



# National Coalition for Literacy

## Board Meeting

February 12, 2025

**Attendees:** Cynthia Bell, Rachel DeVaughan, Todd Evans (Treasurer), Jamie Harris (Vice President), Chrissie Klinger, Kevin Maher (Secretary), Tom Nash, Eric Nesheim (President), Christy Rhodes, Gwenn Weaver  
**Absent:** Jody Angelone, Randy Tillery

**Ex officio:** Jeff Fantine (*executive director*), Deborah Kennedy (*senior consultant*)

**Note-taker:** Todd Evans (Michele D. absent)

## MINUTES

### 1. Meeting Business

January meeting minutes - there was a small change – changing the spelling of Marcella Movit to Marcela Movit. Tom Nash moved for approval; seconded by Gwenn Weaver; minutes were unanimously approved.

### 2. Executive Director Report

- Monthly ED Report

- o Visit to DC

Purpose was to make personal connections. Met with Moira L. in Senator Reed's Office. Talked about PIAAC data – no one had heard of it. As a follow-up, Jeff sent them the press release and talking points, which resulted in back and forth with Moira and others. Met with RCEF. Also met with the four corners people working on WIOA reauthorization. Has since been told that what was pushed forward in last conference won't happen. WIOA is still on the radar but will have to go through "renegotiating." Met with Matt Golden, Allison Feikes from Senator Collins office and talked about Senate Caucus and how to reestablish House Caucus. Jeff will be working with Matt Golden on that. Note: Deborah will work with Jeff on the formal Caucus process.

ALL IN working on formal draft of policy recommendations. That and PIAAC data has people interested in a policy briefing.

- o Issues & Policy Update

Conversation on approach to policy calls and issue updates. Jeff has heard criticism that NCL is a partisan organization. Wants to make sure that things that are communicated in updates aren't viewed as NCL opinion.

Jeff is focused on WIOA reauthorization. He feels it is unlikely that anything will happen with it. He keeps hearing from people on the Hill to contact your legislator, but also hearing that hill people are getting inundated with pleas to not cut lots of different programs. Tom wondered WIOA might be low-hanging fruit because it has bipartisan support. Eric asked about reaching out to our legislative contacts for guidance about contacting legislators.

Jobs Act announcement - proposed legislation that would allow Pell grants to be used for job training. Jeff reached out to all the people listed on the legislation to try to get adult ed included in the legislation.

Jeff mentioned hearing conversations about a need for workforce education, but not necessarily

needing Title II. NCL should continue to pay attention to this.

Todd suggested having a place on website where we capture updates on important issues, rather than sending out constant communications.

Conversation with Todd and Eric about membership – tapping into corporate/business membership as a way to help our visibility and as a place to get funding for the field. Ford has a foundation that specifically lists adult education. Verizon is another.

#### o Strategic Planning

Jeff had connected with someone at Ohio State but realized the person didn't understand the field. Contacted Laura Wiesel. She's willing to do it at a low cost. Lauren Osowski is also willing to help. Proposal is to move forward with Jeff, Laura, and Lauren. Will have a proposal at next month's meeting. Will present at next board meeting about her process.

### **3. Finance and Development Report**

2025 budget is still under development. Todd reviewed that Deborah, Jeff, and he have been working to transition access to QuickBooks and the bank accounts over to Jeff and Todd. Eric, Todd, and Jeff met to discuss the draft budget and suggested adding revenue targets for fundraising and also add expenses for travel and display materials.

### **4. Membership Committee Report**

Sent out an email in January for membership renewal with a connection to an electronic form. Went out to organizations. Some organizations have a funding freeze so can't pay membership at the moment. Deborah and Jeff are working on invoicing related to the QuickBooks integration.

### **5. Communications Committee Report**

No update in this area.

### **6. Other Business**

COABE presentation – Todd was working on submitting an NCL presentation for COABE. It is likely too late to get on the agenda. Jeff received an invitation to attend as a VIP, but he has a conflict. However, there will be good NCL representation there. Cynthia checked and the NCL presentation is not on the agenda. Jeff asked about the NSC conference. Good org for connections, but registration is very expensive.

### **7. Upcoming Board and Member Meeting Dates**

- Board Meeting - March 12 (10-11:30 a.m. EST)
- Board Meeting - April 9 (10-11:30 a.m. EST)
- **Board Meeting – May 14 (2-4:00 p.m. EST)**
- **Member Meeting – May 15 (9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. EST)**

### **8. Coming events**

- Mountain Plains Adult Education Association Conference, February 18-20, Albuquerque, NM
- TESOL International Convention, March 18-25, Long Beach, CA
- COABE National Conference, March 30-April 2, Dallas, TX
- National Skills Coalition Summit, May 5-7, Washington, DC
- ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition, June 26-30, 2025, Philadelphia, PA
- **2025 AEFL Week – September 14-20. 2025**