

NASDTEC

COMMUNICATOR

March 2009

NASDTEC Officers and Board Members

President: Kathleen DeFelice (CT)
Vice President: Vance Rugaard (TN)

Regional Directors

Northeastern: Brian Devine (MA)
Southern: Michael Carr (KY)
Central: George Maurer (IA)
Western: Dale Janssen (CA)

Committee Chairs

Associate Member Committee:
Meredith Curley (Univ of Phoenix)

Interstate Committee:
James Putman (NE)

Professional Practices Committee:
Victoria Chamberlain (OR)

Professional Preparation and Continuing Development:
Marta Cambra (VT)

Technology Committee
David LaJeunesse (FL)

Staff
Executive Director:
Roy Einreinhofer
Corporate Counsel:
Carolyn Angelo (PA)

National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification

1225 Providence Road
PMB 116
Whitinsville, MA 01588
Tel: 508/380-1202
Fax: 508/278-5342
E-mail: rje@nasdtec.com
Website: www.nasdtec.org

President's Report

Kathleen DeFelice (CT)

Hello Friends!

Spring is almost here! Hopefully the new season also will bring a revitalization of our economy. This year, many of us are facing the challenges of budget cuts, staff reductions, and regulatory changes which are forcing us to re-evaluate the way we do things. The common theme is to do more, do it well, but do it with less. In this difficult time, is it encouraging to know that we can reach out to our NASDTEC colleagues for support and guidance.

Despite the economy, there are good things to report. Congratulation to the Professional Practices Committee on a very successful Professional Practices Institute (held this past October in St. Louis, MO). The institute provided wonderful opportunities for professional development networking. We are already looking forward to next year's event (October 14-16, 2009, Albuquerque, New Mexico.).

Speaking of conferences, Vice President Vance Rugaard has put together an exciting agenda for the 2009 Annual Conference, to be held May 31 – June 3 in Jacksonville, Florida. Be sure to read Vance's article and visit the NASDTEC conference website (www.nasdtec.com) for the most up to date information.

The Executive Board Members have been busy with a variety of projects designed to better serve your needs. Included in this edition of the *Communicator* are articles by Vance Rugaard about the June conference and David Lajeunesse updating you on the work of the Technology Committee.

The Associate Members Advisory Committee is now official. Meredith Curley (Western Region) has agreed to serve as Chair of this new committee. She will be working with Sharyn S. Boornazian from the Northeast Region and Kelly Ryan from the Southern Region. We are still looking for that special someone to represent the Associate Members in the Central Region. If you are from the Central Region and would like to join this committee, or have a recommendation for a member, please contact George Maurer (IA), Central Region Director.

Another project we are working on as one of our goals for 2008-2010, is a needs assessment. Within the next few weeks, you will be receiving an email from the Executive Board with a brief survey. As this information will help inform our future direction, I strongly encourage you to take a few minutes to complete the survey.

As always, thank you for the privilege of serving this fine organization.

Best wishes and I hope to see you in Jacksonville!

Vice President's Report

Vance Rugaard (TN)

In high school, we were assigned to read Charles Dickens' novel, "A Tale of Two Cities". The first lines of that novel have been quoted extensively...

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair..."

Was he talking about 1775 or 2009?

As we enter the last years of the first decade of the 21st Century, we are at the threshold of a period of dramatic change. We have a new administration and a new direction from our leadership in Washington, DC. Technology is moving us into directions we had only dreamed about in previous years. Waves of "second-career" candidates are clamoring to enter the education profession.

As we prepare to gather in Jacksonville, FL for our Annual NASDTEC Conference, we might imagine ourselves on the beaches of the Sunshine State watching the waves break against the sand dunes lining the shore. Just as the shifting of the sand along these beaches changes the landscape of the coastal areas, so the changes in the factors impacting teacher preparation and education at the K-12 level are forever altering the way we operate within our state agencies.

The 2009 NASDTEC conference has been entitled, “**Shifting Sands: Sculpting the New Face of Education**”. The planning committee for this conference has put together an agenda replete with sessions that will provide thought-provoking information to help us be better prepared to participate in the policy-making processes of our home states. The various strands of the conference offer topics of interest to all potential participants.

We feel very strongly about the value of NASDTEC both as an important resource for the operation of our agencies and as a networking opportunity for job-alike participants from across the continent and beyond. I was struck by a comment made at the February Executive Board meeting by our colleague, Dale Janssen of California: “**This is the only organization that is 100% about teacher preparation... all aspects of it.**” Whether it be educator preparation, certification/licensure, professional practices/ethics, program approval, technology/data handling, or teacher/administrator leadership...it all falls under the umbrella of the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification.

Many of us are faced with the dilemma that our state budgets cannot afford to send us to this year’s conference, while we believe our states cannot afford to have us miss it.

Professional Practices Institute
October 14 – 16, 2009
Albuquerque, New Mexico

KnowledgeBase Changes on the Horizon

David LaJeunesse (FL)

The NASDTEC Technology Committee has moved forward with some exciting changes to the NASDTEC *KnowledgeBase*. Numerous ideas for improvements were collected based on member feedback and then presented to the Executive Board in October 2008. The Executive Board approved a slate of key changes that would be most cost-effective or, in other words, give us the biggest bang for our buck.

As the most used *KnowledgeBase* feature, the Topical Tables have been the focus for most of our user-friendly upgrades. We have worked to retain row and column headers while scrolling, make footnote references more obvious, and develop an export feature for table data. Information providers should also be pleased with an improved text editor as well as the new ability to edit and save an entire row of data, rather than performing cell by cell updates.

We hope that this is only the first round of changes to enhance *KnowledgeBase* usability for members and subscribers alike. By aiming for excellence in this electronic resource, we wish to preserve the stature of NASDTEC Manual, its print predecessor, as the most comprehensive source of information about teacher education and certification published in the United States.

Want to know more? The Technology Committee will host a *KnowledgeBase* exhibit at the upcoming NASDTEC Annual Conference in Jacksonville, Florida. We plan to have a presentation

designed to educate our membership about *KnowledgeBase* functions and features while highlighting our most recent enhancements. Please stop by our exhibit anytime during the conference or come visit the Technology Committee session during the Themed Committee Meetings slot on Tuesday, June 2.

More about the 2009 Annual Conference

For details about the 2009 Annual Conference please visit our conference website (www.nasdtec.com). On that site you can find just about everything you might need to know about the conference. The most current agenda is posted with session titles and speaker information as it is received. You can access the registration form, information about the meeting hotel and about the city of Jacksonville and all it has to offer visitors.

As always, there are plenty of opportunities for networking and informal discussions. The Sunday afternoon/evening cultural event sponsored by the Evaluation Systems group of Pearson promises to be both fun and informative as well as allowing time for those informal discussions that prove to be so valuable to attendees.

Monday evening's President's Reception, sponsored by Educational Testing Service provides an opportunity for you to meet new members and old friends in a relaxed atmosphere.

Association business will be handled at the Regional Breakfasts in Monday morning and at the Business Meeting on Tuesday afternoon. We encourage you

all to attend both of these events as we'll be charting the future course of the Association using input from these meetings.

The *Themed Committee Meetings* on Tuesday morning are a carry-over from last year's program. Since they were so well received, we decided to repeat them this year. The sessions give you an opportunity to explore what responsibilities the committees have been charged with, and how you might be of assistance in their work.

Future Conference Dates & Sites

13th Professional Practices Institute
October 14 – 16, 2009
Marriott Albuquerque
Albuquerque, New Mexico

82nd Annual Conference
June 13 – 16, 2010
Hyatt Regency Indianapolis
Indianapolis, Indiana

14th Professional Practices Institute
October 6 – 8, 2010
Renaissance Hotel
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

83rd Annual Conference
June 5 – 8, 2011
Hyatt Regency
Sacramento, California

15th Professional Practices Institute
October 19 – 21, 2011
Doubletree Hotel
Little Rock, Arkansas

Conference website:
www.nasdtec.com