



OUR MISSION:

- Provide a professional network to enhance the exchange of information and ideas, as well as, to encourage the discussion of topics related to the preparation of middle level educators,
- Contribute to the development of an expanded middle level research base, and provide additional means for sharing and disseminating current research and ideas among those interested in middle level education,
- Serve actively as advocates for the middle school movement, especially in terms of promoting middle level concepts among various publics commonly dealt with in the preparation of middle level educators, and
- Share in the advocacy for the middle school movement by supporting the stated purposes and goals of the Association for Middle Level Education.

NAPOMLE also publishes a journal, [Current Issues in Middle Level Education](#). Articles in the journal regularly focus on best teaching practices in colleges and universities, school-university partnerships, and other topics of interest to faculty.

News: Conference Edition

Message from the President - Bob Ziegenfuss
rgziegenfuss@ship.edu

Thank you to everyone who participated in our business meeting and work session in Portland and who presented at our Best Practice session. Both events provided an opportunity to share what we are doing and to look forward in promoting the growth of our organization.

We continue to move toward accomplishing our goals outlined in our strategic planning session in Louisville. As our goal leaders submit a summary of their discussions and activities I will post them in the newsletter or on the website.

Recognition

The following awards were presented by the Past-President and Awards Chair, Betty Dore:

Outstanding Middle Level Professor- Dave Strahan

Outstanding Middle Level Professor-Leisa Martin

Outstanding Middle Level Education Program - University of Wisconsin (Platteville)

Moving Forward:



A Vision for the Future of NaPOMLE and a Call for ACTION from the President!

Increase the diversity in the membership and the officers through outreach to non-participating universities

- I challenge each member, director, and officer to invite middle level professors to join NaPOMLE when you attend professional meetings and conferences.
- To meet our diversity goals, invite new middle level college professors, people of color and different ethnicities and folks who represent our diverse student body.
- I also challenge each of you to invite new members from around the world if you are traveling or presenting.

Increase activity in all four regions of the country while continuing our strong participation in the South region.

- Participate in the symposium this spring in Pennsylvania (Keep May 20 and 21 open and come to Shippensburg University.)
- Make connections to your state level POMLE or start one for your state.

Interface with other middle level organizations which are advocates for middle level education students

- The spring symposium is co-sponsored by National Professors of Middle Level Education, the Pennsylvania Professors of Middle Level Education, Pennsylvania Middle School Association and , the Shippensburg Collegiate Association, and the administrators and teachers from potentially 60 regional school districts.
- Continue connecting to the research professional organizations such as the middle level SIG of AERA.

Develop a partnership with a business which can support our writing, our research and our presentations

- I need help in locating a publisher who might wish to support our organization as a partner. This relationship will be a two-way street making connections with the publisher for our own writing as well as getting support for business meetings, awards, and other association business. Please look at your relationships with publishers and suggest to me any publisher who might be interested in such an arrangement.

Working on moving forward with the strategic plan:

- Actions will be monitored such that activities within the organization will align with our goals as outlined in the Strategic plan.

Best Practice Session Chaired by Nancy Ruppert (UNC)

The “Best Practice Session” offered participants programs and activities to try when they get back (see the “Best Practice Feedback” section). A call for proposals for Best Practice Session in Minneapolis will be focused around the five goals established by our organization in our strategic plan as listed.

A total of twenty-four different professors presented at our annual “Best Practice” session thanks to Nancy Ruppert’s design and hard work. The presenters at the National Conference are listed here:

NaPOMLE Best Practice Presenters 2012 AMLE

Round Tables

Betty Dore, edore@radcliff.edu “Middle school student teachers and special education student teachers working together”

Deborah McCurtrie, Bridget Coleman, Gary Senn, & Nancy Ruppert, GJSENN1@mailbox.sc.edu ,
BridgetC@usca.edu , DeborahMc@usca.edu , nruppert@unca.edu “The value of service-learning in a middle grades licensure program”

Nicole Miller, ncm39@colled.msstate.edu “Preparing middle level teacher candidates to better engage young adolescents with technology”

Al Seed, aseed@memphis.edu “Book Review: Teaching as a subversive activity”

Cherry Watts, cwatts@utm.edu “Book Review: What’s happening with boys? A look at the disengagement of young men from the classroom”

Nicole Miller & Manya Chappell, ncm39@colled.msstate.edu , mchappell@colled.msstate.edu “Preparing pre-service teachers to implement formative assessment”

Joanne Previts & Dan Bauer, joanne.previts@gcsu.edu ,
Dan.bauer@gcsu.edu “Diary of nascent teacher educators: Analyzing critical incidents to enhance pedagogy”

Poster Sessions

Nancy Ruppert, nruppert@unca.edu “Communicating needs of adolescents in an introductory middle school course”

Claudia Whitley & Michelle Williams, whitleyc@sfasu.edu ,
williamsdm@sfasu.edu , “Single gender instruction in rural Texas middle schools”

Michelle Williams & Jerry Williams, williamsdm@sfasu.edu The role of middle level education in a sustainable future”

Jody Fernandez, j.fernandez@moreheadstate.edu “Focused PD: Teaching content area teachers to become literacy educators”

Gail Ingwalson, gail.ingwalson@und.edu “A field-based methods course: Experiencing an authentic middle school learning environment”

Karynee Kleine & Nancy Mizelle, Karynee.kleine@gcsu.edu ,
nancy.mizelle@gcsu.edu , “Uses of reading to learn to develop exemplary middle level educators”

Laura Allen, lvanzand@trinity.edu “Connecting the continuum: A university-based induction program to promote teacher quality”

Virginia Jagla, vjagla@nl.edu “Service-learning in urban middle schools: A university/school district partnership”

Greg Meeks, “Flexible scheduling simulation”

Brian Kahn, bkahn@millikin.edu “Through the eyes of the observer: Middle level students analyzing primary source documents”

Business Meeting: Chaired by Bob Ziegenfuss, (Shippensburg University)

Constitutional changes have been made during the business meeting. Three major changes, two policy changes and one language update have been approved by the membership. One new anti-discrimination policy reflects the beliefs of our membership and the board with regard to discrimination. The second policy required by the IRS on tax forms establishes how funds will be dispersed should the organization dissolve in the future. The third change reflects an updating of our language to change references to the National Middle School Association to the new name, Association for Middle Level Education. The new constitution will reflect these changes and will be posted on the website.

John Niska, past-president, chaired the election of new directors and officers who will lead our organization over the coming year.

President-Elect: Nancy Mizelle

Secretary: Mary Ann O'Neil

East- Linda Schlosser

West- Alicia Wenzel

North- Gale Ingwalson

South- Joanne Previts.

The second portion of the business meeting was a work session as a follow-up to the strategic plan developed in Georgia and Louisville. After each goal is a summary of the discussion from the business meeting work session listed by strategic plan goals and action plans:

1. Communicate the needs of young adolescents to a broader audience, including community groups, professional groups and retirement associations.

We suggested that all middle level programs should support a community showing of the video "H.E.L. P." by Judith Bennett. This video would help educate the parents and community members regarding partnerships between students/children and parents. This video could be shown during the Month of the Young Adolescent (October) and could be sponsored by local CMLA students. Other discussions included promoting service learning projects or family/parent nights that have middle school students working with teacher candidates and community members. Individuals that promoted goal #1 were Heather Haverback, Deb Pattee, Karynne Kleine, Mary Ann O'Neil, and Gail Ingwalson. Thanks, Gail: Dr. Gail Ingwalson, Middle School Coordinator, Department of Teaching and Learning, University of North Dakota

2. Disseminate middle level research and best practice in user friendly ways to a variety of groups including adolescents, teachers, parents and community groups.

What we've done:

- *Hosted research conference that included not only candidates but school partners as well*
- *Assigned advocacy projects where candidates take packets about YA to community agencies for parents to pick up from there along with the traditional agency literature*
- *Facebook page for program*
- *Facebook page for CMLA*

- *Link between program and YA/their parents via Middle Grades University*
- *Becoming more intentional with our actions, decisions, and opportunities*

Other good ideas that add to our prior discussion (from 2011):

- *Be aware of new book (coming in May 2013): Research to Guide Practice in Middle Grades Education, edited by G. Andrews*
- *Host webinars and publications about YA, our practices, and ideas (Could the Professional Prep Advisory Committee from AMLE take this on?)*
- *Check on iTunes U: Could we add information here for anyone who is interested in becoming middle grades teachers? Could it be linked to AMLE's website?*
- *Need to work toward better educating superintendents on the critical need for placing principals who understand middle grades and YA in middle school settings. What about setting up regional Middle Grades Councils for the purpose of working with superintendents and principals? (Include resources like This We Believe and Promoting Harmony)*
- *Twitter accounts as well as Facebook and other social media*
- *Is This We Believe in e-book format? Could it be?*

3. Address the global nature of our adolescents by broadening the diversity of the NaPOMLE membership and meeting the needs of a more diverse adolescent community.(John Niska/Nancy Ruppert): Participants: Molly Mee, Townsend; Laurie Rameriz, App State; Chris W, PA, M. Alfred, Ohio, Lisa Harris, OH, Michelle Williams, Stephen Austin, Lisa Martin, U Texas Arlington (please check spellings and names and institutions) Suggestions:

- Assist State POMLE groups create or communicate strategies stage groups are using. Michelle Williams and Nancy Ruppert will work on this.
- Website –
 Refurbish the state affiliate contacts: Michelle Williams, TX; Melanie Greene, NC; Gary Senn, SC; Ashley Smith, TN; Molly Mee, MD; Nancy Mizelle, GA; Robin Devers, OH; Herb Steffy, PA; Penny Howell, KY; Jenny Jagla, IL; Gail Ingwolson, ND; Linda Schlosser, NY; Nicole Miller, MS; Jennifer Roberts, OR; Cheryl Ellerbrock, FL; Carole Smith, AR

Steps for starting a POMLE group:

1. Create a list of who middle grade people are in each institutions:
 2. Spread the list to the board members and have them help contact
- Recruitment of more diverse faculty
 1. Consider including doctoral graduate students
 2. Allow first year membership to be free
 - Advertise this meeting better
 1. More and better publicity: Include a flyer in the tote bags; Place the meeting on our website (it was on our website) (:Put signs up ; Have a telephone tree by state/region

4. Disseminate the critical importance of having a teaching workforce that is committed to and specifically trained to teach the young adolescent to school districts, state departments of education, federal government organizations and boards of education. (Betty Dore/Dan Bauer)

Our group's concerns did not "break down" well as that of a sub-group but rather united concern that should be

shared by EVERY PoMLE group in the room, and even more by all of AMLE. I know the Executive Director of AMLE, William Waidehich, has embarked on a big project to help make our "brand" more distinct and recognizable. His efforts coincide exactly with our sub-group. Discovering and furthering the benefits inherent in unique middle-level specialization stands at the heart of all our "work." In this regard, our group's concerns and needs only overlap and duplicate the most pressing concern of ALL of AMLE.

5. Political outreach: Actions NaPOMLE can take to ensure promotion and political outreach. (Nancy Mizelle)

Among the members of our Political Outreach group (Goal 5) there was good and not so good news about the success different members had had with advocacy for middle level certification in their individual states. Some states showed progress with middle level certification; others have had their certification weakened. Group members indicated that they would like to know the status of middle level teacher certification nationwide. Are we making progress or are we loosing ground?

Specific strategies that we discussed for Political Outreach included the following:

State-level

- Work closely with your state affiliate and your *Schools to Watch* (National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform) program if there is one in the state. Anytime there is an issue with certification or middle level education in general, you will have a strong network of middle level teachers you can ask to advocate with you. Politicians are impressed by the number of contacts they receive and they do pay attention to the personal stories of teachers.
- Involve your CMLA\teacher candidates in advocating for your programs and for middle level teacher preparation in general. Arrange to have them "go to the hill" when your state legislature is in session and also invite your local legislators to come to visit your program and meet your candidates. Teacher candidates are a powerful voice for middle level teacher preparation.

National-level

- Make plans to attend the AMLE Affiliate Conference\Schools to Watch Conference in June, 2013. At the conference there will be advocacy training and an opportunity to tryout your skills with a legislator from your district.
- Use your voice of advocacy to urge AMLE to include students in the Affiliate Conference. Then encourage your CMLA members\teacher candidates to attend the DC conference so that they have the opportunity to "visit the hill" in Washington, DC and have their voices heard. Again, our politicians will listen to teacher candidates.

A call for proposals for the next "Best Practice" session at the annual AMLE national conference next fall, 2013. Please start making your plans now to submit a proposal to things being done related to the goals and action statements listed above. Let's pool our efforts to show our peers how we are meeting the goals.

CALL FOR INFORMATION:

For the next newsletter, the state POMLE's will be featured with information as to what is

happening in each state. Directors are encouraged to contact state affiliate leaders and then submit a summary of activities.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES:

The next newsletter will have job opportunities for professors seeking middle level positions as instructors or middle level college administration. (Postings will be limited to middle level only and a contact person must appear in the notice)

ALL MEMBERS:

If you were unable to attend the business meeting and need to submit your dues for the year, the individual membership is \$25.00 and the institutional membership is \$75.00 for up to and including five members per institutional membership. Contact Greg Meeks at gmeeks@astate.edu for membership applications and invoices (Greg Meeks PO Box 940, State University AR 72467).

Submit an article to, [Current Issues in Middle Level Education](#). Articles in the journal regularly focus on best teaching practices in colleges and universities, school-university partnerships, and other topics of interest to faculty. (Information is available on website).

Note: Thank you to Ann Simonetti for her efforts in designing a new format for our newsletter.

