

AGM Officers' Reports July 2020

NALA President's report

As I sit to write this report the whole world is in such a different place than it was at the time of my report to the Association twelve months ago. The current Covid-19 pandemic is re-shaping everyone's thinking about communication, priorities and new strategies in education. In my view – and somewhat ironically - this is helping to re-focus and re-energise NALA at the start of our new half century!

Of note, we are conducting a survey of teachers about the suitability of content of GCSE speaking and writing examinations for our country's most vulnerable pupils. Initial findings will be shared with members and the Association plans to publish a full report in Autumn 2020. A big thanks must go to Alice Harrison for being the brains behind this project.

A second, hugely detailed and extensive piece of work which NALA members have nearly completed is the English / French / German / Spanish grammar reference materials which will be showcased at our first-ever virtual 'conference' this summer. David Moss has brought his amazing understanding of literacy to the project. What he has designed should become an absolute 'must have' reference resource for teachers. Thanks go to David as well as his working group of language experts: Mike Rauh, Jim McElwee and Marie O'Sullivan.

A special mention should also go to Alison Taylor and David Moss who put a great deal of work into organising a conference programme for 2020. The line-up of speakers was a great mix of inspiration, information and reflection so it was with real regret that the Exec felt that the 2020 conference had to be cancelled due to the current pandemic. We sincerely hope that we can think in terms of postponement to July 2021 rather than cancellation of this year's conference.

On a more mundane note, my work for the Association this year has included:

- Communication with Exec and conference committee members
- Representing NALA at APPG, Language Liaison Group and Language Trends stakeholder meetings
- Contributing to a flow of information in the Association about changes to Ofsted inspections and what was pre-Covid inspection practice.

Jenny Carpenter
June 2020

Chair's Report 2019- 20

Since our last AGM I have

- Written to Helen Farrar and Eleni to gather feedback on the NW event.
- Planned the agenda for the January meeting with Mike
- examined AQA speaking test for evidence of disadvantaging those from socio-economically deprived backgrounds.
- Written and shared with exec first draft of a letter regarding disadvantaging those from socio-economically deprived backgrounds to send to exam boards AQA.
- . Attended 2 meetings at the British Council re The Language Trends Survey. (one via ZOOM)
- Attended the ALL Language World Conference
- Contacted Emma Marsden re hosting a meeting at NCELP in York-
- Liaised re conference postponement.
- Convened ZOOM sessions with the exec to : air views about response to

- Coronavirus, plan the social justice work and hold the May exec meeting.
- Finished scrutinizing AQA papers for instances of potential disadvantaging of some candidates. Scrutinized some Welsh Board and some Edexcel board exams.
 - Contributed to the development of the survey on the languages Curriculum and disadvantaged students.
 - Promoted the survey on social media
 - Liaised with the languages community about the survey. NALA to do article for ALL magazine on the results of the survey.
 - Encouraged a new member, Ollie Hopwood of “Transform MFL” following a ZOOM meeting to share thoughts on the survey.
 - Drafted a presentation for a ZOOM session for members on the results of the survey.

Secretary

Since the 2019 AGM I have:

- organised and convened three executive meetings and one AGM*.
- been in touch with regional convenors and elected officers, collecting and collating their reports for each executive meeting and the AGM as appropriate.
- taken, written up and re-drafted minutes, and forwarded them to the Communications Officer for uploading to the NALA website and to the rest of the executive committee and regional convenors.
- liaised with JC (President) and AH (Chair) over various issues concerning NALA
- assisted AT regarding Conference 2020 before this was sadly cancelled, by liaising with various publishers and language resource groups
- liaised with other executive members regarding a variety of membership applications
- attended the Midlands regional meetings at the Community Hub in John Lewis, Birmingham
- supported a NW event in October 2019
- worked with David Moss and Jim McElwee on the Grammar project.

I succeeded Linda Owen as Secretary at the AGM 2019, knowing this would be an impossible act to follow. After some tentative steps I have started to find my feet with this, and I thank my colleagues for their encouragement and advice.

I particularly enjoy processing new memberships and welcoming these new members who will be the life blood of the future of our Association.

The Grammar Project has been, and continues to be, a fascinating task, which has involved some serious research, exercising the brain, and consulting native speaker friends in Germany for current thinking.

*including having to cancel one Executive meeting due to Covid-19

Mike Rauh, Secretary, June 2020

was one of the last events before lockdown was announced, and as a result a small number of speakers and some of the exhibitors were unable to attend. Nevertheless, Alice and I attended a number of very interesting seminars on the Saturday.

Together with other member of the Executive Committee, we have also been working on an investigation into issues encountered by vulnerable and disadvantaged children, the initial results of which are to be shared via an online seminar directly after the AGM.

Marie O'Sullivan
Communications Officer
22/06/20