



**National Association of Professors of Middle Level Education**  
**Fall 2023 Newsletter**

**NAPOMLE at AMLE  
2023**

**Thanks for attending the  
NAPOMLE Business Meeting &  
Best Practice Session at AMLE50!**



**Save the date #AMLE51**

**November 6-9, 2024  
Nashville, TN  
2024 NAPOMLE Business Meeting**



**Awards**

**Congratulations to our Award Winners!**

**2023 NAPOMLE Outstanding Professor of  
Middle Level Education  
Dr. Deborah McMurtrie  
University of South Carolina Aiken**



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**Congratulations to the 2023 AMLE  
John Lounsbury Award Winner  
Dr. Jeanneine Jones  
University of North Carolina Charlotte**



# Membership Reminders

**Remember that you can pay your dues online! See the link on our main page of our website or click [here!](#) Contact Elizabeth at [goundeliza@sfasu.edu](mailto:goundeliza@sfasu.edu).**



## NAPOMLE

### Presidential Ponderings A letter from the President

## NAPOMLE

#### Bridget Coleman

Exciting times are ahead in 2024! The upcoming year holds opportunities for NAPOMLE to gather in person in both Asheville and Nashville. The Southeast Symposium will be held in Asheville, NC at Western Carolina University's Biltmore Campus in May and our annual meeting will be in Nashville, TN in November. Other regional activities are in the planning stages for virtual events. Our newsletter shares more information on these.

As we reflect on the past year in our organization, our accomplishments include:

- CIMLE Publication - Volume 27 Issue 2
- Co-sponsorship of 2 Professional Development webinars with the NAPOMLE+MLER-SIG Collaborative
- One regional webinar hosted by the Southeast Regional Directors
- The streamlining of membership renewals so that all members renew each year in September. This change reflects a more efficient process for managing our treasury and membership records.

NAPOMLE is committed to advocating for MLE, serving as a network for the MLE higher education community, and supporting all those who work in MLE teacher preparation. Our members are crucial to the positive influence and outreach of NAPOMLE. With this in mind, I hope you will consider submitting a manuscript of your current scholarship for our Current Issues in Middle Level Education and in our upcoming meetings. Giving back to our organization makes us stronger. Your Executive Council is ready to listen to your ideas.

From the perch of NAPOMLE President, the view shows many of you contributing to the work of multiple organizations -- NAPOMLE, MLER-SIG, AMLE, state PoMLEs – and wearing many hats as you serve in various capacities in the quest to strengthen middle grades scholarship and practices. There is power in the crossover connections among these groups. I am truly grateful for your dedication to enhancing the education of young adolescents. We aspire to be intentional about growing more leaders for the vitality of NAPOMLE.

My wish for each of you is to have impactful mentors and collegial relationships in NAPOMLE. Concluding with a personal note, some of my favorite NAPOMLE 2023 memories include moments in National Harbor with colleagues pictured below – shared best practices, celebrations for AMLE's 50th Anniversary, dinner conversations with 3 former NAPOMLE Presidents, lobster rolls with the SC PoMLE President, and joyful entertainment with my SC Dream Team. Cheers to celebrating NAPOMLE collaborations with long-term friends while fostering new collaborations with others. The beginning of another year offers the prospect of vivacious potential to share in the mission of NAPOMLE. Wishing you all the best in 2024!

*Wishing you well as you focus on the middle,  
Bridget, NAPOMLE President, 2022-2024*

**A special thanks goes out to Dr. Holly Pinter for her invaluable service and contribution to NAPOMLE. Holly has served as the NAPOMLE secretary since 2015 and has served under 4 NAPOMLE presidents (Kim Winter, Gary Senn, Hilary Dack, and Bridget Coleman). During this time, she navigated learning how to manage a webpage, created newsletters and learned new technologies like Canva, managed long clunky lists of e-mails, and the reception of countless out-of-office and undelivered mail responses. When asked about her time working with NAPOMLE, she replied, “It has been an honor to serve this organization and I am primarily grateful for the connections I have been able make with colleagues around the country. I have so enjoyed getting to know everyone over the years. I also feel that we have worked hard as an executive council over the years to help build more collaboration and learning opportunities and it has been such a joy to be a part of this process. As I step down from this role, I am excited to be working more with my state level professor organization where I am currently the president-elect. I plan on spending my energy digging into the happenings of middle level education in North Carolina and finding ways to support professors and preservice education programs to keep the middle level concept alive and updated to meet the contemporary aspects of our schools.”**



**In addition to serving NAPOMLE, Holly had the opportunity to take scholarly leave during the Fall 23 semester to focus on writing a textbook along with middle grades colleagues Kim Winter and Kayleigh Kassel. Their textbook is focused on contemporary practices of teaching middle school with integrated cases from expert teachers and recent middle grades students. The aim is to make a reader friendly and comprehensive text for preservice teachers to gain valuable insight into the wonderful world of teaching middle school. This Project has helped Holly feel restored and ready to get back into the classroom this spring! Be sure to look for the textbook when it is completed.**



**NAPOMLE**

## **Congratulations to Gayle Andrews - Nomination for the AMLE Legacy Circle -**

Congratulations to Gayle Andrews on her recent nomination for the AMLE Legacy Circle. The purpose of the Legacy Circle is to honor individuals who have made a significant impact on the educational experiences of young adolescents. When a total of \$5,000 has been donated in honor of the nominee, they will be inducted into the Legacy Circle.

Please consider donating to the AMLE Foundation. The AMLE Foundation supports CMLA grants, Educator of the Year, Johns Lounsbury Award, and the CMLE Ambassadors. Please see the website for more information: [amle.org/amle-foundation-fund/](http://amle.org/amle-foundation-fund/)



**NAPOMLE**  
25 Years Focused on the Middle  
1997 - 2022

## **Incoming and Outgoing Officers - Thank You for Your Service**

### **Welcome to the new officers of NAPOMLE:**

Secretary - Sarah Pennington (2023-2025)  
Treasurer - Elizabeth Gound (2023-2026)  
Awards Committee - Joanne Previts (2023-2025)  
Elections Committee - Andrea Christoff (2023-2025)  
Finance Committee - Leslie Rogers (2023-2025)  
Southern Director - Laurie Ramirez (2024-2027)

### **Special thanks to the following individuals for their service and dedication to NAPOMLE:**

Holly Pinter - completed role as Secretary  
Sarah Pennington - completed role as Western Regional Director  
Stacie Petit - completed role on Finance Committee  
Kristie Smith - completed role on Awards Committee  
Amanda Wall - completed role on Elections Committee



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## **Recent NAPOMLE Event - *Conversations with Camilla Calamandrei***

On December 12, the NAPOMLE+MLER-SIG PD Collaborative hosted Camilla Calamandrei, director/producer of *Changing by the Minute*. Rich discussions and the meaningful exchange of ideas for implementing *Changing by the Minute* were shared. As AMLE members, complimentary access to the documentary and guides is available through the AMLE member portal.

**National Association of Professors of Middle Level Education**  
**NAPOMLE.com**

**Bridget Coleman (2022-2024)- President**  
University of South Carolina at Aiken  
BridgetC@usca.edu

**Kristina Falbe, (2022-2024)- President Elect**  
Illinois State University  
knfalbe@ilstu.edu

**Hilary Dack (2022-2024)- Past President**  
University of North Carolina at Charlotte  
Hdack@uncc.edu

**Elizabeth Gound - Treasurer (2023-2026)**  
SFA State University  
goundeliza@sfasu.edu

**Sarah Pennington - Secretary (2023-2025)**  
Montana State University  
sarah.pennington2@montana.edu

**Patricia Lutz- Director, Eastern Region (2021-2024)**  
Kutztown University of Pennsylvania  
lutz@kutztown.edu

**Christopher Weiler - Director, Eastern Region (2022-2025)**  
Kutztown University of Pennsylvania  
cweiler@kutztown.edu

**Cheryl Ellerbrock - Director, Southern Region (2021-2024)**  
University of South Florida  
ellerbro@usf.edu

**Stacy Martin- Director, Southern Region (2022-2025)**  
Winthrop University  
martinsp@winthrop.edu

**Laurie Ramirez - Director, Southern Region (2024-2027)**  
Appalachian State University  
ramirezla@appstate.edu

**Robin Dever - Director, Northern Region (2022-2025)**  
Kent State University  
rdever2@kent.edu

**Lauren Davis- Director, Western Region (2021-2024)**  
Montana State University  
lauren.davis6@montana.edu

All of the officers who serve our organization give graciously of their time, energy, and expertise.

Members of the Executive Council are listed here and may also be found in the [About Us](#) area of [NAPOMLE.com](http://NAPOMLE.com)

### 2023-2024 Committees:

**Publications: Amanda Wall, Chris Cook**

**Awards: Carol Haney-Watson, Joanne Previts**

**Elections: Kristine Falbe, Andrea Christoff**

**Finance: Elizabeth Gound, Leslie Rogers**

Consider nominating a colleague or yourself for positions that will be open this year!

**President Elect  
Eastern Region Director  
Northern Region Director  
Western Regional Director**



# NAPOMLE 2023 at AMLE in National Harbor, Maryland



# Special Thanks to the NAPOMLE 2023 Best Practices Session Presenters

Gayle Andrews - University of Georgia  
Rachel Bray - Georgia College & State University  
Kathleen Brinegar - University of Vermont  
Tricia Brown - University of Vermont  
Micki Caskey - Portland State University  
Andrea Christoff - Georgia College & State University  
Bridget Coleman - USC Aiken  
Chris Cook - Appalachian State University  
Robert Cottle - Averitt Center for the Arts  
Hilary Dack - UNC Charlotte  
Erika Daniels - California State - San Marcos  
Jessica DeMink Carthew - University of Vermont  
Mike DiCicco - Northern Kentucky University  
Kristina Falbe - Illinois State University  
Francine Falk-Ross - Pace University  
Shawn Faulkner - Northern Kentucky University  
Elizabeth Gound - Stephen F. Austin University  
Carol Haney-Watson - Kutztown University  
Heather Haverback - Towson University  
Penny Howell - University of Louisville  
Miriam Jordan - Georgia College & State University  
Roberta Linder - Pace University  
Katherine Main - Griffith University  
David McGinnis - Taylor University  
Deborah McMurtrie - USC Aiken

Nicole Miller - Mississippi State University  
Nancy Mizelle - Georgia College & State University  
Taylor Norman - Georgia Southern University  
Moses Ochanji - California State - San Marcos  
Stacie Petitt - Augusta University  
Joanne Previts - Georgia College & State University  
Michelle Rasheed - USC Aiken  
Daniel Roesch - Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania: Bloomsburg  
Nancy Ruppert - UNC Asheville  
Laura Rychly - Augusta University  
Gary Senn - USC Aiken  
Jamie Silverman - Towson University  
Kristie Smith - Kennesaw State University  
Sarah Straub - Stephen F. Austin University  
Karen Swanson - Academy School District #20  
David Vawter - Winthrop University  
David Virtue - Western Carolina University  
Amanda Wall - Georgia Southern University  
Toni Williams - University of South Carolina  
Alyson Wright - University of Georgia  
Melissa Ziegler - Augusta University

NAPOMLE's **Current Issues in Middle Level Education** journal is available to highlight your work in middle level education. Reach out to Editor **Amanda Wall** with ideas, for support, and to submit manuscripts.



# NAPOMLE

Consider nominating a colleague and/or program for recognition at the AMLE conference in November 2024. NAPOMLE has five awards that recognize outstanding contributions made to middle level education. The criteria for each award can be found on our website. Please send your nominations/letters of support and a current vita to Carol Haney-Watson at [watson@kutztown.edu](mailto:watson@kutztown.edu) by September 1, 2024.



- 1) Outstanding Middle Level Teacher Education Program
- 2) Outstanding Professor of Middle Level Education
- 3) Outstanding Middle Level Teacher Education Candidate
- 4) Honorary Professor Emeritus Award
- 5) Outstanding CMLA Chapter

## Upcoming Events

### Southeast POMLE Symposium

May 16-18, 2024

Asheville, NC

WCU Biltmore Campus  
[learn.wcu.edu/SEPOMLE](https://learn.wcu.edu/SEPOMLE)

Call for proposals:

<https://forms.gle/SMvZrDozKa8krjNS6>



# NAPOMLE