Mayer, Laurie Larson, Maggie Townsend, Kristi Frahm, Dr. Alan Church

Meeting called to order by President Andrus

Evaluations from the conference were reviewed. Many positive comments plus the following for future ideas: Literature circles; more lesson plans; “Best of the Best” for the next year’s 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary; novel and short stories ideas; and continue with book exchange

Discussion on how we thought the conference went— Could we ask back some past presenters to share next year? Panels of “experts” could present on topics i.e. writing, grammar, literature etc.

Past scholarship winners could come back and be presenters. Specific topics would be chosen.

Key note speakers discussed were Stanley Gordon West, Kathleen Eagle, Byron Dorgan, Roxanne Saberi, Chuck Suchy, Roxanne Henke.

A “big” name would help with membership recruitment, and we should work at getting at least three possible key-note names.

The following board members will contact specific people by Sept., Sat. 18—4:30. Ask about the costs to speak and if they’re available on August 1-2, 2011.

Byron Dorgan—Maggie Townsend

Roxanne Henke—Laurie Larson

Stanley Godon West—Sarah Hicks

Roxanne Saberi—Kristi Frohm

Kathleen Eagle—Sue Anderson

Chuck Suchy—Heather Woods

Literature Circles contact—Vickie Mayer

A discussion was held about the budget. Should the board have more of a visual to show the expenditures of the organization? Several expressed the desire to see the breakdown of expenditures and money collected.

Sue Anderson said she could have that done.

Membership is still \$20 and has been since 1983. Several members (20-30) just join the organization but don’t attend the conference. Maggie Townsend made a motion we raise the membership fees to \$35 and conference fee to \$155 effective June 15, 2011. Seconded by Annie Volk. Annie amended it to read that the student rate and retiree rate would be \$15 each. Claire Andrus further amended the motion to read if the fee for the conference is sent in by June 15<sup>th</sup> \$155 after \$180. David Woods seconded the motion. Motion passed. Annie moved that we seek tax exempt status from the state. Seconded by Maggie T. Motion passed.

\*\*A theme is needed for the diamond jubilee—“Diamonds in the Rough.” Let’s think of ideas for the meeting in September.

Another item for discussion recommended the silent auction money used for scholarship be put into the general fund. Sue said she and Marge Bubach were very opposed to this. Another idea is to take out the \$5 from membership that goes to the scholarship. David motioned we take the \$5 out of membership fees for this year in order to help pay for a key note speaker. Seconded by Sue Anderson. Motion passed.

Discussion held on having the general business meeting over lunch instead of breakfast. A motion was made by Sue Anderson that the business mtg. for all members be held on Monday at lunch during next year’s conference.

The next board meetings will be held at Seven Seas on Sat. **Sept. 18 at 4:30 and Sat., December 4 at 10:00.**

Sue will send an updated membership list to all of us in August to aid in recruitment.

Meeting adjourned—4:30.