



# **National Association of Professors of Middle Level Education**

## **Spring 2024 Newsletter**

### **Presidential Ponderings**

**A letter from the President**

#### **Bridget Coleman**

As March is Middle Level Education Month, it is an ideal time to give appreciation to the work and dedication of NAPOMLE members and officers. Leading from the middle, your NAPOMLE Executive Council is involved in the activities below. We invite your participation and input.

#### **NAPOMLE Committees at work serving you**

The Publications Committee (Sarah Pennington, Chris Cook, Amanda Wall):

- Newsletter – We are accepting items for the newsletter. Two new sections, “Program Spotlight” and “Best Practices,” will feature newsworthy highlights about NAPOMLE members’ programs and initiatives (250 words or less). What unique initiatives are you doing in your MLE program? We want to learn from each other.
- Website - Updates are underway. We would love to hear from you on ideas to improve NAPOMLE.com to better meet your needs. Go to NAPOMLE.com to access our collection of newsletters.
- CIMLE – Watch for the Spring 2024 edition of our journal.

The Finance Committee (Elizabeth Gound and Leslie Rogers):

- Membership Renewal – All memberships renew on September 1 of each year. Go to NAPOMLE.com to renew your membership. Dues are \$25/individual or \$75/institution.
- Membership Records - The membership form has a few additional lines to help us better serve you. We would like to have alternative email addresses to be able to stay in touch if you change employers. We also want to identify your NAPOMLE region (the list is posted near the membership form).

The Awards Committee (Carol Watson and Joanne Previts) has updated the award nomination forms and is preparing for your nominees for this year.

The Elections Committee (Kristina Falbe and Andrea Christoff) is preparing for the next round of officer nominations – regional directors and President-elect. We are looking for nominations for officers and awards by September 1.

Regional Directors (Patricia Lutz and Chris Weiler, Eastern; Robin Dever, Northern; Cheryl Ellerbrock and Stacy Martin, Southern; Lauren Davis, Western) are identifying MLE contacts in each region. The directors would love to hear from you. Reach out to your regional director(s) via email to share local information to be featured in our annual meeting in November. You can find contact information here:

<https://www.napomle.com/membership>.

**Opportunities for members to be involved:**

- Renew your membership at <https://www.napomle.com/membership> by 9/1/24. The vitality of the organization depends on our collective support.
- Share highlights of your MLE program or initiative for the newsletter by 9/1/24.
- Attend the 2024 Southeast PoMLE Symposium, May 16-18, in Asheville, NC. Keynote speakers include Stephanie Simpson of AMLE, David Vawter of Winthrop University, and a leadership expert panel from GA, NC, SC. Learn more by visiting our [Symposium Webpage](#). Register by 4/15/24. (Limited to 75 attendees.)
- Submit a proposal for the NAPOMLE Best Practices Session at the AMLE Conference 5/31/24 at <https://forms.gle/faQEeqW3ERLVLUV8U9>.
- Consider service on the Executive Council with a nomination for an open position as regional director, President Elect, or a committee member.
- Stay tuned for virtual events in your area hosted by NAPOMLE regional directors.

I look forward to seeing you at AMLE in Nashville, Tennessee in November.

Bridget Coleman, NAPOMLE President

## **Program Highlights - Submit a feature for the NAPOMLE Newsletter**

Is your middle level program participating in something exciting? Do you have successful approaches for student recruitment and retention? Do you have a colleague whose work is positively impacting middle level education? Have you engaged students in a meaningful and unique field experience? Please consider sharing the wonderful things being accomplished to celebrate middle level education across our different colleges and universities.

Feature articles should be between 250-1000 words. Please include a description of the person/program and how they/the program has impacted the middle level education community. Including pictures of the person or program in action is also helpful.

Article submissions can be sent to Chris Cook at [cookcm5@appstate.edu](mailto:cookcm5@appstate.edu).

# Best Practices Session - Call for Presentations

Call for Presentations at the 2024 NAPOMLE Best Practices Session during the AMLE Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. **Proposals may be submitted through Friday, May 31, 2024.**

We invite teacher educators to share insights into preparing the next generation of middle grades educators to serve diverse young adolescents. Submit a proposal for the NAPOMLE Best Practice Roundtable Session that highlights your MLE work, research, innovations, and/or successes of your middle grades teacher education program.

Presentations related to the following current NAPOMLE goals are encouraged, but all relevant proposals regarding young adolescents, middle grades education, and middle grades teacher education will be considered.

## NAPOMLE Goals

1. Communicate the needs of young adolescents to a broader audience, including community groups, professional groups, and retirement associations.
2. Disseminate middle level education research and best practice in user-friendly ways to a variety of groups including young adolescents, teachers, parents, and community groups.
3. Address the global nature of young adolescents by broadening the diversity of the NAPOMLE membership and meeting the needs of a more diverse young adolescent community.
4. Disseminate the critical importance of having a teaching workforce that is committed to and specifically trained to teach the young adolescent to school districts, state departments of education, federal government organizations, and boards of education.
5. Engage in political outreach to key stakeholders on behalf of young adolescents and middle level education.

Submit a proposal for the NAPOMLE Best Practices Session at the AMLE Conference 5/31/24 at

<https://forms.gle/faQEqW3ERLVLUV8U9>.

The NAPOMLE logo features the word "NAPOMLE" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. It is set against a blue rectangular background that is slightly tilted. This blue background is layered over a larger, semi-transparent graphic consisting of overlapping red and orange shapes, resembling a stylized ribbon or banner.

## Support 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/)

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## Current Issues in Middle Level Education Journal

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.

A square QR code with a black and white pixelated pattern, used for quick access to membership information.

**Membership Reminder - Renew Online**

**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).**

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# Nominate a Colleague for a NAPOMLE AWARD

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

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## Upcoming Events

### Southeast POMLE Symposium

May 16-18, 2024

Asheville, NC

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



Please make plans to attend!

National Association of Professors of Middle Level Education  
[NAPOMLE.com](http://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**