1995

Overview of the 1995 MWERA Annual Meeting

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MEETING REGISTRATION FORM
1995 MWERA ANNUAL MEETING CHICAGO, IL—OCTOBER 11-14, 1995

All attendees, including program presenters, must register and pay applicable fees. Please clearly print or type your name as you wish it to appear on your meeting badge. Nonmembers wishing to apply for membership may register at the member’s rate if membership application and fee is enclosed with registration.

Name ____________________________________
Affiliation __________________________________
Address ____________________________________
City/ST/ZIP __________________________
Highest Degree __________________________ MWERA-Division Preference __________________________
Institution Awarding Degree __________________________ Major area of Specialization ____________
Telephone: Bus. _______________ Hm. _______________
E-mail __________________________ Fax __________________________

Is this your first MWERA Conference? Yes ___ No ___

Pre-Conference Workshops (see following pages for details)
* Fee for these workshops is separate from Registration fee.
W.1.B __@ $10 W.1.D __@ $5 W.1.F __@ $10
TOTAL for Pre-Conference Workshops $________

Meeting Registration
Postmarked by Sept 25 After Sept 25
MWERA Member $45 $55
Nonmember __@ $50 $60
Student Member (must enclose proof of current status) __@ $30 $35
Attending Luncheon ONLY __@ $23 $25

* The Friday luncheon is included in the registration fee. Will you be present at the luncheon? Yes ___ No ___

Membership Dues
1995 Membership dues (required for all participants/registration discount rate) must be paid by Sept. 25, 1995.
MWERA Member — Regular $18, Student $10
1996 Membership dues — Regular $18, Student $10
Life Membership — $180

Conference Workshops: fee will be waived if meeting registration is paid in full
T.1150 F __@ $5 T.450 #505 __@ $5 T.130 ME __@ $10
T.1150 Max __@ $5 T.1010 #505 __@ $10 T.1010 ME __@ $5
T.1010 E __@ $5 F.410 #505 __@ $10 F.310 ME __@ $5

* Non-members attending only workshops should submit workshop fees only. TOTAL for Workshops $________

MWERA Material All materials must be picked up at the registration desk at the conference, prices do not include postage. Payment now guarantees that we will try to have materials available for you.
Indicate quantities below:
_____ MWERA Membership Directory $7
_____ MWERA 95 Annual Meeting Abstracts __ paper $4 __ IBM $3 $________
_____ MWERA Lapel Pin $3 each $________

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED FOR MEETING $________

When registering and/or joining, please make check(s) payable to MWERA, and mail with completed form(s) by Sept-25 to: Jean Pierce, Northern Illinois Univ., Dept EPCSE, DeKalb IL 60115

MWERA 1995 PROGRAM
Have You Made Your Reservations Yet?

Overview of the 1995 MWERA Annual Meeting

by Sharon L. McNeely, Northeastern Illinois University
Program Chair

Chicago has been the home to MWERA for so long, it is difficult for most of our members to remember a time when we haven’t been in Chicago, or at the Bismarck Hotel. When you walk into the Bismarck, you may remember the old, but you will find some changes the new management has made in the lobby, the rooms (those single beds are gone), and the services (easier check-in, voice mail, etc.). What you may not notice, unless you look closely at the program, is that we also underwent some remodeling.

Our remodeling started with moving the registration deadline ahead (September 25) to match the Bismarck’s. While this may seem minor to our newer members, there are indications that some of our longer-term members may not notice changes (e.g. the 30+ people who tried to send their proposals in late, using the deadline that had been in place for prior years. Standard letter: ...I just assumed it was the same, I never checked...) So, if you haven’t registered, do it now, and then finish reading this!

One of the other changes in our program is to integrate professional development into more of our annual meeting. My hope is to build our membership, share in more depth some of the important work of some of our members, and try to bring our finances into better shape. This year we designed the workshops to run in various patterns of pre- and during-conference, and to appeal to our membership, teachers, administrators, various educational graduate students, etc. I hope you will encourage educators you know to attend the workshops.

Unchanged is our integration of our student members’ participation. You’ll find their papers throughout. As in some recent years, students are not identified as such in the program. The idea is to integrate them, not segregate them!

I know “the crisis” in education is old these days, but I am hoping that the focus taken by Drs. David Berliner and Gerald Bracey will put a new twist on the old arguments. Dr. Berliner is joining us Wednesday night, October 11, for an open forum on the crisis (8 p.m.). Joining him on the debate will be Barbara McCombs and Gregory Marchant. As in previous years, this is open to the public. On Thursday morning Dr. Berliner will provide our opening keynote and focus the crisis back to some of the challenges we face in doing educational research. This will be followed by a day of at least 80 different presentations, including invited addresses by Barbara McCombs and Ken Kiewra.

The Friday luncheon promises to be jam-packed (no pun intended, I didn’t order jam for the lunch). Of course, there will be the usual brief gracious ceremonies and eats, and then Dr. Bracey will talk about the misrepresentation of test data in “hyped” the crisis in education, and some of the long-term ramifications to all of us. Dr. Bracey, like Dr. Berliner, will be available after his talk to meet for further discussion of his topic. Friday also includes an invited address by Barbara Shade, and another 60+ different presentations.

Friday is also the day of Exhibits. I feel a lot of personal investment here, since I have worked on developing the Exhibits over the past few years. I am so pleased that the various exhibitors are recognizing our membership as important authors, contributors, reviewers, consumers, etc. There are more exhibitors than ever before; and this year, some of the publishers have also agreed to sponsor coffee in the mornings, etc. Their donations to us are enormous, so please stop by and thank them for being here even if you don’t buy something! If you are like some of our other members, you may want to bring an extra suitcase with you just for taking home the books you buy at the meeting!
Saturday morning has the Presidential address by Tom Andre (How will he do that after hosting the President’s reception Friday night?), an invited discussion with Paul Pintrich, and another 20+ presentations. There is also a session for feedback about this conference, and the last of the Divisional meetings.

From the time Dr. Berliner opens the conference until we close sessions Saturday at noon, we have such a full schedule that we negotiated more time and more rooms with the hotel! There were hundreds of submissions for this conference. Every Division, with the exception of one, had to reject between 10 and 45% of their proposals. I hate writing rejection letters for good work. So, as much as possible, I carefully considered the papers Divisions wanted to accept and didn’t have room for, and found most of them spots by combining presentations across Divisions, or allocating to other formats those papers which seemed like they could fit that way. The result of all of the Division co-chairs’ decisions is a program of over 160 different presentations that really offers variety and depth. There are symposia that have standard educational research, and those that link with teachers, students, administrators. There are invited speakers who have a session alongside other sessions because we couldn’t give them our undivided attention without severely cutting the presentations. There are papers, posters, roundtables and discussion groups. Keeping one session per Division per time slot was an impossible goal for some of the bigger Divisions. So, some participants will have to choose carefully among sessions.

I remember my first years as a graduate student attending MWERA. I couldn’t wait for sessions to end so I could go shopping! Members returning to Chicago, and those just joining us might be thinking the same thing. Yes, there are stores open after the sessions end each night. I also want to remind you that you are coming to an urban downtown. Please be wise and step at the registration desk to get a local map, directions to shopping, restaurants, etc. Please don’t carry a lot of cash, and avoid purses, bulging wallets, and the like if you can help it. When you are in the hotel, use the safe deposit boxes, and make sure you chain lock and bolt your door. I don’t mean to scare you, just ask that you be aware. I have lived here long enough now, I feel I should run a training course on “what to watch out for.”

Yes, you should watch out! If you don’t plan your time wisely, and look carefully at your program, you are probably going to miss some fantastic presentations. I wish we could audio and video tape a number of the sessions. Unfortunately, there weren’t enough sales of tapes last year to offer that to members this year. So, arrange with colleagues that each of you attends a different session. If you bring 10 colleagues you should be able to cover everything in any one time slot!

As in previous years, we are counting on the goodwill of our membership to really help make the annual meeting a great meeting. We know that one of the key ways we build membership is through each member bringing a colleague or a student to the meeting. If you haven’t already shared the information about the annual meeting with someone, now is the time to do so.

I have arranged for overhead projectors. I am still working on getting help for moving, set-up and storage of them. I am hoping you will help, or be patient with those who are helping. I also ask that everyone take a moment when they leave a session and remember that another session is starting in that room in a couple of minutes. Please help put chairs back, and clean up the room. If you are continuing a discussion, please move to the Blackhawk Room, and try not to disrupt the other sessions that are beginning.

I can’t say enough good things about the fantastic work that the Division co-chairs, and all the other program associates have done and are doing for this meeting. I don’t want to envision my job if any of them hadn’t done theirs! I am hoping you will enjoy the conference!
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