

HOW NCTE RESOLUTIONS ARE SUBMITTED AND PROCESSED

A Major Activity of the Annual Business Meeting

A major part of the Annual Business Meeting for the Board of Directors and Other Members of the Council on Friday, November 18, is the consideration of resolutions which, when published, will represent to the profession the sentiments of the Council on important education issues. This information sheet tells where resolutions come from, how they are modified, how the Committee on Resolutions functions, how members can play a part in shaping resolutions on their concerns, and what happens to resolutions that are passed.

Source of Resolutions

Any member or member group (committee, affiliate, etc.) may submit a resolution to the Committee on Resolutions for consideration. A call for resolutions, with submission instructions, appears in *The Council Chronicle* and on the NCTE website. A resolution sent to the chair must be accompanied by the signatures of five voting members of the Council and must be received before October 15 to be considered at the Annual Convention.

Function of the Committee on Resolutions

The Committee reviews all resolutions presented by members and member groups and may prepare resolutions of its own on topics on which the Committee believes action is needed. The Committee will often combine resolutions on the same or similar topics, especially where there is a duplication, and it will also edit resolutions for consistency of form and quality of writing style.

The Committee on Resolutions makes the final decisions about which resolutions will be submitted to the members at the Annual Business Meeting. Among the criteria they will use in deciding for or against a proposed resolution are the consistency of the resolution with the NCTE Constitution and the stated purposes of the Council, the likelihood of its receiving support from a substantial number of Council members, the existence of previous resolutions on a topic, and the appropriateness of the content to a business meeting. As to the last, a resolution that takes up a topic which the Constitution clearly assigns as a responsibility to the Executive Committee would not be presented as a resolution. The point of view of the proposers would, however, be forwarded appropriately.

Revisions of First Drafts of Resolutions

Drafts of resolutions are available at the door immediately after the Elementary, Middle, and Secondary Sections' Get-Together on Thursday. Copies

will also be available at the door of Thursday's General Session. The Committee on Resolutions hears commentary and suggestions about the drafts of all resolutions in an Open Hearing on Resolutions from 9:15 to 11:00 a.m. on Friday, November 18, in the Hilton Chicago/PDR 5, Third Floor. The Committee on Resolutions is especially interested in hearing from the individuals or groups who proposed the original resolution. No new resolutions may be submitted at this time. However, members may present other concerns as sense-of-the-house motions at the Annual Business Meeting (see below). As a result of commentary during the open meeting, the Committee on Resolutions may change resolutions, both substantively and editorially, before final preparation of the resolutions.

Reading and Discussion of Resolutions

Final drafts of resolutions are available at the door of the Annual Business Meeting on Friday, November 18, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Hilton Chicago/Grand Ballroom, Lobby Level. At the meeting, each resolution (but not the background statement) is read aloud, and a member of the Committee on Resolutions moves for its adoption. Resolutions are considered in the order in which they are presented by the Committee on Resolutions. Resolutions may be amended during discussion.

Disposition of Resolutions

When a resolution is passed at the Annual Business Meeting for the Board of Directors and Other Members of the Council, it is transmitted to the Executive Committee for appropriate action which may include distribution to selected audiences, formation of an appropriate study group, assignment of the issue to an existing study group, or directing Headquarters to take further steps. All resolutions are reported to the membership in *The Council Chronicle* and on the NCTE website.

Sense-of-the-House Motions

Members may offer for discussion and action a sense-of-the-house motion. Such motions, if passed, can affect Council action by the Executive Committee or another appropriate Council body. In order to be considered, sense-of-the-house motions must be presented in writing (three copies) to the chair of the Annual Business Meeting before the adoption of the agenda.