



*November Newsletter, 2011*

Dear Members,

It was so nice seeing NaPOMLE members and continuing to network with colleagues across the US and overseas.

**Part I: Business Meetings and Sessions at AMLE**

We had a lively, packed Executive Board Meeting and NaPOMLE Meeting on Thursday at the AMLE conference.

- 1) Board members approved hiring an accountant to work with our treasurer.
- 2) Board members also approved non-profit status.

At the NaPOMLE meeting the following decisions were made:

- 1) Greg Meeks, Arkansas State University was voted in as our new treasurer. We thanked Cal Meyer for his service as treasurer for the past two years.
- 2) In addition, we elected Jennifer Roberts from Willamette University in Oregon to represent the west region and John Stroup from Champlain College in Vermont to represent the north.



- 3) The Association voted to look into having an executive director for our association. John Niska and the regional board members will be looking into that possibility to give us information next year.

Ideas that were put on the table but not addressed:

- 4) We talked about changing the name to POMLE or iPOMLE in light of our interest in connecting with partners around the world but no vote was taken. Our hope is to invite more diversity and reach out to our middle level professors from around the world. (see goal 3).
- 5) We also talked about adding an international liaison to our board to head up communication with international partners. Both of these issues will be looked at this year.
- 6) Recognition of **outstanding professors and programs:**



Kim Ligon



Kim Ruebel

As part of our Meeting two individuals and three programs were recognized. Kim Ligon of Kennesaw State and Kim Reubel of University of Texas Arlington were recognized as **outstanding middle level professors**.

University of Texas Arlington’s middle grade program and Georgia College and State University middle grade program were recognized as **outstanding middle level teacher preparation programs**.

The CMLA chapter at Georgia College and State University CMLA was highlighted as the **outstanding CMLA chapter** by NaPOMLE. These people and programs will be the highlights of our December newsletter. Congratulations colleagues.

If you would like to nominate people and or programs to be recognized there is a form on our website.

- 7) Best Practice Sessions had a new twist this year. In addition to the round table sharing of programs, curriculum, and brainstorming we created work groups to address goals that were defined from Milledgeville. To that end the following are activities NaPOMLE members want to work on. If you find one of these areas of interest, please contact the name of the board member who is working on this.

Best Practice Presenters:

Program Sharing	In Schools	Middle School Curriculum
Brian Kahn (a minor in middle grades)	Shawn Faulconer, Chris Cook and Penny Howell (Principals’ Perceptions)	Ginny Jagla (Service Learning)
Ron Towery (Assessing dispositions)	Cal Meyer (Leadership in Schools)	Jeanneine Jones and Joyce Brigman (Mentoring)
Greg Meeks (Using an online format)	Al Seed and Cherry Watts (Principals’ perceptions)	Betty Dore (Special Education connections)
Dan Saurino (Trends)	Tanya Fillippino (Social Studies Strategies)	Nancy Mizelle, Dan Bauer, and Yeprem Meharanian (Literacy)
	Dawn and Jerry Williams (Using This We Believe)	

NaPOMLE Goals 2011 ... I can share that the NCPOMLE members are looking at Goal 2 to address as a collaborative effort to share research related to North Carolina. Perhaps other POMLE groups would like to work together. I also realize that there are members who do not have state groups and I am hopeful that they will join some of the work that is being started.

1. Communicate the needs of young adolescents to a broader audience, including community groups, professional groups and retirement associations. Leader [Gail Inwalson](#)
2. Disseminate middle level research and best practice in user-friendly ways to a variety of groups including adolescents, teachers, parents, legislators, and community groups. Leader [Jeanneine Jones](#)

3. Address the global nature of adolescence by broadening the diversity of the NaPOMLE membership and meeting the needs of a more diverse adolescent community. Leader: [Nancy Ruppert](#) and [Toni Briegel](#)
4. Disseminate the critical importance of having a teaching workforce that is committed to and specifically trained to teach young adolescent to school districts, state departments of education, federal government organizations and boards of education. Leaders: [Betty Dore](#) and [John Stroup](#)
5. Political outreach. What actions can NaPOMLE take to ensure promotion of and political outreach for middle level education. Leader: [Nancy Mizelle](#)

Save the Dates May 14-16 for our Middle Level Symposium that will take place outside of Memphis, TN., [Al Seed](#) gave us an update on the symposium. The committee is calling for presentation/research/best practices. Deadline is March 1, 2012. **I have attached a call for proposals for the symposium.**



## **Part II: Memorial**

In an effort to celebrate the amazing contributions Jennifer Wilson gave to middle level education, the USC Educational Foundation has established an Endowed Scholarship Fund in her memory. Contributions can be made to the USC Educational Foundation, account number B11651, and mailed to: USC Gift Processing, 1600 Hampton Street, Suite 736, Columbia, SC 29201. More information is available at the USC College of Education website: <http://www.ed.sc.edu>

## **Part III: Publications and You**

While attending a meeting of representatives from AMLE, NASSP, MLER SIG, the Forum and NaPOMLE, we talked about how we need to share resources with one another. To that end we have added links to our NaPOMLE webpage. I encourage you to consider publishing in journals and newsletters associated with middle level education. Consider communicating your expertise with newspapers and local news media. I encourage you to work collaboratively with colleagues to help tell the story of middle level education. It is time to start networking with one another.

Our journal, [Current Issues in Middle Level Education](#) is the journal for Professors that focuses on the connection between research and best practice. Perhaps you can take a little time over the winter break to put your presentation into an article format. The [MLER SIG](#) publication focuses on research. In addition there are middle school journals in at least seven states and four countries that are affiliated with the Association of Middle Level Education. In addition the following states and countries also have journals that focus on middle level education: Missouri, New York, South Carolina, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Maine, Australia, British Columbia,

Manitoba, Saskatchewan. I located these resources through the [AMLE Affiliates](#) page.

A new journal is being launched in Kentucky. [Dorie Combs](#), out of Eastern Kentucky University is looking for articles related to engaging community partners in Appalachia for a journal called PRISM: A Journal of Regional Engagement. <http://encompass.eku.edu/prism/>

*PRISM: A Journal of Regional Engagement* is an exciting new journal devoted to promoting a culture of engagement between the university and region through the creation, application, and integration of knowledge. *PRISM* is multi-disciplinary, publishing quality, peer-reviewed research articles, case studies and applied research articles, and reflections across the full range of disciplinary perspectives. Similarly, *PRISM* welcomes all forms of analysis and methodologies. The inaugural issue in Spring 2012 will address the theme “Engaging Appalachia” and submissions are now being accepted. Following that, *PRISM* will publish fall issues related to its general theme of regional engagement and will publish spring issues on more specific themes: “The Current State of Engagement in American Universities” in 2013, and “Engaging Underserved Populations” in 2014.

While we have goals for NaPOMLE I hope we will be able to help you find places to network with. In December I will be travelling to Milledgeville to revisit our progress with John Lounsbury and Nancy Mizelle and her colleagues. I will give you updates.

Sincerely,

[Nancy Ruppert](#), President  
National Professors of Middle Level Education