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a monthly newsletter of the Minnesota Educational Media Organization

President's Message

Random thoughts:

Gary Ganje, MEMO President

On the drive home from the fall conference, I found myself having the same thought that I have thought year after year, "Wow! This is the best MEMO conference that I have attended". I truly believe that each year, our conferences have become better and better. Whether we gather in the Twin Cities or out state, I am continually amazed by the participation by our membership. Hats off to the conference committee. Thank you for putting together a conference that was relevant and enriching.

After visiting with many of you at the fall conference, I am intrigued by the power that we have in our membership. I enjoyed hearing the variety of experiences that have brought us all together as MEMO members. If you are new to MEMO or have been a MEMO member for many years and would like to become more involved in MEMO, please accept my invitation to become involved. I believe that our strength comes in our membership. I would be thrilled to expand our leadership involvement over the next few months. I have quickly learned that so many members have so much to offer the profession. Please contact me at 320-252-8770 or at gary.ganje@isd742.org if you would like to become more involved in MEMO. We have plenty of roles that members can fulfill. Many of these roles require a minimal time commitment. Please accept my invitation to participate.

The MEMO Technology SID is meeting at the TIES conference. The session will be a lunch meeting during the Monday sessions. Please feel free to join us to find out more about the Tech SID.

Many of you may have noticed at the fall conference the enthusiasm for the Literature SID. Brook Berg has some great ideas. It would really be great to see this enthusiasm grow. I foresee that Brook will be using some distant learning techniques to bring this group together. I encourage those members interested in the literature to jump on the bandwagon. Those of us that were part of the Tech SID from the inception have developed great professional relationships as a result of our participation.

On behalf of the MEMO board, I would like to thank the membership for all of the support in the bylaw changes. It was fulfilling to get the endorsement of the membership on the work from the summer leadership conference.

I couldn't help notice two upcoming events that have come across the mailing lists. The East Central Region meeting is going to have some valuable information for those pondering transition in the area of circulation of systems. Also, I sense that the mid-winter has a new enthusiasm about it. This may be the year that you may want to venture out across the frozen tundra in January to attend the mid-winter. I believe that it will be a very worthwhile trip.

Inside this Issue

MEMO Calendar	2
Reflections of a Past-President	2
Fall Conference Re-Cap and Awards	3-4
NEW Research Project Calculator	5-6
Personal Public Relations	7
DuPage Teleconference Series	8
TIES 2007	8

The Reflections of a Past-President

Conference Evaluations

Thank you to all who submitted an evaluation and a special thank you to those who took the effort to mail them to me. The evaluation forms are used to design our next conference so your input is extremely important.

At Cragun's I know that the Internet connectivity was an issue, but I am sure that the management thought that the only ones using the Internet would be the presenters. It reminded me of something that happened at NECC (National Educational Computer Conference) in Atlanta over the summer. Laurie Conzemius and I went to a hands-on session emphasizing using Wikispace as an educational tool. However, being that there were 17,000 people at NECC and most of them had laptops, Wikispace was frozen. In fact, the Internet was reduced to being a snail. To me it proved that we are in a new age of technology and technology is not just for the presenters, but also for the active learners at the presentation.

Other issues included the amount of stairs to get to the sessions, navigating to get to sessions, the early time for the keynote on Friday, the need for more hands-on sessions, and others. The evaluations will be carefully considered when setting up next year's conference. Again thank you for your input.

Leveled Library

Our school like many others has a leveled library. The books are not in the media center, but in a room across from our office. The question this fall was how to check out these materials. It was suggested that we put them into the library circulation, have a computer in that room, and teachers will check out their own materials. I felt uncomfortable with that, but it was my colleagues Dennis Straus, Kathy Hummel, Amy Sticha, Bob Lincoln, Sandy Oas, Katie Bohn, and Judy Sulflow who cleared my head. First, we are using Destiny so we can search our whole district's collection. We would be putting hundreds of books into that collection and when teachers or students are searching for a subject, the leveled books would be included. The integrity of the collection would be lost. Second, leveled library books' quality is questionable. They do not last long. Our experience has been that some only last six months. This means that the library

media specialist would be adding books that have a very short life cycle. Finally, the amount of work to put each book into the collection is astronomical.

What is the answer? Eric Christopher from Mackin has suggested KOHA -<http://www.koha.org/> or Mandarin <http://www.mlasolutions.com/>. These are open source ILS programs and can be set up separately from your circulation. I have not personally tried them, but am willing to give it a go. Until then, my teachers have been content to use clipboards for checking out the leveled library books and it is being monitored by the literacy committee of the school. So it is presently out of my hands. Some thought that I would feel bad about not having control over all books: I am willing to give up the control of the leveled library.

Dr. Gina Light

MEMO Calendar

October 25-28,
AASL National Conference, Reno, Nevada

November 9, MEMO Tech SID meeting, 9:00- 2:00,
Kelly Inn, St. Cloud

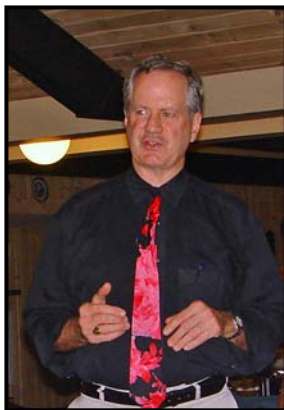
December 8-11
TIES annual Technology Conference, Hyatt Hotel,
Minneapolis

December 10, MEMO Tech SID meeting, 12:30-1:20,
TIES Conference

January 27 & 28, 2008, MEMO Mid-Winter Conference,
Alexandria.

Fall Conference Re-Cap

Cragun's Resort on beautiful Gull Lake in Brainerd was the site for the 2007 MEMO Fall Conference held October 4 – 6. The lovely setting was a highlight for the events of the conference which were well received by all.



The theme of “Creating a New Literacy Landscape” was introduced by keynote speaker Jamie McKenzie as he shared information on multiple literacies and how students deal with their information needs. A panel including Beth Swenson, Literacy Collaborative District Trainer; Tim Wilson, the Savvy Technologist; and Sara Kelly Johns, AASL

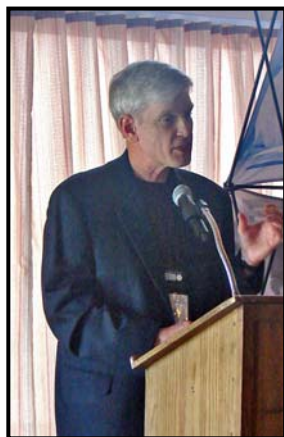
President shared their insights into ‘Defining & Examining the New Literacy Landscape’ at the Friday luncheon.

Friday's Awards Banquet announced honors to Lori Huber of Sandburg Middle School in Robbinsdale as Media Assistant of the Year, Sue Meyer of Becker High School as Media Specialist of the Year and Jane Prestebak of Robbinsdale Area Schools as Administrator of the Year. A Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Tom Shaughnessy. was brought to a delightful close by Bill “Elvis” Musel, whose renditions of wonderful favorite tunes with some comedy thrown in were enjoyed by all.



Saturday began early as Peggy Sharp brought her inimitable style and love for books to the table.

The conference was brought to a close with a presentation by William Durbin, whose book *Blackwater Ben* is a current Maud Hart Lovelace Award nominee.



Besides the keynote speakers, the wide variety of breakout sessions had tracks for elementary books and reading, secondary books and reading, information literacy, and technology for all levels. One of the complaints about the selection of 66 sessions was that it was difficult to choose which to attend, as the others had to be missed.

A chance to visit with vendors to see and hear about the new products and services available is always valuable. This year's vendors brought some wonderful door prizes to the conference. Two of the ones most anticipated were an Apple iPod from Tersch Products won by Doug Bancks from Fairmont HS and a SMARTboard from Tierney Brothers and SMART Technologies won by Nancy Lorentz of Apollo HS in St. Cloud.

And what would a conference be without authors? Joan Larson again presented a wonderful group of authors whose books are and will be favorites to many. The author breakout sessions as well as the book signing are enjoyed by all. The opportunity to have contact with a talented group of authors is yet another bonus to enjoy.

Comments heard over the three days of the conference indicated that attendees were enjoying themselves and that the information received would be valuable in building our individual media centers as well as our profession. That is an important goal for the MEMO organization – working together to promote information literacy in Minnesota.



MEMO's next conference event is the Mid-Winter Conference to be held January 27 & 28, 2008, in Alexandria. Mark your calendar for October 2 – 4, 2008 and plan to gather at the Doubletree Hotel in St. Louis Park for the next fall conference. Patrick Jones of the Hennepin County Libraries will be a keynote speaker and many other great things are being planned. We look forward to seeing you then.

Dawn Nelson,
Robbinsdale Area Schools

Robbinsdale Staff Honored at MEMO

The Library Media program at Robbinsdale Area Schools was honored by two awards at the MEMO Conference which took place at Cragun's Resort in Brainerd, MN, on October 4-6. Sandburg Middle School media assistant Lori Huber was recognized as Minnesota Media Assistant of the Year, and Jane Prestebak, the district's program director for media services and instructional technology, was honored as the Administrator of the Year.



"I am absolutely delighted to receive this award," Lori said. "For MEMO to take the time to recognize support staff demonstrates their understanding of how key every role is in running an effective media center. And I can't say enough about my boss,

(Sandburg specialist) Dawn Nelson. We're a team and she deserves this recognition as well!" Lori was nominated by Dawn Nelson who says, "Lori is absolutely invaluable here. She takes care of the details of book circulation, AV equipment, scheduling, and book processing, leaving me free to do what I love to do - teach."

"Robbinsdale has a long history of supporting information and technology literacy through the library media program," said Jane Prestebak after receiving her award as Administrator of the Year.

"It's a team effort that involves a close partnership between curriculum and technology at all levels in the system, including innovative building principals, dedicated library media specialists, conscientious media assistants, and clever technical support specialists."



Asked how it felt to receive a statewide honor, Jane was quick to share the praise with her colleagues. "I am very honored to receive the award. I was a bit emotional and left rather speechless. But this award belongs to the whole team."

Executive Director of Technology Dennis Beekman expressed the department's delight at the recognition of Jane's work. "I am so pleased that Jane is being recognized for her fine leadership of the Robbinsdale Area Schools media program," he said. "Jane works tirelessly to support and improve our school media programs at the school, district and state levels. Her collaborative and energetic spirit effectively promotes and advances information and technology literacy." *Edited from Robbinsdale Area Schools publicity release*

Award Winners




The Outstanding Contribution to the Profession Award was presented to Tom Shaughnessy for his work with literacy projects.



Sue Meyer of Becker High School was honored as Media Specialist of the Year


NEW Research Project Calculator to Debut



Research Project Calculator

Name: Not specified Class: Not specified Email: Not specified Format: Essay	Starting on: 10/27/2007 Assignment due: 11/10/2007 You have 13 days to finish. Good luck on your research project!	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Email just this page <input type="radio"/> Send me a reminder for each step Get Email Reminders!
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[Show student information](#) | [Hide student information](#) | [Printer-friendly view](#)

 <h4>Step 1: Question</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What do you know about your assignment?• What do you know about your topic?• What do you want to know?• What's the question or problem you will focus on? <p>By Sunday Oct 28, 2007 Write a specific research question or hypothesis.</p>	<h4>Step 1 teacher information</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• About the Research Project Calculator• What do you want them to learn?• What instructions have you prepared for your student?• How do you get the student to move from a topic to a question? <p>By Sunday Oct 28, 2007 Write guidelines and draft rubric for the evaluation of the project. Reserve labs and ensure access to necessary software and hardware.</p> <p>Review each student's research question or tentative hypothesis.</p>
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The bad news is that for your last minute researchers, it still says, "You have less than one day to get this done. I hope you're just playing with this thing" if you have less than 24 hours to start and finish a project!

But there's lots of good news! The new RPC includes a whole new addition, designed to help you and your teachers plan research projects. Lots of tips and extras are included, including handouts, in both Word and PDF format so that can be printed and used as is or modified to your special situations. Here's list of the extras:

- **Exercises**
The exercises build skills to prepare students to navigate the research process. Think of the exercises as "dribbling" practice—basketball players do not become proficient in the game without time spent in repetition of basic skills such as dribbling the ball. Use these exercises to develop the necessary skills for your students to be champion researchers!
- **Tip sheets**
Tip sheets provide you with a basic introduction to information resources and technologies.
- **Guiding questions**
The guiding questions serve as an information literacy script—offering questions that teachers frequently ask students in the research process.

Continued on next page. . . .

No time? Suggestions for condensing each step

- For the busy teacher these suggestions maintain the integrity of the process, but require less classroom time.
- **Standards**
State and national content area and information and technology literacy standards related to the research process.

Also, the new calculator will send reminder emails. Students can enter an email address and receive either a copy of the first generated page or they can opt to receive periodic email reminders for each step of the project.

To access the teacher information, complete the form, selecting a target communication format (essay, slide presentation or video) and enter dates. Be sure to check:

Include teacher information

The calculator will then present the teacher and student information side by side, like a typical teacher's manual displays an inset of the student page surrounded by tips for the teacher. The excellent programmer, Michael Berkowski, MINITEX, did the programming to make this happen (and added new colors and graphical elements.)

The original and redo of the Research Project Calculator has been sponsored by MINITEX, Bill DeJohn, Director. The calculator is based on the original Assignment Calculator developed by the University of Minnesota. Leslie Yoder, St. Paul Schools, and I collaborated on the content.

Teacher review was provided by Paul Preimesburger, Robbinsdale Area Schools, and Deborah Kozak, St. Paul Schools. Clerical assistance was provided by Alida Adams, Robbinsdale. MINITEX reference services staff, Beth Staats, Carla Pfahl, Jennifer Hootman, Kristen Mastel, provided a conceptual review. Doug Johnson, Mankato Schools, gave us permission to reproduce articles.

Many other resources and web sites are linked in the RPC, including the pages hosted by Metronet, Ann Walker Smalley, Director. These pages link to more "dribbling" exercises for the research process that have been created by many organizations across the web and were assembled by Karen Eidem, Metronet Information Literacy Project Intern

Some credit also goes to a kind and scholarly professor who once worked at Moorhead State University. Dr. Lok Chua, took me aside after a freshman class and gently suggested that I didn't know how to write.

Credit also goes to Professor Gary Litt who, by not so kindly writing on my essay, "What happened?" forced me to understand that I didn't know how to read either. Dr. Chua recommended, Sheridan Baker's *The Practical Stylist* (1977). Sheridan's focus on looking at old information in new ways is powerful. Create a question with a personal angle, actively interview your sources, draw your own conclusion and then persuade your audience. The research process is empowering rather than a tedious regurgitation of someone else's ideas, in 2500 words, 10 sources and 25 note cards. When a student really engages and "gets" it—ah, life if good.

We hope the RPC will help to empower you and your teachers as you empower your students. Perhaps you can help them to see that starting the process early, and taking a step at a time, will make them champion researchers. Not only will they have excellent products, they will come to class on the due date both confident and well-rested!

You can see the new version now, but don't expect it to work perfectly until about November 12.

rpc.elm4you.org

Jane Prestebak, Robbinsdale Area Schools



PERSONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS

What can I do about promoting school library media programs and staffing/supplies for those programs?

What is at stake?

MEMO Public Relations Committee

In your own building/local outreach:

- Invite people in to your media center - students, staff, administrators, parents, community groups (for meetings, receptions, etc.)
- Invite an evaluation of the school library media program - the collection, the staff and the program itself
- Provide the administrator with the standards for school library media programs as developed by MEMO and endorsed by MDE (found at the MEMO website)
- Offer to present on staff development days and at a school board meeting - topic? Anything that is happening in your world from offerings available in the media center to the latest in classroom technologies to what you learned at the conference you recently attended
- Present at community group meetings - this could be tied to a request for support, equipment, or funding
- Offer to serve on district/building committees, particularly curriculum committees and site teams - staff needs to know who you are and what your school media center has to offer
- Take advantage of leadership opportunities (e.g. committee chair positions)

Outside your building/expanded outreach:

- Answer calls to help - to staff a booth, serve on a committee, to present, to contact legislators or congressmen, assist at a conference as a facilitator or at the registration desk
- Attend meetings - MEMO conferences and region meetings, multitype library meetings, other related professional meetings and conferences
- Present at the meetings and conferences you are attending
- Serve on a statewide committee or board
 - Curriculum standards committee to help embed the information and technology literacy standards
 - State library board
 - Legislative committee
 - Local public library board
- Get to know and keep in contact with your local legislators and state Congressmen
 - Invite them to visit your media center
 - Know about the legislation that affects your program and position
 - Call, email, write letters about matters that concern you, your job and your program - this is easier if you create an email group for legislative issues



Minnesota Educational Media Organization

2008 College of DuPage Teleconference Season!

Register to view the teleconferences at a regional site or via desktop streaming!

More information on how to register and detailed descriptions of each teleconference is available on the MINITEX teleconference website, at:
<http://www.minitex.umn.edu/events/teleconferences/>

February 8, 2008

Soaring to Excellence: People Watching with a Purpose
- Meeting Needs Before they Need It

March 14, 2008

Challenges and Opportunities: Library Trends

April 11, 2008

Soaring to Excellence: Trends, Fads or Folly - Spotting the Library Trends that Really Matter

May 9, 2008

Challenges and Opportunities: The Future Library

Fee: No charge; registration is required.

Register to stream to your desktop:

<https://www.cod.edu/secure/software/registerconf.htm>. Residents of MN, ND, and SD will not be charged; do NOT complete billing information. College of DuPage will forward links directly to registrants.

Watch the teleconference with fellow colleagues!

Minnesota Regional Sites include: Alexandria Technical College, Byron Elementary School, University of Minnesota–Duluth Library, SMILE, NLLN and Fargo–Moorhead Tri-College Libraries, MINITEX, NCLC/ALS, St. Cloud State University Library and CMLE. |

To contact and RSVP to a Regional Site:

<http://www.minitex.umn.edu/events/teleconferences/dowlink.aspx>

SCIENCE • TECHNOLOGY • ENGINEERING • MATH



TIES 2007 EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

Supporting Technology in the STEM Initiative

**TIES 2007 Education
Technology Conference
December 8-11 Minneapolis Hyatt Regency**

> The realities of moving to a flat world – Kurt Steinhaus, education policy advisor to New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, CoSN board chair and ISTE past president

> Emerging technologies learning styles with their implications for education – Chris Dede, Timothy E. Wirth Professor in Learning Technologies at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education

> 21st-century students and online learning – Susan Patrick, president and CEO of the North American Council for Online Learning and former director of U.S. Department of Education Office of Educational Technology

> Over 160 sessions on classroom best practices, nearly 40 hands-on preconference workshops and over 100 leading-edge vendors

Enter the new TIES 2007 Technology Contests by November 2!

Win recognition for stellar work in the new TIES technology contests for Minnesota educators and students:

- > Student Digital Storytelling
- > Teacher Digital Storytelling
- > District Technology Leader
- > Technology Leadership Team

Conference Information, and Contest details, rules and entry forms are at www.ties.k12.mn.us.

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Submissions to the newsletter may be sent to Mary Alice Anderson, MEMOrandom Editor. Send to Maryalicea@mac.com
Submissions in MS word processing are particularly welcome.

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professionals

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