

PDTCA Vice President's Report

April March 26/27, 2021

Submitted by Jill White, Vice President

1. Thank you to the very supportive executive and PDTCA board for all the hard work in putting together an excellent professional learning opportunity for our four thousand teachers.
2. Special thanks to all of our moderators, and very special thanks to the ATA team including Chris Gonsalves, Danny Maas, and Dan Grassick for helping us prepare for this new role. Extra special thanks to Bertha for assisting with this as well.
3. This year's convention honored Theresa O'Neill as our Honorary President and as our only Long Service Award recipient. She has sent many thanks to our board for the gifts and flowers she received. It is our intention to honor her in person at a future in-person event.
4. Some key findings about moderated sessions:
 - a. The moderator role was very valuable. It was well-received and appreciated by the speakers that requested them.
 - b. It was challenging to find moderators for all sessions that required them, especially for the networking sessions.
 - c. Networking sessions that were more specific to grade or subject were considerably better attended than general division networking sessions.
 - d. Networking sessions need to be longer and more specifically-described.
 - e. Having the AV company to ensure smooth transitions and delivery was very essential and well worth doing.
5. Recommendations for next year:
 - a. Lengthen networking sessions
 - b. Offer grade-specific or subject-specific networking sessions as opposed to more generalized sessions.
 - c. If possible, ensure that networking sessions are not scheduled at the same times as other same-subject sessions
 - d. If online:
 - i. Provide convention expense to moderators based on time spent moderating rather than on number of sessions moderated.
 - ii. Compensate networking session moderators at the same rate as session hosts, as they are acting as the speaker, and this has been our past practice for in-person events.
6. We would like to resume our ad hoc Convention by the Numbers Committee to look at the remuneration for our contracted positions (Bertha, Larry) and our speaker fees. Reviewing the pay for the contracted positions will be the priority to start, as this has not been revisited in over 20 years. We would like to have recommendations for the board's review before our next board meeting in May. We would like to meet quickly at the end of this board meeting to set up a time for our next meeting. This committee has so far included Amrit Nannan, Michael Shain, and Carmen Wasyluniuk, as well as some members of the executive. If any other board members would like to be part of this committee moving forward, please feel free to join us at the end of this meeting as well.