

SEPA newsletter

Winter 2011 Edition

President's Notes



As the SEPA Board plans events for you at the 2011 NSTA Conference, I hope that you are making your plans to join us there in March in San Francisco. Look for board members on Friday, March 11, at the Share-a-Thon, the CBC Science Trade Book session, and the SEPA Luncheon. All SEPA events will be held in the Marriott San Francisco Marquis.

While we are in San Francisco, we will all be sharing favorite science lessons, ideas for teaching science with children's literature and all of our endeavors over the past year. One of the privileges I've had since we last met was traveling to Shanghai, China, for the first ever US-Sino Science Conference in November. The trip made me reflect on our responsibilities as PA's to continue the tradition of excellence. I hope you'll enjoy this excerpt from my blog about the trip, and that you'll reflect on ways to share the good fortune of being a Presidential Award winner.

Continued on page 3, and to follow Steve's blog go to:

<http://scienceoutdoors.blogspot.com>

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NCTM coming to Indy

While it is still winter outside, plans are being made for a fabulous SEPA Luncheon at NCTM in Indianapolis. It will be held at the new J W Marriott connected to the Convention Center at 1:00 on Friday, April 15, in the Osteria Pronto Restaurant, which is loosely translated as quick Italian food and drink. This restaurant opened in February and from the pictures is gorgeous. Our speaker will be Donna Long from Houghton -Mifflin with the topic—**Welcome to Indianapolis: Math R Us.**

Continued on page 2



NCTM continued

. Enjoy a light and lively showcase of mathematics around Indianapolis. The presentation will center about race tracks, ball fields, arenas, stadiums, museums, and skyline building.

As always the luncheon is “Dutch Treat” and will include a choice of salads, signature pastas, or Panini sandwiches and drinks with tax and tip to be around \$20.00 per person. Favors, door prizes, and a fun time are included in this afternoon. Send no money as you will pay your own ticket. Just email Martha Short, mshort@ltd.net to let her know to save you a place by **April 8**.

USA Science and Engineering Festival In Washington, D.C.

The SEPA Board members joined the National Science Teachers Association for a Science Matters event in Washington, D.C. The event helped to raise awareness of science and engineering. SEPA members worked with participants on airplane designs and modifications for better flight. Hundreds of families came to the SEPA booth and teachers looking for ideas to use in their classrooms.



Hold the Dates!

The PAEMST Momentum Summit

November 18-20, 2011
Washington, DC/Arlington, VA

An Event for all Presidential
Awardees K-12, Sponsored by
SEPA



From the President con't.

"One of the most pronounced differences of education in China and the USA is that China's central government prescribes and requires a national curriculum. In the United States, state and local choice is the rule. National documents such as Benchmarks for Science Literacy or the National Science Education Standards are widely used, but certainly not required.

Another difference is the amount of time average students spend in school and at after school academic activities. Chinese students are likely to spend much more time on their academic endeavors than most US students. It is not uncommon for school and after school programs to keep a student engaged from 8:00am until 9:00pm. While there is plenty of physical exercise and several popular sports, it seems most students are spending time preparing for the ever looming standardized tests that will determine their future - which university they will attend and, based on its prestige, what the students' station in life will be.

What is most clear from my trip is that Chinese people are not afraid of hard work - academic or otherwise. The Chinese man carrying his goods above reminds me that no matter what the task - every Chinese student or teacher I met is not afraid to carry his own weight - without complaining. That's something many of us in America could work on. I for one have a renewed sense of shouldering my responsibilities without complaining and fretting. There's nothing like a trip to another country to serve as a reminder of the abundance and relative ease of life in the United States of America, and I am grateful for it."

SEPA Treasurer Report December 31, 2010

Checking Account	\$6499.41
Money Market	\$3137.86
Total	\$9637.27
CD	\$1073.54
Revenue	\$1350
Expenses	\$3500

SEPA books were audited by Bari Lyn Abatta in September, 2009 and were found to be in order. The books will be audited in January, 2011

Thank you to Delta (School Specialty) and Houghton Mifflin for providing Professional Development.

Submitted by Ruth Ruud Treasurer December 2010

Ballot for SEPA Board Members on page 5

Please be sure to vote!

Kathy Renfrew , incumbent SEPA secretary, currently works for the Vermont DOE as the Elementary Science and Math Assessment Coordinator. In addition she works as an online advisor for NSTA’s Learning Center. She earned National Board Certification in 1998 and won the prestigious Presidential Award in 2000. She taught science in grades 4-6 in a self- contained classroom for over 30 years. While in the classroom , Kathy won a \$10,000 Toyota Tapestry Award and built a 16x 20 foot log cabin with her students right outside her classroom window. The work around this grant was the beginning of Kathy using science as the vehicle for all student learning in her classroom. Kathy has served on multiple NSTA committees as well as being a NSTA District Director for her region. She is an annual presenter for NSTA and SEPA including both the CBC/SEPA Share-a-thon and the APAST/SEPA Share-a-thon. Kathy’s passion now centers around SEPA including the recruiting and mentoring of new Presidential applicants in elementary science and wanting to improve student achievement in science for all students.

POSITION STATEMENT

As Secretary and Historian of SEPA, I will continue to pay careful attention, record and collect all the details of the organization. My goals as well as SEPA’s goals are to assist in the process of improving science instruction for all students and I believe developing, encouraging, mentoring and nurturing all Presidential Awardees is crucial to achieving this goal.

Peggy Carlisle is the science resource teacher for grades 2 – 5 at Pecan Park Elementary School in Jackson, Mississippi, as well as a National Board Certified Teacher/Early Childhood and holds a Masters Degree. As a district science teacher leader, she has trained over 250 elementary teachers in kit-based, hands-on science.

She is currently SEPA’s historian, serves on the NSTA Awards and Recognition Committee 2011-2013 and is a manuscript reviewer for *Science and Children*. Peggy has served on the NSTA/CBC Outstanding Science Trade Book Review Panel 2006-2008, Committee on Preschool and Elementary Science Education 2005-2007, the Toyota TAPESTRY Judging Panel 2004-2006, and has presented at numerous NSTA Conferences. From 2002-2006 she worked as a charter member of the Teacher Advisory Council at the National Academies of Science.

Peggy has received the 1999 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, NSTA’s Shell Science Teaching Award, Sylvia Shugrue Award, Delta Science Award, CESI Exemplary Science Teaching Award, and is a 2006 inductee into the National Teachers Hall of Fame.

POSITION STATEMENT

SEPA and its members are leaders in bringing science education to the forefront of our national agenda. In order to prepare all students to successfully compete, prosper, and be secure in the global community of the 21st Century, highest-quality science education at the elementary level is key. SEPA provides a voice for teachers and is a driving force in education today, supporting teachers through conference sessions, collaboration, and informal education opportunities

Alma S. Miller is a science education consultant of Washington, DC, who provides services in professional development, curriculum writing, and informal science activities. She serves as STEM Coordinator at DC Public Schools, Langdon Education Campus implementing and instituting STEM curriculum, projects and activities. She serves as a mentor in the Howard University’s Ready to Teach (RtT) Program mentoring teachers in the public and public charter schools in the District of Columbia. Prior to her current work, she served as DC Public Schools Science Teacher/Coordinator and Project Director of the Say **YES** to a Youngster’s Future Program of the National Urban Coalition sponsored by Shell Oil Company. She is a former NSTA Board member and District Director, and currently serves as the NSTA State Coordinator for the DC Building a Presence for Science Program and is an active member of several Standing Committees. Among her awards and recognitions, she considers the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching the most prestigious recognition. She received the BS Degree from Bennett College, Greensboro, NC; MAT Degree from Trinity College, Washington, DC; and has pursued further post-graduate study.

Position Statement:

In America today, a basic understanding of STEM concepts and skills is vital to being a productive member of our workforce and our democratic society.” As Presidential Awardees, our combined focus should support innovative instruction and initiatives to guarantee providing that basic understanding of STEM education to promote productive members of the 21st Century learning community. Further, strengthening teaching and enhancing learning are key factors in meeting the focus necessary to address the challenges of today’s society. As members of SEPA, with the purpose of “promoting an interchange of ideas and the resolving of critical mathematics and science issues (STEM issues) in elementary education,” it is our goal to support quantitative and qualitative learning for all.

As SEPA Science Representative, I will support the goals of the organization by serving as a liaison to provide for information exchange that focuses on STEM as well as other pertinent issues relative elementary education, stress the importance of diversity, provide support for professional development opportunities and will actively collaborate with national, regional and state science education leaders to promote and relay policies, practices and

Ballot for SEPA Board Positions

Secretary

Peggy Carlisle _____

Kathy Renfrew _____

Write-in candidate _____

Science Representative

Alma Miller _____

Write-in candidate _____

Ballots can be sent to Conni Crittenden via mail or email.

crittec@gmail.com

Conni Crittenden 603 Ardson Road, East Lansing, MI 48823

Ballots must be received by March 9th

SEPA Board Business Notes

Changes to the Bylaw Voted on by the Executive Board of SEPA at the January 22, 2011 Board Meeting in Livingston, Alabama.

Motion to add the responsibilities of the Historian to the office of Secretary by Conni Crittenden. Motion seconded by Ruth Ruud. Motion approved unanimously by the SEPA Board.

Motion to set a term limit of 5 years on the office of Treasurer and to include the addition the responsibility of Membership Chairperson to the office of Treasurer was made. Motion was made by Ruth Ruud and seconded by Alma Miller. Motion approved unanimously by the SEPA Board.

President Steve Rich appointed Ruth Ruud as treasurer from April 1st 2011 for 5 year term ending March 31 2016 . Kathy Chandler made a motion to approve this appointment. It was seconded by Conni Crittenden. This motion unanimously approved by the SEPA Board.

Motion to add the duties of Newsletter editor to the office of President- Elect. was unanimously approved by the SEPA Board.

A general membership meeting will be held at the SEPA Luncheon on Friday, March 11

Details of the luncheon, sponsored by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, are on the invitation on the next page. We hope that many of you will be able to join us at that luncheon. RSVP to Ruth Ruud by March 5th ruth.ruud@yahoo.com

Thank you to our sponsors!
Delta Education and
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

We are looking forward to seeing you in San Francisco at the NSTA Conference!!

Remember Presidential Awardees Share-A-Thon and the CBC/NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books sessions are on Friday, March 11th. If you are not presenting, please join us and see how you can be part of next year's sessions.



**You are cordially invited to the
2011 SEPA Luncheon, sponsored by
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt**

Date: Friday, March 11, 2011
Time: 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Room: Golden Gate, C3

Marriott San Francisco Marquis
55 Fourth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

RSVP by March 5, 2011
to ruth.ruud@yahoo.com

SEPA

Society of Elementary Presidential Awardees



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT

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