

MIDWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENGLISH

IN THE TWO YEAR COLLEGE

Report to NTCC

San Diego, March 29, 1993

The Midwest Regional Conference on Teaching English in the Two-Year College (MRC) held its annual planning meeting October 15 - 18, 1992, in Chicago at the Northshore Hilton. Attending were members of the Executive and Advisory Committees.

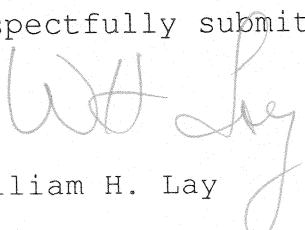
The Executive Council of the MRC consists of the following officers: Chair, Linda Houston; Secretary, Linda Peckham; Treasurer, Marlys Styne; Membership, Constance Reimer; Site Coordinator, Neville Britto; Information Coordinator, Carol Snyder; Newsletter Editor (Interim), Arthur Lindenberg; Four-Year Representative, Gail Hawisher; NTCC Representative, William Lay.

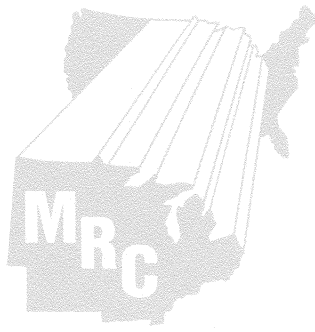
In addition to normal business, the two chief items of discussion were the proposal to re-structure the national two-year college organization and the changeover in the annual conference date. Beginning in 1993, the MRC will not hold a February conference; instead, we will meet October 7 - 10 in Madison, Wisconsin, at the Concourse Hotel. Marilyn Carien of Madison Area Technical College will coordinate Local Arrangements, while Keith Kroll of Kalamazoo Valley Community College will be Program Chair, with John Robertson of Iowa Central Community College the Assistant Chair. Keith has chosen the theme of "Confronting and Creating Change in the '90s," and Ira Schor will be the keynote speaker.

In other business, future conference sites were selected, to include Michigan in 1994, and St. Louis for 1995. MRC has a mailing list of over 800 names, with approximately 200 active members.

Linda Houston, EC Chair, requested Lay send a report to the membership on the February meeting with the College Section; a copy of that is attached. In the meantime, Helon Raines, NTCC Chair, requested a consensus of each regional's EC on the results of the February meeting. Within the Midwest, that was accomplished by telephone. Houston or Lay contacted each EC member, and the result was a unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,


William H. Lay



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News from National: A Valentine's Note

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee (EC), Linda Houston asked me to write a note informing MRC members about efforts to strengthen the national organization of two-year college English teachers. These efforts are ongoing, and my comments here are intended only to supplement information in *The Midwest Messenger* and *Teaching English in the Two-Year College*.

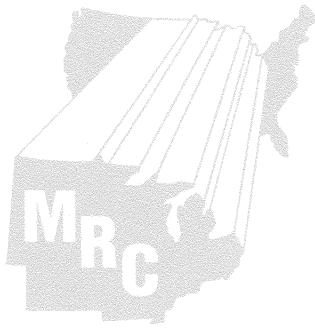
Background: MRC discussions with NCTE and CCCC leaders have been going on at least since 1985 regarding our status, our journal, our increasing numbers and professionalism. These discussions came to a head at the 1992 CCCC meeting in Cincinnati when the National Two-Year College Council (NTCC) took two steps: 1. We appointed a team to meet during the summer and draft a proposal to restructure the national two-year organization without weakening the regional organizations. 2. We directed colleagues to plan a series of proposals for panels and workshops at 4 C's in San Diego, 1993.

To accomplish the first charge, a select team met during the summer in Mississippi. Their report, "Proposal for New Two-Year College Organization," appeared in the October '92 issue of *TETYC*. Regional members were encouraged to respond in writing, and this response was mixed. The proposal was discussed by regional EC's, again to mixed reviews, then with 4 C's EC at Louisville. There was much general agreement and encouragement from 4-year people pointing out that all of us have several identities, and comparing us to civil rights movements.

The 4 C's discussion led to a meeting in February, 1993, with College Section (NCTE) leadership, resolving that these points be added to the restructuring plan:

1. On NCTE membership form, include a 2-year faculty category so we'll know how many of us there are.
2. Allow a choice of journals, *College English* or *TETYC*.
3. Elect 2-year representatives to the College Section, based on membership, giving increased national visibility.
4. Continue regional representation on CCCC EC.

Think about it, and send comments to me or Linda Houston. Our regional membership would have to vote to approve any changes from the current structure, as well as the EC's of CCCC and NCTE, plus NCTE headquarters. The ball is rolling.



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Included with this note is a flyer from the 4 C's Program Chair, Lilly Bridwell-Bowles, on two-year sessions. Note that the three linked sessions on professional issues and restructuring are on Friday: I1, "Telling Our Story," (Bill Lay, Chair); J1, "Two-Year College English," (Paul Bodmer, Chair); and K1, "The Professional Identity," (Chuck Annal, Chair). I know there are other sessions at these times; you will have to decide which to attend. At 6:30 on Friday, there will be a Special Interest Group meeting for two-year college people sponsored by NTCC. Please come and talk. Saturday, the next morning, we can wake up with the 4th Annual 2-Year College Breakfast sponsored by our friends, the publishers. Afterward, attend one of the workshops, either on multi-cultural curriculum or on classroom research.

Come to San Diego, if professional development funds at your college allow. If you cannot, ask for a report from your state Area Coordinator, or read the *Messenger*. Linda Houston, the EC, and I will also try to keep you informed.

P.S. Remember our regional meeting in the fall. Keith Kroll is planning an outstanding program, and Marilyn Carien of MATC assures us that Madison is a great place. Contact either of them for more information. Remember also to thank our previous EC chair, Toni Rowitz, who said, "Don't sit around whining about the weather; change the conference to the fall!" I have fond memories sitting around EC tables in the 80's at this time of year eating Valentine candy that Judy Hannekin or Ray Henry would bring our NTCC rep, Dale Gleason. The incongruity of it all reminded me of fatalistic Nordic warriors comparing their brief lives to a sparrow flitting past the icy shards at the windows. Or Paul Bodmer sitting with a book of poems before a fireplace in Bismarck, North Dakota, always the coldest place on the US weather map. See you in Madison!

WAL

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