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POD Network News, May 1, 1989

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POD NETWORK

PROFESSIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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Chicago, Illinois
May 1, 1989

Dear POD Friends:

Hello from the Midwest. Since the last newsletter from the Midwest (LuAnn Wilkerson's from Chicago), you've had them from Rhode Island, Texas and that very special one from Hawaii. Now we're back to the Midwest for the next two years. I should explain how the Executive Directorship is going to work for these next two years. For the first year, April 1989 to April 1990, I will take care of the general, public kinds of things: the newsletter, the business meeting at the conference etc. The second year, April 1990 to April 1991, Del Wright will do the general, public, kinds of things. In the meantime, for both years Del will be in charge of administration, and I will be in charge of programs. What that means is that Del will answer your questions about membership and money. I will answer your questions about To Improve the Academy, the conference, the grants program and generally anything to do with programs. Because Marilla was in Hawaii, we actually started a test run with this arrangement in January. So far, from our viewpoint, it seems to be working out well.

As you know, the Core Committee meets twice a year: once just before the conference and once just before the spring AAHE meeting. At the most recent meeting in April in Chicago, they made several changes that you should know about.

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS: In the past we offered an Institutional Membership for $100 which entitled the institution to name five people at that institution to receive membership benefits. This created havoc with the membership records because some institutions neglected to name the members, others changed the names at the last minute and generally kept our membership records in a turmoil. Beginning with the 1990 membership dues (paid anytime after March 1990), we will give a 10% discount to institutions who name three or more people as members. To receive the discount you must send Del all of the names at one time and indicate that you qualify for the institutional discount. The people you name will stay on our membership records for the full membership year.

MEMBERSHIP YEAR: Although many of you renew your membership when you register for the conference, the actual membership year

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runs from March to March. Thus, Del is right now "purging" the membership records. Folks who send in their membership dues now, will receive the 1989 To Improve the Academy, not the 1988 volume. The same is true for the Bright Ideas booklet, and the membership directory.

HANDBOOK FOR NEW PRACTITIONERS: We have reconsidered the benefits to POD of giving the Handbook to new members for no cost. We have found our new members are not necessarily new practitioners in the field. Many of them are members of faculty development committees who serve for a year or two and are then replaced. Although the Handbook helps them to better understand professional and organizational development, they are not really in a position to actually use it as a practitioner. From now on we will not supply a free copy of the Handbook as a benefit of membership to new members. It will still be available to members at a discount.

We have also decided that the Handbook is a very helpful volume and that it deserves wider distribution. As a result, New Forums Press will advertise its availability. If you have not yet ordered a copy, do so as quickly as possible as we do not have a large backlog of copies. Of course, we have always had plans to up-date the book if it proved to be helpful. For example, I thought that the original volume needed considerably more in the area of organizational development. If you are an organizational developer or have a new technique or idea, put on your thinking cap so that you will have a chapter ready to write when we publish a second edition.

BIT NET: Glenn Ross Johnson at Texas A & M has volunteered to create a directory of Bit Net addresses for those of you who have them. If you would like to be included in this directory, send your name and your Bit Net address to Glenn.

AAHE: We owe a big round of applause to Dan Wheeler for organizing the POD Sampler at AAHE. This year's theme was "Addressing Faculty Career Stages and Crises." Marilla Svinicki and Mary Deane Sorcinelli presented a session on "Helping New Faculty Become Established". Joyce Povlacs Lunde and Dan Wheeler discussed "Assisting Mid-Career Faculty to Refocus Their Careers," and Bob Berry and Bob Falk led "Helping Senior Faculty Contribute During Retirement." Thanks to each of you for your good work. About 50 people attended the session. They were joined by an additional 50 for the reception afterwards.

In addition to the Sampler and reception this year we tried a new outreach technique. We sponsored a booth which went well for a first time effort. During my three-hour stint, I met a lot of folks who had never heard about POD and some who had heard about us but had never connected closely enough to get a membership brochure. Part of our purpose for the booth was to use

it as a way to inform administrators about the kinds of things that POD members can do that are helpful to institutions. Here, we need to design some materials specifically directed toward that audience.

CONFERENCE SITE SURVEY: Susan Holton tells me that we had 171 responses to our survey on conference related matters: 81 from the Newsletter form and 91 from the 1988 conference. The responses indicate that the membership is overwhelmingly in favor of the traditional POD conference. Most of you are even willing to travel up to an hour-and-a-half to get to the conference site from the airport. The only surprise is that about three fourths of your institutions pay all or nearly all of your conference expenses. Not to worry, we still believe that it is best to keep the cost of attending the conference as low as possible.

NEW BROCHURE: Again thank you's are in order, this time to the Outreach Committee headed by Lion Gardiner. We have a new, more modern brochure. You'll get a copy with the Bright Ideas booklet. Bob Pierleoni up-dated the text, and Bob Diamond worked on the graphics and layout. POD is moving into the electronic age. We used Bit Net, conference calls, and fax machines to communicate with one another in this project.

Actually, the new brochure is an interim step in re-designing all of POD's print materials. During 1989-90 the Outreach Committee will be investigating the possibility of new graphics, type, layout for everything that we publish. We will look for a dignified but striking design.

BUDGET: POD is in good financial health. We take in about the same amount of money that we pay out which is appropriate for a "non-profit" organization. If you would like a copy of the actual budget, Del would be happy send you one.

1990 CONFERENCE: Mark your calendars now. We have been able to schedule Assilomar for November 15, 16, and 17, 1991. Notice it's NOVEMBER, not October. There is still some slight chance that we will be able to get our regular mid-October date, but we definitely have the November dates if October doesn't work out.

1989 CONFERENCE: You have, of course, noticed that this newsletter is accompanied by the conference information for this coming October. Get your reservations in early--after all you do get a discount if you get your money in by July. I realize that Assilomar is the favorite conference site of almost everyone, but Jekyll Island looks simply splendid to me. Ed Neal and Art Crawley have planned some excellent networking activities--how about a Great Gatsby party in a mansion!

POD nature lovers, get ready for a nature walk on Jekyll Island. POD members Lion Gardiner and Sandy Tomlinson are

organizing a morning walk during the conference that will take participants through the varied habitats of the island to look at the interesting plant and animal life. Details will follow.

1990 TO IMPROVE THE ACADEMY: Congratulations to Linda Hilsen who has been selected as the editor of the 1990 TO IMPROVE THE ACADEMY. Linda is starting two new traditions with the 1990 edition. First, she is putting forward a general call to the membership for associate editors. If you have editorial experience or expertise, please write to Linda (Linda Hilsen, IDS, University of Minnesota at Duluth, Duluth, Minnesota 55812) and tell her about your background and why you would like to be an associate editor. Secondly, Linda is starting a "rolling" submissions policy. Many POD members have time during the summer break to do some writing. Think about an article for POD now and spend some of your summer writing it. As soon as it is done, send it to Linda. She will get back to you with a "yes" or "no" right away. By getting a head start you will have plenty of time to polish your piece with the help of Linda and the associate editors. Of course, the new "rolling" policy is in addition to the usual call for proposals with a deadline date which you won't hear about until next year.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: The Center for Teaching Excellence at Ohio State University is searching for an Instructional Specialist to work in their Faculty and TA Development unit. This is a 12 month, administrative and professional staff position with no faculty status. They are looking for someone who will coordinate some of the faculty and evaluation programs, do individual consultations, a little research, and develop some print materials. If you are interested, call Nancy Chism at 614-292-3644 for more details. Call today. The deadline for application submission is May 31.

GLCA WORKSHOP ON COURSE DESIGN AND TEACHING: Many POD members are on the staff of this excellent workshop where faculty design or re-design a course and work on their teaching. Unfortunately, the deadline for registration for the workshop is May 9 which undoubtedly will have passed by the time you get this newsletter. Just in case they aren't filled up, give Jeannie Elliot (313-761-4833) a call. In any event, the phone call should get you on the mailing list for next year's workshop.

I have another message from the folks at GLCA. They have published a report on the sources of faculty professional vitality in the twelve liberal arts colleges of their association. The report is based on two hundred interviews and a mail survey. The title is What One Has Within, What the Context Provides. Louis Brakeman at Stetson University in DeLand, Florida, can give you more information on how to get a copy.

CONFERENCES: For those of you who are working with your

faculty on teaching critical thinking, notices for two conferences have come across my desk: "Teaching Writing and Higher Order Reasoning," June 18-21 in Chicago (write to Registration--TWHOR, Office of Continuing Education, The University of Chicago, 5835 South Kimbark Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637) and "Critical Thinking and Educational Reform" August 6-9 at Sonoma State University (write to Center for Critical Thinking & Moral Critique, Sonoma State University, 1801 East Cotati Avenue, Rohnert Park, CA 94928).

Well, that's about it for the May Newsletter. I really do feel as if I've had a chance to talk with you about POD news. I'll be working on another one the end of July to send out around the first of August. Please send me any news that you would like to share with the membership.

I have a small task for you, please write to me and tell me how you learned about POD and when you first joined. To make this easy to do, I'm finishing off this page with a tear-off which you can check and send back to me. I'll share the results with you in that August Newsletter.

Take care,

Rusty Wadsworth

Send to:

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5500 N. St. Louis
Chicago, IL 60625

I joined POD in_____ (year)

I learned about POD from_____

NAME_____

STREET_____

CITY_____STATE_____ZIP_____