

Local Engagement Committee Charges Prepared by the Presidential Team

Thank you for volunteering to join an important effort to create activities/events for our Annual Convention in St. Louis. As you know, the NAACP travel advisory has called attention to legislative and equity challenges for people of color in Missouri. Following NCTE's protocol for engagement with (rather than retreat from) convention cities that present concerns, we charge this committee to develop specific and meaningful activities that are consistent with our mission and vision and that are achievable within a fairly limited time and set of resources.

Keeping with NCTE's vision, we need activities that address **Access** ("NCTE and its members will strengthen or create inclusive hubs for state-of-the-art practices, research, and resources, providing access for more diverse voices to create, collaborate, and lead, within and beyond the organization") and **Power** ("NCTE and its members will actively engage families, community members, administrators, colleagues, and other stakeholders and contribute to and critique policy at the local, state, and national levels").

Specifically, the committee should

1. Work carefully to understand the needs of local NCTE members and community stakeholders, then propose one or more OUTREACH activities or events to occur during the Convention in St. Louis. Identify what NCTE can best do to promote equitable, just, responsive teaching and learning conditions and practices in St. Louis and Missouri. Consult the written material provided by the 2017 Program Chair, Jocelyn A. Chadwick, to become fully aware of efforts already under way.

[Examples, offered simply to prime the idea-generating pump, not offered to constrain committee thinking: workshops connecting local literacy teachers to NCTE resources, including experts, to create focused learning activities; forums in which area teachers, students, and parents are invited to share their stories; communications/capacity-building sessions in which participants learn effective strategies for communicating their experiences and needs to policymakers at various levels; school visits to celebrate and support the accomplishments of literacy teachers and their students.]

2. Propose one or more member-focused activities or events to occur during the Convention that meet member needs and desires to advocate for equitable teaching and learning conditions. For example, there is a space available during most of the Convention that could be used to hold workshops, conversations, practical activities, speaker events, etc. How should we best use that space?

[Examples, offered simply to prime the idea-generating pump, not offered to constrain committee thinking: provide an ongoing activity hub, with various stations, for members to drop in for various activities ranging from letter writing to conversations with NCTE leaders (including committee members) to hands-on work with NCTE resources to forming task groups and coalitions; offer skills-developing workshops on how to advocate effectively for teaching and learning conditions that foreground; have specific curricular/classroom how-to sessions on effectively teaching about race and culture in different classrooms and levels; host a poster session or idea-swapping session in which members share practices they have developed to promote diversity and inclusion, especially around racial identity.]

3. Become well versed with long-established NCTE plans related to diversity, inclusivity, and equity, both for the St. Louis Convention and beyond. This year's convention General Sessions, featured panels, and sessions focus on how we privilege student voices and literacy skills. Inclusion, empowerment, lifelong literacy, and the power of language are all key components of this year's program.

We ask members of the committee to generate possible ideas and charges during an initial meeting of the group, to be held online before September 12th. The NCTE Presidential Team will use notes and ideas generated in this conversation to revise the charges based on the committee's feedback, then present a final version around September 15th. A 25–30-person committee allows for a rich trove of ideas, but it's also fairly unwieldy for quick work. Our time is limited. With input from the entire group, the Presidential Team will most likely need to create some more efficient structures—for example, a smaller working/executive subset of the whole, with a larger advisory committee of the whole.