



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ESEA

STATE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS

Ensuring Student Equity & Access

Conference Planning Committee May 2019 Meeting Notes

The Conference Planning Committee (CPC) met via telephone on May 16, 2019 at **1:00PM EDT**, 12:00PM CDT, 11:00AM MDT, 10:00AM MST & PDT.

Those in attendance were: Jonas Zuckerman (Committee Chair – WI); Otistene Smith (AR); Ken Banter (GA); Tara Rodriguez (KY); Bernell Cook (LA); Paula Daniels (MI); Pat Kaiser (MO); Theresa Villmer (MO); Julie Cowell (MO); Jack O' Connor (MT); Beth Wooster (NE); Kathryn (Joey) Nichol (NH); Jewell Stanley (SC); Lynn Sodat (VA); Gayle Pauley (WA)

A+ Events Staff: Bob Harmon (NAESPA CEO–WA), Jonai Cook, (A+ Events–CA.)

Meeting Agenda

- Work with A+ staff to recruit proposal graders (e.g., CPC members, DS Principals and Staff, NAFEPA Members, etc.) (Jonas Zuckerman)

Proposal submission process closes June 14. Grading process occurs June 26-July 8. The conference planning committee then has a second review. Conference planning committee members are expected to participate as reviewers/graders for approximately 350-500 proposals, 40 proposals each, which generally takes 8 hours of time. This will ensure fairness in the proposal grading process and results in the highest quality presentations. Previous Distinguished School principals and staff are also invited to be graders. Conference Planning Committee members should contact colleagues in their state agencies to join the review process. This will also serve as an advertisement for membership and conference attendance. When you invite staff from SEA's, send their name and email address to Bob Harmon.

- o Consider inviting LEA-based NAFEPA Board Members to grade 2020 conference proposals (Bob Harmon)

Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to invite NAFEPA Board members, which consists of approximately 50 members, 1 to 2 members from each on the state board. Those members who are school- or district-based would be invited to be graders based on district or school. Graders do not have to be NAESPA members.

- Discuss results of [keynote survey](#) (Jonas Zuckerman)

Bob Harmon underscored that with conference attendance numbers on the decline for the last two years—and with the strong need for keynotes to be an attendance draw—keynotes preferably should not have spoken at the conference previously. Repeat speakers included Ron Clark, Steve Perry, Tara Brown, Robert Jackson and Steve Constantino from the current list. It was mentioned that if the content was good and enough time had passed, some might still be an option such as Tara Brown and Ron Clark. Many agreed that Kamala Harris should not be a keynote speaker option. Bob shared that Dolly Parton was a keynote possibility based on her literacy work with the Imagination Library (a book gifting program that mails free books to children, birth to age 5). The presentation content of all keynote speakers would need to align with the theme, Together for Equity. Bob explained that the title and description of the session would be approved in the contracting process. Other suggestions for speakers that may not have made the top ten list were Dominique Smith for his work in relationships and connecting with students and Jeff Duncan-Andrade, who has less name recognition yet has done highly valuable research. The suggestion was made Jeff Duncan-Andrade be invited as a breakout session speaker if he is not selected as a keynote. Tyler Perry was also discussed as a speaker that would generate an audience.

The committee agreed (Otistene Smith made the suggestion) that the opening Keynote speak on equity in a very powerful way to start the conference and set the foundation for the rest of the conference. Suggested opening keynote speakers were Kenneth B. Morris, Bernice King and Mary Ann Peters, the director of the Carter center, who is occasionally joined by former President Jimmy Carter.

Jonas recommended a Native American people welcome, which aligns with sovereign nations and first nations work.

Regarding Teacher of the Year sessions, it was mentioned that some previous speakers were great educators, but not always good speakers, which should be taken into consideration. Rodney Robinson, Teacher of the Year from Virginia, was endorsed as an excellent choice by Lynn Sodot.

- Sponsorship of the President's Reception - update (Jonas Zuckerman)

The President's reception includes in its attendance Association members, Distinguished School principals and staff, as well as Department of Education staff. This event was previously sponsored by one entity, which has since gone out of business. Sponsorship opportunities are priced at \$15,000.00. There are no sponsors at present. Due to potential conflicts of interest and varying SEA policies, we will not solicit commercial sponsorships.

- Other

No other items at this time

In lieu of a Conference Planning Committee meeting in June, members will be grading proposals online. The next meeting will be in person during the Summer Meeting on July 24.