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## August Update: News from MATELA

It's the dog days of summer, and MATELA wishes you plenty of cool breezes and reading on the deck! Please watch your inbox as we begin our monthly newsletter service. Similarly, please submit your newsletter items before the last day of each month at [www.matelamt.com/publications](http://www.matelamt.com/publications) or email [matelamt@gmail.com](mailto:matelamt@gmail.com). You can also find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/matelamt](http://www.facebook.com/matelamt). It's a great way to connect with other teachers of English Language Arts across the state!

### Montana English Journal Call for Submissions

As the warm days stretch on, you may be thinking of those passion projects we often sideline during the busy days of the school year - maybe an innovative unit plan you had in mind all year, an article, or a piece of creative writing of your own. The Montana English Journal is the perfect home for these projects and more, and the 2019 submission deadline has recently been extended!

Click [here](#) to submit your work for publication in the Montana English Journal by **September 30, 2019**. To review our current issue, [click here to visit our ScholarWorks page](#). Please email us at [matelamt@gmail.com](mailto:matelamt@gmail.com) if you would like any help with the submission process, or if you'd like to discuss ideas or collaborate on work for publication.

## MFPE Educator's Conference 2019

Registration opens soon for the MFPE Educators' Conference in Belgrade October 17 and 18. Please see [www.mfpe.org/edconference](http://www.mfpe.org/edconference) for more details!

### **Writing Projects Under the Big Sky to offer eighteen - yes, EIGHTEEN! - stranded sectionals plus a keynote at the MFPE Educators' Conference in October**

Registration for the 2019 Educators' Conference at Belgrade High School, October 17-18, is slated to open soon. Writing Projects Under the Big Sky (WPUBS) will offer a strand of workshops at the Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE) sponsored conference.

WPUBS has eighteen sectionals in addition to their keynote Lee Whittlesey, who will focus on the pride he takes in writing books that aren't the stereotypical, dreary history books and how he chooses "hooks," "stories," and "drama" to bring in the reader and to make history feel real. This focus represents authentic writing practices in any genre that students can take into the world beyond the classroom and put to work! History/social studies teachers, as well as language arts teachers, will likely take away from such a presentation, multiple strategies to share with their students. Whittlesey's keynote will be held on Friday at 10:00 a.m. in the Belgrade High School Auditorium.

Among the notable sectional presenters, Casey Olsen, a member of the National Writing Project College, Career, and Community Writers Program (C3WP) Leadership Team and a teacher at Columbus High School, will present a series of C3WP workshops. C3WP is an innovative approach to argument writing instruction, teaching students to write arguments, form logical reasoning, and support claims with evidence. A grade 7-10 national research study documented C3WP's positive impact on student performance. In his first session, Olsen will introduce participants to this free, open-source literacy program. Various instructional resources are available online at

<https://sites.google.com/site/nwpcollegereadywritersprogram/instructional-resources/crwp-mini-units>. Four additional workshops will round out the series: Building a Classroom Culture of Argument, Teaching Specific Argument Writing Skills, Writing Extended Research Arguments, and Formative Writing Assessment with Google Apps.

Marathon component. WPUBS will gather at 1002 Wyoming Street, Belgrade, at the home of Mark Lehman for *BelGREAT Social with a Side of Writing*. Designed for all grade levels and all curriculum groups with a focus on writers and the teaching of writing, this social will offer the opportunity to visit with one another in a semi-structured, open format. We will write. We will eat. We will socialize. All are welcome!

WPUBS has a block of rooms reserved at the Holiday Inn Express and Suites at 309 West Madison in Belgrade. Rooms are \$85 per night plus tax and are blocked as WPBS. Anyone interested in these rooms has until September 17 to make a reservation. To book a room, a person can call (406) 388-7100.

## Tapping Texts: A successful "Pint Night" fundraiser in Havre at Triple Dog Brewing nets \$167 for MATELA

On May 16, Triple Dog Brewing Company at 675 First Street West in Havre hosted *Tapping Texts*, a pint night event to raise funds for MATELA. Those in attendance discussed a visual text, the print often referred to as Leopard Barcode by graffiti artist Banksy.

This educational event was about building connections and community. Guests engaged with the provided text while enjoying the company of like-minded individuals who also happen to enjoy beer! Triple Dog Brewing donated a dollar from every pint sold to MATELA, a group that advocates for teachers at the state level, regarding issues such as Significant Writing programs and Teacher Load in Communication Arts classes; that supports programs to advance writing competency for college, career, and community readiness; and that responds to critical issues such as Common Core College and Career Readiness Standards, and other concerns tied to federal funds.

The event generated \$167.00 for MATELA.

## A dispatch from the NCTE affiliate leadership meeting, courtesy of Donna Bulatowicz:

"I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the affiliate leadership meeting this month in Washington, DC. Leaders from 35 NCTE affiliates and NCTE gathered together near Capitol Hill. Our meeting started with a visit to Folger Shakespeare Library,

On Saturday, in addition to presentations from leaders, we heard from First Book representatives. First Book offers lower-cost books for teachers in Title 1 schools. The website also has books sorted by categories, which all teachers can browse. In addition to different genres, categories include: diversity and inclusion, character development, reluctant readers, STEAM, and more. Here is the link:

<https://firstbook.org/>

This meeting gave affiliate leaders the chance to network and collaborate with affiliate leaders across the country. Affiliate leaders from Texas discussed advocating for literacy bills at the state level. Affiliate leaders from Hawaii discussed inclusion and having content geared for members from pre-service teachers to retired educators. An affiliate leader from Indiana presented ideas monthly electronic newsletters with links to NCTE blog posts of interest to members. In small groups, affiliate leaders discussed participating in NCTE hallmark events, such as the National Day on Writing, African American Read-In, and the Winter Book Club Café. Each of us was able to learn from each other, and this was a fantastic opportunity to grow as an affiliate leader. There are many ideas I am excited about sharing with MATELA, and I value the connections I've made with other affiliate leaders. This was a fantastic learning opportunity that enabled me to grow as a leader.

I look forward to seeing MATELA members at the Montana Educators Conference in Belgrade October 17th and 18th! <https://www.mfpe.org/edconference/> MATELA will have a Wednesday night gathering; please consider attending. I also hope to see some of you at the NCTE conference in Baltimore November 21st-24th. <http://convention.ncte.org/>



*Photo: An inside view of the Folger Shakespeare Library. Credit: Donna Bulatowicz*

## NCTE News

### NCTE wants to hear your voice!

Please consider sharing your thoughts on your membership in MATELA [through this Google Form](#). Your responses may be featured in a future NCTE affiliate newsletter, or even a feature article in the Council Chronicle, NCTE's membership magazine!

*“Our new international affiliate provides a forum for teachers from around the world to connect and share insight into the unique needs we face as teachers outside our native countries.*

*“In particular, a unique feature we can connect is a forum for job opportunities. A draw of our profession is the great chance for educational exploration. We like to move. We like to adventure. This international affiliate connects teachers seeking information about job openings and advice to adapt to a new school in a new country once they land that job.*

*“We share a kinship that this affiliate further fosters and supports: We link our world teacher travelers.”*

**Stacey Wilkins**  
President

## Registration is OPEN for #NCTE19!

As the school year comes to an end, make plans now for next year's professional development! Register now for the [NCTE Annual Convention](#) in Baltimore, Maryland, November 21-26. NCTE discount codes for [travel and hotel](#) are available.

