

THE WEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF MIDDLE LEVEL EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

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Highlights of the Spring Conference

If you missed it, you were left out of the fun, humor and motivational sessions. The theme of the conference was truly captured by Debbie Silver, the Keynote speaker, noted author and independent consultant, who said, "We not only need to care about our students but we need to care about ourselves as teachers." She presented a humorous montage of her years as a first grade teacher. This was followed by Walt Grebing, of Nuts and Bolts Inc., with his very personal presentation about the value of middle level education to his own family. Bill Denney, of Denney Consultants, Inc. joined us again with his presentation on the use of games in the classroom. This year's attendance was enhanced by Project Merit and the Middle Level Cadre combining their training with the conference. Even though the mountain was foggy, the conference was bright with spirit. The breakout sessions highlighted standards, Project Merit activities, and a concentration of reading and math focus. We hope everyone will place the conference as a priority on their April, 2004 schedule.

WVAMLE Officers Elected

During the Annual Business Conference, the association re-elected the present board to serve for the 2003-2004 academic year. In a supportive action, the position of Executive Director was approved and appointed John Huxley to serve as the first exec. Presently, John is the Director of Distance Education at Marshall University.

WVAMLE Officers Elected *(continued)*

In a separate action, it was voted to officially adopt Marshall University as the resident base of the WVAMLE.

NMSA in Atlanta 2003

Without question, the National Middle School Annual Conference is the superior educator's conference in the nation. The 30th Annual Conference will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, November 6-8. Make your plans to attend. The theme of the conference will be "Middle Level on our Minds." Join the 10,000 participants who will have the privilege of hearing Frank McCourt, Pulitzer winning prize author, and Jocelyn Elders, the colorful and controversial U.S. Surgeon General under the Clinton administration. Other internationally known speakers will be J. Howard Johnston, Nancy Doda, John Lounsbury and Paul George. The conference always ends with social regalia that is unequalled in fun. This year's social will be hosted by the Neons, voted "Best of Atlanta" as a premier party dance band. They perform Motown, R&B, Swing, with a mix of jazz. Don't miss this exciting event in November.

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Dr. Calvin Meyer, Editor

Ralph Board, President