



April Newsletter

As we prepare to complete another semester, it is a great time to use tools of reflection in our own teaching including things we want to do better, recognitions of programs, and states that are advocating for middle level education. I hope you will find ways to connect and collaborate with colleagues in your state and across institutions. Consider searching through the profiles and contacting someone with a common interest. I have three topics to share. First are the recognitions and news within our organization. Second, based on the feedback from professors in different states I have shared what some middle level professors groups are doing to give you ideas and names of people to contact as you develop your state organizations. Third, we are still working to solidify our plans for NMSA in November and we are gathering agenda items. I have not heard about the proposal acceptance for our NaPOMLE best practices session but will send out information as soon as I hear something.

Recognitions:

[Melanie Greene](#) has received the Reich College of Education's recipient of the Outstanding Mentoring and Service Award for 2010-2011. Congratulations Melanie!!

News:

[Jody Fernandez](#), Moreheadstate University is in New Zealand gathering ideas and making international contacts.

As the year winds down and you are receiving awards and getting middle school information published, please share them with me so we can celebrate your accomplishments as colleagues!!! I would like to profile a list of Awards and Publications we have engaged in this year. If you are willing to share your publications and awards, please go to the following link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QLWKGSK>

There are still a few slots left to join professors in Milledgeville at the symposium. At this time 89 people are registered and of those we have 16 new NaPOMLE members (or renewals)!!! If you haven't made reservations and there is a pot of money left at your institution, 😊 consider joining us. Contact [Joanne Previts](#).

Don't forget to get those publications into [Kim Ligon](#) at Kennesaw (see the end of this newsletter).

The winter 2011 issue can be found at http://www.napomle.org/1current_issue.html.

What State POMLEs are up to...

This spring allowed professors in multiple states to come together and share ideas and strategies. Pennsylvania and Kentucky are reviving middle level Professors groups. The South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia professors groups met during their middle level state conference to share ideas and strategies. When asked by a professor in another state how they were organized their state meetings the following suggestions were made. We hope to highlight other state organizations to share ideas with one another as we develop professor groups. Please send state updates to me.

Cal Meyer shared that **in Kentucky**, professors met to organize their mission and by-laws. Their plan is to formally organize at their September meeting. In their initial meeting the following topics were discussed:

- What would be the purpose of this organization?
- Is there another state organization to which this unit can become aligned?
- How many universities and colleges in the state have middle level faculty who would have an interest in this organization?
- When would be a date to formally initiate the structure of the organization?
- What are the dynamics of this state chapter aligning with the national organization, NAPOMLE?
- What roles does each of the above organizational members need to accept to insure a start to this organization?

Tracy Smith shared that **In North Carolina**, we coordinate our annual and official NCPOMLE meeting with the North Carolina Middle School Association Conference. In fact, at that conference, we have a NCPOMLE strand. The Executive Director has given us a meeting room where we have NCPOMLE events all day. We have our business meeting, sessions of interest to middle level teacher educators, and sessions for our students (under the auspices of the Collegiate Middle Level Association). We are an affiliate of the North Carolina Middle School Association, and the Executive Director of NCMSA springs for our lunch for the business meeting. I have been the secretary of our organization for some time now. I think I was just elected to my fourth term. I have several documents that might be helpful to you as examples. I am going to attach our Bylaws, our notes/minutes from our March 2011 meeting, a summary of the NCPOMLE-related sessions, as well as our distribution list (which I update at each meeting). This distribution list is key. I don't see all these people regularly at meetings, but they receive several emails from me each year.

In addition to this spring meeting, we have begun having a fall symposium hosted by one or more universities. My university (Appalachian State) did the first one. We highlighted our undergraduate program and some research our team had been doing. There was also lots of time for collaboration. The University of North Carolina at Charlotte hosted the next year and focused on a mentoring program they operate as well as their licensure programs and school partnerships. NC State hosted the next year and focused on how they integrate technology into their middle grades teacher education courses. We also

toured their lab school of sorts. Last year, UNC-Chapel Hill, Duke University, and NC Central University co-hosted the fall symposium. We spent time over the two days at each of the campuses. Their focus was on service learning. This “tour” of the programs in our state has been so helpful. Now, I am much more knowledgeable about other programs. I can recommend graduate programs (in addition to ours, of course) to my students. I also know more about the emphasis at each university. We can collaborate better now and ask questions when we have an interest. I distribute a lot of information as secretary. People write to me asking questions such as, “I’m teaching a new course related to X, could you recommend a text or someone I might talk to about this course?”

Bob Ziegenfus shared that **in Pennsylvania**, professors will meet at the Annual Conference on May 9 at Philadelphia Biblical College in Langhorne, PA. The schedule was built around the main themes that emerged from a survey that was conducted last fall. The tentative plans include:

- 10 AM Opening sessions
- 11 AM PDE Roundtable: Reciprocity of certification
- 12 PM Lunch
- 1 PM Breakout sessions on research, field placements and middle level advocacy
- 2:30 PM Closing session

The conference is free to faculty members at all PA-POMLE member institutions. Be sure to share this information with your colleagues. To register for the conference, visit:

<http://tinyurl.com/PAPOMLE2011>

Chris Burkett shared the **South Carolina Middle Level Professor’s agenda**. The South Carolina Professors of Middle Level Education holds its annual meeting during the SCMSA Conference on the Friday, prior to the conference at 12:30. An outline of the program is below.

1. Welcome
2. Welcome and information from NPOMLE- Nancy Ruppert
3. MLTEI update- Phyllis Pendarvis
4. SDE Update- Chris Burkett for SDE
5. CERRA Update- Chris Burkett for CERRA
6. Update on Striving Readers Grant- Barron Holmes
7. Literacy and the Common Core Standards presentation by Terrell Tracy
8. Roundtable discussions on content literacy
 1. Philosophy and Organization- Phyllis Pendarvis and Galen McWilliams
 2. Content Area Methods- Nate Carnes
 3. Adolescent Development- Barron Holmes
 4. Literacy and Reading in Content Areas- Terrell Tracy and Chris Burkett

Ashley Smith shared that **In Tennessee**, we have semi-annual meetings of the Tennessee Association of Colleges of Education (TACTE). I chose TACTE as the logical starting point since professors were already at a meeting and few would opt for a special meeting. I requested a time slot for those interested professors to discuss the issues facing teacher preparation in the middle grades. Once this time was

granted, we had a variety of people attend. Most want information about middle grades licensure. We have PreK-3, K-6, 4-8, and 7-12 licenses and most institutions other than the six state institutions only offer K-6 and 7-12 licensure programs. Very few of our state institutions send professors to TACTE who actually work with middle grades preparation. Therefore, it has been a very slow process to really get TPoMLE going and to become a viable organization. Basically, the core group numbers seven professors. We also meet at the Tennessee Association of Middle Schools annual conference in June. Attendance is spotty even at the summer conference.

The core group has found that the networking is beneficial. Hopefully, we can leverage the successes to enhance more interest to joining TPoMLE. The Tennessee Board of Education is now considering a new STEM licensure that covers grades 5-9. I believe that this could help us in recruiting members since program developers may have a need for networking.

I would like to thank the organizations that are willing to share their expertise and ideas as to how to run professor's groups. Tracy Smith shared that, **having a community of support is so vital to our survival for middle grades education and teacher education**. If you would like to know more about any of these programs, the contacts for each state are on the NaPOMLE website and/or you can look at the local profiles.

Ideas

It is always exciting to consider options and ideas for improving our organization. As the months move towards November, we will be creating an agenda of topics to discuss at the NMSA conference. Three suggestions have been shared with me. We will talk about these at the NMSA conference. A suggestion has been to consider having state meetings during the NMSA conference. I have put a request into the planning committee to see if we can use rooms prior to the main conference. I will keep you posted. A second recommendation has been to consider raising the cost of "institutional membership" and/or limiting the number of professors who are a part of each institutions members. We will bring this up at the board meeting in November. A third proposal has been to create a different process for electing officers of NaPOMLE. Currently nominations are taken, member profiles are shared, and nominees are invited to speak on their behalf at the NaPOMLE meeting. If you have other suggestions, please pass them on to your regional representative.

Information:

Finally, if you haven't sent in your member profile, answer the following questions and email them to me. (:

Your Name

Your Title

Your Institution

Your Email

Research Interests

Hobbies

State/Region you are in

Committee you would like to join (advocacy, membership, conference planning,

___ I prefer to have this sent to NaPOMLE members only.

___ I am comfortable sharing this on the NaPOMLE website.

Respectfully,

Nancy Ruppert, President, NaPOMLE

