

## NAEA WOMEN'S CAUCUS'S "ENACTING CHANGE" LOBBY SESSION MINNEAPOLIS, April 17, 2009

Attending [31]: Caryl Church, Sara Wilson McKay, Stephanie Drugan, Denise Baxter, Elizabeth Garber, Linda Hoepfner Poling, Christine Ballengee Morris, Renee Sandell, Michelle Kraft, Patricia Stuhr, Joyce Centofanti, Robbi Sorge, Wanda B. Knight, Enid Zimmerman, Cynthia Bickley-Green, Lilly Lu, Ann Kuo, Amy Brook Snider, Pamela G. Taylor, Marjorie Cohee Manifold, Heather Lewis, Joanna Rees, Patty Bode, Nancy Pauly, Carrie Markello, Lillian Lewis, Gina Wenger, Karen Keifer-Boyd (and 4 others who are anonymous)

Below is a transcription by Karen Keifer-Boyd of the recorded 40-minute "enacting change" dialogue. For those sections (audio, text, or both) that I have permission, I will post on the "activism" link on the WC website at <http://naeawc.net>. We have set up an "activism" section at <http://naeawc.net/activism.html> as part of the WC website to include the lobby session transcript, enacting change interviews that Joanna Rees has been conducting, and a WC Enacting Change discussion forum for comments to continue the dialogue and enact change. Also, we have developed strategies for "Feminist Art Educator Wikipedia Activism," which may be something you'd like to include in your teaching. It is at [http://naeawc.net/activism\\_wiki.html](http://naeawc.net/activism_wiki.html)<sup>1</sup> Thank you for participating in the 2009 WC lobby session. I think you will find the following dialogue of great interest to continue to develop.

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**INTRODUCTION** [Karen Keifer-Boyd]: Read Diket was going to facilitate this "Enacting Change" lobby session with me, but unfortunately her father passed just prior to NAEA, and thus she cannot be with us today. Initially, she called me to nominate me as Women's Caucus president-elect, and in that conversation my first response was I am a little bit too overloaded but by the time I finished that hour [00:42] conversation with her on the phone we started talking about rejuvenating the Women's Caucus, getting more involved, and [we wanted to know] how is it serving each of you of here, and the National Art Education Association in general. So let's make a space for this kind of conversation. [00:55] Last year, I called the first WC lobby session "Vote 2008: What Should a Feminist Do?" We talked a lot about if Hilary Clinton was president or Barack Obama was president, and so on [the notes and publication from that session is linked at 2008 Lobby Session at <http://naeawc.net/activism.html>] [01:08] Now we have Barack Obama as our President, so it is a time of change, a time of enacting change.

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<sup>1</sup> **The WC website ACTIVISM link has this ROLLOVER TEXT to briefly explain the portal:** "Feminism has always involved activism, and this page is the hub for NAEA WC enacting change with questions for blog commentary to learn about and from each other, and to read and listen to the annual lobby session transcripts combined with a blog to continue to raise issues and to strategize action plans."

**The WC website HISTORY link has this ROLLOVER TEXT to briefly explain the portal:** "An interactive timeline of the history of the NAEA WC will provide oral histories by WC past presidents, and links to videos, images, audio, and documents." We are setting up a way for past presidents to record oral histories right at the WC history page that will be accessible to others.

**WC MISSION** [Karen Keifer-Boyd]: [1:18] Attached to the handout that I gave you is also the mission of the Women’s Caucus. I don’t know if anyone has looked at it for a long time. The bylaws were really hard to find. I found them in a 1995 *WC Report*. But the mission is on the WC website. [1:49] However, I don’t know if we have looked at this for a long time. Is this still what we are about? Is this still what we want to do? Or, what is it that we would like to see as our mission? There are a lot of things that in informal conversation with many of you, I have heard are important concerns.

**WIKIPEDIA FEMINIST ACTIVISM** [Karen Keifer-Boyd]: [2:06] Some issues relevant to WC mission have come to my mind too. I was at Melanie Buffington’s presentation just a few moments ago concerning a Wikipedia page on art education, and guess what [2:20] of the 50 names or so listed of art educators—same thing, only 4 or 5 names of women. That’s it. [2:38] What this tells me is that women art educators aren’t necessarily involved with the technology, and maybe art educators are not involved with the technology of Wikipedia. But we saw some fairly young art scholars listed such as Kevin Tavin and David Darts. Then we saw—for example, Eisner, men of an older generation of art educators. But we did not see Pat Stuhr’s name [audible gasp of surprise], [2:50] and your name should be there. So there is one place that I am seeing we need to change. I never even looked at it until Melanie brought it up on a screen today. There are a lot of women whose names need to be on there. [3:03] That is one small thing that needs to happen. We can type them in but they may get edited out—out—out—out. [3:08] Yet, if a lot of us were changing it, change will happen.<sup>2</sup> Look up art education on wikipedia, and see if it is how you define art education. And, if a lot of us keep changing it, it will eventually change. [3:20] This is a little to set the stage. Now to just open up for the kind of conversations you would like to have, and we can go anywhere with this conversation.

**DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES** [Karen Keifer-Boyd]: [3:55] Please pass around my camera and take pictures because I like to have different perspectives all the time.<sup>3</sup>

**ROLE OF THE WOMEN’S CAUCUS** [Karen Keifer-Boyd]: [4:00] Your thoughts, you ideas. Some people have been involved with the Women’s Caucus for a long time, and others are fairly

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<sup>2</sup> By 6:14 p.m. on 17 April 2009, within 15 minutes after our enacting change session ended, all 50 names were removed from the Wikipedia art education entry with this comment on the talk page “Removes uncited list, almost all names not Wikilinked, the first Wikilink I checked appeared to be incorrect. Section is an open invitation for spamming and promotion.” The names are still in the revision history at [http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Art\\_education&diff=302175275&oldid=284466084](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Art_education&diff=302175275&oldid=284466084). Below are the names that were removed. Maybe someone in our group enacted this change! “A number of other famous world contributors to art education academic theory include Cizek, Tom Hudson, Professor Louis Arnaud Reid, Peter Abbs, Professor Brain Allison, Rhasheed Araeen, David Aspin, Maurice Barratt, [[Terry Barrett]], Edward De Bono, Martin Buber, David Best, Michael Buchanan, Ken Baynes, T. J. Clark, Robert Clements, R. G. Collingwood, [[Arthur Danto]], [[David Darts]], Paul Duncum, Arthur D. Efland, Eliot Eisner, Edmund Burke Feldman, Hal Foster, Christopher Frayling, Kerry Freedman, Michael Fried, Peter Fuller, [[Howard Gardner]], Charles Garoian, Nelson Goodman, Clement Greenberg, Professor PH Hirst, Arthur Hughes, Rosalind Krauss, Suzanne Langer, F. R. Leavis, Victor Lowenfield, Jean-Francois Lyotard, Linda Nochlin, Griselda Pollock, John Ruskin, Phillida Salmon, Roger Scruton, Kevin Tavin, Brandon Taylor, Rod Taylor, David Thistlewood, Ludwig Wittgenstein, and Richard Wollheim.”

<sup>3</sup> See Enacting Change lobby session photos at <http://naeawc.net/2009NAEA.html>

new, or have not been involved for awhile. [4:19] What are your thoughts? We can tackle any of these questions [referring to the handout provided]—enacting change, what can we learn from each other? What would you like to ask of each other? What do you think the role of the Women’s Caucus is? [5:00] Do we even need this kind of category of woman? Does that define all of us that are in this body that people sort of identify as woman. That category is very problematic? So I open it up to you.

**EQUITY** [Linda Hoeptner-Poling] [5:04] The Caucus of Equity perhaps— a little updating.

**KEEP WOMEN’S CAUCUS FOCUSED ON WOMEN** [Marjorie Manifold] [5:10]: I like “Women’s Caucus”. I still like [the focus on] women because we too often forget not only what our forbearers did to improve the lot of professional women but overlook the fact that these battles are not won. A lot of issues get lost, from problems of little girls who think the only things they can grow up to be are princesses, to women who bully other women. I like “Women’s Caucus”. I still think we have a long way to go as women in a profession. I think any other title would water that down. It is not to say I don’t think men have problems but I think we still have bigger hurdles.

**HURDLES** [Karen Keifer-Boyd] [5:56] What are those hurdles and what can we do to change these hurdles so they are not so large to jump over?

**BULLYING, SEXUALIZED CYBERWORLDS, PRINCESSES** [Marjorie Manifold] [6:11]: There has been a lot of information published recently about relationship abuse, which is more prevalent among girls, like bullying among teenage girls and adolescents. This happens in academia too and is directed more frequently by and toward women. That is one area that should be of concern to women. Another whole new area that is opening up is, for example, the issue of how women are represented or represent themselves in cyberworlds. Often the imagery is very sexual, very blatant. And, among little girls there is the whole notion of the princess. Every little girl has to be a princess. This sets her up for a shock when she grows up and finds that life isn’t a fairytale. So these are just a few of the kinds of issues “Women’s Caucus” might address.

**EQUITY** [Linda Hoeptner-Poling] [7:00] The reason I said equity, suggested that, is that part A in our constitution, plus when I talk with my graduate students, in particular, they associate Women’s Caucus with women’s movement 1970s—that kind of essentialism, and I always preach to them it is not equality—you know, equity verses equality. And, find that to be very old school. I do have mixed feelings. I absolutely think what you are saying is valid. I am wondering to bring it to more contemporary terminology, perhaps. I don’t know.

**FEMINISM IS MORE THAN EQUITY** [Elizabeth Garber] [7:42] I think feminism is about a lot more than equity. So I think we are narrowing the definition. We did talk, I think maybe 15 years ago, about calling it the Gender Caucus. I think Laurie Hicks was really pushing that. And, I think we stayed with Women’s Caucus because of some of the reasons that Marjorie gave. Not that we can’t revisit the conversation a bit. I think you remember it—you were around then.

**FROM DIALOGUE TO ACTIVISM** [Karen Keifer-Boyd] [8:08] What are the things that we need to pay attention, particularly with what we know best as art educators, from that position?

What might we tackle? I guess I am not only into discussion but also I want us to look at ways that we can do something to change what needs to be changed.

**PLEASURE & FREEDOM IMPORTANT** [Elizabeth Garber] [8:37] I think many of us have realized in working with our students that a lot of them identify as maybe—sort of—marginal feminists. I think I am speaking to some of what Linda said. They don't want to be boxed in by a definition. It is like—*we know that women's issues are important, we might even recognize there are things that we think aren't right, but we don't really want to have to be old school. We don't want to act in certain ways or not enjoy pleasure.* So I think pleasure and freedom are really, really important to their identities, or to a lot of people's identity.

**IMPORTANT TO MENTOR** [Joyce Centofanti] [9:26] What I noticed with my young students—what is interesting about the Wikipedia issue—because the majority of my students are female—and, I find that they are afraid of the feminist word because they think of the 70s. So I think it is real important as a caucus that we are mentoring the young students who are becoming art educators so they understand what our world should be, so they mentor their young students both male and female with more contemporary issues of what the female roles can be.

**CELEBRATE DIFFERENCES** [Joanna Rees] [10:09] What I think we should do is we need to remember to celebrate our differences. Back to what Marjorie was saying in terms of bullying and things like that. Too often, and it is part of female psychology, women relate to women who are just like them, and they want to be with people who hold similar views. And, instead of having that outlook, let's celebrate differences and learn from those differences. [10:30] In order to celebrate our differences we have to have a strong personal identity, we have to know who we are, so we can communicate who we are. And, as women, and as art educators that is always changing. So our question, which is “what can we learn from each other,” is actually very difficult. In order to learn from each other we have to know ourselves. So, I think we should look at that as well.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Thanks to Joanna initiating interviews, we have begun to enact her suggestion in a systematic way. Interviews with members of the NAEA Women's Caucus demonstrate the variety of contributions to art education fostered through leadership, research, and pedagogy. Stage one of the project assembles a wide view of perspectives and relates perspectives to members' personal goals. Those personal goals (aggregated as experiences, aspirations, cultural considerations, and shared and individual notions of identity as art educators) can inform ways to treat all art educators in fair and equitable ways. Current, previous, and future members are invited to continue from the interviews into a dialogue on enacting change, based in interview results. We are working toward developing an action plan to form a collective identity for socio-political mobilization of WC activism that began last year at NAEA in Minneapolis. Interview responses, posted with permission are at <http://naeawc.net/activism.html> linked to each name listed.

Please contact Joanna Rees ([reesjoanna@hotmail.com](mailto:reesjoanna@hotmail.com)) to schedule an interview in response to the following questions, or respond to the questions that will be set-up in a discussion forum at the WC website in the “activism” section.

1. What is your educational background and where did you complete your PhD? If you have not completed your PhD please provide information on your highest level of education.

**CHANGED LOBBY LOCATION** [Karen Keifer-Boyd] [10:49-12:21] [Some mention they could not hear Joanna. At this point, we are told to leave the lobby space by hotel personnel.] If we are on the carpet space, is that okay? No. Okay, everyone go up the escalator. Maybe, by the stairs. Okay, she says go over there. [We fairly quickly relocate to another lobby space—31 people re-gather together in a new space.]

**RECONFIGURED/FLEXIBLE** [Karen Keifer-Boyd] [00:13] Okay, we just reconfigured. Flexible. [Someone asks Karen to restate what Joanna just said.] Joanna, do you want to project your voice really loud.

**KNOW SELF** [Joanna Rees] [00:24] Certainly. We need to celebrate our differences. If we go back to what Marjorie was saying, often it is conflict if we only support women with a similar view. That is a very closed outlook. Instead let's celebrate our differences. So let's think about how we are different from each other and how we can learn from each other. However, that is much easily said than done. In order to celebrate our differences we need to have a strong personal identity. And, knowing our personal identity is very hard because it is always changing, right? So, as women and as art educators our identity is always evolving. So, to learn from each other we have to know ourselves.

**COMMENTS** [Karen Keifer-Boyd] [1:17] Are there comments about this perspective or ideas of ways to do this?

**COLLABORATION, EQUITY, NONHIERARCHICAL WAYS** [Enid Zimmerman] [1:22] I think that feminism is the basis of the Women's Caucus, the whole notion of feminism with its wonderful theoretical notions that we can apply--collaboration, equity, nonhierarchal ways of doing things—I think that these contemporary ideas of feminism for the Women's Caucus—to build leadership, which is something I have been very interested in, [2:09] especially young people who are going to be art teachers—if we took those ideas that grew out of the women's movement to bring them into a postmodern way to make change.

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2. What are your current research interests and contributions to art education?
  3. Could you describe your leadership style?
  4. Could you describe your teaching pedagogy?
  5. What are your contributions to Women's Caucus and women's issues in art education?
  6. Could you describe your current identity as a woman and art educator?
  7. How has this identity changed and grown over time?
  8. Have you ever felt held back or discriminated against because of your gender?
  9. Have you seen other professionals in the field discriminated against in educational workplaces?
  10. What changes would you like to enact in art education?

**NOT MUCH HAS CHANGED REGARDING APPRECIATING WOMEN** [Cynthia Bickley-Green] [2:35] I tend to agree with Enid, maybe because of my age. I participated in that Women's Movement, or Feminist Movement. But at this age, as I look back, I don't see very many changes. I see the same problems we were looking at 70 years ago, or in the 70s. I feel like it was 70 years ago. One of the people who works with me develops distance education and creates instructional technologies. We were talking about games because we want to make our program more of a gaming program. She is younger. She said, "I really don't think I like the games that I see, the games that kids play are so anti-women, and so demeaning. [3:42]." I remember having a similar thought when I was exploring *Second Life* and looking at a Barbie doing aerobics, and I used to do aerobics but now my knees hurt, and I thought I shouldn't be even looking at this. I need to be in the gym or engaged in some other exercise. The animation seemed like an affront to what I need to be doing for my physical well-being. It just seemed stupid to watch a cartoon exercise. I read the *NY Times* every single day, just the art section, and when I look at that, I look for how many women are reviewed and how much money their artworks sell for. I should have done a count. [My feeling from reading the art section is that fewer women are reviewed and women's artworks rarely sell at the same price level as men's artworks.] We have not moved much further [professionally than in the 70s], and certainly the previously mentioned Wikipedia article on art education is a demonstration that even in an area where we predominate, our ideas are not always appreciated.

**WC Website** [Joanna Rees] [4:48] I went to do some research and I had a very hard time finding the Women's Caucus website. When I did find the website it was old, it was out-of-date. I wanted to pay an annual membership fee, and the information was not updated. So, I think for us to start communicating we need to update the website and include a blog so these discussions can continue. So a question can be asked and

**BLOG** [?] [5:25] A blog might be a good idea if people will respond to it.

**WC WEBSITE WITH BLOG** [Karen Keifer-Boyd] [5:25] That is true. The WC website has been re-activated and alive since maybe a year ago or something like that as Lilly Lu, who is behind you, has taken over as web coordinator. She is really interested in your ideas to make it more accessible. If you just type in NAEA WC in Google, you have to put in NAEA WC—I can just put that in and it will be the first thing googled up there. But Lilly Lu, right behind you, this is the person to tell ideas of what you want that website to be. Maybe we need to do more metatagging so that people can find it more easily. If they just put in "Women's Caucus"—and Lilly knows what I am talking about regarding metatagging—then if metagged in this way it will be found. Metatagging is setting it up for many ways to search to find a website. So that's important to find it and important to consider what we want the website to be. [6:25] When I am thinking about Joanna's comment, about our identities, and knowing ourselves, a blog may be one way to do that. And, you know, if we feel that it is important, than we will participate. And, if we know that others will want to hear what we have to say about ourselves, in whatever way we want to present that, and with a blog you can edit it, then we'll participate. And, I think a blog in which we are all editors is even a better way to go, if we all had the same password to it.

**WC ISSUES IN A VOLUME OF JAE or STUDIES** [Marjorie Manifold] [7:02] A problem with the blog is that we can communicate with one another but we may find we are only reaching women with similar notions. On the other hand, out of the blog we might identify predominant issues that could be addressed in broader venues. Let's have an issue of the journal of *Art Education* and let's have an issue of *Studies* devoted to issues in women's lives. That will get the message out to others. We don't want to just "preach to the choir" because, although we could probably come to a consensus, we have to get others involved.

**COALITION** [Wanda B. Knight] [7:36] This is what I was thinking, I agree. I am wondering whether it would not make sense to build the coalition, not just with women, but also with men. We know coalition building is not just about us, but it is about all of us. And, when people begin to see our issue as being their issue then that is when we start to not have these fragmented groups--who are not necessarily working with each other--some having power over others, not power with them. So, I am hoping that in these discussions, we look up and say how do we get people working with us. We know that when there are gay, lesbian, transgendered, and other issues—it is straight people who need to be talking about these issues as well. And, similarly, Black people should not only be talking about their issues, but White people should be talking about Black issues too. And, if we are all truly interested in art education, and moving this engine forward, then these are the kinds of issues that we need to look at and put on the table. How can we work with others, to have them advocate for the same issues that we advocate?

**WHAT ARE THOSE ISSUES** [Karen Keifer-Boyd] [8:49] And, what are those issues?

**CHILDCARE AT NAEA** [anonymous] [8:54] As a concrete example, xxxx—I am going to go ahead and speak for us both. xxx is over here shielding her child from the sun. This is something that we have been talking a little bit about, and spoke with you [Karen] a short time ago in the hall, is this idea of trying to advocate within NAEA a structure for babysitting, or childcare, during the conference. So that young mothers, or people across the board, or if people who want to bring their grandchildren, or nieces and nephews, or what have you—and spend your academic work with a family vacation on the side. You could certainly do that with some of these mechanisms in place. So trying to figure out if that is possible because it certainly would help in terms of presenting.

**OPTIONS** [Karen Keifer-Boyd] [9:40] Yes, so this idea of profession and career that instead of one parent goes off, it is more like a family kind of thing—that they are all involved, at least as an option.

**NAEA EMAIL BLASTS** [Patty Bode] [10:00] Well the childcare example, is a really good example that should be a man and woman's issue. That should not be a women's issue. And, I would want to make sure that we wouldn't reinforce the idea that the childcare issue is a women's issue. So this is a really good example of creating the umbrella of feminism, which Enid mentioned, and helping men embrace the notion that it is possible for men to be feminists. [10:35] Maybe a reassertion of feminism and who gets included in a really interesting way, and bringing out what are some feminist issues, and what can NAEA do to engage everyone in that. So that an extension, I am just playing off what I heard everyone say, so another extension of the blog idea could be if we blog within our group for awhile,

and then pull out some themes to do email blasts with all of NAEA. [11:04] I don't know if national gives us that capacity to send out blasts to everybody. If we could, it could be a subject line of topic, you know, whatever the topic is. Whether it is childcare at national conference for all, or whether it is what does it mean to be an engaged debater in art educator, something Karen and I talked about on the bus yesterday. And, the byline could be Women's Caucus invites all members, all men and women of NAEA, to chime in—you know, blah, blah, blah. [11:45] So get some dialogue going and pull in those critical thinkers across the board.

**FEMINIST APPROACHES TO “DEBATE”** [Patty Bode] [11:46] My last thing, and I don't want to take up too much air time but my last thing is, Karen and I were talking yesterday on the shuttle bus, and I talked about the cover page of the *NAEA News* last time with its conversation about *Studies* that Kevin [Tavin] and Jerry [Hausman] had. It was really interesting in that, and I also came away from it feeling that, it was not a feminist perspective at all that lively debate or engaged debate is a very traditional male gender dominant way of seeing things. That this public debate, this kind of confrontational, argumentative—that there are other ways to engage in a lively debate that has a more feminist perspective. And, I would really like to think about that as a group of men and women bringing a feminist perspective to engaged debate. What does it mean? What is the style? What is the format? Does it mean that you hammer each other with verbose language in *Studies*, or does it mean something else? Not that that one isn't an option. That's good that that is out there but I felt like it was narrow and that we could engage that.

**GENERATIONAL DIFFERENCES** [Stephanie Drugan] [13:11] I guess this is a generational question too. Cross-generational, a question about generational differences. I am totally new here. This is the first time at this conference. I am curious to know how the Women's Caucus developed. There is a whole new generation. I think maybe some are represented here, but I think we need more of that representation at this discussion, and more voice of issues that particularly younger women are facing. I think that this is something—that the old and the new have to have an exchange.

**ARTICLES ON THE HISTORY OF THE WC** [Marjorie Manifold] [14:15] That could be a good issue - a group of articles about the history of the Women's Caucus. We have had these kinds of [journal] issues on the history of higher education and the history of art education in general. We need to be informed and inform others about the history of the Women's Caucus.

**MAKING AVAILABLE THE HISTORY OF THE WC** [Karen Keifer-Boyd] [14:34] There are some here that know that history very well but if it is not very available, then

**PAST WC PRESIDENTS NARRATIVES** [Debbie Smith-Shank] [14:44] Well, we have 5 past presidents sitting in this group right now. So one way to do this is to ask the past presidents to actually think about the years that they were president. Never asked me.

**PODCASTS OF ORAL WC HISTORIES ON THE WC WEBSITE** [Karen Keifer-Boyd] [15:18] I think the thing is availability. There is an archive, there are people who have this history, they have told it, some have written it down, but accessibility is the issue. We know that the



Web is one place that offers accessibility. This may be one way to make it accessible. It may be things like voice recordings, history from Enid [Zimmerman], history from Debbie [Smith-Shank], history from Renee [Sandell]—histories that are podcasts that we can listen to, and learn the history of the Women’s Caucus from those involved.

**PAST WC PRESIDENTS NARRATIVES** [Debbie Smith-Shank] [15:48] I am thinking like in NPR where you go into the little box and tell a story. I love that segment on NPR. Even if I don’t know the people, all of a sudden I feel warm and fuzzy. It’s a wonderful thing. Maybe we could do something like that.

**VOICETHREAD FOR RECORDING** [Karen Keifer-Boyd] [16:00] There are open source, free things, like this thing called *VoiceThread*. I can set it up, and then you can just click on it and tell your story. And, then it’s up there on the Web for others to hear. There are some things available that I can help set-up, in hearing this idea of sharing Women’s Caucus oral histories, that is very easy to use.

**PROGRESS** [Renee Sandell] [16:25] I am amazed what we have done today.

**MANY IDEAS** [Debbie Smith-Shank] [16:26] I am just blown away with how many ideas we have come up with today.

**SEXTING** [Renee Sandell] [16:33] I had said to you, isn’t there a business meeting where we can have some quiet space, but it is very exciting. And, it is very much like cyberspace in reality. We are all just kind of splayed out here. Besides community-building, which is vital, I wonder whether we could really help raise some consciousness within and outside NAEA. If we took some of the concerns that have been raised, for example, the issue of sexting. We would have a lot of unity since as folks become increasingly aware of sexting and how it negatively affects our children and society. It might be a perfect place to start as we promote visual literacy. There was a really good Newsweek, a single pager, about sexting and the collateral issues including legal consequences facing minors.<sup>5</sup> If we just took this one issue and raised it in the Association via the Women’s Caucus, we might be able to educate the public and counteract this destructive phenomenon. We are living in a time where our kids are facing such difficult experiences. And, I see parents throw up their hands, “what can I do.” Or teachers, “what can I do.” [17:40] So, if we really want to take charge maybe we can take one issue like that one, it’s a one word issue. And, just start interacting about it. We can start. We can invite students to be a part of it. It is “sexting”. It is where students are taking sexual photographs and sending them out. It’s just like, where does it stop. So that is just a thought.

**SIMULTANEOUS COMMENTS** [many] [Many speak to those nearby at once, some laughter.]

**BROADER ISSUE** [Patty Bode?] [18:35] Isn’t that a broader issue?

**WEB FORMAT TO FURTHER CONVERSATIONS & FOCUS CHANGE** [Karen Keifer-Boyd] [18:43] Well, the Web format is a good place to take a topic like that and to put your

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<sup>5</sup> See <http://www.newsweek.com/id/184814>

thoughts on it, as well as strategies, to develop a plan. Together, and individually when combined together, we can figure some of this out. There is leadership in the NAEA now that is very open to hear our ideas and thoughts, and to allow us to do things like email blasts, and things of this sort. So, the time is right to do this kind of stuff. And, I think for our energies and our time, we do need to think what are the most important things that we as art educators can and should do, where do we want to spend our time, and what kind of change—because having enough time is really so difficult.

**SEXY TOPIC** [anonymous] [19:35] Picking up some sexy topic would be good for us to get attention. We don't have momentum like we talked about today with motherhood and academia, and pregnancy, and women don't show up [to such presentations]. If we have six people showing up listening to us we are lucky. And so, these issues are relevant but even we don't care to go to each other's presentations. This conference is filled with women, but women don't come to listen to presentations that are about gender and women's issues. [Someone comments, to "hear something new." Another: "The idea that we need a sexy topic is revolting." Another, "It is revolting but"] Yeah, but I think picking a session that would be a demanding, for example, a super session for us when everything else quiets down, or slows down. Demanding a time, and picking a topic that would be of interest to a wider audience could gain us a momentum to make the Women's Caucus something exciting.

**SUPER SESSIONS NOT A FEMINIST MODEL** [Amy Brook Snider] [20:44] That idea of a super session is not really a feminist idea. You know what I mean though. I think we want to think about changing the entire structure of this conference so it is more in keeping with women's ways of knowing and feminism. These super sessions are like someone said about debates. It is the same thing.

**PERFORMATIVE EVENT** [anonymous] [20:44] Then maybe it needs to be some sort of performative event with something half orchestrated, and half invitation for everyone else to get up and move, or create drama, or whatever it could be. And, then the other thing I was going to say is the community arts focused group that Olivia ran is more in the style of a Quaker meeting where you testified about your thoughts on why we should have community arts on our radar at NAEA. So, I think there are people in this group who have wonderful ideas about how to reinterpret the delivery of discourse.

**CHILDCARE, WOMEN'S SALARIES—LONG-TERM ISSUES DEMANDING CHANGE** [Christine Ballengee Morris] [22:04] Delivery, what saddens me, is to know that in the 30 years that I was a young mother and art educator that the same issues of breastfeeding and lack of childcare is still here. And, so it may be an old and not very sexy topic but shame, shame. We really do need to keep that up. Or the fact that in the *NY Times*, female professors are still the lowest paid on the scale. These are current issues, that have been long-term issues that both of you have referred to that are still vital to what we are talking about. Maybe it is about changing the way that we are talking to the audience, and performing to get some excitement. And, to make it sexy, or whatever it is we need to do to get people to hear it, and to understand that we are not just talking about it, we are demanding change.

**PROMOTION TO FULL PROFESSOR** [Cynthia Bickley-Green] [23:15] One of the saddest things that I recently heard is from Josephine Withers who actually started the Women’s Program at University of Maryland, and she was on our steering committee for women in the visual arts in 1972. I don’t think she was ever made a full professor in art history [although her political actions had a formative effect on the art of thousands of women]. To me it was an appalling omission; it was just so sad. I know some people know her or know about her, and it occurred to me that we really didn’t do very much because few professional issues have changed. [In our efforts to obtain our own professional standing, it is often difficult to assist others.]

And, there has been a kind of a sweepback to an earlier vision of what a woman should be, now I really show my age, but when some of my students wanted to be really girlie girls and professional at the same time I was puzzled. In fact, my niece tried to teach as a girlie girl in her school, and she couldn’t understand why she was having trouble [managing her class] with that persona.

I was just thinking about our Miss America who fell in the 2008 Miss Universe pageant (Miss USA fell in the 2007 Miss Universe contest). They should have had running shoes on or something they could walk in. The images they presented of the liberated, free American woman were stupid. And, we still have not managed to equip many young women with the skills they need to lead—I know that is a question of balancing personal presence or identity and professional development with issues related to feminine stereotypes and entrenched, conservative gender/sex roles. —but it seems to me we have to continue working toward the development of more powerful women leaders who can successfully articulate women’s concerns in every field—well, I guess that is really all I have to say. I think many issues are still the same as they were many years ago, and we are not addressing them.

**EMBRACE EVERYONE** [Enid Zimmerman] [25:13] It should be a choice, and you should embrace everyone no matter how they look, or how they present themselves. We don’t want to stereotype our own selves. Each of us has a different way that we present ourselves. We should honor everybody.

**HIGH HEELS** [Pamela Taylor] [25:41] Some people have high-heel sneakers.

**LAUGHTER** [Enid Zimmerman] [25:45] I know, that is why I said something. [Lots of comments and laughter.]

**ARTHRITIS/AGING** [Debbie Smith-Shank] [25:48] I would be still wearing those if my toes did not have arthritis.

**BEAUTY PAGEANTS** [many] [25:48] [Lots of comments—“Beauty pageants for little girls.” “That is horrible.”]

**WHAT CAN WE TAKE FROM THIS LOBBY SESSION INTO NAEA** [anonymous] [26:11] Is there something we can learn from this? There are so many people that will show up for this in the lobby, and informal gatherings. They are so gun-ho about this activism but then within the structure of the convention we don’t really get together. We are not a unit. There

is no such kind of communal sense amongst us. But, then we are in this kind of informal setting and we are all together as girls and women so what can we take from this and make it part of the official that we are and in the institutional structure.

**MORE COMFORTABLE OUTSIDE A FORMAL ROOM?** [Debbie Smith-Shank] [26:46] Are we more comfortable in this setting than a formal room. Is it okay if people come in and stay for a little bit, and then leave for a little bit, and then hang out. It is like, maybe, we if we had food it would be better. Spa treatment.

**MAKING A SPACE** [Karen Keifer-Boyd] [27:12] There is a sense in the organizing, in all these other ways with food, and placards, and everything. But, I think there is something really attractive about the spontaneity and making a space in the moment. There is something really attractive, that I am attracted to, and those probably here also in some way, since something brought you here. So there is something about this just making something happen. And, sometimes you formalize something too much and becomes—I don't know—just kind of unwieldy, as far as actually making change. This is one perspective anyway.

**NAEA CONFERENCE STRUCTURE GOES AGAINST COALITION BUILDING** [Christine Ballengee Morris] [27:47] I would also add that I know I wanted to go to your session but I was presenting at the same time. The structure of the conference, itself, goes against any type of coalition and community building. A couple of years ago there were 5 presentations about American Indians. Right. And, 4 of them happened at the same time, and one of them was ours. I would have loved to have gone to all of them but the structure went against being able to provide the allied-building, the advocacy, and the coalition. And, I do think that that is something that we could bring forward, especially now within the governance of NAEA that can be changed. That can allow for something.

**NAEA CONFERENCE STRUCTURE GOES AGAINST COALITION BUILDING** [Karen Keifer-Boyd] [28:39] This is really, really important. I looked at the schedule for some time, and found 5-6 p.m. on Friday nothing else was happening. While people may be going out to dinner but it is a little bit before so you can still go to dinner or the Binney & Smith thing, and so on. So it is finding that little bit of space in the conference schedule that made this happen. But what you just said, we have tried for many, many years to not overlap issue groups. But we do have new leadership. Another thing is that Women's Caucus business meeting is on Monday at 7 p.m. It is also when all the other business meetings are scheduled. And, many of us are involved in many of them. So it splinters us.

**NAEA CONFERENCE SCHEDULING?** [Patty Bode] [29:28] Who puts together these catalogs? Don't we have some control?

**MANY YEARS IN ASKING NAEA BOARD TO NOT OVERLAP NAEA CAUCUS MEETING** [Debbie Smith-Shank] [29:34] There is a program coordinator, and each site puts it together. And, it has always been that you put all the caucus's business meetings at the same time, put all the luncheons at the same time. Amy and I have been complaining for 20 years. We have gone to the Board from Queer Caucus, from Social Theory Caucus, from Women's Caucus—all of us gone to the Board, year after year after year.

**WHO IS THE BOARD?** [Patty Bode] [30:11] Who is the Board? Don't they work for us?

**NAEA BOARD VOTED IN BY YOU** [Debbie Smith-Shank] [30:13] We vote them in. They are the people you voted for. It is your elected representative from each region and division.

**CONFERENCE BY OURSELVES** [speaker?] [30:32] Okay, okay, that's fair. Maybe women should go have a conference all by ourselves where we can listen to each other.

**FACIALS** [Debbie Smith-Shank] [30:38] At Ohio State. Sure. Whatever. Facials.

**SEPARATE WC CONFERENCE** [Enid Zimmerman] [30:42] When I was President of the Women's Caucus, there was the NOW [ERA] amendment. Remember. And, we were meeting in a state where the NOW [Equal Rights] amendment was not adopted. So, all the Women's Caucus members decided to meet at Ohio State.<sup>6</sup> And, we held our own caucus, and maybe that would be interesting. [Someone asks, "did anyone care?" Amy Brook Snider responds, "Are you kidding."]

**MORE WOMEN THAN MEN PUBLISHING & LEADING IN ART ED** [Debbie Smith-Shank] [31:28] One of the things that have come out—this might be an issue. One of my students has done some research of the publishing in the field of art education and since before 1986 it was primarily male authors. Since 1986, it has been primarily women authors published in *Studies*. Whatever that says. What it tells me is there is feminizing of the profession. There are more women now who are active. More women now who are getting published, more women who are being leaders, and maybe we have a little more power now than we ever had before because we have the numbers.

**MORE WOMEN BUT NOT MORE FEMINISTS LEADING IN ART ED** [speaker?] [32:09] Just because they are women, they are not feminists.

**TRUE** [Debbie Smith-Shank] [32:09] Just because they are women, they are not necessarily feminists. That's true.

**WOMEN PLAYING THE SAME POWER GAME** [Enid Zimmerman] [32:18] A lot of the women are playing the same power games that the men that they are working for.

**WOMEN POSITIONED TO PLAY THE SAME POWER GAME** [Patty Bode] [32:33] I would argue that they are positioned to play them.

**RIGHT** [Enid Zimmerman] [32:18] Right, and so I don't think there is any more feminism. There are more women.

**MISSING ARE MEN FROM THIS DISCUSSION** [Robbie] [32:48] What I feel is missing here is there are no males here. And, I am not saying that every male would have something to say but I noticed that Michael walked away. He was not invited to the inner circle. And, I have a strange feeling of the cocoon going on. Maybe it is the presentation. But every single one of

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<sup>6</sup> For more on the Women's Caucus holding a separate conference at Ohio State in boycott of the NAEA for holding its annual conference in the non ERA state of Georgia, hear June King McFee and Rogena Degge talk about this at <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-5096963008057394994> (& also linked at the WC website).

you, me included, actually happens to know a male as a partner or a colleague who agrees with what you are teaching, so why don't each one of you bring one. It does not have to be someone who is going to talk. But if you want to know what males are doing. Michelle should have brought her firefighter husband and give him a chance to say a little part of this. And, if he is going, then to know he is coming here. Since Michelle's coming here he is going to have a little bit of something to say. He is not just going to sit in the back.

**MEN WERE INVITED** [Karen Keifer-Boyd] [33:36] I did invite a lot of men ... [continued but spoken on top so can't hear]

**NO OTHER SIDE TO THE DISCUSSION** [Robbie] [33:41] I didn't say you didn't invite them but what Wanda said, where are the males. What are you going to say about the whole sexual game that women play on the way up is kinda of brought up. I am not arguing for or against this, but there is no other side of the discussion.

**REASONS FOR WOMEN TO GET TOGETHER** [Karen Keifer-Boyd] [34:00] I think a really interesting thing happened in that a lot of men were invited and encouraged to come. Whether they came and turned away, I don't know. So why is that? Is there some kind of reason for women wanting to get together and men being frightened from that space. I mean, I don't know. Something happens in that dynamic. I don't know what to say about it. I don't know if it is good or bad, or what.

**TRY A CONSORTIUM MODEL** [Gina Wenger] [34:33] Something tossed out earlier where we have several sessions going on at the same time, that are the same topic. I work with a conference right now, where we actually shorten the talks to maybe 15-20 minutes, but everyone stays, and everyone is interested, and all the topics or all the research is on the same broad topic. And, then you have the opportunity to discuss it as a group rather than this competing against one another, or even in trying to juggle your interests from one hour to the next. If we are really looking to restructure, or a separate conference, or whatever it is but looking away from how we do this now, and, seeing it as a group, almost like a consortium.

**VOLUNTEER AS NAEA CONFERENCE COORDINATOR** [Deborah Smith-Shank] [35:23] Gina, why don't you call Deborah Reeves and volunteer to be the program coordinator next year? Deborah is absolutely open to this volunteerism. I would love to see you do that.

**EACH NEEDS TO INVITE OTHERS (YOUNG MEN & WOMEN) TO 2010 LOBBY SESSION** [Caryl Church?] [35:41] Excellent. I would like to say something about people not feeling like they can come in, like this is a cocoon, like he said. I think that is why we maybe don't have younger people here, men and women. They don't know if they belong here. If that message, like I probably wouldn't be here if it wasn't for Linda because she invited me here. If there isn't the invitation to come, I think some people are probably scared or nervous, or think they don't belong or whatever.

**LOBBY SESSION HAS GROWN** [Nancy Pauly?] [36:23] Karen--just that you should say, this is a huge victory. Last year we had just a fourth of this. Look how huge it has grown.

**END OF HOUR LOBBY SESSION, BEGINNING OF YOU INVITING OTHERS TO THE**

**CONVERSATION** [Karen Keifer-Boyd] [36:25] Last year there were 16 at the Women's Caucus Lobby Session. We have the sign-in sheet going around here, and it looks like a lot more here than 16. I have been really focused on listening to what you had to say, what we all had to say, and there is some stuff that came out of this one hour that I will give back to you, send it out to you. Now we have the technology to do that. We can work with some of these ideas and it will be in the continued dialogue, which will be through email and other spaces if you chose to use them. It means that we can add Michelle's husband, or whomever else you would want to bring into this discussion, our colleagues, and our students, and such to this conversation. That may be a way to continue this. So it is 6 o'clock, you each have different things to do. I hope you will come to the Women's Caucus breakfast, which is Monday morning, and the WC awards, which is Sunday night at 7, and also the business meeting at 7 o'clock on Monday. I am sort of acting as the President-elect because Read Diket, I mentioned when we began, that her father passed away just this week. She planned to be here, she planned to do all this stuff. Now, I am trying to pick up on the sessions that she planned to facilitate. Fortunately, she communicated so well that I am trying to do as well as I can. I welcome you to share, volunteer, pick up things, continue the conversation.

**THANKS** [many] [38:16] "thanks Karen". "Any more handouts?" "Yes, here's one." "We can share."

**AFTER THOUGHT** [Stephanie Drugan, 17 October 2009]: I really like the idea of Enacting Change, and after reading this transcript I reflected a bit on the feelings I had during the meeting. I would like to relay this to you as maybe a final thought. ... or after thought. Maybe it was because no one knew me, or maybe it was because I didn't know anyone, or even that I had never participated in a caucus before- but I never felt a sense of welcoming or belonging to the group. I really felt quite small - as if I was a new, young, voice that maybe didn't have the so-called experience of the rest of the group. In fact, if I hadn't been invited by my professor, I would have never have felt comfortable at all with joining- and even still, I felt uncomfortable. I think maybe to begin Enacting Change, the Women's Caucus must make a change in the way we welcome new members- no matter their age, sex, sexual orientation, experience, etc. We could start with recruitment and getting new people to feel comfortable to come to meetings or feel involved, and every time a new member or prospective member shows up to a meeting or becomes involved in some way, we show that person the warmest welcoming, helping to make that person feel like they belong, like their voice is heard, as if every member counts. I know that would have helped me feel a lot more comfortable—knowing that the group really wanted new members and then treated by the group as if they were wanted. That's just my opinion, and I'm not sure if anyone else feels this way, but I thought it needed to be said.

