



National Middle Level Science Teachers Association

President's Annual Report 2022-2023

Presented at the NSTA National Conference, Atlanta, March 2023

Board of Director Membership

The current Executive Board consists of:

President: Alison Seymour

Past President: Edralin Pagarigan

President Elect: Lori Chen

Secretary: Liz Martinez

Treasurer: Jodie Harnden

The Board of Directors membership (in alphabetical order): Kathy Biernat, Suzanne Cunningham, Covey Denton, Peter Kelly, Mary Lou Lipscomb, Corinne Nelson, Anne Schoeffler, Kristin Slota, Corydon Strawser, and Elizabeth Weismann. Bailey O'Rielly served until resigning in January 2023.

Overview

NMLSTA has had a successful year in providing support to middle level science teachers across the United States. The following report highlights the accomplishments of the organization and activities of the Board of Directors. As NMLSTA prepares for the future, significant work has been done this year with updating the Constitution and Bylaws, our image as portrayed on our website and social media, and the number and quality of programs provided to middle level teachers including webinars, conference participation and 'Ideas of the Month.' As an organization run by volunteers, the countless hours of time and talent is extraordinary and merits accolades. We look forward to the 2023-2024 year with the completion of the 2023 election and new Board members joining.

Association of Affiliates (AoA) Liaison

Liz Martinez serves as the NMLSTA AoA Representative where she attended the Virtual Congress, along with Alison Seymour, represented NMLSTA at Virtual AoA meetings, and reviewed the NSTA Board on Basecamp to obtain pertinent information to share with the NMLSTA Board of Directors.

Awards Committee

This committee has been chaired first by Bailey O'Rielly and then Alison Seymour this year. The committee members are Lori Chen, Covey Denton, Cori Nelson, Liz Martinez, Kathy Biernat and Kristin Slota. In March 2023, Anne Schoeffler was appointed the new Awards Committee Chair.

This committee continues the two awards traditionally provided by NMLSTA, the Classroom Teacher Award and the Hurd Award. There was both a Spring 2022 and Fall 2022 Classroom Teacher Awards. Five (5) awards were made through the Fall 2022 competition. There was a distribution across the states for award winners. Spring 2023 Classroom Teacher awards are underway with a due date of May 1, 2023. Mr. David Curry from Newtown, PA., is the 2023 Hurd Award Winner. The Hurd award continues to be generously sponsored by FOSS/School Speciality.

The Award Committee also ran one opportunity drawing in November with the theme, 'We are thankful we teach middle level science because...' Twenty-eight (28) teachers responded, and five (5) \$20 Amazon gift cards were given by random selection.

Conference & Workshops Committee

Mary Lou Lipscomb continues to serve as the Program Coordinator and is the driving force in organizing workshops. Anne Schoeffler collaborates with Mary Lou for the Meet Me In the Middle Webinars. This academic year, we have hosted six (6) webinars, with an additional two (2) planned.

NSTA national conferences continue to be NMLSTA's biggest in-person event. Since the conference in Houston, TX in March 2022, NMLSTA has hosted major events at the Chicago, IL. conference in June 2022 and in Atlanta, GA, in March 2023. Mary Lou serves as the liaison between NMLSTA and NSTA for scheduling presentations at conferences, organizing the Meet Me in the Middle Share-a-thon including soliciting participants, instructing on how to participate, maintaining contact and participation of potential presenters. For the NSTA Atlanta 2023 conference there are twenty-two (22) presenters, significantly more than in the NSTA Chicago 2022 conference. For both Chicago and Atlanta, MySciLife/Source for Learning, Inc. has sponsored our first two Meet & Greet events to facilitate middle level teacher networking. These events consisted of a one-hour Happy Hour with beverages and canapes.

Advertising NMLSTA events at the NSTA conferences is vital and has been accomplished by Mary Lou Lipscomb. This includes the website, NSTA Middle Level listserv, postcards, posters, banners and other advertising materials. Webinars are also advertised and organized by this committee.

Membership Committee

This committee is chaired by Elizabeth Weismann. For most of this year, Kathy Brooks has served as a committee member. The membership list was updated by archiving lapsed members. This action will likely result in a cost reduction for the website in the next billing cycle. Current membership is approximately 280 members.

Middle Level Teaching Committee Liaison

This year, the NMLSTA liaison began with Kathy Brooks, who moved on to become the NSTA Director of this committee. Liz Martinez was appointed to this position. In this role, she submitted NMLSTA status and update reports to the committee director prior to the meetings, attended the meetings, and provided an update to the NMLSTA Board of Directors.

Scope Advisory Board Liaison

Corydon Strawser serves as the liaison for Science Scope Magazine providing updates when available.

Treasury Committee

Jodie Harnden continues to serve as Treasurer of NMLSTA and provides monthly and annual reports regarding our expenditure and budget, as well as maintaining payments and communication to government agencies. As President-elect, Lori Chen has assisted with the committee.

Technology & Communication Committee

Lori Chen has led the technology and communication effort this year. Members include Peter Kelly, Mary Lou Lipscomb and Alison Seymour. There was a major redesign of the NMLSTA website and external social media communications. This year, the home page was updated, and a resource page added to the Members Only section. The redesign is ongoing and will continue in the 2023-2024 year. This year also included announcements sent out via Twitter and Facebook.

Within communication, Mary Lou Lipscomb has the responsibility of posting a variety of information on the website and in emails sent to membership and through the NSTA Middle Level listerv. Emails to membership include the NMLSTA newsletter sent out weekly throughout most of the

year. For conferences, communication includes emailing and designing webpage links regarding presentations along with a QR code for easy access. These include NMLSTA presentations and sessions presented by NMLSTA members.

Ad hoc Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Anne Schoeffler has chaired this committee tasked with completing a comprehensive and detailed review of the NMLSTA Constitution and Bylaws. The committee members include Suzanne Cunningham, Mary Lou Lipscomb, and Kirstin Slota. To date, the Constitution revision is complete and waiting for membership confirmation in the Spring. The Bylaws are in process of review, including updating and alignment with the revised Constitution. The proposed revisions have been reviewed during the monthly Board of Directors meeting to include comments and insights from the Board as a whole. The Bylaw review is anticipated to be completed in 2023.

NSTA Middle Level Science Teaching

We thank Kathy Brooks, the NSTA Middle Level Science Teaching Director for her continued participation on the NMLSTA Board of Directors. In this position, she continues to spread the word about NMLSTA when presenting at state and national conferences and when working with teachers within her home state. We look forward to continued collaboration with NSTA's Middle Level Science Teaching Committee in the upcoming years.

Recommendations for Next Year

The Board of Directors were polled for their recommendations regarding future needs and directions for NMLSTA. There is a consensus view that NMLSTA needs to more clearly and broadly articulate and advertise the benefits of membership and to seek to grow membership. Suggestions for how this can be accomplished include increased use of social media such as a feature focusing on members' accomplishments, working with key leaders of state-level science education organizations, a published planning calendar, a Christmas opportunity card activity, and promoting the benefits to members of donating to a 501c(3) non-profit in terms of supporting science education, as well as personally for tax purposes.

The second area of focus is working and communication with NSTA. As an affiliate of NSTA, NMLSTA seeks to foster closer, more effective, and efficient collaboration.

It has been my honor to serve on the Board of Directors this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Seymour, EdD

President, 2022-2023

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NSTA National Conference 2023, Atlanta