



## August/September 2012 NaPOMLE Newsletter

Hello Middle Level Professors,

I hope this finds you well. Thank you for the work you are doing to promote middle level education. [Betty Dore](#) is asking us to send her any other nominations for awards (professors, programs, or CMLA groups). [John Niska](#) is working on the by-laws and we have members willing to serve on the 2012-2015 board.

I am sharing three pieces. First, I am sharing news from around the country. Second, I want to share how our goals intersect with the newly adopted AMLE goals. Third, the Schools-to-Watch leaders are asking for participants. Good luck in your semester!!

### I. News from Around the Country



Keith Tilford, formerly of Illinois State University has made the decision to return to the classroom. He will be teaching in Orlando, Florida. Good luck Keith!

### II. NaPOMLE, AMLE, and Milledgeville Summit Goals

In the past year, three groups have established goals and/or a focus for middle level education. NaPOMLE is one of those groups and is represented in two other organizations: AMLE and the Milledgeville Summit. Each of these groups share common themes of communication and all wish to promote middle level education through research and collaborative efforts.

It is possible we can support the AMLE goals of visibility

- outreach and communication with legislators, constituents, new administrators and at local, state and national conferences other than AMLE),
- collaboration of partnerships (CMLA, AERA/ATE SIGS, NASSP, STW),
- and providing our research-based programs and services (publications and presentations).

Our own goals support these areas. We have NaPOMLE members on the board and in leadership positions of AMLE, and we are contributing our expertise and findings in support of the AMLE goals. We need to continue to compile our sources and resources to the larger middle level community.

AMLE Goals. In April 2012, the AMLE board approved the following goals:

- 1) Visibility
- 2) Refine research-based professional development programs and services
- 3) Develop partnerships and collaborative relationships with affiliates (CMLA, Principals, STW, AERA/ATE SIGS)
- 4) Increase membership
- 5) Develop a business model and financial plan
- 6) Strengthen the board's capacity to deliver the mission and vision

NaPOMLE Goals. In November 2011, NaPOMLE members approved the following goals:

- 1) Communicate needs of young adolescents
- 2) Disseminate research
- 3) Increase membership
- 4) Promote licensure
- 5) Political outreach

Milledgeville Summit. In May 2011, professors past, present, and future, identified the following topics/issues that need to be addressed through research and dissemination:

- 1) Leadership
- 2) Teacher Licensure and Certification
- 3) Teacher Education
- 4) Outreach
- 5) Democratic Education

### **III. A note from Will Waidelich, Executive Director of AMLE:**

In Fall 2011, the Association for Middle Level Education Board of Trustees created a Strategic Planning Committee comprised of current and former board members and affiliate leaders including Nancy Polisen, Pam Millikan, Jeff La Roux, Joan Jarrett, Will Waidelich and Bill Fasano. The committee's work was facilitated by a professional firm hired to facilitate the strategic planning process.

From October 2011 to April 2012, the committee promised to engage AMLE stakeholders in an inclusive, participatory fashion and to be communicative and transparent as they built a visionary, grounded plan that would be the foundation for the Association's work in the next 2-3 years.

In April 2012, the board approved the following goals:

Goal 1: Increase AMLE's visibility with educators and policymakers worldwide.

Goal 2: Refine research-based professional development programs and services to ensure they are timely and relevant.

Goal 3: Develop partnerships and collaborative relationships with affiliates and

other coalitions to influence programs and legislation to improve middle level education.

Goal 4: Increase membership.

Goal 5: Develop a business model and financial plan that places AMLE on sound financial footing and allows flexibility for strategic initiatives.

Goal 6: Strengthen the board's capacity to deliver AMLE's mission and vision.

AMLE Executive Director William Waidelich will work with the staff to make these goals a reality. "Our Strategic Planning Committee engaged in a rigorous, exhaustive process to determine goals that I believe will extend the association's reach and help us be a critical professional resource for middle grades educators in the coming years," said Nancy Polisenio, AMLE president.

William D. Waidelich, Ed.D.

Executive Director

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#### **IV. A note from Schools to Watch.**

A. The National Forum is surging ahead after our great Schools to Watch Conference and Advocacy efforts in DC. As one of our 60 "Full Forum Members" or "sweat equity members," we are excited to ask you for recommendations of key stakeholders whom you think should be invited to join the National Forum. Full Forum membership is described as follows:

*Members endorse and are fully committed to the Forum's mission and vision. Members seek out ways to actively contribute to and participate in the National Forum initiatives and efforts through the visible commitment of their time, expertise, and resources. By capitalizing on their influence, they use their voices and positions to advance the critical role of middle grades education and find possibilities for advancing the National Forum's purpose.*

**Mission:** *The National Forum unites key stakeholders to speak with a common voice to leverage research, policy, leadership, and replicable model practices to drive middle grades reform.*

**Vision:** *In order to prepare students to be lifelong learners ready for college, career, and citizenship, the National Forum seeks to make every middle grades school academically excellent, responsive to the developmental needs and interests of young adolescents, and socially equitable.*

*Full Forum members pay an annual membership fee of \$50; attend meetings; volunteer for committees; advocate on behalf of the Forum and young adolescents; and cast votes on key issues. All nominees for full Forum membership will be reviewed by the Membership Committee.*

**It is easy to do!** Here is the application

link <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dHJKaXBoazFoQmZLaDR4OWJ1QXNOMIE6MQ> or go to [www.middlegradesforum.org](http://www.middlegradesforum.org) and click on the blue box, "Membership," on the right hand side of the

homepage. Follow the link for Full Forum Membership. In addition to contact information for the nominee, the application/nomination form asks for responses to the following questions regarding the nominee:

- What does the nominee bring to the Forum?
- How does the nominee's work align with the Forum's mission and vision?
- Why does the nominee want to join the Forum as a full, "sweat equity," member?

Your nominations will be accepted through August 31, and nominees will be considered by the Forum Membership Committee. Potential new members will be contacted as part of the nomination process. Committee members appreciate your efforts in reaching out to potential new members. As a reminder, the Membership Committee includes Judy Conk (chair), David Payton, Barbara Moore, Gayle Andrews, and Debby Kasak.

B. Hold the dates and make plans for the upcoming National Forum meeting to be held in Newark, New Jersey, October 17-19, 2012. Registration information and logistical details will be sent out by the end of August. We are accepting recommendations for agenda topics and issues. Please forward your suggestions to [dtkasak@gmail.com](mailto:dtkasak@gmail.com). The timeline will be:

Wednesday, October 17

- I3 project meeting, 8:30-2:30
- Forum Board meeting, 3:00-7:00

Thursday, October 18

- National Forum Meeting, 9:00 – 5:00

Friday, October 19

- National Forum Meeting, 8:30-12:00
- STW Training for any state director that has not gone through the STW state training process, 1:00-5:00

Saturday, October 20

- STW Training continued, 8:30-12:00

C. Bookmark [www.middlegradesforum.org](http://www.middlegradesforum.org). That's the new web address for all the National Forum and Schools to Watch web pages. Thanks to Chantel for all of her work in the website upgrade process! If you can please set as homepage for a few months so we can up our hits and move up on search sites.

Thanks for your input and look forward to seeing you in October!

Sincerely,

Judy Conk, David Payton, Barbara Moore, Gayle Andrews, Debby Kasak  
National Forum Membership Committee

Take care,

Nancy Ruppert, President, NaPOMLE 2010-2012