

NATD NEWS UPDATE

Fall, 1984

This summer has been a busy one for NATD members. Peter Wolmut has been working diligently preparing for next year's program in Chicago. He has been in touch with many of us about his plans. Committees have been formed and many are already deep in plans for organization and to establish the directions the committee will take. It is hoped that all those who volunteered or were invited to serve will do so. Our goal is to present professionally sound and informative symposia. Plans are also underway for our business meeting and the election of officers for 1985-86.

NCME has proposed/offered some sort of formal affiliation between the two organizations. Our officers and Board members are reviewing the implications of such an agreement. I have been invited to attend the N.C.M.E. Board meeting in October. At that time our proposal for affiliation will be presented. George F. Madaus, NCME President, will meet with the NATD Board in Chicago to present their response to our proposal. We are strongly convinced of the need for NATD to retain its identity and integrity. We will keep you posted of our progress in this project. Our membership will need to react prior to any official action on our part.

Janie Hall has expressed some very creative ideas about our Newsletter. Be watching for the next edition which should be written in the near future,

Our new directory is enclosed with this issue of the News Update. Thanks to all of you who responded to our request for directory information. It is still not too late to send in your information if you have not yet done so. We would like to remove the names of those who are no longer interested in our mailings. We will try to include changes in people or addresses in an addendum.

Riverside Publishing Company has already completed the preliminary plans for our annual banquet in Chicago. From what I've heard, it will be another elegant evening.

National Computer Systems (NCS) has purchased the scoring center in Iowa City. The center serves several publishing houses.

Personal Notes: Roger Baglins's father died in mid-July. We had our first grandchildren—twin boys—on August 13.

Hope the new school year is off to a good start for you. We look forward to hearing from you throughout the year.

Paul F. Brown

NATD NEWS LETTER

Spring, 1985

Chicago Highlights

The National Association of Test Directors (NATD) held its annual meeting on Wednesday, April 3, 1985, at the Hilton Palmer House in Chicago, Illinois. The meeting was held in conjunction with the national meetings of the American Educational Research Association (AREA) and National Council on Measurement in Education (NCME). President Paul F. Brown, Indianapolis, Indiana, welcomed members and guests.

The movement of NATD from a loosely-knit network to a dues-paying organization was formalized by two actions; a 1985-86 budget was presented and accepted and membership dues were voted at \$20.00 per year. The articles by Peter Wolmut and Roger Baglin below describe the rationale for the changes in NATD.

New officers for the 1985-86 year were announced by Michael Strozeski, Garland Texas, chairpersons of the Nominating Committee.

They are as follows:

President – Peter Wolmut, Multnomah, Portland, Oregon
Vice President – Janie L. Hall, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Secretary – George Iverson, Lansing, Michigan
Treasurer – Roger F. Baglin, Rochester, New York
Director – Sandra O’Neil, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Director - Carole Perlman, Chicago, Illinois

The new structure of NATD calls for the immediate past president to serve on the Board of Directors for one year. Paul Brown, Indianapolis, Indiana will serve during 85-86. In addition, the vice president is also the president elect. Janie Hall, after serving as program chair and vice president, will become president during the 1986 NSTD meeting.

One study group was formed. Robert Ziomek, Brownsville, Texas, will head a committee to examine the push to develop a national, standardized test and to make recommendations to the membership regarding a position for NATD.

REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT PETER WOLMUT

Under the leadership of Past President Jules Grosswald and Paul Brown, NATD has moved from an after-dinner discussion group to an organization which has the potential of making a great deal of impact in the world of testing on behalf of the students for whom we are responsible. My goal for this year is to establish non-bureaucratic governance for the organization and a financial base sound enough to allow us to move

our programs forward. To this end, I urge you to carefully consider becoming a full member in NATD by participating in the program which Janie Hall will establish and by paying the dues established for this year.

**NATD GOES ON PAY BASIS DUES, BUDGET ESTABLISHED,
THE REASONS WHY**

From Roger F. Baglin, Treasurer

Until recently, membership in the National Association of Test Directors was one of the last bastions of the free lunch (or dinner, or breakfast, especially for those who attended AERA/NCME). However, at the most recent annual meeting in Chicago on April 3rd, a dues structure was approved by the organization. At the same time, a 1985-86 budget was developed and approved. Annual dues were established at the level of twenty dollars per member; if more than one member is from the same district, each would be expected to pay a separate twenty dollars. The dues are considered individual, not institutional, regardless of whether they cover the membership year, which runs from April 1 through March 31. Members joining between January 1 and April 1 will have their dues credited to the new membership year. The budget established is predicted on revenue of \$3,880, with the expenditures, and reserves totaling the same. Revenue is estimated, perhaps optimistically, to come from 144 members paying dues, totaling \$2,880, plus \$1,000 of gifts or donations. Expenditures are in several categories including travel expenses for NCME and APA affiliation purposes, publication of the "Guidelines and Principles for National Test Norming Studies" and other papers, as well as incidentals. Reserves are projected at ten percent of the total of \$3,880.

Moving from theory to practice, actual receipts from dues at this point total \$320 representing 16 persons, most of whom paid at the annual meeting. This is appealing for all members who have not already done so to forward their \$20.00 checks to the newly elected treasurer, Roger Baglin, at the address below. Nonprofit status for the organization is being investigated and presumably one will be able to deduct these dues from one's income taxes. It is felt that twenty dollars is a small amount to ask in support of an organization whose principles are so important. While no one particularly enjoys dues, it is felt that they are a necessary step in order to maintain a viable presence.

As additional incentive to those who may be wavering, several operational rules have been established for dues-paying and non-dues-paying members. While it is not our intent to become exclusivistic, nevertheless, reality must be faced in this matter. Consequently, affiliate membership will continue to be available to any and all interested persons, even on a non-dues-paying basis. However, only full (dues-paying) members will be accorded the following privileges:

1. Eligibility to vote for officers and directors, to vote at the annual meetings, and to vote in any other ballots which may be conducted by the organization.

2. Continuation on the general meeting list of the organization, so as to receive all announcements and all issues of the newsletter. (A mailing of one newsletter annually to non-dues-paying members is intended; this will serve each year both as an invitation to become dues-paying members and as a pro forma indication of non-dues-paying affiliate membership status.)
3. Inclusion on official membership lists which will be forwarded to any and all organizations (e.g. test publishers) who wish to provide members with complimentary services or invitations, such as to dinners or breakfasts on the occasion of the annual meeting.

Once again we urge you to submit your dues as soon as possible, not only to enjoy the above-mentioned incentives, but also to become full members and support the critical work in which your organization is engaged. The Membership/Dues Form is located at the end of the newsletter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Study Groups Forming

Janie Hall, program chairperson for 1985-86, forming study groups based on the surveys which were returned to Peter Wolmut prior to the meeting in Chicago and will be contacting members shortly. Individuals who have not already indicated an interest are encouraged to do so right away. Contact Janie Hall, Oklahoma City Public Schools, 900 North Klein, Oklahoma City, OK 73106, (405-272-5502).

Status of Minimum Competency Testing

Much is happening in the various states and school systems with minimum competency testing of students. If you have an article (or an idea for one that is available for national dissemination, contact Glynn Ligon, AERA Acquisition Editor, Department of Management Information, Austin Independent School District, 6100 Guadalupe, Austin, Texas, 78752.

NCME Session Tapes Available

Roger Baglin has a set of tapes from one of NCME's Invited Symposium sessions titled, "Standardized Tests Authors and Developers Look at Test Use: How Good? Responsible? Ethical?" Herbert Rudman chaired the session. Presenters were Michael H. Kean, CTB/McGraw-Hill; H.D. Hoover, University of Iowa; Thomas P. Hogan, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay; Eric F. Gardner, Syracuse University; Burton W. Faldet, Science Research Associate; Gerry Ann Bogatz, Educational Testing Service. If you are interested in borrowing the set, please call Roger at 716-325-4560 or write him in Rochester (address listed above).

NATD Newsletter Seeks Announcements, Articles, Information

If you have items you feel would be of interest to NSTD membership, please send them to the newsletter editor, Grace Iverson, Lansing Public Schools, 500 W.Lenawee, Room 220, Lansing, MI 48933. We're especially interested in your views on testing issues, your experiences in assuring smooth administration of testing programs and your successes in assessing that test results assist with education decisions.

**National Association of Test Directors
Membership/Dues Form**

Membership for one year \$20.00

Name _____ Title _____

Institution _____ Telephone _____

Mailing Address _____

Mail form and check for \$20.00 payable to NATD:

Roger Baglin, Director
4825 Lyell Road
Spenceport, New York 14559

NATD NEWSLETTER

Spring, 1986

San Francisco Highlights

The national Association of Test Directors (NATD) held its annual meeting on Saturday, April 19 in the Moscone Convention Center in San Francisco, California. The meeting was held in conjunction with the national meetings of the American Educational Research Association (AREA) and the National Council on Measurement in Education (NCME). Formal actions included approval of the April 3, 1985 annual meeting minutes, approval of the financial report with amendments, and approval of the NSTD Constitution with amendments.

President Peter Wolmut reported that the informal affiliation between NATD and NCME is counting in a positive manner. He also reported that a joint committee has been formed between NATD and DRE (Directors of Research and Evaluation) to study the national test initiative that is being supported by the Chief State School Officers (CSSO). A proposed position concerning national testing will be one outcome of the study group.

New Officers for 1986-87 are;

President – Janie Hall, Oklahoma City, OK (Replacing Peter Wolmut)
Vice President – Mike Strozeski, Garland, TX (Replacing Janie Hall)
Past President – Peter Wolmut, Portland, OR (Replacing Paul Brown)
Treasurer – Jean Jolly, Palm Beach county, FL (Replacing Roger Baglin)
Secretary – Tommy Hall, Houston, TX (Replacing Grace Iverson)

New Board members for 1986-87 are;

Roger Baglin, Rochester, NY (Replacing Len Granick)
Grace Iverson, Lansing, MI (Replacing Mike Strozeski)

At the conclusion of the meeting, President Wolmut turned the presidency officially over to Janie Hall. President Hall's plans for the coming year follow.

REPORT FROM PRESIDENT JANIE HALL

The theme song of the National Association of Test Directors might well be I Get By With A Little Help From My Friends. We have had a great deal of help from many friends over the years:

B.E. Bergerson of Personnel Press first got a group together to discuss common problems.

Riverside Publishing Company picked up the tradition from “Bergie”, Jules Grosswald and Peter Wolmut took responsibility for bringing some semblance of order to those informal meetings.

The Association of American Publishers brought test directors and publishers together to look for ways to achieve high quality norming samples without overtaxing our students.

I think few of us realized how those meetings were going to change the course of NATD. It was as we worked out what was to become The Guidelines and Principles for National Test Norming Samples that we began to see that we had to become an organization. To Paul Brown, our first formally elected president, fell the task of molding this collection of free spirits into a working unit. NCME gave help which included time on their program and a place to hold our meetings. Science Research Associates provided a way for us to do some advance organizing for our meetings. And finally, Peter Wolmut took on the task of establishing ...a financial base sound enough to allow us to move our programs forward. (Wolmut, 1986) Pete has done his job so successfully that within a year of establishing a dues system, our membership is back up to what it was when membership was free. In this day of tight money, that tells me that what NATD is doing is useful.

In the coming years I would like us to even more helpful to our members and friends.

I see this happening in several ways. First, I see NATD enlarging its function as a support group for its members. To facilitate this I propose the publishing of a Yearbook. Funds are currently available for this from anonymous friends. This Yearbook would consist of a listing of members along with their title, address, phone number. Each listing would include an abstract (9&5to 150 words) describing measurement areas in which the member has particular concern and/or special expertise.

Depending on space, we might consider including summary demographics, such as which states have a competency testing program and what tests are used, etc. The goal is for our members to have at their disposal, all year (not just at national meeting), an awareness of others who are working on, or interested in, the same issues as they.

I have asked four of our members to serve as area representatives who will be responsible for pulling together the Yearbook material from their area. I will compile the information with an expected publication deadline of October.

Second, I suggest that we include, as members, test directors from settings other than large city and county public school systems. Although those systems will, hopefully, always make up the backbone of our organization, we should consider the mutual benefit of including others whose primary responsibility is testing but who function in somewhat different settings. This will be our first year to have a membership chairman.

A third way in which we can function as a helping group is to assist non-members whose primary assignment is not testing but who have that responsibility thrust upon them. This might include teachers and counselors in smaller districts. By making ourselves

available, both collectively and individually, we can be of considerable assistance to the educational community, and we can exercise influence on the quality of local testing programs.

And finally, I have one more suggestion about how we can be helpful. This one stems from the fact that we are an organization of practitioners, and as such, changes in the political climate, which surrounds us in time to affect their direction.

How about a committee of climate watchers? Their job will be to keep aware of the emerging issues and to suggest ways that we as test directors can act (as opposed to react) to influence them.

We have a busy productive year ahead of us. I predict that we will do much better than "get by" with a little help from our friends.

RESOURCES

The May, 1986 How to Evaluate Education Programs contains an article titled "How to Make Student Achievement Comparisons Among States." Authored by Conrad G. Katzenmeyer, senior research associate in the Office for Educational research and Improvement, U.S. Department of Education, a review of national testing options is given with a discussion of the pros and cons of each method. The Newsletter can be obtained by writing to Capitol Publications, Inc. 1300 North 17th Street, P.O. Box 9672, Arlington, VA, 22209

NATD CONGRATULATES

Jules Grosswald recently retired from the Philadelphia Public Schools. Jules was one of the organizers of NATD. Jules is consulting and is developing a private counseling practice.

Roger Baglin (Rochester, NY) won an AERA Division H award for the category called "Best School or School District Statistical Profile".

Robert Ziomek (Brownsville, TX) also won an AERA Division H award for the category called "Advances in Methodology".

NATD THANKS

Many thanks from NATD to Riverside Publishing Company and Science Research Associates for the elegant dinner and breakfast provided to NATD members.

OTHER STUFF

As of March, 1986, NATD had 144 members with new members joining almost daily.

NATD began the year with a debit of \$32.00 and ended with a carry-over of \$1,600.00

Pass the word along to your colleagues about this viable organization. Membership form is attached.

An updated membership list will be coming out soon.

NATD NEWSLETTER

January, 1987

Report from President Hall

As I write this, it is almost Christmas Eve but, as you read it the new year has come. Some of the events of the year past are not what I would have chosen. Perhaps, you feel that way too. Some have experienced losses; we all have too much work and too little time. On the other hand, there have been successes. Some have married, published papers, and moved into new positions.

Each of you is a valued friend, and as the new year begins, I hope that you will experience joy in your personal life and satisfaction in your work for much longer than the next twelve months.

Enclosed is our first occasional paper. I think you will find it thought provoking.

The NATD brochure goes to the printer today.

I will be representing NATD at the American Association of School Administrators in February and at the Texas Testing Conference, also in February.

We have four excellent symposia on the NCME program for the April meeting in Washington, D.C. (see below)

Happy New Year!

UPDATES

1987 Program

President-Elect, Mike Stozeski writes that NATD will be well represented at the joint AERA/NCME/NATD meeting to be held April 20-24 in Washington, D.C. Four sessions organized by NATD will be on the program.

1. Riding the Rasch Tiger, an NATD Symposium. Organized by Chadwick Karr, Portland State University, Gresham, Oregon.
2. Student Achievement Comparisons Among States: Issues and Status, an NATD Symposium. Organized by Robert Ziomek, Brownsville School District, Brownsville, Texas.

3. Standardized Test Selection Practices in the Public Schools. Author: Whit Johnstone, Irving Public Schools, Irving, Texas.
4. Perspectives on Public Reporting of Test Results, an NATD Symposium. Organized by James Myerberg. Montgomery County Public Schools, Rockville, Maryland.

The next NATD newsletter will have details on the times and places of NATD meetings, festivities, etc.

NATD/DRE Committee on Concerns Regarding National Testing

Bob Ziomek reports that the joint committee of members of the Directors of Research and Evaluation group and National Association of Test Directors formulated at the April, 1986 meeting to study issues involved in national achievement testing has been active. As a first task, members wrote down their concerns/issues and sent them to Bob or Carol Robinson (for DRE). Carol and Rob have put those comments together and sent everything back to everybody for their review. Is this a modified Delphi approach? In late January, a conference call among all members will be held. At that time, the advisability of session on this topic. (see above) Thanks to Bob, Janie Hall, Michael Kean, Fillen Pecham for NATD and Carol, Sharon Johnson-Lewis, Walt Hathaway, and Paul LeMahieu for DRE.

RESOURCES

FairTest: What is it?

FairTest, a project organized in October, 1985 as a division of the National Center for Fair and Open Testing, will be of interest to those NATD members who worry about the over-emphasis on and/or misuse of testing results. A review of FairTest News Update #4 covered such issues as teacher testing, testing the handicapped and test company errors.

FairTest describes itself as a “national public interest organization which works to ensure that the 20 million standardized test administered each year are fair, open and educationally sound.”

For more information, write: FairTest, PO Box 1272, Harvard Square Station, Cambridge, MA 02238 (617) 489-0461. Cost for the quarterly FairTest News Updates is \$15.00.

AWARDS! AWARDS!

The AREA Division awards competition has been recently announced in the January, 1987 Pre-Post Press, the Divison H newsletter. Nominations for awards are being sought in the following categories:

Best Report on Advances in Methodology	Best Report on Testing Results
Best Report on Instructional Research	Best Report on Instructional Evaluation
Best Report on a Management Study	Best Summary Report
Best Report on School District Statistical Profile	Best Report of a Policy Study
Best Report on Institutional Research	

The closing date for applications is January 31, 1987. To get more information on criteria write or call:

Patricia W. Kees, (904) 390-2105
Director, Research and Evaluation
Duvall County Public Schools
1701 Prudential Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32207

NATD NEWSLETTER

December, 1990

President – Carole Perlman

President's Message

Dear NATD Members:

During the past year NATD has become increasingly well-represented in national groups that deal with issues that profoundly affect us. NATD has joined such groups as the American Psychological Association (APA) and the National Council on Measurement in Education (NCME) as part of the Joint Committee on Testing Practices (JCTP), which developed the Code of Fair Testing Practices in Education, provides a means by which professional organizations and test publishers can work together to improve the use of tests in assessment and appraisal. The National Assessment Governing Board and the Council of chief State School Officers have named NATD members to various advisory panels pertaining to the content, scaling, and use of Education Progress (NAEP). I am also hopeful that a formal relationship between NATD and the Educational Information Advisory Council Assessment Task Force will soon be established. That would guarantee us input on matters relating to any national assessment (NAEP) or to otherwise that may be developed. We have also solidified our already good relationship with NCME. NATD members are serving on NCME committees, (including the newly formed task force on restoring credibility to school achievement testing programs) and NCME members voted to change their by-laws to give non-university people increased presentation on the NCME board.

This year, NCME is sponsoring a number of training sessions that might be of interest to you. Some of the topics include: computerized adaptive testing, methods of setting standards, use of the Mantel Haenszel statistic, introduction to the design and development of performance assessments, the evaluation of legal defensibility of high-stakes tests, and issues in large scale assessment (the last two sessions are being co-sponsored by AERA). These training sessions will be conducted at the annual meeting in Chicago this April and the presenters are excellent. Watch your AERA and NCME annual meeting registration materials for details or phone me at (312) 535-4000 for more information.

On many occasions I've called fellow NATD members for advice and help. In fact, one of the best things about NATD is that it provides us with a means to get in touch with colleagues who have successfully faced the same problems that we are confronted with. To help make contact easier, we are expanding our membership directly to include information on members' areas of interest and expertise. But, we need your help before

the new, improved membership directly can become a reality. Please take a few minutes to fill out and return the enclosed NATD Directory Information Survey by February 1.

Notes from the Program Chair

I hope that you will be able to attend both of the NATD/NCME symposia that are planned for our annual conference April 3-7 in Chicago. Joe Hanson, Colorado Springs Public Schools, has organized one called, "Toward More Authentic Assessment: A State of the Art Snapshot." Participants will include Walt Hathaway, Portland Public Schools; Allan Olson, Northwest Evaluation Association; Frank Horvath, Alberta Department of Education; and Lew Pike, Falls Church, Virginia. Barbara Presseissen, Research for Better Schools will be the discussant.

The second, which I organized, is titled "Local State, National and International Indicator systems" Will we know where we are if we get there?" Paul LeMahieu, will act as moderator. Participants will include Sharon Johnson-Lewis, Moore & Associates; Edward Roeber, Michigan Department of Education; John Ralph, National Center for Educational Statistics; Gary Phillips, National Center for Educational Services; and Kevin Matter, Cherry Creek (CO) Public Schools. Leigh Burstein, UCLA will be the discussant.

Joe and I were both very pleased with the way people responded to our requests that they work hard for NATD and NCME. Thanks to all concerned.

May your chi-squares be significant and your four-way interactions insignificant!

Ernie Bauer, Vice President, NATD

When you can measure what you are speaking about and express it in numbers, then you know something about it; but when you cannot measure it, when you cannot express it in numbers, your knowledge is of a meager and unsatisfactory kind. (Lord Kelvin)

While you and I have lips and voices which
are kissing and to sing with
who cares if some one-eyed son-of-bitch
invents an instrument to measure spring with (e.e Cummings)

BREAKFAST/BUSINESS MEETING

APRIL 4-MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

National Computer Systems has agreed to sponsor our breakfast/business meeting again this year. As in the past, it will be the first morning, April 4. The location has not been determined. The February newsletter will contain details.

NATD OFFICERS, 1990-91

President, Carole Perlman, Chicago, IL

Vice President, Ernest Bauer, Oakland, MI

Secretary, Lynn Winters, Palos Verdes, CA

Treasurer, Kevin Matter, Cherry Creek, CO

Immediate Past President, Bob Ziomek, Cedar Rapids, IA

BOARD MEMBERS

'91 Sharon Johnson-Lewis, Detroit, MI

'92 Peter Wolmut, Portland, OR

'93 Glynn Ligon, Austin, TX

'94 Cordelia Alexander, Dallas TX

Editors Note: The next issue will be distributed in February 1991. Please send information regarding what you have done professionally, honors you have won, publications you would like to share, or requests for information you'd like form other NATD members. Please send your information to:

Linda L. Elman

Planning, Research and Evaluation

Tacoma Public Schools

P.O. Box 1357

Taocoma, WA 98401-1357

NATD NEWSLETTER

Spring, 1994

President's Message

M. Kevin Matter, President, NATD

Dear NATD Members,

First let me remind you to turn in your Constitution Ballot to Lee Baldwin by March 25.

The NATD Officers and Board will meet on Monday evening, April 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the lobby next to the registration desk at the Marriott. If you have any issues you would like discussed, please call me at (303) 773-1184 or fax a note to me at (393) 773-9370.

As it was reported in the last newsletter, the 1993 Symposia will be made available for purchase at a cost of \$25.00. An announcement of the availability of the Symposia appeared in the February 9 issue of Education Week, and they are now available for purchase.

We want to mail you a current membership list, along with updated phone numbers and FAX numbers. A fax number is very important. Several companies now offer communication services (newsletters, etc.) by FAX, at costs comparable to U.S. mail and printing costs. For NATD to utilize these services, we need to be sure we have updated FAX numbers on as many members as possible. Thus, if you have recently acquired FAX capabilities (within the last year or so), please FAX your number to Guy Glidden (316-833-4095), so we can include it in our membership directory.

I want to thank Linda Elman, Vice-President/President Elect for assembling the 1994 NATD program and coordinating the Breakfast/Dinner activities. Also thanks to other NATD officers and members who graciously gave their time and expertise throughout the past year.

I know budgets are tight and travel expenses are limited for most of us. I hope many members are able to attend. NATD functions at this year's AERA/NCME annual meetings. Please contact NATD officers and board members with concerns, issues, etc. Names and addresses were listed in the last newsletter. This organization is yours! The officers and Board need your input and feedback! See you in New Orleans!

NATD/AREA IN NEW ORLEANS

Plans are being finalized for the NATD/AERA/NCME Convention in New Orleans. The joint meeting of the Directors of Research and Evaluation and the National Association of Test Directors will take place on Monday, April 4 at the Marriott, Balcony M, Fourth

Floor. A continental breakfast will be served at 8:00 and the meeting will start at 8:30. The Sunday DRE meeting will be in the same room and will also start with breakfast at 8:00. Two symposia sponsored by NATD, a business meeting, and the NATD annual dinner have been scheduled.

NCME SESSIONS SPONSORED BY NATD

Membership Forum on the Proposed NCME code of Ethics

Wednesday, 12:25 – 1:55 P.M Marriott, Bonaparte, 4th floor

Organizer/Moderator: Cynthia B. Schmieser, ACT

Presenters: Kurt Grisinger, SUNY; Sharon Johnson-Lewis, Detroit Public Schools; Ed Roeber, CCSSO, William Schafer, University of Maryland; Cynthia Schmieser, ACT

Discussants: Daniel Eignor, NCME Standards & Test Use committee, ETS; Kevin Matter, NATD, Cherry Creek Schools; Christina Winter, NCME Minority Issues and Testing committee, Lewis & Clark College

1994 NCME/NATD Symposia: Performance Assessment Quality Standards:

Wednesday, April 6, 4:04-6:05 p.m. Marriott, Mardi Gras D, 3rd Floor

Organizer/Moderator: Carole L. Perlman, Chicago Public Schools

Presenters: Stephen B. Dunbar, University of Iowa; Joe B. Hansen, Colorado Springs Public Schools; Larry Barber, Phi Delta Kappa,

Panelists: Judith Costa, Clark County (NV) Public Schools; Maryellen Donahue, Boston Public Schools; Aaron Gary, Jr. Norfolk (VA) Public Schools; Mary Moore Dayton, Public Schools

Discussants: Michael Kean CTB Macmillian/McGraw-Hill; Thomas Kerins, Illinois State Board of Education

In addition to the sessions, the major NATD events at the NATD/AERA/NCME convention in New Orleans are listed below as follows:

1. Joint NATD/Directors of Research & Evaluation Meeting at AERA: Monday morning, April 4, 8:30 (Breakfast at 8:00) Marriott, Balcony M, Fourth floor
2. NATD Officers and Board of Director Meeting at AERA: Monday evening, April 4. Officers and Board members meet at 6:30 p.m. in the lobby by the registration desk of the Marriott.
3. NATD Business Meeting and Breakfast: (Marriott, LeGallerie B) Tuesday morning, April 5. (Breakfast –7:30; Business Meeting –8:00). Mail Enclosed RSVP for breakfast to National Computer Systems.
4. NATD Dinner, Hosted by Riverside Publishing Company: Tuesday evening, April 5. Invitations and details will be supplied directly by Riverside.

NATD NEWSLETTER

July, 1985

I CAN'T WAIT FOR FALL! ANNOUNCEMENTS!

NIE Seeking Applications to Analyze School District Records

Many times we've said, "I wish I had time to really look into that program or answer this research question." For most of us the press of day to day implantation doesn't give us the time to answer the "It would be nice to know" questions. The National Institute of Education (NIE) may be able to help. They have recently published and disseminated a REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP # NIE-R-85-0015) that calls for an analysis of existing school district or State Education Agency records for the following purposes.

- A. to determine the patterns of categorical service students receive over multiple services.
- B. to determine the long term educational accomplishments of students who have been served by compensatory education programs.

Proposals must be received by the contracting officer no later than 4:00 p.m. (Eastern time) on September 16, 1985.

Interested?	Write	ED/National Institute of Education Contracts and Grants Management Division 1200 19 th Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20208
	Call	Ms. Lee Black NIE 202-254-5080

NCME Announces 1986 Award

The National Council on Measurement in Education has established three award categories:

- Category 1: Award for an outstanding dissemination of educational measurement concepts to the public.
- Category 2: Award for an outstanding example of the application of educational measurement technology to a specific problem.
- Category 3: Award for an outstanding technical or scientific contribution to the field of educational measurement.

This year (1985-86) an award will be made only in Category 1. In subsequent years, awards will be made in other categories.

Examples of dissemination media for the Category 1 award include nontechnical books, articles in newspapers and popular magazines, radio or television presentations and legislative testimony. The selection criteria for the award include judgments on the significance of the product(s), the quality and accuracy of the produce(s), innovativeness of the dissemination procedure and magnitude of the impact of the product(s) in furthering the correct understanding of educational measurement concepts.

To be eligible for this award, the product(s) must have been published or presented during 1983, 1984, or 1985. One may either nominate his/her own dissemination produce(s) or, with permission, someone else's. The nomination form can be obtained from the Award Committee, c/o Tse-chi Hsu, 5C25 Forbes Quad, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260. (Later, finalists may be requested to submit copies of the complete product(s). e.g., written document, videotape, etc.) The deadline for submission is January 15, 1986.

The honorarium and plaque will be presented at the NCME's 1986 annual meeting in San Francisco.

NATD Membership Reminder

In case you've been letting the summer slip by without sending your NATD dues, here's another membership form.

NATD NEWSLETTER

Spring, 1984

NEW ORLEANS HIGHLIGHTS

1984 NATD Meeting

The national Association of Test Directors held its annual meeting on April 24, 1984 at the Marriott Hotel in New Orleans, LA. President Paul Brown, Indianapolis, Ind., welcomed members and guests to the first NATD meeting to be a part of the AERA Program.

Peter Wolmut, Portland, Oregon, Chairperson of the Committee for Test Standardization, reviewed progress made in the development of a document outlining conditions necessary for participation by large cities and counties in test standardizations. Dr. Wolmut reported that a rough draft was reviewed by a committee appointed at the previous meeting in Montreal. This committee consisted of Roger Baglin, Rochester, NY, Tommy Hall, Houston, Texas, Bill Myers, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and Carol Robinson, Albuquerque, NM. A draft was then sent to the membership for review. The final draft was sent to members for approval during March, 1984.

After questions and discussion from those present, Dr. Wolmut asked those members who had not already done so to cast their votes. The announced result was 28 of 35 approved, 2 approved with recommendations, and 2 disapproved the document. (the final count of all votes, including late arriving ones was reported by Dr. Wolmut in May as totaling 51; 43 yes, 6 yes with reservations and 2 no.)

Carol Robinson, Nominating Committee Chairperson announced that Paul Brown had been reelected president for 1984-85. Other officers included Peter Wolmut, vice president, Tommy Hall, secretary, and Bill Myers, treasurer. Janie Hall, Oklahoma City, OK, replaced outgoing board member Carol Robinson.

Sandra Oneal, Albuquerque, NM, presented A Profile of Standardized Testing which provided an overview of achievement testing practices and results for member districts. Ms. Oneal reported that the California Achievement Test is the most frequently used commercially produced test and that 61 of the 70 reporting districts are involved in a state mandated testing program. Copies of the report are available upon request to Ms. Oneal.

Program Chairperson, Cordelia Alexander, Dallas, Texas, introduced invited speakers, Robert Stevenson, Dade County, FL., and Michael Mauldin, Houston, TX. Dr. Stevenson discussed general statistical problems inherent in the use of tests to award Merit Pay. Dr.

Mauldin outlined the positive aspects of using test as part of the criteria in the awarding of merit pay.

Jules Grosswald Honored

Dr. Jules Grosswald, Philadelphia, Pa., was honored at the 1984 NATD meeting for his years of service to the group as founding president. Current president Paul Brown presented a bronze plaque to Dr. Grosswald and expressed appreciation on behalf of the membership. In accepting the honor, Dr. Grosswald reminded the group that good things are still happening in public education. He encouraged NATD to continue the growth which it has begun and to continue to involve more individuals.

Mr. Brown also thanked Dr. Michael Strozeski, Garland, Texas, on behalf of the membership for handling the mailing of NATD correspondence.

Joint NATD/AAP Meeting

Officers of the National Associations of Test Directors met with the Association of American Publishers in New Orleans to Review the Principles for National Test Development. Paul Brown informed the publishers that the principles had been adopted by NATD. Individual members of the publisher's group expressed reservations and questions about the wording of several points in the document. NATD members agreed to consider rewording in some areas. Peter Womult recorded the suggested changes for consideration by the NATD membership.

Members of NATD and AAP expressed encouragement resulting from the atmosphere of cooperation between the two groups.

NCME Symposium

At the invitation of Barbara Plake, NCME Program Chairperson, NATD members participated in an invited symposium dealing with issues and problems in testing in large city schools. Topics discussed were:

Teacher Training in Measurement, Peter Womult
Testing Bilingual and Non-English-Speaking Pupils, Janie Hall
Testing to Evaluate Teachers, Cordelia Alexander
How to Apologize Gracefully for Improved Test Scores, Jules Groswald
Problems of a Test Director in a Large Urban School System, Michael Mauldin
Test Item Banking, Bill Myers
Moderator, Mike Strozeski

The symposium was highlighted by the appearance of that fine southern gentleman 'Colonel' Bill Myers who graphically demonstrated, with real US (not Confederate) dollars, the need for trust among test directors in order to increase their gains from item banking. Grace Iverson, Lansing, MI, and Ellen Pechman, New Orleans, LA., assisted him by trusting enough to put one dollar into his "bank" and doubling their investment. 'Colonel' Myers later confessed that he was a bit worried about how many in the audience would choose to trust him.

Closing remarks by Discussant Carol Robinson reviewed the pressures for test misuse which test directors face and forecast an increasing need for measurement people to take a stand for ethical practices, even to the point of putting jobs on the line.

From the Vice President:

Enclosed with this Newsletter are two items for your review and consideration.

1. First, after the Principles were adopted at the NATD Business Meeting, some of us met with publisher representative. And the draft sent to you earlier was amended slightly, but not too substantively as per the enclosed copy.

The principle about sampling units was reworded and placed into Principle #1. Some clarity of language was made. Publisher representatives said they would like to examine the principles independently. So in the preamble, the concept of publisher subscription to the principles is left in brackets.

Unless there is a groundswell from you demanding another vote, your officers agreed to leave the principles as amended.

2. The second document is a sign-up sheet for you to become involved in NATD study areas for 1984-85. (for those who were in New Orleans, you may wish to sign up again. If not, I still have your choices from the meeting.)

Please examine the list and indicate which groups you would like to be involved with. Also, please indicate which group(s) you might wish to chair.

As chairperson, you will decide how you and your colleagues want to handle the topic. You will also be asked to consider making the topic part of a symposium for submission to NCME for the 1985 convention in Chicago. That is not a must; but I have asked already that time be considered for us in terms of two presentations and the annual NATD business meeting.

The study group idea will work to the degree that we combine to make it work. And it just could be an interesting way to establish problem-solving techniques among us.

If you have any questions, please call me at (052) 255-1841 x 220. And thanks ahead of time for your consideration. I look forward to hearing back from you by June 30.

A Reminder: Paul Brown requests that members who have not returned updated directory information to him do so as soon as possible.

NATD Newsletter Editor: Janie Hall, Oklahoma City Public Schools, 900 N. Klein, Oklahoma city, OK 73106.

NATD NEWS LETTER

Winter, 1985

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Peter Wolmut
Multnomah School District
Portland, Oregon

Immediate Past Paul Brown (Indianapolis, IN) and I attended the NCME Board of Directors meeting, and we are very heartened at their continued warm reception of us and their willingness to help our fledgling NATD organization.

I recognize that many of us may never have been NCME members or, once having been a member, dropped out because of a perception that NCME does not relate to the practitioner. I am certain that you will agree that we cannot practice measurement without keeping up to date on theory while, at the same time, our academic colleagues need to know the practical limitations to the theories they wish to espouse.

NCME has started, if you are not aware of it, a bold attempt to build a resource bank of instructional units for educational measurement. The practitioner response to this has been minimal. Those of us who are concerned about instruction in our field have an opportunity to participate, but we have to be NCME members. So, I urge you to use the form attached to consider starting or reinstating your NCME membership if you aren't current. And, if you are a member, please consider nominating your colleagues to receive membership information.

I am pleased to announce that the National Council on Measurement in Education (NCME) agreed to underwrite the cost of the NATD Symposia (1985) and also will allow us to advertise its sale in their national publications.

If you have paid your NATD dues, you are receiving with this newsletter a copy of that symposia. If you haven't paid your dues, won't you please consider writing that check for \$20 payable to NATD and sending it in right now using the form located at the end of the newsletter? Treasurer, Roger Baglin (Rochester, NY) has reported a total of 62 members. We hope to have 144 members this year. As a member, would you please consider inviting other Test Directors from smaller districts in your geographical area to join NATD regardless of district size?

Best wishes to you for the happiest holidays. 1985!

**SUMMARY OF MEETING WITH NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR
MEASUREMENT IN EDUCATION (NCME)**

Peter Wolmut, NATD President, and Paul F. Brown, NATD Immediate Past President, attended the NCME Board meeting at NCME's invitation. This invitation is an example of NCME's intent to establish a closer affiliation with NATD. Paul Brown reports the following major conclusions reached at the meeting:

1. There is a symbiotic relationship between NCME and NATD.
2. NATD will publish the symposia papers from the 1985 meeting in Chicago.
(Enclosed if you have paid your dues)
 - A. the NCME Board voted to reallocate the monies allocated for the distribution of the NATD Newsletter to NCME members to the printing of symposia papers to be distributed to NATD members.
 - B. The NCME Board voted to advertise the availability of the symposia papers in JEM and EM at not cost to NATD.
 - C. The symposia papers will be sold to NCME members. Profits from the sale will be turned over to NCME to reimburse the original funding.
3. NATD will serve as a communications liaison between NCME and educational practitioners.
4. NATD will continue to encourage the members to become NCME members.
5. NATD will continue its efforts to allocate time for NATD symposia at the annual meeting.
6. Bill Mehrens, NCME Board President, established an ad hoc committee to look at the NCME structure for a place for NATD within NCME. It was suggested that the Division model be reviewed rather than the Special Interest Group (SIG) model. Carol Robinson and Dean Nafziger were continued in their appointments to the ad hoc committee. (Carol Robinson is on the NCME Board and is an active member of NATD.)
7. A definite plan for an affiliation between the two organizations still needs to be worked out.

1986 NATD ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM PLANNING UNDERWAY

Janie Hall, (Oklahoma City, OK) NATD Program Chair and President Elect has been working on the NATD annual meeting program. Two NATD symposia are scheduled for the NCME program:

Taming the Rasch Tiger – Dean Forbes, (Portland, OR) Chairman. This is to be a very practical approach intended for the less sophisticated audience than this topic usually addresses.

Legitimate Ways to Prepare Students for Testing – Paul Brown, Chairman. This is in response to increased concerns over inappropriate means of preparing students.

Be sure to mark your calendars April 17-19, 1986, for San Francisco. Another advantage of being a dues paying member will be an invitation to our annual dinner and our second annual breakfast.

PROMOTING APPROPRIATE USE OF TEST SCORE INFORMATION

A topic of continuing concern to our membership has been the seeming ease with which the public media use test scores to tell them all they feel they “need to know” about schools. (Some of our professional colleagues of a group of Lansing School District teachers who were appointed by their teacher organization to look into testing issues, the president of that organization and the superintendent of schools co-authored an editorial “Point of View” which was published in the Lansing State Journal. This is an idea that you might try as testing directors who constantly walk the fine line between colleagues, parents and community to get too carried away by test scores. The “Point of View column” is attached.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ACTIVITIES

Bill Myers of Broward County Schools in Florida is retiring at the end of December. Bill has been with NATD since it's very beginning. We wish him all the best.

Carol Perlman (Chicago, IL), NATD Board member has been busy developing a constitution for NATD. Carol writes, “It amazed me that the Founding Fathers were able to write the U.S. Constitution without a word processor.”

The editor thanks Board member Mike Strozeski (Garland, TX) for his help in mailing the newsletter.

If you haven't yet paid NATD dues, the form attached will help speed up the process. If you're looking for a 1085 tax deduction, NATD qualifies!

Newsletter items, ideas? Send to Grace Iverson, Research and Evaluation Services,
Room 220, 500 West Lenawee, Lansing, MI 48933.

NATD NEWSLETTER

SAN FRANCISCO HIGHLIGHTS

March, 1986

The NATD program for 1986 is one that members won't want to miss. Janie Hall (Oklahoma City, OK) reports on the following events:

Thursday, April 17, 8:15-10:15 a.m. – A symposium – Taming the Rasch Tiger: Using Item Response Theory in Practical Educational Measurement
Organizer/Moderator: Dean Forbes, Portland, OR Public Schools

Friday, April 18 – NCME breakfast

Saturday, April 19, 8:00 a.m. – NATD breakfast
Hosts: Science Research Associates, Inc.

Saturday, April 19, 10:35 a.m. – 12:05 p.m. – NATD Business Meeting
Chair: President Peter Womult, Multnomah Educational Service District, Portland, OR

Saturday, April 19, 12:25 – 1:55 p.m. – A symposium – Legitimate Ways to Prepare Students for Testing
Organizer: Paul Brown, Indianapolis, IN Public Schools
Moderator: Gynn Ligon, Austin, TX Independent School District

Other events, times to be announced:

Banquet hosted by Riverside Publishing Company
1985-86 Board Meeting
1986-87 Board Meeting

In addition to the events noted above, James DeGracie (Mesa, AZ) has invited NATD members to share testing concerns with the Directors of Research and Evaluation (DRE) group that meets annually prior to AERA. Jim writes that he has set aside the morning of Wednesday, April 16th for a joint meeting of NATD and DRE members to discuss issues on testing. The meeting will be held at:

8:30 a.m.
Wednesday, April 16
Meridian Hotel
3rd and Market
Gamay Room
Third Level

Jim asks that any NATD members who wish to submit critical issues on testing for the agenda, write him at : 549 North Stapley Drive, Mesa AZ 85203.

NATD 1986-87 SLATE OF OFFICERS ANNOUNCED

Nominating Committee Chair, Paul Brown (Indianapolis, IN) announced that the slate of officers for NATD leadership during 86-87 has been developed. A ballot is enclosed with this newsletter. Please exercise one of your rights of membership and vote for those persons you feel can best lead NATD.

TREASURER'S REPORT FORM ROGER BAGLIN

Roger Baglin (Rochester, NY) reports a February membership of 114 members. At the 1986 Board Meeting, Roger will be presenting the following 1986-87 budget for membership consideration.

Proposed 1986-87 NATD Budget

REVENUE		
Dues (100 members @ 20)	\$2,000	
Gifts/Donations	1,000	
Current cash balance	<u>355</u>	
TOTAL REVENUES		<u>\$3,355</u>
EXPENDITURES		
Travel Expenses	855	
Publication expenses	855	
Telephone expenses	500	
Postage	500	
Supplies	<u>145</u>	
		<u>\$2,855</u>
RESERVES		
Expected carry-over/contingency	<u>500</u>	
TOTAL RESERVES		<u>500</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES PLUS RESERVES		\$3,355

NATD MEMBER OPINIONS ON A NATIONAL TEST AND STATE BY STATE COMPARISONS

From:
Robert Ziomek (Brownsville, TX)

At the annual business meeting of the National Association of Test Directors, held in conjunction with the 1985 NCME/AERA conference in Chicago, it was voted by members present to poll the current membership regarding their concerns and reactions relative to a recent vote taken by the Council of Chief State School Officers endorsing a national test to be used for state-by-state comparisons. The intention of the executive

Education is a responsibility of the states and LEAs ,as it should be. Establishing a national exam for comparing state and local efforts would only serve to turn the best efforts of many into a political circus and a platform for a variety of special interest groups.

Because state and local curricula vary scope, sequence, emphasis et., a national exam would be too “generic” to highlight specific strengths and too”basic” to reveal critical weaknesses.

A national exam would be too costly in terms of resources and wouldn't provide any new information that is not already evident to districts.

Too many factors influence educational outcomes which are not adequately reflected in test results. A single outcome measure, such as a national exam, would generate many unwarranted interpretations and comparisons as well as invite the blatant misuse of results by naïve consumers of this information.

4. Please specify an alternative suggestion to the national exam proposal if you feel a viable option exists.

Of those responding to Question 4, fifty-four (54) did not respond or specifically indicated no viable options exists (non-responses were taken to mean no option exists). The remaining responses to this question fell into three categories: 1) SEAs and/or LEAs should consider their own testing priorities; 2) existing NAEP activities should be reinforced to accommodate comparisons; 3) national norms should be established by equating major standardized tests comparable to the old Anchor Study.

5. If the executive leadership of NCME and Division D and H, of AERA, are unwilling to enter into a collaborative responded to the issue of a national exam, should NATD pursue this matter on its own?

Yes 70 (85.4%) No 7 (8.5%) No Response 5 (6.1%)

An Unsolicited But Nevertheless Provocative and Pessimistic Postscript from Surveyor Ziomek:

Isn't it ironic that after only one short year the Council of chief State School Officers has overwhelmingly agreed to initiate the development of a national examination to facilitate state-by-state comparisons and assessment of students' educational progress. And the chiefs are serious! They have already established the own assessment center, appointed a director, and even developed indicators in the areas of educational outcomes, educational context, and educational policies and practices on which to base cross-state comparisons.

Therein lies the irony. Well, once again, if you have been keeping up with the latest pronouncements emanating from the White House, the new deficit reduction law (Gramm-rudman) will have a dramatic adverse affect on education, reflecting President Reagan's philosophy to increase the states' responsibilities of providing basic services (Education Week, December 18, 1985), to include prioritizing funding in education. It is very easy to please most of the people most of the time when you have the "bucks" to spread around, especially when those dollars are coming from "good ole Uncle Sam". It is another matter when our Uncle gets tight and says to you, "you'll be getting less," and to make matters worse, "it will be up to you to decide on how to spend it." Many a politician's fate, including superintendents', has been decided on such issues.

So where does this lead us – a national exam to assess the educational pulse of our nation? No one want to be ranked last, unless of course our state and federal legislators see cause to increase funding; likewise, no one will object to being ranked "Numero Uno" as long as they can continue to receive the monies to keep them or even more money to really make them shine! State officials supporting the plan say "the use of the indicators, including achievement tests, would help states get goals, evaluate their progress, and document the effects of the reform movement" (Education Week, November 27, 1985, p.14). That statement, coming from those Chief State School Officers supporting the so called plan, does not make sense. Since when did the states need a national exam to detail state specific goals in education, and evaluate their reform movements? What are state officials currently doing with the wealth of test information being accumulate by local LEA's, not to mention all the other state date requirements currently inundating school districts?

The reason, MONEY' the motive, POLITICAL; the modus operandi, THE TEST; the outcome, !?#*!!*?.

NATD NEWSLETTER

Fall/Winter, 1986

FROM OUTGOING PRESIDENT, PETER WOLMUT

Last June, I enunciated as my goals for this year the establishment of a non-bureaucratic governance for the organization and a financial base sound enough to allow us to move our programs forward. I am afraid, in this day and age, nonbureaucratic governance for an organization may have to remain an oxymoron. Thanks to all of you and to some generous contributions, both deliberate and accidental, we do have governance and a better-than-expected financial base for the 137 members (as of March 15) of the National Association of Test Directors.

As an example of deliberate generosity, the cost of printing the 1985 symposia was underwritten by the National Council on Measurement in Education (NCME) which also provided us free advertising for that volume in their journals. NCME was also kind enough to cover the expense of the attendance of Immediate Past Present Paul Brown and me at their board meeting last winter, at which the matter of NCME/NATD affiliation was resolved. That resolution provides for informal but strong affiliation and, I hope, will provide a framework for closer ties between theory and practice in our field.

We will be discussing our governance in April, thanks to the Herculean efforts of Carole Perlman. Custody of our financial base was established by Roger Baglin, who also plunged into an exciting working relationship with the IRS.

This is the fifth newsletter you are receiving this year, accompanied by two formal publications: the Principles and the 1985 Symposia. This could not be done without Grace Iverson's editorship and Mike Strozeski's helping putting the membership lists in order. My thanks go out not only to these persons but also to Sandra O'Neal and Len Granick for being there for all the odds and ends; and I'm again indebted to Paul Brown whose distinct talent among many is to provide solutions to the n-1 problems I addressed to him. My deepest appreciation goes to Janie Hall for her support and for her coordination which produced the program which will be available to us in April. And then, most important, is the support through the combined talents and efforts of all of you.

It has been my privilege to serve as your president this past year. I know we will all continue to support Janie, the new officers and Board of Directors next year as NATD moves forward as a professional structure which will help us to help the students for whom we are responsible.

**PREVIEW OF COMING ATTRACTIONS: SAN FRANCISCO
APRIL 16-19, 1986**

Wednesday, April 16

8:30 a.m. Joint meeting of NATD and Directors of Research and Evaluation to discuss critical issues in testing. Meridian Hotel. Gamay Room.

Thursday, April 17

8:15 – 10:15 a.m. NATD Symposium – Taming the Rasch Tiger: Using Item Response Theory in Practical Educational Measurement. Moscone: 210 East

Friday, April 18

8:00 – 10:15 a.m. NCME Breakfast, Business Meeting and Presidential address, Meridian: Cabernet I, Level 2

6:30 p.m. Reception and 7:30 p.m. – Dinner. NATD Banquet hosted Riverside Publishing Company. Invitations are being mailed.

Saturday, April 19

7:30 a.m. NATD Breakfast hosted by Science Research Associates. Invitations are being mailed.

10:35 a.m. –12:05 p.m. NATD Business Meeting. Moscone: 200 East.

12:25 p.m – 1:55 p.m. NATD Symposium – Legitimate Ways to Prepare Students for Testing. Moscone: 200 East.

NATD ELECTION RESULTS

The membership has elected the following NATD officers for the membership year 86-87.

President Elect:	Mike Strozeski Garland, TX
Secretary:	Tommy Hall Houston, ISD, TX
Treasurer:	Jean Jolly Palm Beach, County, FL
Board of Directors:	Roger Baglin Rochester, NY

As Mike Strozeski becomes President-Elect, his Board of Directors' position becomes vacant. According to the NATD constitution and past practice, the second highest voter getter for the Board of Directors position will fill out Mike's term. Grace Iverson will then, become a Director. Janie Hall will move from President-Elect to President. Leaving the Board of Directors is Len Granick. Also leaving the Board as Past President is Paul Brown. Peter Womult will now become Immediate Past President.

OTHER STUFF

Attached to the last Newsletter of the NATD business year are three important documents:

1. A NATD membership directory. This directory lists names, addresses, and phone numbers of those members as of 3-15-86.
2. The proposed NATD constitution. Once we become a formal organization, we needed a set of governing rules.
3. A copy of the Guidelines and Principles for National Test Norming Studies. Many of those who have been active for a few years know how much work has gone into the development of the document.

Attached is a copy of the proposed NATD Constitution. Technically these amendments, rather than a constitution, and they will be voted on as a group. They are patterned after the constitution of similar organizations and were written by Carole Perlman with input from the officers and other board members.

NATD NEWSLETTER

October, 1986

Report from President Hall

The following are some bits and pieces of information, which may be of interest.

We had budgeted (last year) funds for Peter Wolmut to attend test APA conference but found a way to get more for our money. Valeria Ford represented us at APA which was held in her home city of Washington, D.C. Her report will be included in a future newsletter.

I have submitted a proposal for inclusion in the ASA conference which is scheduled for New Orleans in February. My purpose is to establish a closer relationship between ourselves and school administrators. If the proposal is accepted, I will use the funds originally earmarked for Peter's trip to APA.

By a decision of our board, NATD will be a sponsoring organization for the Annual Texas Testing Conference. This involves only the use of our name.

Speaking of our name, it will be listed in the next edition of the Encyclopedia of Associations.

We now have tax exempt status through 1989.

You will be receiving your copy of Symposia Papers, Second Edition soon. It is a good one. Pete has worked hard!

I have about finished the content of our brochure, but haven't thought of an attractive format. Suggestions will be greatly appreciated.

The Yearbook is making very slow progress. One difficulty is a dearth of information. I received about a 25% return rate on the survey. (sounds pretty normal, doesn't it?) I am enclosing a second copy of the survey and hope that those of you who have not responded will do so.

Our relations with NCME continue to be good. Last year they helped with the publication of our Symposia Papers. This year, we will not need that help. (Isn't it a nice feeling?) We have provided NCME with our membership list and complimentary copies of Symposia Papers to their board. They assisted us with some free advertising last year

and are considering the same this year. I continue to encourage our members to be a part of NCME as well as NATD. It seems to me that membership in both organizations is important to individuals in our field.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL FOR NOMIANTIONS

NCME Award for the Best Application of Educational Measurement Technology

The National Council on Measurement in Education has established three categories of awards:

- Category 1. Award for an outstanding dissemination of educational measurement concepts to the public.
- Category 2. Award for an outstanding example of the application of educational measurement technology to a specific problem.
- Category 3. Award for an outstanding technical contribution to the field of educational measurement.

This year (1986-87) an award will be made only in Category 2. In subsequent years, awards will be made in other categories.

Examples of application problem areas include, but are not limited to, selection or classification of students, measuring a hard-to-measure trait, evaluating an educational program or product, and integrating testing and learning. Selection criteria are quality and innovativeness of the application effort or the positive impact of the application on practice.

To be eligible for this award, the application must have occurred initially during 1984, 1985, or 1986. One may either nominate their own application work or, with permission, someone else's. Those responsible for the application need not be members of NCME. To be considered for the award, four copies of a 3-5 page statement describing the technology, application area, and products or results of the effort should be sent to the Awards Committee Chair. Later, finalists may be requested to submit additional information.

The deadline for submission is January 30, 1987. The award will be presented at the NCME annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

Award nomination forms are available from the Chair,

Dr. Howard Stoker

UT, Memphis
8 South Dunlap
Memphis, TN 38163

UPDATES

A National Test – Definitely On It's Way!

By Grace Iverson

The March, 1986 NATD Newsletter featured results of a survey of member opinions regarding the development of a national test to be used for state-by-state comparisons. The survey was conducted by Bob Ziomek. Bob added what he called "Unsolicited But Nevertheless Provocative and Pessimistic" comments. You'll remember that the Council of Chiefs State School Officers (CCSSO) in November, 1984 adopted a plan for developing a system of educational indicators, one piece of which is student achievement. This adoption was in reaction to the famous "wall chart" disseminated by, then, Secretary of Education Bell.

O recently attended a meeting of the Committee on Evaluation and Information Systems (CEIS) which is an advisory committee to CCSSO. While the memberships is generally made up of state department of education people, some local school district persons have been invited to participate in various CEIS, sub-committees. That's how I got there. At the September meeting, Ramsey Seldon, Director of the CCSSO's State Education Assessment Center, brought the committee members up to date on what he termed the "Preliminary Design" for state-by-state student achievement testing.

Director Seldon has used officials from the various state-level departments of educational as one group of advisors for planning purposes. That seems natural given that this project is one sponsored by the Chiefs. However, there appeared to be little formal solicitation of advice from local school district staff. When asked about this (guess who asked?), Dr. Seldon said he welcomed hearing from local school district-persons on the plans as they progress. Since there has been a joint committee appointed by NATD and the directors of Research and Evaluation (DRE) to monitor the direction of national testing, we can expect that communication will open up between school districts and the Assessment Center.

Several issues regarding test-development are being addressed. The plans call for cyclical testing in reading, mathematics, science, social studies and English at elementary, intermediate, and high school levels. However, how the specification of the subject matter to be tested will be done is unresolved. Should the curriculums/objectives of each state be reviewed and the areas common to all be tested? Or should states identify priority curriculum areas and objectives whether or not they are included in each state's curriculum? The plans lean toward having a test that measures the curriculum area that states feel should be in place.

Another issue involves the frequency with which testing should be conducted. At present the assessment center is looking at test design that would ... “assess reading, writing, English and mathematics alternating every other year, and to assess science and social studies every four years in alternation with mathematics.”

Issues involving the type of score to be reported also are being discussed. Here, an attempt will be made to report scores”in simple, global format for performance in each subject at each grade level.”

The quotes are taken from a draft document disseminated to CEIS members titled, Preliminary Design: State by State Assessment of Student Achievement.

If you have some thoughts on this topic you want to share with the joint DRE/NATD committee, send them to -- Bob Ziomek
Brownsville ISD
954 Ease Madison Street Route #2
Brownsville, TX 78520

If you want to hear more of the background on this issue: write to –

Ramsey Seldon, Director
Council of Chief State School Officers
State Educators Assessment Center
400 North Capitol Street – Suite 379
Washington, D.C. 2001

Ask for the Position Paper and Recommendations for Action on Evaluation and Assessment In the United States and for any updated documents he has on the design for state by state assessment of student achievement.

A final Note of Irony. In sitting in a room populated by state department of education persons, it was humorous to hear them voice their concerns about national testing and the pressure it will bring to state departments of education. The arguments were similar to those we, as local school district persons, use when we futilely attempt to stop the tide of more and more state required testing. Does any of the following sound familiar?

1. Unfair state comparisons will be made.
2. There is already too much testing going on.
3. We’ll soon have to adhere to a national curriculum in order to “look good”.
4. It will be difficult to draw a state-by-state sample that can adequately represent a given state.

Sound familiar? Chuckle? Chuckle!

1987 NATD Programs

Vice President Mike Stozeski reports that 12 NATD sponsored proposals for either paper or symposia were submitted to the National Council of Measurement in Education (NCME) for the 1987 annual meeting. Acceptance/rejection notices are due any time. Watch for the good news in the next newsletter!

Constitution Amended

At the annual meeting a series of amendments to the constitution were made. Attached is a copy of the constitution which reflects those changes.

RESOURCES

Have you seen the recent publication developed by our colleagues in Detroit? Testing Tune-Up, A guide To Peak Performance has test-taking skills handouts and practice exercises for use with all students grades 1-12. The materials are provided in a 3 hole punch format and are printed so those overlays can be easily made for group presentations. The materials are easy to duplicate as well. To order a set or set(s) write:

Detroit Public Schools
Evaluation and Testing Program
Room 108, Schools Center Annex
5035 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, MI 48202

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Jean Jolly reports that new members come in daily and former members are renewing their memberships. That information indicates NATD as in good health. Jean also asks that members be reminded that yearly dues go from the original date a member paid. Renewal notices, then, go out at various times during the year. In case you haven't renewed, a form is below.

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE NATD YEARBOOK

Name _____ Title _____

Address _____ Phone _____

My responsibilities include:

I am interested in knowing more about the following testing issues:

I am concerned (as in worried) about the following testing issues:

I have expertise (that I am willing to share) in the following areas:

**RESPONSES TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS WILL BE USED IN SUMMARY
TABLES ONLY AND WILL NOT APPEAR UNDER YOUR NAME**

The biggest benefit (besides the banquets) that I realize from NATD is:

Norm reference tests used by my district:

At grades:

Consequences for students:

Norm reference test used for state assessment:

At grades:

Consequences for students:

Criterion referenced tests used by my district:

At grades:

Consequences for students:

Criterion referenced test used for state assessment:

At grades:

Consequences for students:

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO: Janie Hall

Standardized Test Specialist
Oklahoma City Public Schools
Planning, Research and Evaluation Department
900 North Klein
Oklahoma City, OK 73106

NATD NEWSLETTER

February, 1988

President's Report

Greetings colleagues. I hope this newsletter finds you hale and hearty. We just survived the great snow/ice of 1988 here in Garland. Most of us are still intact, functioning, and as incapable as ever at trying to drive our cars on icy roads. Texas drivers just don't do well in snow and ice.

Several conferences and conventions are taking place around the country in the near future. The Southwest Educational Research Association (SERA) just had a successful meeting in San Antonio. The Second Annual Texas Testing Conference is coming up in March (7-9) in Austin. Our Vice-President and President-Elect Paul LeMahieu, from Pittsburgh, will be one of the principal speakers. A number of our members are planning to attend this conference and I look forward to seeing them there. And, of course, we are all getting excited about AERA in New Orleans. I understand we have a good NATD program set, thanks to Paul LeMahieu.

Kudos to Peter Wolmut for his stellar job with the 1987 Symposia and to Grace Iverson for her hard work and patience getting our newsletters out. Thanks also to Janie Hall for her help with the mailing.

A conference is scheduled for the Joint Committee on Testing Practices. The forum is to be held March 7 and 8, 1988, at the Bethesda (Pooks Hill) Marriott in Rockville, Maryland. I hope we will have at least one representative from NATD in attendance. I am attaching a draft copy of the Code of Fair Testing Practices in Education for your perusal.

I personally can not agree with several of the items as presented in this "Draft for Review-January 1988" copy. Methinks the air has become a trifle too rarified in someone's ivory tower, especially in Section D, Informing test-takers. There is no need whatsoever of expending the time, energy, and money necessary to routinely provide "a priori" the information suggested. There must be other ways of achieving true fairness. Do school districts really want to mount a major campaign to educate test-takers, parents, etc., as to how they should register complaints? Agree or disagree with them as presented, and write to some of the folks serving on the committee. Feel free to share your opinion with me and the other NATD officers.

Speaking of officers, we have an excellent set of nominees to consider for next year.

Janie Hall mentioned to me that she had some thoughts for consideration regarding changes in our constitution. She is going to forward them to me in writing. If you have any item that you wish to be presented to the membership at the meeting in New Orleans,

send them to me. I will try to get a letter to the membership with the information. (Send them soon!)

As always, we can look forward to the excellent Riverside Publishing Company sponsored dinner on the second evening of AERA (Wednesday, April, 6 1988) and to the SRA sponsored breakfast, that very morning.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Sincerely,
Mike Strozeski, Ph.D

NATD PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

In the last NATD newsletter, descriptions of the NATD symposia and sessions were offered. There is every reason to look forward to an interesting and productive meeting. To help you organize your calendars, we offer the following summary of events of interest to NATD'ers:

Wednesday, April 6 7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	NATD Membership Breakfast Hosted by: Science Research Associates	Rythms Restaurant Sheraton Hotel
Wednesday, April 6 12:25 – 1:55 p.m.	Multipurpose Testing: Can One Test Serve Two Maters? an NATD Symposium organized by Valeria Ford, Washington, DC Public Schools	Sheraton Hotel Esterwood Room
Wednesday, April 6 2:15 – 3:45 p.m.	NATD Business and Membership Meeting – Mike Strozeski Garland, TX, ISD, President	Sheraton Hotel Esterwood Room
Wednesday, April 6 6:30 p.m. – Reception 7:15 p.m. – Dinner	NATD Reception and Dinner Hosted by the Riverside Publishing company for NATD Members (by invitation only)	Arnaud's Restaurant 2 nd Floor
Thursday, April 7 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	NCME breakfast	Marriott Hotel Mardi Gras D
Thursday, April 7 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.	NCME Business and Membership Meeting	Marriott Hotel Mardi Gras H
Friday, April 8 8:15 – 10:45 a.m.	AERA Division H – Breakfast and Business Meeting	Sheraton Hotel Pontchartrain B
Friday, April 8 10:35 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.	customization of a National Standardized Achievement Test an NATD symposium organized by Jane Canner, New York City Board Of Education	Sheraton Hotel Esterwood Room

NATD NEWSLETTER

Fall, 1992

From Your President

Some notes and thoughts from Joe Hansen:

Greetings from Colorado. The aspen are in their fall splendor as I write this column, and we know that a Rocky Mountain winter is stealthily creeping up on us. Any day now a blast of arctic air will combine with moisture from the gulf to bring us our first snowfall of the year.

What a year this has been so far. It seems that in addition to our testing duties, nearly all the NATD members I've talked with over the past six months have experienced significant additions to their responsibilities, usually without additional compensation, as school districts across the country are reducing staff and cutting costs. I can't help but wonder what the long term effects of all these cutbacks will be on the quality of testing programs. Here in Colorado we're facing a November ballot with a major tax limitation initiative, the most far reaching voucher plan to ever be placed on a ballot, in any state, and a major reform bill would raise the state sales tax by one percent in order to maintain current levels of state funding. Without the latter we are facing draconian cuts in funding for public education. It seems that our situation is not unusual as I hear from others around the country.

This summer brought some very sad news for the educational research, assessment and evaluation community, as my best friend over the past nineteen years, Walt Hathaway, passed away at his home in Portland. I miss him and I know that it will be years before I personally recover from the loss. There is a more detailed article on Walt, elsewhere in this newsletter. Karen Banks of Wake County Public Schools, has been appointed to fill out Walt's unexpired term on the NATD Board of Directors. We are grateful to Karen for accepting this appointment and have great confidence in her ability to provide guidance to the Association.

Here's some good news. Being president of NATD can have its benefits. This summer I was selected by the citizens Ambassador Program of People to People International to lead a delegation of evaluation and assessment experts on a two week visit to Russia. The delegation will be comprised of four to six people, but only I will have my expenses fully paid by The Citizens Ambassador Program. The trip will take place from March 22 through April 6, 1993. Am I excited?

NATD member, Paul Killiam of the Washoe County (Reno), Nevada Public Schools is the outgoing chair of the Directors of Research and Evaluation (DRE) group. Paul conducted a survey of DRE membership to find out whether they were interested in

continuing the tradition of meeting with NATD on the morning before AERA begins. The response overwhelmingly favored continuing the joint meetings. Therefore we will meet on Monday, April 12, 1993 from 8:00 to 12:00. The hotel and room have not yet been determined, but we will have that information in the next newsletter, which will be published a few weeks before AERA. A continental breakfast will be provided.

President-elect Kevin Matter is working hard to assemble a stellar program for the two reserved slots NATD has on the NCME program. The first symposium, Objectifying the subjective: Rubrics, scoring guides and other ways of knowing, will feature presentations by Carole Perlman, of the Chicago Public Schools; Laurie Wise, of the Defense Manpower Data Center, Monterey; Judy Arter of Northwest Regional Lab; and as yet to be named presenter. The discussant will be the widely recognized guru of alternative assessment, Grant Wiggins. The second symposium will take a long look at the testing movement it might be headed. This symposium, Testing, Testing: do we know where we're going? Have we been there before? Will feature Peter Wolmut, of Multnomah ESD, Paul Brown of Indianapolis Public Schools and as yet to be named presenter. H.D. Hoover of Riverside Publishing will be the discussant. These promise to be very stimulation sessions, so plan to attend.

Peter Wolmut and Ernie Bauer are collaborating on publishing the proceedings of last spring's symposia. Watch for these soon.

Paul LeMahieu and I are a committee of two working to establish a research internship for graduate students in testing and measurement who have a promising idea for a dissertation study and need a few dollars to make it happen. While our busy schedules have slowed progress on this effort somewhat over the past few months, we still expect to bring it to fruition by the time we all meet in Atlanta.

And speaking of Atlanta, the NATD Board and officers will meet on Monday evening, April 12 to discuss association business. The specific location and time will be published in the next newsletter.

Finally, please note the following, included in the newsletter; the membership form from Guy Glidden on the back page, and the NATD Performance Assessment Survey insert. Please return your survey form to Carole Perlman by October 15. If you know somebody who is involved with testing student achievement who is not a member of NATD, please invite that person to join. The NATD purpose and membership requirements are spelled out in the next column.

NATD HAS A PURPOSE

For those readers who may be new to NATD and to provide some assistance to all of you in recruiting new members, I thought it might be worthwhile to include a brief statement on the purpose and membership requirements of NATD. So here it is, straight from the NATD constitution.

Section 102: It shall be the purpose of this Association to:

- a. share information about testing in public schools.
- b. encourage the appropriate use of testing in the public schools
- c. improve the applications of measurement of students and school programs.
- d. Encourage research in the area of elementary and high school testing and measurement.

Section 201: Active members shall include dues paying individuals:

- a. with responsibility for school testing programs
- b. from institutions involved in the construction or use of test in schools, including, but not limited to school systems, school system research departments and test publishers
- c. who have been active Association members for at least five years, are at least sixty years of age, and who are no longer employed on a full time basis.

If you know anyone who fits these descriptors and is not currently and NATD member, please encourage them to join. In numbers there is strength.

A TRAGIC LOSS

NATD is deeply saddened by the loss of one of our finest colleagues. Walter Hathaway died of a stroke at his home in Portland on August 9, following a long illness diagnosed as Parkinson's disease. He was 52. Walt was elected to NATD board of directors in 1992. Walt was AERA Division H Vice President in 1984-85. He had been director of research and evaluation with the Portland Public Schools since 1981. Under his leadership the PPS research and Evaluation Department gained national prominence for innovative practice in educational measurement, research and evaluation, winning numerous awards. Walt was a dynamic leader who dedicated his life to promoting excellence and equity in education through the application of the highest quality measurement, research and evaluation practices.

Joe Hansen, a close friend of Walt's, is working to establish a research following in his name, to provide assistance to researchers conducting studies that will lead to improving the quality of education for at-risk students. If you are interested in assisting Joe with this lasting tribute to Walt, please call or write to him at Colorado Springs Public Schools, 1115, N. El Paso St., Colorado Springs, CO 80903. Phone (719) 520-2077.

CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

NCME Award for Application of Educational Measurement Technology

NCME is please to announce its call for nominations for the triennial award for the application of educational measurement technology to a specific program. This is one of three award competitions held triennially. This year's award will be based on an application completed in 1990, 1991, or 1992. NCME members and others are strongly encouraged to help in identifying candidates for this important award.

Examples of applications to specific problem areas include, but are not limited to, selection or classification of students, measuring a hard-to-measure trait, evaluating an educational program or product, integrating testing and learning, or applying technology in a new way to a current problem. Selection criteria are quality and innovativeness of the application effort and the positive impact of the application on the practice of educational measurement.

Self-nominations are encouraged, as are nominations of others, wit their permission. Nominees need not be NCME members. A nomination consists of five copies of a 3-5 page statement describing the technology, application area, and products or results. Finalists may be requested to submit additional information.

Nominations should be sent by January 20, 1993, to Linda K. Junker, Department of Research, Evaluation, and Planning, Chicago Public Schools, 1819 W. Pershing Rd., 4W, Chicago, IL 60609 (Fax: 312-535-4168; office: 312-535-4080). The award will be presented at the 1993 NCME Annual Meeting in Atlanta.