

From President O'Reilly

MAY YOU LIVE IN INTERESTING TIMES



*Joe O'Reilly
Mesa, Arizona Public
Schools.*

"May You Live In Interesting Times." This old folk "blessing" comes to mind as I think about the current world of test directors. National tests, academic standard setting, internet resources, developing valid and reliable performance assessments, etc. Some of these developments in testing are positive and some are not so positive, but they all keep our times very interesting.

On the positive end of the continuum are the recent efforts to link NATD members electronically. The goal is to make our testing world much smaller, with colleagues and sample documents just a mouse click away. There are two major efforts underway in this area.

First, we started the NATD listserv. This allows one person to send one note [question, request for help, comment] to one address and have it

automatically sent to all list subscribers. Replies to the original question are similarly shared with the list.

How do you sign up? If you have a valid e-mail address on file with NATD, you received a note from me and you have been signed up to the listserv. If you didn't receive a note from me then we don't have an e-mail address for you and you aren't subscribed to the listserv. If you want to sign up, simply send an e-mail to me at [jmoreill@mesa.k12.az.us] telling me you want to sign up and I will do the rest.

Steve Henry is heading a second cyber-activity -- collecting copies of reports and policies to put on the NATD website [see the related article in this issue]. These documents can serve as examples that all of us can use. The only problem is that this effort will not succeed until you contribute to it. Like me, I am sure that you have a document describing your testing ethics requirements or summarizing

your test results or helping others use your test results. And, like me, you haven't gotten around to sending it to Steve. Well, please share it! Now! It may take a little effort to put it on a disk and send it to Steve, but if we each send him one document we will soon have an extensive library of resources to tap in the future.

Another aspect of our interesting times is the proposed national test. Whether you are in favor of a national test, think we virtually already have one (the CTBSSTANFORD9ITBSTERR ANOVAMAT Test), or are against the test, you probably share a number of concerns about the current proposal. The

IN THIS EDITION ...

President's Message

The National Test

Minutes from Annual Meeting

Information Needs

Membership Form

Interesting Times

[Continued from page 1.]

burden of administering these tests and helping people understand the results will fall heavily on NATD members. Nick Novak, Joe Hansen, Steve Henry, Bill Brown, Barbara Clements and Steve Schrankel did a good job of summarizing some major concerns in a letter to Education Secretary Richard Riley. A full copy of the letter is available on the web page (www.natd.org). If you share the concerns expressed in the letter or have other concerns, please send your opinions on this important topic to Secretary Riley (USDOE, 600 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20202). Although the debate is political rather than technical, it is important that we voice our concerns.

Of course, I haven't mentioned the continuing efforts to revise the Standards For Testing, or the changes in state standards and assessments with which many of us are involved, or the many other "interesting" projects we have piled up on our desks. Yes, these are interesting [and busy!!!] times.



SUMMARY OF THE 1997 JOINT NATD/DRE MEETING

The agenda for the annual joint meeting of members of NATD with the Directors of Research and Evaluation (DRE) meeting held concurrently with the annual conference of AERA and NCME, focused on "What do we want to accomplish in 1997-98?" With over 38 states represented and just about every seat in the room taken, agenda topics included: What do NATD and DREs Need, Technology Status Report by Steve Henry (Topeka) and Joe O'Reilly (Mesa), session discussions for broadening and improving services; overview of the testing standards landscape by Karen Banks (Wake County), and determination of our voice on the proposed national test.

One of the most productive discussions was related to communication/information and this could be extended beyond this meeting and with those not in attendance. Members in attendance praised the efforts of Joe and Steve in the development of the Home Page and offered numerous suggestions on further expansion capabilities. Discussion focused on the establishment of a listserv, newsgroup, and/or chat room. Also, as a result of these discussions, members brainstormed on a list of pertinent topics which they sought to have information readily available. The recommended action which was based on these discussions was that the membership would be asked to submit materials on the designated topics. Facilitators were identified to receive these materials and then submit them to Steve for the Home Page. This information will then be shared via the NATD HomePage. Please remember: The success of this initiative depends on you, the NATD and DRE member. Please look through the list and send pertinent information on at least three of the topics. If each NATD member submits just three pieces of relevant information, one can only imagine the information at our fingertips and how readily assessable of information available to each of us. Also, if possible, the submission of the information in electronic form (*e.g.*, word

[Continued on the next page.]

NATD/DRE Information

[Continued from previous page.]

processing file) along with a hard copy would be most beneficial and reduce the amount of time necessary to get the information on-line.

Ethics of District Testing and Assessment: Policies and/or Guidelines

Nancy Shiffler
Shiffler@aaps.k12.mi.us
2725 Boardwalk
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

Training Materials on Assessment/Testing Programs

Nancy Baenen
eval@mindspring.com
3600 Wake Forest Road
P.O. Box 28041
Raleigh, NC 27611

Title I Evaluation Designs, Procedures, and/or Reports

Derrick Nottingham
dnott@pps.k12.va.us
Portsmouth Public Schools
3651 Hartford street
Portsmouth, VA 23707-1205

Processes and Procedures used for Setting Standards at the District and/or State Level

Linda Elman
Lindae@ad.cfsd.wednet.edu
P.O. Box 8
Silverdale, WA 98383

State and School District Policy Statements and procedural Guidelines

Ray Fenton
AHRF@ACAD2.ALASKA.EDU
4600 DeBarr Ave.
Anchorage, Alaska

Accountability Systems

Gretchen Ringway
gretchen_ridgeway@odedodea.edu
4040 N. Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22153

Job Descriptions for Positions Related to Research, Evaluation and/or Assessment

Barbara Helms
BJHELMS@MSN.COM
248-10 Woodford Ave.
Plainville, CT 06062

Technical Aspects of testing Including Equating, Reporting, Reliability and Validity

William L. Brown
wlbrown@main.goldengate.net
898 Stag Thicket Lane
Mason, MI 48854



*This Day in 1985 ... an update called:
"Legitimate Ways to Prepare Students for Testing" was presented in the NATD Newsletter
as an upcoming NATD/NCME symposium..*

NATD OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Imm. Past President

Dr. Joseph O'Reilly
Ms. Maryellen Donahue
Dr. Mary E. Yakimowski
Dr. Steve Henry
Dr. Karen Banks

Mesa (AZ) Public Schools
Boston (MA) Public Schools
Hampton (VA) Public Schools
Topeka (KS) Public Schools
Wake County (NC) Public Schools

At-Large
Board Members

Mr. Peter Wolmut
dr. Guy Glidden
Dr. James Myerberg

Portland (OR)
Wichita (KS) Public Schools
Montgomery County (MD) Public

NATD





THE PROPOSED NATIONAL TEST

Submitted by
Jim Myerberg

The author is retired but continuing to work many hours in Montgomery County Public Schools.

While subject to continuously change at a moments notice, listed below is some basic information about the proposed national test.

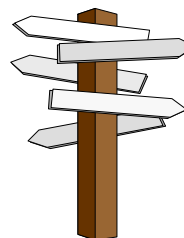
- ⇒ The test is voluntary.
- ⇒ Reading will be tested at the end of grade 4 and mathematics at the end of grade 8.
- ⇒ The first administration would be in March or April of 1999.
- ⇒ The test will measure overall student proficiency; it is not for diagnostic purposes.
- ⇒ Results will be available to locals for reporting to parents and teachers before the end of the year.
- ⇒ No individually identifiable data will be given to the federal government.
- ⇒ Items will be released to the public each year.
- ⇒ There will be parallel forms from year-to-year.
- ⇒ Standards for the test will come from the NAEP tests through a statistical link.

- ⇒ Inclusion criteria and appropriate accommodations will be required.
- ⇒ There will be approximately 90 minutes of testing.
- ⇒ Inclusion criteria and appropriate accommodations will be required.
- ⇒ There will be approximately 80% multiple choice and 20% constructed response items. Testing time will be divided about evenly between the item types.
- ⇒ The various parts of the administration will be carried out by certified entities (publishers, states, local school districts).
- ⇒ Certified entities will be reimbursed for expenses in 1999 (and possibly in subsequent years).
- ⇒ The development of each year's test will be a three-year cycle. Yr. 1 - item pilot; Yr. 2 - field test, equating to old forms, and linking to NAEP and TIMSS; Yr. 3- administration.

Will there be an actual nation test?

One of the speakers at the

national forum was Marshall Smith, Acting Deputy Secretary of Education. Dr. Smith began the forum by emphasizing that the primary purpose of the national test is to serve as a lever to mobilize people to help students meet the standards.



Which direction will the national test take?

Only time will tell!

The purposes of the NATD organization:

- ⇒ To share information about testing in educational settings.
- ⇒ To encourage the appropriate use of testing in educational settings.
- ⇒ To improve the applications of measurement to students and educational programs.
- ⇒ To encourage research in the area of elementary and secondary school testing and

NATD

National Association of Test Directors Membership Application Form



US Department of Revenue Taxpayer ID# 222659646

Name: Dr. Mrs. Ms. Mr. _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

FAX: _____

E-Mail: _____

Check here if you wish to request that your directory information not be published on our NATD web site. _____

Membership Category: (please check one)

_____ Active Member: Responsible for educational testing programs in settings not primarily for profit.

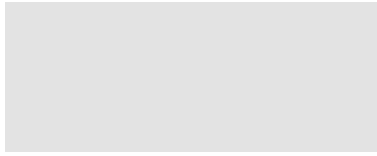
_____ Emeritus Member: Active NATD member for at least five years and no longer employed on full time basis.

_____ Associate Member: Not directly responsible for testing programs and/or involved in test development primarily for profit.

Annual dues are \$20.00; Please make checks payable to "NATD".

Mail your check and completed application to:

Dr. Steve Henry, Treasurer-NATD
shenry@topeka.k12.ks.us
6317 SW 32nd St.
Topeka, KS 66614



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO.



NATD Newsletter
