

NARST Newsletter

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN SCIENCE TEACHING

September 1984

President's Message

Welcome to a new academic year and hopefully a gold medal year for NARST. Even though the work load has been exasperating at times, it has been my pleasure to serve NARST during my first year in office and I express my sincere thanks for your individual and collective support, and urge your personal participation in the activities of your association in the coming year. I had a very enjoyable and enlightening experience with the summer board meeting of NSTA. Upon returning to my office I was further reinforced by the overwhelmingly positive evaluations received by Burt Voss from the membership evaluations of the New Orleans meeting. Two suggestions from the evaluations deserve consideration and deliberation by the membership:

1. shorten the meeting to two full days and
2. have an opening general session the evening preceding the first day.

If you support or feel otherwise about these recommendations, please let me hear from you or, send your recommendations to Dave Butts as president-elect and program chairperson.

For members not present in New Orleans I state three major goals for the coming year:

1. clarification of operational proceedings and policies
2. the development of a calendar or agenda for operations
3. the enhancement of involvement of NARST with the greater science education community.

Ann Howe as chairperson of the policy advisory committee is already hard at work in clarifying policies and procedures which may require changes in by-laws. On Item 3 I have established two ad hoc committees — an interorganizational liaison committee and a membership/services committee to

study and make recommendations to the policy advisory committee on ways of improving the interaction of NARST with other organizations and the development of program proposals to permit and encourage NARST members to participate more broadly in the dissemination of the findings of research in such ways as to improve science teaching. After my meeting with the NSTA board I am more firmly convinced that our number one problem in fulfilling the purposes of NARST is the *lack of communication*. My major efforts during the coming year will be devoted to overcoming that single problem. If you are interested and willing to help, please let me hear from you.



Ertle Thompson

Recent Developments

Journal Editor. Manuscripts for consideration in the *Journal of Research in Science Teaching* (JRST) should be sent to Dr. Russell Yeany, Science Education Department, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602. Dr. Jim Shymansky of the University of Iowa is now completing his work with the journal. The officers and members of NARST stand appreciative of Jim's truly outstanding contribution to the Association. He has done more for NARST during the past five years than any other person. Indeed, Jim is the main reason why our journal is of exceptional quality.

1986 Annual Meeting. NARST will meet March 28 (evening) to March 31 (morning) in San Francisco — just after NSTA with some overlap and just before AERA. People attending NARST's meetings will pay 46% off of rack rates at the new Meridien hotel located between Union Square and (near) the Moscone Convention Center (home of NSTA's meeting and exhibit

facilities). This 35 story, luxurious hotel was highlighted in *TIME* (July 16, 1984) which described in detail the guest rooms recently occupied by French President Mitterrand and U.S. Presidential-candidate Mondale. (Hotel rates for NARST would have been \$65 for singles and \$75 for doubles, should we have met there in 1984.)

More Members in '84. Our recent membership drive and the cooperative efforts donated by NSTA have resulted in the first annual increase in the membership for some time. Thank you for your support.

Surcharge to Foreign Members. NARST will *not* request its non-North American members to pay the usual surcharge (\$29) during 1985. International researchers in our association are clearly valued by Wiley publishing and your elected board members.

Joint Reading Conference. Representatives from AERA, NARST and IRA (International Reading Association) had a successful symposium and planning meeting in New Orleans. IRA is considering sponsoring a joint research-classroom project with the assistance of NARST, according to IRA's president. NARST is awaiting a description of the project's details for our review.

Executive Secretary. The University of Calgary has agreed to provide Bill Holliday with one-third released time and a half-time secretary through 1990 to continue his work with NARST. The University of Calgary appreciates the recognition it receives from its association with NARST.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN SCIENCE TEACHING

Officers and Committee Members for 1984-1985

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

William G. Holliday
NARST-EDCI
The University of Calgary
Calgary, Alberta
Canada T2N 1N4

PRESIDENT

Ertle Thompson
Ruffner Hall
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA 22903

PRESIDENT-ELECT

David P. Butts
Science Education Department
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602

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Dept. of Mathematics & Science Education
North Carolina State University
Raleigh, NC 27650

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Faculty of Education
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0W0

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Science & Mathematics Education
The Ohio State University
Columbus, OH 43210-1172

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School of Education
Rollins College
Winter Park, FL 32789

Marcia C. Linn (1986)
Lawrence Hall of Science
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720

Alice J. Moses (1985)
National Science Teachers Association
1742 Connecticut Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

Michael J. Padilla (1987)
Science Education Department
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602

Russell H. Yeany (1985)
Science Education Department
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602

EDITOR, JOURNAL OF RESEARCH IN SCIENCE TEACHING

James A. Shymansky (1984)
Science Education-Physics Bldg.
University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA 52242

RESEARCH COORDINATOR

Rodney L. Doran (1986)
553 Blady Hall
SUNY at Buffalo
Amherst, NY 14260

Program Committee

David Butts (1985), Chairperson

Eugene Gennaro (1985)
370 Peik Hall
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN 55455

John J. Koran, Jr. (1985)
College of Education
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611

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Rm. 323 Phys. Sc. Bldg.
University of Oklahoma
Norman, OK 73019

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Education
Vanderbilt University
Nashville, TN 37203

Sarah L. Ulerich (1985)
Department of Geology
University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403

Emmett L. Wright (1986)
Science Teaching Center
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742

Rodney L. Doran (1986)

William G. Holliday

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Rodney L. Doran, Chairperson

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Roger T. Johnson (1986)
Education
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Joseph D. Novak (1987)
103 Stone Hall
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853

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Reading-Learning Centre
Drake University
Des Moines, IA 50311

Robert James (1985)
Education
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77840

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Science Education
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306

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Education
University of Oklahoma
Norman, OK 73069

William G. Holliday

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Michael J. Padilla (1985), Chairperson

Charles W. Anderson (1985)
Education
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48931

J. Hugh Baird (1986)
Box 72 McKay
Brigham Young University
Provo, UT 84602

John W. Butzow (1986)
Education
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Indiana, PA 15701

Eugene L. Chiappetta (1987)
Education
University of Houston
Houston, TX 77004

Claudia B. Douglass (1987)
Biology
Central Michigan University
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859

James D. Ellis (1986)
Bio Sciences Curriculum Study
Colorado College
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Willis J. Horak (1987)
University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ 85721

Thomas R. Koballa, Jr. (1985)
Science Education Center
University of Texas at Austin
Austin, TX 78712

Joy S. Lindbeck (1987)
University of Akron
Akron, OH 44304

Earl J. Montague (1985)
Science Education Center
University of Texas at Austin
Austin, TX 78712

Larry E. Schafer (1986)
Education
Syracuse University
Syracuse, NY 13210

Barbara M. Strawitz (1986)
Curriculum and Instruction
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

John R. Staver (1986)
Education
University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago, IL 60655

NARST Award

Linda DeTure (1985), Chairperson

Dale R. Baker (1986)
133 MBH
University of Utah
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

Joel E. Bass (1986)
Sam Houston State University
Huntsville, TX 77340

Patricia E. Blosser (1987)

Linda W. Crow (1986)
Houston Community College System
Houston, TX 77007

Howard L. Jones (1985)
Education
University of Houston
Houston, TX 77004

William B. McIlwaine (1987)
Millersville State College
Millersville, PA 17551

Peter A. Rubba, Jr. (1987)
Rm 160, Chambers Bldg.
Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA 16802

J. Nathan Swift (1986)
Secondary Education Department
SUNY-Oswego
Oswego, NY 13126

Richard L. Williams (1987)
Faculty of Education
University of Victoria
Victoria, B.C. V8W 2Y2

Archivist

Paul H. Joslin

Evaluators

Carol Wareing (1985), Chairperson
Tufts University
Medford, MA 02155

Howard H. Birnie
Education
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0W0

Frances Lawrenz (1986)
Physics
Arizona State University
Tempe, AZ 85287

Financial Advisory Committee

Marcia Linn (1986), Chairperson

Dorothy Gabel (1986)
Education
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47405

H. Seymour Fowler (1986)
1342 Park Hills Avenue West
University Park, PA 16803

Jerry G. Horn (1987)
Education
Kansas State University
Manhattan, KS 66506

William G. Holliday

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Glen Aikenhead (1986), Chairperson

Morris A. Enyeart (1985)
Education
Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ 08902

William H. Leonard (1987)
219A Peabody Hall/Education
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Donald W. McCurdy (1985)
7901 E. Avon Lane
Lincoln, NE 68505

William G. Holliday

Rep. to Advisory Board for Investigations in Science Education

Glen Aikenhead (1986)

Richard A. Duschl (1985)
Dept. of Curriculum and Instruction
University of Houston
University Park
Houston, TX 77004

David R. Stronk (1987)
Education
University of Victoria
Victoria, B.C. V8W 2Y2

AAAS

J. David Lockard
The International Clearinghouse
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 29742

Second Call For Proposals — 1985

General Information

The 1985 annual meeting will be held at French Lick Springs, Indiana, April 15 (evening) to April 18 (morning). The NARST meeting will precede the NSTA annual convention (April 18-21, 1985) in Cincinnati. Professor John Bransford, the leading cognitive psychologist specializing in "learning, understanding and remembering", will present an invited address at this meeting. More details will be provided in later newsletters.

French Lick Springs is a resort, nestled in the rolling hills of Southern Indiana. Transportation to this resort will be arranged by NARST and described in the next newsletter. NARST has negotiated excellent accommodations and meal prices. For example, \$52.50 will cover one night's accommodation (double occupancy) and breakfast and dinner, including all taxes and gratuities. The student rate (triple occupancy), providing the same benefits, will be \$39.50 per day. All rates also include sports/activities per person daily: green fees on the 18-hole Valley Golf course, one hour of tennis per room and a visit to the health spa (sauna, whirlpool, exercise equipment).

NARST encourages the presentation of a wide variety of scholarly papers reporting investigations in all aspects of science education. Historical, philosophical, ethnographic, and evaluative studies as well as reports of empirical research and critical reviews are welcomed.

Moreover, NARST's 1985 program committee encourages scholarly presentations focusing on the translation of research studies into classroom practices.

An individual may present only one paper but may be listed as co-author of another paper and may also participate in a symposium or as a presider or discussant. For participants unfamiliar with the format and atmosphere at NARST meetings, presenters are strongly encouraged to stimulate discussion. Audiences at NARST meetings want to be active and not passive spectators. All presenters must be registered at the NARST meeting. Overhead projectors and screens will be provided at no cost.

If you have any questions, please contact David Butts (404-542-1763), program chairperson, or William Holliday (403-284-7485), executive secretary.

NARST members and others who wish to make presentations at the meeting may submit proposals in any of the following formats:

1. **Contributed Papers.** Generally, brief 10 to 15-minute reports of research which are grouped by the program committee into three or four per session. Discussants are usually assigned to these sessions and presenters will provide discussants with a copy of the paper before the annual meeting, received not later than March 15, 1985.
2. **Paper Set.** Several related papers originating from a common base of research are presented in one session. This format accommodates from three to

five papers that may divide a single report which represents a major research effort. This format allows for common elements of design or approach to be presented only once rather than be repeated by each presenter.

3. **Symposium.** A symposium should focus on a specific issue or topic of some importance and present a variety of perspectives. It should provide for interaction among participants with diverse points of view. Proposals should be submitted as a package, listing participants by name on the cover sheet. The summary should include a statement of each presentation, containing such information about the background and interests of each participant as may be relevant. Names on the proposals, however, should be omitted.
4. **Research Methods Workshops.** These sessions are designed to enable NARST members to acquire new research skills or update old ones. These one-or two-hour sessions are planned for intensive involvement by those in attendance, and presenters are expected to provide resources for study and discussion.
5. **Poster Session.** Informal presentations that allow for discussion with the researcher. A display of graphic materials should be incorporated.

Materials To Be Submitted

1. Two copies of completed Cover Sheet.
2. Six copies of a double-spaced summary, including bibliography, of not more than 6 pages in length. Omit names of author(s). The summary should ordinarily include:

- a. purpose of study;
- b. theoretical basis for study;
- c. procedure of study;
- d. results or conclusions of study;
- e. implications for teaching science.

3. Six copies of an abstract of 300-500 words to appear in ERIC Abstracts. Omit name(s) of author(s). Bibliographic references are not appropriate in the abstract.
4. Two 3" x 5" index cards containing typed name, address, and telephone number of author and title of paper.

The above items are to be sent to:

David Butts
Department of Science Education
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602

Deadline (proposals received): October 22, 1984.

Review of Proposals

Anonymous review of proposals will be by two or more members of the program committee. Criteria will include items a-e above. Notification of the decision by the program committee will be made mailed by December 1, 1984.

Advance Program

An Advance Program, and conference registration and hotel reservation forms, will be mailed to all NARST members later this year.

COVER SHEET

1985 NARST ANNUAL MEETING — FRENCH LICK SPRINGS, INDIANA

(Please type requested information)

1. TITLE OF PAPER OR SYMPOSIUM _____

2. FIRST AUTHOR PRESENTING PAPER

Name _____ Phone _____

Institution _____

Address (including zip or postal code) _____

3. NAME AND INSTITUTIONAL ADDRESS OF CO-AUTHOR(S), AND, IF APPROPRIATE,

SUB-TITLES

4. SIGNATURE _____

5. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR COMMENTS _____

PLEASE NOTE — If accepted, your session will appear in the program as you have listed it above. Have you included the essential information above?

Thank you for your interest in improving science teaching — through research.