

PERSONAL STATEMENTS REGARDING THE EMERGENCE OF TYCA

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The Mississippi Meeting: A Reminiscence
Mark Reynolds

I remember getting a phone call from Nell Ann Pickett in early May of 1992 telling me about the plans for a retreat at Hinds Community College to discuss the future of the two-year college group within NCTE and the possible restructuring of NCTE's National Two-Year College Council. Nell Ann asked me if I could attend the gathering since I was within driving distance. I agreed to because I was interested in helping to do anything I could to further the cause of two-year faculty within NCTE and because my wife's parents lived in near-by Jackson, Mississippi. I knew that I could stay with them and commute to the Hinds campus easily with minimal costs.

I already knew everyone attending the meeting except Lois Powers and the NCTE staff person, Carolyn Hill. I remember thinking how important it was that someone was there representing California's two year colleges, knowing that California had withdrawn from the National Two-Year College Council (NTCC) some years earlier and knowing also that with its many two-year colleges, it was vital to have that state participate in any national organization. I remember Lois helping at every stage to mold an organization that could work within the existing framework of California's two-year college organization, and I recall thinking more than once how essential it was to create a national group that included *all* two-year colleges. Throughout our discussions, we constantly asked Lois if what we were considering could work within the framework of the English Council of California Two-Year Colleges (ECCTYC). And I seem to recall that most everything seemed workable, or Lois said she could make it work.

I don't recall much about the Friday afternoon meeting, just that we got to know everyone, reviewed the history of two-year college involvement in NCTE, and agreed on a pre-planned agenda that Helon Raines presented.

On Saturday morning, we divided into small groups to work on different elements of a new national organization. I cannot be certain about the exact nature of the groups from my notes but it appears that we divided into three groups. Group I consisted of Katherine Staples, Bob Wylie, and Chuck Annal. It was to devise a mission statement for the new organization. Group II, consisting of Lois Powers, Nell Ann Pickett, Helon Raines, and Carolyn Hill, was to determine the make up of the officers and executive committee and job descriptions for them. My notes say that it would also discuss a dues structure for the organization. Group III, consisting of Anne Gere, Ben Wiley, and me, was to discuss a framework for meetings within the annual Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) annual meeting and the possibility of a national meeting of the new two-year college group we were creating. There was a strong consensus in the group that because two-year college faculty primarily taught composition we wanted to maintain affiliation with the national CCCC, both because of our mutual professional

interest in the teaching of writing and because CCCC was such a strong and powerful part of NCTE.

The other thing that stands out so vividly in my mind is the strong consensus of all present that we did not want to do anything that would in any way change or diminish the current regional groups that had been the strength and source of power of what little national organization there was currently with NTCC. What I remember most vividly is the effort to hammer out a name for the new group. Someone said that we needed a name to give us a manageable acronym, and we needed a name that would accurately reflect the group. It seems to me that we haggled for quite some time about a name, having much good fun as we brainstormed possibilities. As group members suggested names, we all agreed that we wanted "two-year college" and "English" both in the name. I recall that we came up with the acronym TYCA before we had the actual full name for the group, that someone (and I think it was Ben Wiley) first pronounced the acronym and said "tie-ka," and we all liked the sound of it. Then, someone, and I think it was Bob Wylie, repeated that we needed "English" in the title and we all agreed that English had to be in the name. It was then decided that we would call the group the Two-Year College English Association, but use the acronym TYCA to designate the national group; we could then designate each regional group by its regional name, TYCA Northeast, TYCA Midwest, etc., and California could be designated TYCA Pacific Coast and still use the name English Council of California Two-Year Colleges (ECCTYC) in California and we all liked that idea, especially because it would keep the geographic designation in each regional's name as was currently the case with the groups in the NTCC.

A few who were more familiar with NCTE structure, Helon Raines and Nell Ann Pickett for sure, weren't clear how our group would fit within the current NCTE organization. NCTE had sections and conferences and affiliates, but no associations. This problem seemed a minor one to us, and we all seemed to accept the fact or held the belief that two-year colleges and their potential membership numbers were important enough that NCTE would make it work. I am certain that all present at Hinds had a firm conviction that it would work, that we would stand firmly behind the new organizational effort and do all we could to see it become a success. (But little did any of us know or even suspect at the time what a battle it would eventually turn out to be to get formal recognition for the Two-Year College English Association within the existing NCTE structure. Most of us were outsiders to NCTE and had no knowledge of its politics. I, for one, had no idea until some years later that the different groups within the organization were territorial, were jealous if one group seemed to be getting more than another, etc.) I recall throughout the weekend so many of those present who had had long affiliations with the regionals reiterating the need to maintain strong regional groups. We recognized that any national organization of two-year faculty within NCTE would have to draw its strength from the regionals and the members of the regionals would not want to lose the camaraderie and close ties they felt within the smaller units. I recall, too, that we all affirmed a strong commitment to return to the regional groups with the assurance to them that they would not change and would keep their annual meetings and that they would serve as the foundation for the national group. Indeed, the National TYCA was designed to draw its strength from the regional groups; in fact, National TYCA could only result as

a bottom up movement from the smaller regionals to the larger umbrella of a national group.

The three groups at work on different components of the new national organization each accomplished its tasks on that Saturday. My group came up with the idea for a two-year college strand of programs to run throughout the 4 C's conference and for a stronger presence on Saturdays, the day for the annual Two-Year College Breakfast at 4 C's. We suggested a SIG (Special Interest Group) on the two-year college during the other regularly scheduled SIGs on Friday evening and special workshops on Saturdays for two-year college attendees, which we designated "practica." We suggested that at the upcoming 4 C's meeting (1993) in San Diego we have two workshops (practica) on Saturday afternoon, one on publishing and one on multicultural issues.

We broke for lunch and walked in the heat and humidity of late spring to the Hinds campus golf club for a meal. (I remember walking with Ben Wiley and encouraging him along the way to apply for the soon-to-be-vacant editorship of *TETYC*. We discussed the editorship, with Ben saying he did not think he could get institutional support for the position, and then suggesting that I apply for it. I likewise indicated that I didn't think I could not get the necessary support. I suppose, however, that the seed was planted in my brain that day that I should explore the possibility of applying for the editor's job, which I eventually did, and got, and held for seven years).

We got reports after lunch from each group, and as I recall, everyone was in agreement with what the groups had come up with. We tweaked the mission statement some, but I recall leaving for dinner at Nell Ann's Bear Creek farm that evening with a very good feeling that we had accomplished a great deal and that positive changes would take place nationally for two-year college English faculty.

We had a delightful evening at Nell Ann's farm, along with a number of English faculty and some administrators from Hinds Community College. It was quite relaxing after two rather intense days.

I did not join the group on Sunday morning. As I recall, there was no formal meeting, although I seem to remember vaguely something about a gathering of those at the motel before they left for the airport, but I do not know if that happened. What I do remember vividly is that it was an excellent group of hard working and dedicated professionals, that Helon Raines should be given a great deal of credit for making the meeting happen to begin with, and that Nell Ann Pickett did a super job of hosting and planning the event at Hinds, with all the warmth characteristic of Mississippi hospitality.

Lois Powers

From: Chuck Anna [cannal@nhctc.edu]
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2004 9:04 AM
To: lpowers@socal.rr.com
Subject: RE: Greetings from Sunny California

Lois,

Good to hear from you! Is that the one day of rain you get out there each year? We're all delighted here to find that the temperature may reach 40 today which means I may be able to run outdoors for the first time since last fall.

Unfortunately I don't have what I sent to you previously which, I believe, was an e-mail response. In fact, when I didn't get an acknowledgement back I sent out another e-mail asking if you had received what I sent. Neither bounced back as undeliverable, so I figured you were probably away.....and then after awhile I simply forgot about it. I recently changed positions--I'm now the Deputy Commissioner of the two-year college system in NH--and a lot of my sent e-mail got lost in the move.

As best as I can remember here's what I said. The key player in elevating the the profile of the two-year college group in NCTE/CCCC was Helon Raines who served as Chair of--what were we called before TYCA? I forget. She was the one responsible for setting up the Mississippi meeting on Nell Ann's campus. Miles Myers was initially opposed to funding any part of such a meeting and like the idea of the meeting even less, but Helon pursued and badgered the poor man until he finally gave in. I have this lasting image of Helon (in Louisville?) pursuing Myles down a hallway insisting that he had to fund the Mississippi meeting, that it we were at a crucial stage for two-year colleges, that he could be remembered for elevating the status of two-year college members. Myles looked worn--I suspect Helon had been at him for days and he had this glazed look in his eye that suggested he was a man about to be broken, as if he had been listening for three straight days to an insurance salesman explaining the benefits of a whole life policy. That summer we went to Mississippi on NCTE's nickel (or largely so).

At that point in time we were invitees to table of CCCC but really had no clout; we simply weren't established as an independent group, though I would say that most of the members of the CCCC Committee respected us. Nevertheless, I always felt that our inclusion was somewhat token. I think when I suggested that we consider a national conference for two-year college English teachers was the first time that CCCC/NCTE sensed that something might be happening regarding our identity and independence, and they weren't amused. I remember Andrea Lunsford being particularly angered, as if we were ungrateful children in suggesting such a thing. I recall having dinner with Jane Christiansen, who was basically second in command at NCTE, (and whom I still hear from) and having her gently (that was her style) suggesting that a national conference might not advance our agenda at that time, and that we needed to proceed slowly (never my style). It wouldn't surprise me to learn that Jane may have dropped a hint in Myles' ear that supporting the Ms. venture might be better than risking renegade English teachers starting their own national conference and, possibly, separate organization. When we met in Mississippi and crafted the by-laws for what became TYCA we took a giant step towards establishing an identity separate from the university people, the elementary school people and the secondary school people. This was the first draft of our Declaration of Independence (albeit still under NCTE rule). And, again, it was Helon who put those by-laws together from the disparate set of ideas that came out the Mississippi meeting. Ann Gere was the CCCC rep at the Mississippi meeting, and she was terrific, as were Cindy Selfe who succeeded David Bartholomae as Chair around this time. Another supporter from the CCCC group was a woman from Texas whose last name was Peterson and who eventually became Chair of CCCC--can't recall her first name. Paul Bodmer picked up as the next Chair of TYCA (or whatever we were called then) and continued the work of establishing the identity of two-year college people. Paul was an important person in ensuring that the work we started got carried forward. It was remarkable that Helon had such a major impact on the development of the two-year college organization when you consider the short amount of time she was associated with us--I believe she went on to a four-year college shortly after her term as chair ran out. Clearly she was the right person at the right time.

The other folks involved in shaping the organization at that time were Bill Lay, who represented the Midwest, Ben

3/11/2004

and Mark from the SE, Bob Wylie, a very taciturn Texan from the Southwest, John Hutchins (earlier) from the SE. I'm sure there were others whose names I've forgotten.

If anything else comes to mind, I'll contact you. Hope this helps.

Chuck

-----Original Message-----

From: Lois Powers [mailto:lpowers@socal.rr.com]

Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2004 7:06 PM

To: Chuck Annal

Subject: Greetings from Sunny California

Hi Chuck,

It was good seeing you in Colorado. I don't want to think of how long ago that was!

Stacia Callen tracked down your recent e-mail address for me after my "undelivered e-mails." Jody said she saw you at the TYCA-NE conference and that you said you had sent me some materials. I never received them--and I would really like them. Can you resend? Or, and I am afraid to ask, were they your only copies?

We really are missing the early information. Nell Ann's office building burned, and she lost everything she had; Mark had some files on the Mississippi meeting; Helon tossed hers when she retired; Kathryn, I understand is not teaching but doing something with antiques; Ben doesn't remember much; my files have disappeared and I don't know how; etc. But it's the years proceeding Mississippi that we don't have much information about. Did you send your archive material to NCTE or give it Paul? Or do you still have it? Or is that what you sent to me--and I didn't get?

As well as official materials, personal perspectives would be helpful--short statements, of course! Don't stop reading. I remember your telling me that when you suggested a conference for two-year teachers at the CCCC EC meeting it was as if you hadn't said anything. The second time you mentioned it your statement created at least a pause. What was the status of two-year teachers and colleges at that time in NCTE? Could you say something about that?

I really don't have a sense of the chronology before the Mississippi meeting. I offered to point a grad student who wants to do research on the professionalizing of English programs in the two-year college to some materials and people. Can you remember names of people you know who were active on the two-year committee earlier than my arrival? Sylvia, Audrey, and Ben Lay (?) are names I know though I never worked with them. Mark and I feel that we will soon be losing our history if we don't get some of it firsthand before we start losing people.

I would appreciate any info or suggestions you could give me.

I don't want you to feel too bad. It really isn't sunny in California. We are expecting rain today!

Regards, Lois

ECCTYC and TYCA
1991-1997

When I was President of the English Council of California Two-Year Colleges (ECCTYC), I received a call from Nell Ann Pickett in Mississippi explaining that the two-year college wanted to develop a stronger voice in NCTE than the present organization allowed (NTCC), and the planning group wanted ECCTYC to join in the discussion at Jacksonville, Mississippi. Helon Raines was chairing the committee that was funded by seed money from either NCTE or the CCCC. California was an active part of the Western Region at one time, but when ECCTYC was formed California teachers no longer participated in the conferences because ECCTYC had its own conferences. That left the Western Regional without much strength. I know that several overtures had been made to ECCTYC to become active in the Regional again, but the ECCTYC President at the time had strong resistance to anything related to NCTE.

ECCTYC was a strong state organization, originally composed of English chairs or deans. I was English chair Fullerton College, and my dean recommended me for the District VIII representative. ECCTYC was founded to improve articulation with state colleges and the UC system. The three higher education systems met at the same location and time and had liaisons among the groups. We also had a liaison from the State Chancellor's office. ECCTYC was a wonderful way to establish connections with other English chairs in postsecondary education and deal with state and local issues. ECCTYC members were called on to appoint teachers and chairs for state level committees, address articulation issues, and appear at state hearings. I later was elected president of the organization. It was through ECCTYC that I became aware of "education and politics." With the emergence of the statewide Academic Senate ECCTYC lost some of its influence, and, in the process, I became even more aware of politics and the struggle for power among all the various entities.

During the 80s, California community colleges teachers were not actively participating in national organizations as were their four-year and university counterparts. They may have been members of the CCCC, but distance and money prevented active participation. And I suppose a kind of provincialism also contributed to it. Many administrators and boards of trustees saw the role of community college teachers as teaching and serving the college community, not attending conferences around the country. Teachers usually preferred the ECCTYC conferences, and attended the national conferences only if they were on the west coast.

Knowing California's lack of national involvement, I was very apprehensive about leading an organization that was strong and influential in its own right to be a part of a national organization. However, I wanted to see a stronger voice for the two-year colleges and English teachers, and I wanted to encourage two-year college teachers to be a part of organizations that are in the forefront of our discipline and in organizations that encourage maintaining currency and collaboration to achieve goals. I also knew that two-year college teachers needed political clout to accomplish what they wanted and that political issues could not be ignored. I knew too that two-year teachers needed to be proactive, present themselves professionally, and understand the value of good publicity and strong leadership.

Yet bringing the state organization into NCTE was a major move and risky. I could not be sure that this was a good move for ECCTYC, nor that California wanted to be part of a national organization, nor that NCTE would allow ECCTYC, an autonomous organization, to retain its autonomy. I asked the ECCTYC Board for approval to attend the Mississippi Meeting to gain some understanding of what the ad hoc committee had in mind.

I did attend the work meeting in Mississippi. I was impressed with Helon Raines leadership and organization and Nell Ann Pickett's hospitality. I was also impressed with the two-year faculty who participated in the meeting as well as Ann Gere from the CCCC and the NCTE representative. The two-year faculty represented leaders in their Regionals, and they were willing to explore ways to create a national framework with ECCTYC included. However, the six Regionals had long histories of successful organizations and fine conferences; they also did not want to lose their autonomy. The Regionals had established a connection with the CCCC, and the NTCC officers were on the CCCC's Executive Committee, yet they had little identity as a group.

I found myself believing that a strong national organization was crucial for the two-year colleges and that ECCTYC members could benefit. I continued to work with the Mississippi Committee, not sure whether or not we would be successful, and at the same time keep ECCTYC informed about the prospects, persuaded that the future "TYCA" would be of benefit to California. ECCTYC officers Robert Dees and Lyn Bechtold, and board members John Lovas, and Lynn Fauth were very supportive and helpful in the process.

Finding a place in NCTE was not an easy task. The NCTE organizational chart looked like a labyrinth. Raines tried with little success to get a clear picture of the organizational structure and how we would fit into it. Would we be an affiliate? A conference? A section? A part of CCCC? A part of the college section? How would a national organization relate to the Regionals and how would the Regionals relate to the national organization? Where would we find financial support? Would we have a budget? Would we have a vote? What should we name ourselves? (That was the least of our problems, but it was something we could decide. We named ourselves the Two-Year College English Association—TYCA.)

However, technically we were still NTCC. My history with the NTCC began after the Mississippi meeting, but it included many of the people who were at the Mississippi meeting: Helon Raines, Mark Reynolds, Nell Ann Pickett, Ben Wiley, Bob Wyle, Chuck Annal, Kathryn Staples, and others—Paul Bodmer, Jay Wooten, Libby Bay. The future TYCA stood on the shoulders of those professionals who came before in the NTCC.

The process of becoming TYCA was arduous. The Executive Director of NCTE was difficult to work with. We would think we had an understanding of a possible direction, and then we would discover conditions had changed. As chair of the committee Helon got the brunt of the uncertainty and the numerous detours. CCCC officers at the time (Ann Ruggles Gere, Lillian Bridwell Bowles, and Jackie Jones Royster) and the College Section (Cindy Selfe) were very supportive of the two-year college in its pursuit of a more respected role in NCTE.

However, both the College Section and the CCCC were struggling with "headquarters" as well regarding several serious issues. K-12 dominated the organization because of numbers. Matters came to a head, and as a result, a new position, Associate Executive Director for Postsecondary, was appointed to represent issues relating to higher education. That proved to be to our benefit as well. Patti Stock was the first director, and she was masterful in finessing changes at NCTE and launching TYCA. Paul Bodmer took the lead on rewriting the bylaws to incorporate California, grandfathering in ECCTYC's differences in structure and operation. ECCTYC became known as TYCA Pacific Coast. All the Regionals voted to approve the bylaws with the new relationship to National TYCA and the inclusion of California. Lynn Quitman Troyka, with her history of working for and in the two-year college, was elected TYCA's first chair, giving TYCA the prestige it needed to begin its national endeavor. I was TYCA's first secretary and considered it a privilege to be working with the two-year college community on the national level and having ECCTYC play a role in National TYCA.



History of TYCA

In 1965, responding to the explosive growth of community colleges across the country, NCTE and CCCC unofficially supported the development of six regional two-year college English conferences. Each regional conference was self-governing and self-supporting. The purpose of each conference was to hold a regional convention and produce publications to provide professional development services for teaching the new students coming to these new institutions. To help coordinate the work of the regional associations, NCTE and CCCC supported the National Junior College Committee, a coordinating and communicating board composed of the six regional executive committee chairs and a regional executive committee representative to the NJCC. The six regional representatives were also seated as fully vested members of the CCCC Executive Committee.

As the names and missions of these new institutions changed from junior colleges to community colleges, the National Junior College Committee became the National Two-Year College Committee, and finally the National Two-Year College Council. From the 1960's to the early 1980's this group of loosely allied but independent regional conferences were never officially recognized by NCTE, but both NCTE and CCCC continued to support the regional associations through stationary printing, the NCTE co-sponsored speakers' bureau, through representation on the CCCC EC, and by providing space for programmatic and governance opportunities at NCTE and CCCC conventions. In the 1980's, NCTE withdrew the stationary printing and co-sponsored speakers' bureau opportunities. However, CCCC regularly provided monetary gifts as seed money for the regional associations to develop materials and publications to promote their regional conferences. By the late 1980's the regional conferences began to realize that they needed a stronger national structure than the current situation provided.

NCTE acquired *Teaching English in the Two-Year College*, the quarterly journal for teachers of English in the lower-division of undergraduate study, from East Carolina University. *TETYC* is a major discipline-specific learned journal focusing on teaching in the two-year college.

In 1990 the CCCC program chair, Donald McQuade, invited the National Two-Year College Council to celebrate twenty-five years of work and cooperation with CCCC. Recognizing that an evening social celebration would compete with the Special Interest Groups and with the lavish publishers' parties, as well as the already scheduled CCCC evening activities, the NTCC settled on a multiple-publisher sponsored breakfast. Informed by headquarters that this had never been done before and that publishers would never cooperate in a joint venture of this kind, the two-year college organizers asked the publishers anyway. The publishers agreed to cooperate in this one-time-only event, and the first national two-year college breakfast was held at the Palmer House in Chicago in March of 1990. One look across the room on Saturday at 7:00 a.m. at the CCCC convention convinced the attendees that this could not end—we had a national gathering. The TYCA breakfast is now an annual event.

Finding space, finding voice, finding validity has been central to the work of NCTE. The voice for two-year college English teachers was allowed to flourish through the second half of the last century, and the 1990's saw that voice evolve into a permanent place within NCTE. In the early 1990's, Nell Ann Pickett hosted a gathering of two-year college leaders at Hinds Community College in Raymond, Mississippi. From that a new identity began to emerge, called the Two-Year College English Association or TYCA. The six regional conferences were reorganized into seven regional Two-Year College English Regional Associations with national TYCA of NCTE as the umbrella organization for the seven regional TYCA associations. In 1996, then Associate

Executive Director Patricia Stock organized a summer retreat for the Two-Year College English Association to solidify and clarify how a permanent structure could exist within NCTE. The NCTE EC formally recognized TYCA as an entity within NCTE, the TYCA Chair was seated as an ex-officio member on the College Section Steering Committee, and the TYCA officers were seated on the CCCC EC as ex-officio members. The College Section, in its customary and usual sense of graciousness, offered its assistant chair position as a non-voting member of the NCTE EC to the TYCA chair, ensuring that TYCA would be represented in voice, if not in vote, on the NCTE EC.

In 2001, the NCTE EC cast an historic vote by asking its members to make a constitutional change to place the chair of TYCA as a fully-vested member on the NCTE EC. With the overwhelming approval of the membership in the spring of 2002, NCTE became the first major disciplinary society to deliberately ensure that the two-year college voice would be fully privileged on its central governance body.

Paul Bodmer

Lois Power

From: Tinberg@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, October 02, 2003 4:55 PM
To: lpowers@socal.rr.com
Subject: Re: The TYCA Archives Need You!

In a message dated 10/1/03 8:38:27 PM Pacific Daylight Time, lpowers@socal.rr.com writes:

Hi Howard,

I didn't get anything from you. You may have sent it, but it may have been eaten by a virus or swallowed up by crashed hard drive. I have had more than my share of computer problems in recent months. Anyway thanks for checking in.

Here's what I sent you over the summer, Lois. Let me know if you would like more.

Reflecting on the Role of TETYC

Howard Tinberg, TETYC Editor, 2001 to 2006

As I write this note, I firmly believe that two-year colleges have come into their own within the field of English studies. As evidence, I could point to the increasing numbers of two-year college faculty present on the programs of national conferences and to the vibrant health of TYCA's regional conferences. I might also highlight the work contained in each issue of TETYC, the public face of the two-year college teacher/scholar/researcher. As reader, as manuscript reviewer, and, now, as editor, I've noted, over the years, the increasing numbers of two-year college contributors to the journal. I've also observed a growing confidence among those contributors. While remaining focused on classroom application, authors are now likely to ground discussion of classroom practice in sound and current scholarship. Even more astonishing is the readiness with which many authors take up the role of classroom researcher. The classroom is seen as a rich site for knowledge-making. To that site, authors are bringing systematic and deliberate research methods.

I see the relationship between the journal and TYCA as symbiotic, with each providing sustenance for the other. It is no accident that so many of the journal's contributors are active members of the Regionals or National TYCA or both. Nor should it be surprising that the journal serves as an entry point for many two-year colleagues into TYCA itself.

Lois Powers

From: Bodmer, Paul [PBodmer@NCTE.ORG]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2004 7:14 AM
To: Lois Powers (E-mail)
Subject: FW: Question About Our History

Lois,

I sent this message to Jeff Andelora, who is doing a paper that needed some clarification. I don't know if he is doing a history or not, but he will be at CCCC, and he hopes to meet some of us. I have suggested TYCA Talks and the breakfast as places to see some of us who have helped with TYCA.

Paul

-----Original Message-----

From: Bodmer, Paul
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2004 2:11 PM
To: 'Dr. Mark Reynolds'; Jeffrey Andelora
Subject: RE: Question About Our History

Jeff,

Mark sent the following message on to me. I think I can provide some of the answers.

This part is probably more oral history than you want, but I discovered it over various meetings and social events I attended as a member of my regional and later as a member of the National Two-Year College Council. Some can also be gleaned from copies of the minutes of the various organizations. If you are writing a history of TYCA, then we may have some documents at headquarters that may be of interest to you. Mostly they are the minutes of the national group over a period of time.

Here is basically what I know. When the NCTE and CCCC agreed to sponsor the two-year college regionals back in the 1960's they never officially recognized the organization, although NCTE and CCCC provided financial support and in-kind support for the regional. The first oversight board that NCTE and CCCC sponsored was called the National Junior College Committee. That became the National Junior College Council, then the National Two-Year College Council. Initially there were six regionals, the Northeast, the Southeast, the Midwest, the Southwest, the Pacific Northwest and the West. California was in the West with Nevada, Arizona, and Utah. However, sometime in the 60's or 70's the state of California formed the English Council of California Two-Year Colleges (ECCTYC). California TYC English teachers were required to participate in the ECCTYC conferences, so the bulk of the members in the Western Conference on English in the Two-Year College dropped out, and because of the sparsity of population and distance between institutions, Utah, Arizona, Nevada (and I think Wyoming) really had no place to go. And for practical purposes, for at least one and a half decades there were only five functioning regionals, the Northeast Conference on English in the Two-Year College (NERC), The Southeastern Conference on English in the Two-Year College (SCETC), the Midwest Regional Conference on English in the Two-Year College (MRC), the Southwest Council on English in the Two-Year College (SWRC), and the Pacific Northwest Regional Conference on English in the Two-Year College (PNWRC). Note: The acronyms may be wrong!

When I joined the National Two-Year College Council in 1986, we were aware that we had disenfranchised members, but we had no solution for bringing that group in. When California separated, so to speak, it created a void. In the late 80's the NTCC received a communication from Helon Raines and Liz Nist, who were teaching in Wyoming, about the possibility of making a new regional, without California, and joining. We invited them to attend the NTCC meetings as guests, and eventually as members representing the "new" West Regional. Helon was subsequently elected chair of the NTCC, and under her leadership, helped us re-envision a two-year college English group that could be more active on the national level.

That became realized with the meeting sponsored by Nell Ann Pickett in Mississippi. I did not attend that meeting, but that is the meeting that conceptualized the Two-Year College English. I was, however, charged with writing the by-laws for the new national and regional organization, to be called the Two-Year College English Association, abbreviated TYCA. The regionals would become TYCA and the name of the regional, such as TYCA Northeast, abbreviated TYCA NE. In the two- or three year process of negotiating that had transpired in TYCA's new structure, we had agreed that somehow or other ECCTYC had to be included as a regional. If you look at the by-laws, notice that we worded the section on regional

structure to be inclusive of California by allowing states or regions of already functioning organizations to enter with their structure, only adhering to the national requirements for the connection to TYCA. With that we now had seven regionals.

As to the formal connection to NCTE, that is more problematic. We in the two-year college group had always assumed that we were legally connected to NCTE. After all, NCTE had financially and spatially supported us, and CCCC had been very generous with money as well as meeting space. In addition, CCCC had seated the national representative from all six (for practical purposes five for most of that time) regional conferences on the CCCC Executive Committee as fully vested members. That means that between 1/4 and 1/5 of the CCCC EC members represented two-year colleges. So, we assumed that we were a legal entity of NCTE. I was the chair of the National Two-Year College Council at the time it was becoming the National Two-Year College English Association. And I was continually told that I had no legal grounds on which to ask for any support. When I checked at headquarters to try to find the enabling legislation, there was none. I was told by one of the staff, after she conferred with another staffer, that we (the two-year college group) had deliberately not been made legal so that there would be no legal responsibility for us as we evolved. A cynic would suggest that NCTE and its family of organizations was very willing to nurture us, but they did not want to claim responsibility in case this brand new type of institution was found lacking--kind of a foster child with no hope for adoption. But that is a cynical view. If you quote me on that part, make sure to keep it in context.

I want to be perfectly clear when I say that NCTE was the ONLY professional disciplinary association to recognize and support the two-year college teacher, in this case English faculty, for the last half of the last century. Mathematics followed and Chemistry after that, but NCTE really has been the forerunner. And, in 2001, NCTE formally seated the chair of TYCA on the NCTE Executive Committee, thereby deliberately ensuring that the two-year college English teacher voice would be always present on the central governing body of NCTE.

Now back to the story. When I discovered that the two-year group had no legal connection to NCTE, I knew that we had an action plan. I also knew that the membership that would determine our existence was strong and positive. So, with the new by-laws in hand and with continual negotiation with the College Section, CCCC, and the National Two-Year College Council, we arrived, over a period of several years, with a three-year trial period approval. The approval came in 1996, and the formal reception occurred in Phoenix in 1997. When the three years were up, we received permanent status within NCTE. It was during that time that Patricia Lambert Stock served as the AED at headquarters. She was instrumental in securing the support of the NCTE EC to ensure that TYCA would be accepted, first on a trial basis and later as a permanent entity within NCTE.

Now, I have given much more answer than you may have wanted, and I have not researched the records to give you accurate dates. But let me know if I can be of further assistance.

If you are doing a history, and you want to contact people for interviews, many of the people involved will be at CCCC in San Antonio. That may not be the best place to interview, but you could meet them. TYCA Talks on Friday night and the TYCA breakfast Saturday morning will be the big gathering places.

Paul

Paul Bodmer
Associate Executive Director for Higher Education
National Council of Teachers of English
1111 W. Kenyon Road
Urbana, IL 61801
800-369-6283, ext 3615
217-278-3615 (direct)
mailto:pbodmer@ncte.org

----- Original Message -----

From: "Jeffrey Andelora" <jandelora@mail.mc.maricopa.edu>
To: "Dr. Mark Reynolds" <mark.reynolds@jdcc.edu>
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2004 12:40 PM
Subject: Re: Question About Our History

> Thanks, Mark.

>
> Perhaps you could help clarify one point for me. In your email you
> wrote that National TYCA was created in 1994. In her editorial in the
> Silver Anniversary TETYC, Nell Ann Pickett wrote that National and

- > Regional TYCA(s) were formally recognized at CCCC in Phoenix in March
- > 1997. Why did it take that long for TYCA to be recognized? Also,
- > were the original regional organizations called TYCA, like
- > TYCA-Northwest and TYCA-Southeast? Am I correct that six were formed
- > in the sixties and that the seventh was formed later, which added
- > California to the mix?
- >
- > Thanks again. You've been so helpful, and I promise not to bother you
- > for a while!
- >
- > Jeff
- >

Frank Madden

2/04/05

E-mail to Lois Powers & Jeff Adelson for doctoral dissertation

My path to TYCA was not the usual path for a two-year college faculty member

My involvement in the late 1970's and 80's was with the MLA, the CCCC, and the NCTE. I made presentations at a number of MLA, CCCC, and NCTE conferences and was heavily involved with Computers and Writing. In the late 80's I was chair of the NCTE Assembly on Computers. In most cases my connections and presentations and publications were with 4 year college and university faculty members in those organizations and on the Executive Committee of the SUNY Council on Writing (composed of faculty from both two year and four year colleges in the SUNY system).

In 1991, I was elected to and chaired the NCTE College Section Nominating Committee. In 1993 I was nominated to run for the NCTE College Section Steering Committee. At that time there was no guaranteed slot for a two-year college person, and I ran against someone from a four year college and was elected.

At this time (what I came to understand subsequently), there were meetings and negotiations going on between representatives of the NTCC and the NCTE and its Executive Director, Miles Myers about the place of two year college faculty in the organization. Having arrived on the scene through a more traditional route (Lynn Troyka is another example of this)—and seeing myself as a college teacher whose work and contacts crossed the usual academic borders, but who happened to teach at a two-year college rather than being an exclusively “two year college teacher,” I wasn't even familiar with the NTCC (my loss, by the way).

Among the points negotiated by the NTCC and NCTE was that in the future there would be guaranteed slots for two-year college representation on the College Section Steering Committee—and that a new position of Asst Chair be created for a two year college faculty member. That Asst Chair would become a non-voting member of the NCTE Executive Committee. Additionally, the position of chair would rotate every two years between two and four year members of the College Section Steering Committee. With these provisions in place, negotiations would continue about the creation of a new NCTE entity called TYCA (reconstituted from the NTCC). The first mandated election of two-year college folks to the CS Steering Committee was yet to come, but—alas—someone noticed that there was already a two year college person on the committee (me), and so freshly elected I had not attended a CS Steering Committee meeting, I was appointed Asst Chair of the Committee and sent to an NCTE Executive Committee meeting in January of 1994.

Ironically, the person (me) thrust into this position as a result of the NCTE/NTCC negotiations was barely familiar with the NTCC. My education about NTCC now began—along with a long and fruitful struggle to help in the creation and the recognition of TYCA.

I believe the term “Association” was attached to TYCA because it served us well as an acronym—and because we couldn't qualify as a conference or a section—the reason we were attached to the College Section as the sponsoring entity (but others may know more about this).

One of the first problems TYCA had was getting its constitution approved. The reconstituted NTCC document had unacceptable sections in it (these I can't recall right now—but Paul Bodmer would know better). And I remember an emergency meeting with College Section chair, Jim Hill and Paul and I in a bar at an NCTE Convention in San Diego or Orlando. Paul was upset about

TYCA not having a vote on the NCTE Executive Committee. Only sections and conferences were allowed to have votes, and there was no provision for TYCA's voice to be officially heard. Jim and I urged Paul to accept the proposed changes to the TYCA Constitution. We believed it was more important to bring TYCA to the table in some form first—and then get the necessary changes. This proved to be a good strategy.

After I became College Section Chair, we proposed that the College Section give TYCA the non-voting slot on the NCTE Executive Committee we had for an Asst Chair. This would not only give TYCA a voice in College Section, but would bring TYCA to the “big” table. In fact, if a two-year college person was College Section Chair (as I was at the time) it would put 2 two-year college people on the NCTE Executive Committee. After some negotiation, our proposal was approved. Lynn Troyka and/or John Lovas were the TYCA Chairs at the time, and I believe Ben Wiley was the first TYCA person on the NCTE Exec Committee. At this same time, we were forming the NCTE College Forum—and we made sure that TYCA was one of the four entities that made up the College Forum—along with College Section, CCCC, and the Conference on English Education.

As you know, subsequently we petitioned successfully that the NCTE Constitution be changed to allow TYCA to have a vote. Paul Bodmer and Georgia Newman worked long and hard to make this happen. As TYCA Chair I was pleased and honored to cast the first TYCA vote on the NCTE Executive Committee in Fall 2002.

From: owner-tyca-regionals@ncte.org on behalf of Georgia A. Newman
[ganeuman@alltel.net]
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2001 4:39 PM
To: TYCA Regionals; Nat'l-TYCA
Subject: [tyca-regionals] THE VOTE!
THE FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

On Saturday, September 22, 2001, two-year college history was made. The largest academic discipline society in the world, the National Council of Teachers of English, voted to begin officially the process of seating a two-year college English faculty member on its central policy and governance body as a *permanent voting member* of that body.

The constitutional motion will be presented to the membership of NCTE during its annual election process in the spring of 2002. If the vote before the membership is successful, then the TYCA chair will be seated on the Executive Committee of the National Council of Teachers of English as a permanent voting member beginning with the September 2002 meeting of that body.

THE PERSONAL ANNOUNCEMENT


On Saturday, September 22, 2001, at approximately 3:30 p.m., many members of the Executive Committee of NCTE sat stunned as Paul Bodmer wept openly and expressed his appreciation to the group for affirming TYCA in a way heretofore unprecedented (and, many thought, unimaginable at this point in time).

For those of you whose history with National TYCA is recent or perhaps still a bit distant, I hope you will have (indeed, will demand) the opportunity to hear "the rest of the story." Paul Bodmer, now Associate Executive Director of Higher Education at NCTE Headquarters, was Chair of TYCA-MW at a time when the seven Regionals scarcely knew of one another's existence and when many in our profession little knew (or, in some cases, considered unthinkable) significant professional contributions by two-year college faculty.

Enduring unbelievable adversity in his own efforts to advance the two-year college cause, Paul was instrumental in writing the original National TYCA constitution; he served as the transitional National TYCA Chair until National TYCA was officially ratified by the Regionals and Lynn Troyka--our first nationally elected Chair--could add her extraordinary talent and influence to our effort. Happy tears indeed!

Those who "knew and believed" in those early days were a dedicated few. But each played a significant role in shepherding a process of bringing national attention to a major grassroots movement and to giving it national voice. I will surely omit names of important (maybe even major) players when I attempt to list key players, but I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge Nell Ann Pickett, who (like Lysistrata?) thought the impossible possible and called a meeting at her farm home in Mississippi to ask, "What can we do?"

Joined over the next six years by 4-year/university folk of extraordinary vision, leadership, and good will, a host of two-year college folk took key positions and advanced the cause. Among those (both 4-year and 2-year leaders) whose very early contributions deserve acknowledgement are Jane Peterson, Jane Christianson, Helon Raines, Chuck Annal, Mark Reynolds, Katherine



Staples, Ben Wiley, Lois Powers, Audrey Roth, Anne Gere, Lynn Troyka, Linda Houston, Frank Madden, Gail Hawisher, Patti Stock. (Oh dear, I just know that I have omitted some really obvious names! Please add them here.....). The work--and, I might add, even sacrifices--of these individuals cannot be overstated.

Among others whose significant work--both on the scene and behind the scenes--continued to advance the cause in major ways are John Lovas (Nat'l TYCA & CCCC Chair), Kathi Yancey (Chair, College Section), Erika Lindemann (parliamentarian of NCTE & CCCC), Howard Tinberg (NCTE author; now editor of TETYC); Wendy Bishop (2001 Chair of CCCC), Jan Swenson (Chair, CEE), Kent Williamson (NCTE Executive Director), and Jay Wootten (immediate Past Chair of Nat'l TYCA). In naming these folk, I can say only that they collectively represent the efforts of literally hundreds of others at local, regional, and national levels who have joined in the movement. And, yes, YOUR name should properly be entered here.

I find now that even my Southern storytelling tradition is insufficient to give you the full picture at this point. I can only utter with pride the statement that at a time, in a place when and where diverse positions abound; at a time when even "I the Perennial Optimist" thought my motion this past weekend would invite discussion and preparation for a vote in November, the vote on the NCTE Executive Committee was IMMEDIATE and UNANIMOUS! And, folk, this is just the beginning.

With oh so much pride,
Georgia

