

Arizona English Teachers Association

Connections Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1, September 2022

Welcome!

Welcome to your AETA Connections Newsletter! We are so happy to bring you news pertinent to Arizona's ELA Educators!

In this issue, you will find the following:

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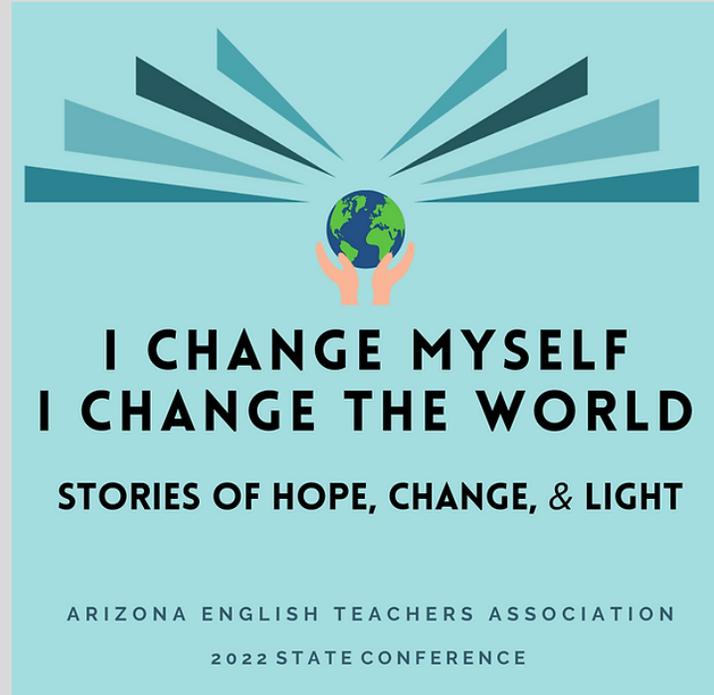
Pg. 3 Arizona Department of Education ELA Information

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We are so excited to be with you at this year's conference!

Underlined words contain links.

This newsletter can be found on our website, too, for easy access to any links herein.

About Us

Our Mission

AETA serves as a professional network of English language arts educators across Arizona. It is the state affiliate of the national network, the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE).

The primary function of AETA is to foster policies, standards, and goals of NCTE among Arizona's educators of communication skills, language arts, and English from kindergarten through college/university levels.

To this aim, it is AETA's goal to serve these teachers by narrowing the national focus to the needs, interests, and goals of Arizona teachers and students.

Our Goals

- To disseminate information pertinent to local issues, concerns, and successes.
- To encourage professional activity among teachers in all regions of the state
- To generate interest in students' and teachers' special achievements.
- To organize statewide and regional "outreach" activities and professional development opportunities.

NCTE Homecoming Reflections!



Michelle Glerum

Arizona English Journal Editor & Social Media Director

It's hard to choose a favorite session! My favorites were "Real Talk: Black and Latina Feminisms in English Teacher Education," same as Sandra, and also a session I went to about journal editing. It was so helpful to listen to editors of larger journals, such as NCTE's middle section journal, *Voices from the Middle*, talk about how they do things and why. I came back with some excellent strategies for the *AEJ* because of this session. Plus, I met other state affiliate journal editors, so we are creating a network of support for one another.

The affiliate leadership meetings, as well as the keynotes and general sessions, reminded me of the power and importance of community and working together towards our common goals. Attending Homecoming truly reinforced my belief that we must prioritize our connections to one another.

Rebecca Chatham-Vazquez

Connections Newsletter Editor & Immediate Past President

My favorite session was Ruta Sepetys's keynote, wherein she talked about her new book, *I Must Betray You*, and the power stories have to bring us together. All of Ruta's books bring the past to life and help us to understand the world from different points of view. She talked about her research process and how she must closely listen to and build trust with others in order to be true to their stories in writing her books. She pointed out how listening to others can be difficult but also so important in creating relationships built around trust and honesty.

In one of the Affiliate Leadership Meetings, we learned about different leadership styles and how being willing to adapt our leadership style can be a useful tool for expanding our board and our membership. It was an interesting session!



Sandra Saco

PRESIDENT of the Arizona English Teachers Association

My favorite session was "Real Talk: Black and Latina Feminisms in English Teacher Education." It was reaffirming and inspirational to hear Black and Latina educators speak their truths and approach teaching from a place of love and compassion. Dr. Ileana stated, "I believe not only in centering women of color feminisms in *how* we teach but in *what* we teach."

In the Affiliate leadership meetings, I was reminded that the focus of our work needs to be "manageable and meaningful." This was an important reminder for affiliate members and Arizona educators that we may not be able to accomplish everything on the extensive lists that all of us teachers seem to have, but we can focus on what is attainable and will have an impact on students.

From the Arizona Department of Education

ADE Secondary English Language Arts Resources

Visit their [Website](#)

[Diverse Texts Guidance](#): Click the blue bar for “Diverse Texts in ELA”

[Book Study](#): Click the blue bar for “Secondary ELA Book Study”

See the [English Language Arts Standards](#)

Sign up for their [ELA Listserv](#)

Review the [Academic Standards](#)

The ADE ELA Team:

[Dr. Amy Boza](#), Director of English Language Arts |
602.364.1804

[Sarah Bondy](#), K-3 Early Literacy Specialist | 602.364.2355

[Lauren Spenceley](#), Secondary ELA Specialist | 602.364.2267

[Maggie Velazquez](#), Dyslexia and Literacy Intervention
Specialist | 602.364.1843

[Kim Piranio](#), Literacy and Dyslexia Specialist | 602.364.2302

[Karen Ten Napel](#), Literacy and Dyslexia Specialist |
602.542.2971

[Michele Rutin](#), P-3 Coach Coordinator | 602.364.2053



The Book Studies led by Lauren Spenceley, the Liaison from ADE to AETA, are awesome! Make sure you are following us on social media for the latest updates on these book studies and more!

From our parent organization, NCTE



¡Sueños!
Pursuing the Light!
2022 NCTE Annual Convention | Anaheim, CA

NOVEMBER 17-20, 2022

It's Convention time! Have you registered?!

NCTE Annual Convention

Anaheim, CA

November 17-20, 2022

Mindful Writing Series

Join us on Mondays



Host
Alexandria Peary

September 12 to
October 3 from
7:00 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. ET



New Hampshire Poet Laureate Alexandria Peary leads participants through four mindful writing workshops. This is the third series Alexandria has done for NCTE, and this series focuses on classroom applications for mindful writing in grades 6-16. These workshops are not only great for finding new ways to engage students with writing and see it as a lifelong practice, but the workshops also encourage teachers to take time for their writing lives, too.

Click [here](#) to register or to learn more about this series!

Looking to get involved in AETA?

We always want new volunteers to keep our organization fresh with new ideas and voices! Please consider if you have the time to serve your ELA community. You can

Join the Editorial Review Board for the *AEJ*

Help with the website

Develop the historian position

Be a grant writer

Lead a contest or committee

Represent your region

And so much more!

If you don't think you have the time to volunteer for a position, you can always *add your name to our list of one-time volunteers*, who may be called on to serve on a short-term committee or even host a webinar.

There is room for everyone!

If you are interested, please email
arizonaeta@gmail.com

Your AETA Board - we've done some updating!

Over the past year, your AETA Board has been **hard at work** to create a more sustainable and transparent organization for YOU.

In order to be in alignment with our parent organization, NCTE, **we revised our AETA Constitution and Bylaws**. You will see some of the changes we made to the structure of your board on the following page.

Your Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee **wrote an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Statement**, which we are using to guide all our work moving forward.

Other work we have accomplished includes **creating an official communication outline for the board; creating updated jobs and job descriptions that represent the work we are currently doing; creating awards descriptions with clear purposes and criteria; and updating our website.**

Your new President, Sandra Saco, **secured grant moneys this year to help fund our conference** and keep costs down. Great work, Sandra!

Lastly, we **applied for AND HAVE WON several awards** through NCTE, including
The Affiliate Newsletter of Excellence Award - no decision yet
The Affiliate Website of Excellence Award - no decision yet
The Kent D. Williamson Affiliate Membership Award - WON!
The NCTE Fund Teachers for the Dream Affiliate Award - WON!
The NCTE High School Teacher of Excellence Award

While this list does not encompass all of the work we have engaged in on behalf of Arizona's ELA Educators, it does show some of our biggest accomplishments.

We engage in this service because we are passionate about serving YOU, Arizona's ELA Educators, to the best of our ability, and we hope you know how much your success and your students' success mean to us!

Our website will be updated accordingly (subscribe there for updates!), and you can always email us at arizonaeta@gmail.com. We love hearing from you!

Your AETA Board - we've done some updating!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

Sandra Saco
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IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Rebecca Chatham-Vazquez
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PRESIDENT-ELECT

OPEN

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TREASURER

Joann Martin
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/NCTE LIAISON

OPEN

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION DIRECTOR

Sybil Durand
UofA

ELECTIONS CHAIR

OPEN

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Michelle Glerum
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SOCIAL MEDIA DIRECTOR

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SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP LEADER(S)

Early Career
Michelle Glerum

Rural Educators

Rebecca Chatham-Vazquez

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Teacher as Writers
Dr. Wendy Williams
Wendy.r.williams@asu.edu

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WEBSITE COORDINATOR

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HISTORIAN

OPEN

GRANT WRITER

OPEN

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

CENTRAL
OPEN

NORTHWEST
OPEN

NORTHEAST
OPEN

SOUTHWEST
OPEN

SOUTHEAST
OPEN

ARIZONA DEPT OF EDUCATION

Lauren Spenceley
lauren.spenceley@azed.gov

COLLEGIATE LIASIONS

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY
James Blasingame
Wendy Williams

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Sybil Durand

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

OPEN

Find us on Social Media

Instagram @arizonaenglishteachers

Facebook Arizona English Teachers Association

Twitter @azengteachers

Website arizonaenglishteachers.org

Please send any news or images for the newsletter to
Rebecca at rpchatham@gmail.com

AETA 2022-2023 Calendar

Arizona English Teachers Association | 2022-2023 CALENDAR

JULY '22							15 Conference Registration Opens Teachers as Writers Contest Deadline	7 Quarterly Executive Committee Meeting	JANUARY '23						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S		26 Quarterly Webinar (tentative date)	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2	11 CN released (digital)	31 AEJ Submission Deadline (Fall '23 issue)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	21 Quarterly Webinar (GLSEN)		8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10	11	12	13	14	15	16			15	16	17	18	19	20	21
17	18	19	20	21	22	23			22	23	24	25	26	27	28
24	25	26	27	28	29	30			29	30	31				
31															

AUGUST '22							FEBRUARY '23						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31				26	27	28				

SEPTEMBER '22							23 Friday Night Conference Event	25 Quarterly Full Board Meeting/Open Meeting	MARCH '23						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	24 AETA Annual Conference CN and AEJ released (Print and Digital)	27 CN released (digital)	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3	30 AEJ Submission Deadline (Spring '23 issue)	27 AETA CFP Released **Send out Awards Reminders	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
4	5	6	7	8	9	10			12	13	14	15	16	17	18
11	12	13	14	15	16	17			19	20	21	22	23	24	25
18	19	20	21	22	23	24			26	27	28	29	30	31	
25	26	27	28	29	30										

OCTOBER '22							8 Quarterly Executive Committee Meeting – Conference Follow-up	6 Quarterly Webinar (tentative date)	APRIL '23						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	20 Quarterly Webinar (tentative date)	28 AETA Conference Proposals due	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1		30 AEJ Released (Digital)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2	3	4	5	6	7	8			9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9	10	11	12	13	14	15			16	17	18	19	20	21	22
16	17	18	19	20	21	22			23	24	25	26	27	28	29
23	24	25	26	27	28	29			30						
30	31														

NOVEMBER '22							17-20 NCTE Annual Convention	MAY '23						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	21-22 ALAN Workshop	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1	29-30 LRA Annual Conference	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
6	3	4	5	6	7	8		14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9	7	8	9	10	11	12		21	22	23	24	25	26	27
13	14	15	16	17	18	19		28	29	30	31			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26								
27	28	29	30											

DECEMBER '22							1-3 LRA Annual Conference	5 CN released (digital)	JUNE '23						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	12 CN released (Digital)	17 Quarterly Full Board Meeting	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1		30 Award nominations due	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4	5	6	7	8	9	10		**Notifications re: proposal acceptance sent out in June	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
11	12	13	14	15	16	17			18	19	20	21	22	23	24
18	19	20	21	22	23	24			25	26	27	28	29	30	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31									

Abbreviations Key:

AEJ = Arizona English Journal

CN = Connections Newsletter

NCTE = National Council of Teachers of English

ALAN = Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of NCTE

LRA = Literacy Research Association

**Notes:

Quarterly webinars are all virtual and free to members

We would love to have teachers submit to lead the future webinar offerings