

# NMLSTA Annual President's Report - 2020-2021

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## Activities of the Board of Directors:

- Elections - eligible candidates, recruiting, nominating, posting, managing elections
- Awards
  - Classroom Teacher - Spring of 2020 did not occur because of the pandemic.
  - Classroom Teacher - Fall of 2021 three were awarded.
  - Classroom Teacher - Ready to launch spring of 2021 on April 19.
  - Application revised.
  - Evaluation rubric developed.
  - Pecha Kucha presentations on the process at Fall and Spring NSTA Engage events
  - Hurd Award
    - Still funded by Foss
    - Shannon Hudson is this year's winner.
  - Opportunity Drawings for Thanksgiving and Valentine's Day
    - Incentive: five \$20-Amazon gift cards
    - November participation - 30 teachers from 15 states
    - February participation - 36 teachers, 23 states
    - Little overlap between participants in November and February
    - Posted to the website as word art
    - August back-to-school incentive scheduled
- Social Media - Facebook relaunch
- Webpage redesign is still in progress.
- Technology & Communications Committee - Update to the bylaws is in progress.
- NSTA Engage virtual conference participation
  - Fall 2020 - Pecha Kucha-style presentations
  - Spring 2021 - Presentation, Pecha Kucha-style presentations
- Meet-Me-in-the-Middle-All-Year Webinar Series - twice monthly during the summer (n = 4) and once to twice monthly during the academic year; recordings retained in the Members Only section of the webpage for three months
  - Safety
  - NOS
  - Successes of distance learning
  - Destination Mars - NASA Ambassador
  - Algae Foundation's Algae Academy
  - Shape of Life
  - *FIRST*
  - Texas Instruments
  - CIRES
- Idea-of-the-Month full launch has been accomplished with a collection of Ideas for

the next couple of months.

- Newsletter is maintained and sent as needed especially for awards, webinars, and elections.
- Membership gains
  - NSTA joint membership is hugely helpful.
  - Member communication and retention is a problem because:
    - Some new members' school firewalls block communication.
    - Addresses are not available for new members.
- Active participation with NSTA Middle Level Committee by the Liaison and President have resulted in:
  - Interaction with respect to MMITM-All-Year Webinars - their idea, our implementation
  - Their members presented in webinar series
  - Joint report discussion group of *Teaching K-12 Science and Engineering during a Crisis*
  - Awarded Lifetime Membership to Ken Huff for his service to both NMLSTA and NSTA MiddleLevel Committee

### **BOD members reached out to promote the message of NMLSTA and middle school science education by:**

- Sharing event notifications via email and social media (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram)
- Presenting at local, state, and national levels (Infiniscope, Make a Difference Day, Sci is Cool, Wisconsin SeaGrant, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, NASA Solar System Ambassador, NEED)
- Participating in meetings of local, state, national science outreach groups
- Obtaining presenters for webinars
- Renewing our social media presence
- Contributing an Idea-of-the-Month
- Running professional development activities - Connecticut district development, summer institute, and atCornell
- Participating in other science organizations' boards, websites

### **BOD members who have leadership roles in other organizations serve with:**

- National Science Teaching Association
- Northern Illinois Science Educators
- New Jersey Science Teachers Association
- New Jersey Association for Middle Level Education
- North Carolina Science Leadership Association
- Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers
- *Science Scope* contributor
- *Science Scope* reviewer
- eCybermission reviewer
- Teacher mentor, Next Generation Science Teacher Program
- Teacher mentor, Supporting Teachers Entering the Profession
- National Science Education Leadership Association
- Pacific Northwest National Association of Geoscience Teachers

- Teacher Advisory Board for NEED
- NSTA Safety Advisory Board
- NSTA Middle Level Committee
- NASA Solar System Ambassador
- Connecticut Science Supervisors' Association
- Science Education Specialist for Capitol Region Education Council

### **My thoughts as I look ahead:**

- Constitution and some portions of the bylaws need to be evaluated and updated. (The bylaws were updated in 2017, but it's been much longer since the Constitution was addressed.)
- Website upgrades are scheduled and will be accomplished.
- Webinar series should be continued.
- Advertising and recruiting suggestions above are terrific. I suggest we establish an ad hoc committee to do this work.
- It would be very helpful to acquire addresses for all members and reach them with a postcard campaign to circumvent school district web firewalls.
- Upgrades to the Technology and Communications Committee are in the works.
- Opportunity drawings should continue.
- Continue to delegate responsibilities to board members and, hopefully, members to increase investment and engagement.
- Resume posting minutes to the website