

President's Message

The National Council of Writing Program Administrators is continuing its tradition of supporting its members in the development and administration of writing programs. Institutions can best be measured by their writing programs, and those programs depend on the energy, experience, wisdom, and vision of their administrators. The WPA was formed to serve those persons and through them to improve and develop writing programs nationwide.

In order to serve its membership, the WPA sponsors regular programs at both the MLA and the 4 C's, which address particular concerns of program administrators. These are customarily coordinated by our vice president. This year our topic is "The Changing Role of the Writing Program Administrator." Next year the subject will be "Assessment: Students, Teachers, Programs in Writing." If you are interested in participating, please send an abstract to Linda Peterson.

The Consultant Evaluator Program continues to thrive under the leadership of Harvey Wiener with Anne Gere assuming the role of Associate Director. This program is beginning to have a significant impact on higher education. We continue to add new evaluators to our Board. Anne Gere will coordinate the annual training session at the 4 C's in Minneapolis. Through the efforts of Harvey Wiener, Exxon has awarded a grant to WPA to expand the consultant program. A group of consultant-evaluators presented a workshop at the annual conference of the Association of American Colleges in February. That meeting was attended by sixty administrators, and a number of colleges signed up for a special series of consultant-evaluator visits to their campus and a follow-up workshop at the AAC meeting in 1986, sponsored, in part, by the Exxon grant.

This summer WPA will hold its annual summer workshop at the University of New Hampshire in Durham—just one hour from the seacoast and the mountains. Accommodations will be at the University of New Hampshire guest center, and participants will have the use of library and recreational facilities. The workshop will be led by Linda Peterson and guest speakers will include Arthur Eastman, Robert Connors, Lynn Bloom and others. Lynn Bloom has coordinated the workshop this year. We are looking for a midwest or western location for 1986. We welcome any suggestions.

We continue to be proud of our fine journal edited by Bill Smith, which, last issue carried our new logo on its bright red cover. After a few problems connected with relocating the journal, it is appearing regularly with two excellent issues each year. Bill reports that submissions are up

and the quality of submissions continues high. We are grateful to our editor and to the Managing Editor, Barbara Weaver, and to Utah State for its support.

Any organization like the WPA owes its existence and continuing health to the efforts of a number of people. In looking over the records as I have been doing this month, I find there are many people who deserve our gratitude. I should like to express our appreciation to our two retiring Board Members—Ben McClelland and Linda Peterson—and to our outgoing treasurer Joe Comprone. I welcome to the Board our new members, Joe Trimmer from Ball State University and Tori Haring-Smith from Brown University, our new Vice President, Linda Peterson from Yale University, and our treasurer, Carol Hartzog from UCLA. Arthur Dixon was reelected secretary, and we are grateful for his continuing contribution.

Finally, I wish to express our deep appreciation for the work of Harvey Wiener since the founding of the Council. The consultant evaluator program, the Exxon grants that have supported that program, the summer workshops, and the initiation of the Journal are all Harvey's work. He has spent countless hours and his boundless energy getting this organization on its feet. Under his inspired leadership the WPA has moved from a fledgling organization to one of the important professional societies in our field. For his service, his inspiration, his countless hours of work, we are and will continue to be profoundly grateful. The National Council of Writing Program Administrators owes him a deep debt of gratitude, and we will repay that debt by continuing the good work that he has begun.

We will carry on these projects, and we plan to develop new ones as the need and opportunity arise. This organization was formed to serve writing program administrators, and it is our intention to continue in that role. But it is imperative for the success of all of our programs that each of you continues to be involved. So we reach out to directors of writing programs across the country. We need your help; we need your support; we need your good faith.

Winifred Bryan Horner
President