SECONDARY SECTION STEERING COMMITTEE
Term to expire in November 2019

(Two can be elected)

Tiffany L. Rehbein
High school English teacher, East High School, Cheyenne, Wyoming; adjunct professor, Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Formerly: Co-director, Wyoming Writing Project Summer Institute; department chair, editor, MATELA Newsletter. Membership(s): NCTE. Award(s): Professional Letter of Excellence, Wyoming; NCTE Leadership Development Award. Publication(s): MATELA Newsletter. Program Contribution(s): NCTE, CCCC, IFTE/CEE.

Position Statement: Listening, sharing, and collaborating are essential skills for educators and leaders. I have made commitments to be an engaged professional, a critical thinker, and a lifelong learner. By presenting at NCTE, by serving as a leader in two different state affiliates, and by mentoring new leaders, I learn and grow as a professional. Among my teacher research interests are rural issues; content area literacy; LGBTQ topics; technology; at-risk intervention; and career education. I am dedicated to promote a collaborative vision, advocate for informed literacy policies, and suggest initiatives across all grade levels.

Janet Atkins
Classroom teacher, writing center director, Wade Hampton High School, Greenville, South Carolina; Write to Change, South Carolina program coordinator. Formerly: NCTE Secondary Section Steering Committee (2008–12); program coordinator, Village Green Project, middle school teacher (8 years). Membership(s): NCTE, Bread Loaf Teacher Network. Award(s): National Board Certified, Sydney Lanier Poetry Prize (2010), Top Ten Teacher of the Year (2004). Publication(s): English Journal, Education Leadership, Bread Loaf Teacher Network Magazine. Program Contribution(s): NCTE, SCCTE, Savannah Conference on Writing.

Position Statement: In the current education environment, teachers are often frustrated and confused. NCTE needs leaders who have the ability to mentor and lead where standards, curriculum, and the politics of education are concerned. Leaders must be able to help younger teachers, lead discussions on curriculum, and disseminate information to stakeholders.
Members of the Section Nominating Committee choose candidates for the Section Committee and the Section Nominating Committee for the following year. The person receiving the most votes serves as chair.

(Vote for three of six.)

ZACKORY KIRK

Profile:
English/language arts coordinator, Henry County Schools, Decatur, Georgia; president, Georgia Language Arts Supervisors. Formerly: Professional learning specialist, Atlanta Public School District; instructional coach, Frederick Douglass High School, Atlanta, GA; English journalism teacher, Eagle's Landing High School, McDonough, GA. Membership(s): GCTE, NCTE, NAHSE, GKA. Award(s): STAR Teacher (2008, 2011), Teacher of the Year (2006). Program Contribution(s): Georgia Reading Association, NABSE, GaELTC.

Position Statement: It is my belief that the future of English instruction lies within the hands of our teachers and it is through NCTE that our teachers are given the voice and tools they need to move dynamically into 21st century instruction. It is the Secondary Section Nominating Committee that serves the needs of our secondary teachers and I amal myself to be of greater service.

SUE CHANEY GILMORE

Profile:
AP English literature and composition teacher, Martin Luther King Jr. Magnet High School, Nashville, Tennessee. Formerly: Past president, TCTE. Membership(s): NCTE, TCTE, Nashville Council of Teachers of English, NEA, MNEA. Award(s): Metro Nashville Teacher of the Year, Middle Tennessee Teacher of the Year, Tennessee Teacher of Excellence, Don Jenkins Award Recipient. Program Contribution(s): NCTE.

Position Statement: It is my conviction that professional organizations enhance the teaching experience yet it is my observation that teachers are often disengaged from their professional organizations. I would like to help find leaders who can engage teachers, showing them the power concerted efforts have both in the classroom and in promoting educational issues.

DIANE WAFF

Profile:

Position Statement: Teaching and learning in today’s times requires educators who recognize the importance of critical English Language Arts pedagogy and literacy leadership at every level. I will work to recruit educators who will shape thoughtful, powerful, and effective NCTE responses to the challenges we face embodied in local, state, and national reform policies, regulations and requirements.

AMY RASMSUVEN

Profile:
AP English teacher, NSTWP teacher consultant, Lewisville High School, Texas; president–elect, North Texas Council of Teachers of English Language Arts. Formerly: Secondary English teacher, department chair, district instructional coach. Membership(s): NCTE, TCTELA, NTCTELA. Publication(s): English in Texas. Program Contribution(s): NCTE, TCTELA, TARB.

Position Statement: We need leaders who advocate for innovation while hanging on to the best practices that we know work. We must create ELA instruction which allows for immersion in the richness of literature, reading and writing, and embraces opportunities for students to create in our high-speed world. It is a critical balancing act. Teacher voices are vital to the conversation and must be heard above the roar of all that would turn our focus from what matters: the literate lives of our students.

CHERYL SIMONDS STALEY

Profile:
English teacher, Carbondale Community High School, Carbondale Illinois; IATE executive board member; special sessions committee member, 2011 NCTE Annual Convention; IATE president (2013–14); creator of the IATE Leadership Academy. Membership(s): IATE, NCTE, COAL, IEA, NEA. Program Contribution(s): NCTE, IATE.

Position Statement: “All hands on deck” is a nautical phrase calling for the aid of every available crew member. The opening scene of Shakespeare’s The Tempest is an apt analogy for our current educational environment: the captain and the sailors are trying to save the ship and the passengers while a group of noblemen interferes with their work. I believe every teacher’s voice is worthy of being heard above the distractions of the storm, and I will work to find like-minded teachers to serve our Secondary Section.