



September Newsletter 2011

Happy fall. Colors are just beginning to change in the mountains of North Carolina. Nights are cooler, and that “crisp” feeling is energizing and welcoming. I hope your semester is off to a great start. There are three parts to this newsletter. The first is an update about our meeting in Louisville. The second is information shared from the Milledgeville symposium provided to us from the planning committee at Georgia College and State University. The third is a call for articles for the NaPOMLE journal Current Issues in Middle Level Education.

Part I: Louisville Update

We are very excited to share several NaPOMLE opportunities and times with you and hope you will be joining us in Louisville in November. The first is that we have two sessions scheduled for the Association of Middle Level Education Conference. In addition, the Kentucky professors are hosting a reception on Friday prior to the Middle Level Education Research SIG business meeting. Third, we are still looking for nominations for outstanding middle level programs, CMLE chapters, and middle level people.

- The business meeting is **Thursday** afternoon at 2:00, 116 Convention Center.
- The Best Practice Session is **Friday** at 10:00, 207 Convention Center.
- In addition, the **Kentucky POMLE** is inviting professors to a **reception** on the 3rd Floor Atrium, Galt House from 4:30-5:30 on **Friday**
- followed by the **Middle Level Education Research SIG** Business Meeting **Friday** from 5:45-6:45, 208 Convention Center

- **October 21** is the deadline for nominations for outstanding programs, CMLE chapter, and people in middle level education. The nominating form is attached. Send your nominations with a description of the program, the chapter and/or the person’s contributions to middle level education to edore@radford.edu .



- We will be electing representatives for several regions and a Treasurer in November. If you know of people who and/or would like to serve, send information to jniska@ric.edu .



**NaPOMLE Business Meeting Agenda,
Thursday, November 10, 2:00 – 3:15,
Program # 1376,
Room 116 Convention Center**

Our Agenda is as follows:

- I. Welcome
- II. Awards
- III. Budget/non-profit status
- IV. Regional Reports
- V. Committee reports
 - a. Advocacy...Tom Loguidice
 - b. Membership: Bob Ziegenfuss & Cal Meyer
 - c. Conference planning: Al Seed
- VI. New Business
 1. Non-profit status
 2. Elections
 3. Action plans
- VII. Other business

**NaPOMLE Best Practice Session
Friday, November 11, 10:00 – 11:15,
Program # 2153,
Room 207 Convention Center**

Part II: An update from the Symposium

Professors at Georgia College and State University sent a letter and information to participants and have invited me to share the information with you. It is our hope professors across the country and around the globe will be able to find ways to advocate and celebrate middle level education. It is in this spirit of collaboration and



communication I share the good work of our colleagues who are providing us with leadership and opportunities to get involved with our candidates, our colleagues, and our legislatures. The following is

information provided by the planning committee in Milledgeville, Georgia. Thank you to those who are working together and whom we look to in helping us move forward. As you see, there is much to be done. We look forward to spending time together in Kentucky.

Dear Colleagues,

We hope your summer has gone well and your new year is off to a good start. Our new e-mail server at Georgia College is finally now up and going, and we are glad to be able to share some 'post-symposium' news items.

Sincerely,

Georgia College Local Committee Members

([John Lounsbury](#), [Nancy Mizelle](#), [Karynne Kleine](#), [Dan Bauer](#), and [Joanne Previts](#))

- The first attachment is John Lounsbury's "*An event and a message that calls for action*" which chronicles the events of the week. In introducing Paul's message he says, "I entrust this message to you, to read, reread, contemplate, internalize, discuss thoughtfully with colleagues, share, and use in whatever way it can be to inform all discussions on improving education, discussions that must deal with the real philosophical issues that are at the heart of education's problems and be the impetus for action."
- The next attachment is the manuscript Paul George gave on "*The middle school movement: Taking the long view.*" His presentation will be published in the November Middle School Journal. There are several quotations I would like you to ponder and provide us with a framework for considering how to make a difference. First, "Advocates of the progressive paradigm cling tenaciously to the idea that, in any educational activity, the dignity and self-esteem of the person (teacher, leader, parent, and student) must always be preserved, and that personally meaningful learning is much more than academic achievement..." And, "If one takes the *long view*, it is surprisingly clear that the progressive view of life, of which the middle school movement is a recent iteration, has achieved tremendous successes over the many centuries of its existence, and it will continue to do so..." Furthermore, "Those who subscribe to the progressive paradigm must keep clear in their minds the tremendous successes that advocates for this worldview have actually achieved... Progressives believe that the evidence from history is unequivocal-- human beings, drawing on the best that is within them, will continue to create ever more enlightened societies and the schools that support them"....and "The focus of our research efforts... should be to investigate and publicize the evidence related to this worldview. In addition to the importance of factors like trust, investigators must reestablish research pathways dealing with student engagement, group cohesiveness, the importance of a sense of "smallness" inside big buildings, professional learning communities, and a dozen other factors. We must have the courage that comes from conviction to conduct and publicize such research in the face of a very loud, repetitive, and powerfully dominant paradigm, a paradigm that openly asserts that most of public education must be dismantled, that a free public education is inconsistent with the triumph of capitalism and private enterprise."



- A small committee created at the symposium headed by John Arnold and including Michael Rhodes has been at work exploring the creation of a documentary film which would put a positive spin on young adolescents and middle schools. It might be seen as our answer to Waiting for Superman.



symposium
Michael Rhodes
a documentary
young adolescents
answer to Waiting

- The focus group that was charged with discussion of Middle Level Leadership has continued the work from the Symposium during the summer through e-mail and their final draft of a comprehensive resolution statement and action plan: *Preparing knowledgeable, skilled, competent and dedicated middle level principals* is being readied for distribution.

- Patti Kinney, in her role of Associate Director of Middle Level Services for NASSP, has had the opportunity to have conversation with the new Executive Directors of both AMLE and NASSP and she reports both are, in her words, “interested in how our organizations can collaborate to support middle level principals.”



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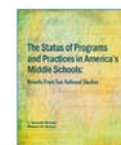


NaPOMLE, with President Nancy Ruppert and President-Elect Bob

Ziegenfuss, will be meeting in Louisville to follow up on initiatives which evolved from the recognition of the key role POMLE can play in advancing the middle school philosophy. Nancy Mizelle and Nancy Ruppert will be promoting our work at the Association of Teacher Educators meeting in February in Texas.



- The active North Carolina POMLE will be meeting in October as a part of this effort. Kentucky POMLE has met twice since the symposium and will sponsor an informal gathering at the AMLE conference. This will take place on Friday at 4:30 p.m. at the 3rd floor atrium of The Galt House in Louisville.
- The Legacy book has sold well at AMLE and is now being used in at least three graduate classes this fall.
- The full report, [“The status of programs and practices in America’s middle school: Results from two national studies,”](#) is now available for printing out on the AMLE website. The 75 page report is beautifully laid out with all the tables and charts. This data gives real support to the practices we recommend.



- Below is a link that will permit you to view and download pictures from the symposium:

<http://168.16.211.17/gallery/main.php/v/education/middleGradesSymposium/>

Part III: Consider Submissions for Current Issues in Middle Level Education

CIMLE is a peer-reviewed, national journal committed to the dissemination of research-based, best-practices articles based on the National Middle School Association's position statement on the professional preparation of middle level teachers. These standards (available at http://www.nmsa.org/services/teacher_prep/) target necessary



knowledge, dispositions, and performances related to adolescent development, middle level philosophy and school organization, middle level curriculum and assessment, middle level teaching fields, middle level instruction and assessment, family and community development, and middle level professional roles. Articles critiquing previously published articles may also be accepted if deemed stimulating to a

collaborative, interdisciplinary, problem solving approach to middle-level teacher preparation. Manuscripts submitted should be research, research-based practice, inquiry orientation, theoretical, philosophical, or reviews of researches that are appropriate for middle level professors and align with NMSA standards.

I look forward to seeing you all in November.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Ruppert, NaPOMLE President





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Association of Professors of Middle
Level Education

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