

## IN MEMORIAM

### Remembering Kent Williamson (1957–2015)

As executive director of NCTE for fifteen years, Kent Williamson led with clear vision, careful management, and generosity of spirit.

His ideas, strategies, and collegiality helped shape NCTE's core mission and actions. We will long remember and honor a man whose firm leadership and gracious manner nurtured our professional association and all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

#### Honoring Kent at CCCC 2016

Two sessions at CCCC 2016 will honor Kent's memory. In session E.36, CCCC chairs will share memories of Kent, and we'll invite audience members to share their own as well. In session B.35, we'll honor Kent's contribution to literacy learning, K-16. Please join us to share in honoring Kent's wonderful presence as a colleague, and his remarkable contributions.

Kent Williamson was a master coalition builder, an expert listener, someone whose ability to balance strategy and tactics by thinking about national, regional, and disciplinary contexts, about the work of teachers, about NCTE as an organization, was astounding. The fact that his contributions to CCCC, NCTE, and the work that many of us do are so ubiquitous, but that so few of us are aware of his amazing intelligence, his humor, and his tireless efforts, only provides more evidence for the claim.

Linda Adler-Kassner, 2016 Program Chair

Not only did I know Kent as Kent Williamson, NCTE Executive Director, but also as my friend. We had common interests—work, people, and most of all golf. We talked about them all. Of course talk of work brought about talk of people. Kent cared so much about people, all people. Especially the employees and their well-being.

Every time I play golf now, I think of him, and that makes me want to be a better golfer. He's still pushing me to do better, even though he isn't here physically. I'll never forget him and all his encouragement in work and play.

Eileen Maley, NCTE Staff

Kent was my mentor, colleague, and friend. His love of and support for this organization, its members and volunteers, and the NCTE staff were evident in everything he did.

Kent truly was an amazing leader, and while he is missed every day, his legacy lives on in those of us who try to carry on his enthusiasm for, and commitment to, this incredible organization.

Kristen Suchor, NCTE Staff

I will never forget the enthusiasm Kent shared for the Council, the members, and the work we do. Kent was such a forward thinker. I loved watching him dream and often put those dreams into action. One of the things I miss most is Kent knocking on my office window and waving good morning or hello. His smile was contagious and he could set the tone for the whole day. Kent was a one of a kind and I am so glad to have known him.

Lisa Fink, NCTE Staff

For additional tributes from NCTE staff, please visit <http://bit.ly/Remembering-Kent>.

## IN MEMORIAM

Duncan Carter  
Bruce Edwards  
Charles Moran  
Miles Myers  
Linda Peterson  
Kent Williamson

## Celebrating Eileen Maley

Eileen Maley retired in July 2015 after working a total of 42 years for NCTE and serving over 15 years as the CCCC Convention Manager. Any CCCC Chair will tell you that Eileen helped to make every conference what it was, working tirelessly and with excellent humor behind the scenes. She was there to address every question, every idea, every concern—and with a smile and an excellent joke to top it all off.

Below are excerpts from messages sent by some recent CCCC Chairs who wanted to thank Eileen one last time.

If I can be considered the desk general of a military campaign, Eileen Maley was my best field marshal. I'd move a piece on the big map of the battlefield, and then she'd write me to say it was done. That sort of big-picture-coupled-with-detailed-implementation relationship is what made Tampa work. It's what allowed me to dream and plan big.

Joyce Carter

My most vivid image of Eileen is of her walking the halls of the convention center, ready to head wherever she was needed: a problem with tech, a last minute mix-up

in rooms, you name it. Eileen was a pro's pro: unflappable, and able to find humor in just about anything. And a glass of wine, she realized, would ease all the rest.

Howard Tinberg

Planning a huge convention almost immediately after being elected into the officer's rotation is a deep-end-of-the-pool experience. Eileen Maley was a godsend. It wasn't just that she knew everything about what would happen, good and bad, before and during the convention—and how to plan for it—but that she made it all seem like it could be done without a loss of mind or spirit.

Chris Anson

A warm woman who empathizes when things go wrong.

A convention manager who helps plan conferences, suggests room assignments, gets information into the program, schedules workshops, finds LCDs. . . with a smile.

A person with cell in hand and some kind of walky-talky in (other) hand walking—no, almost running—to a crisis to make it stop.

Our Eileen.

You are missed.

Kathleen Blake Yancey

How Do You Solve a Problem like Eileen? (with apologies to Rodgers and Hammerstein)

The question should be “How do you solve a problem like Eileen's leaving us?” You see, Eileen is NCTE's long-time problem solver. She is, as Rodgers and Hammerstein put it so simply, “a darling! a demon! a lamb!” And everyone's favorite, to be sure.

Oh, how we'll miss her!

Cheryl Glenn

During conferences, Eileen was the first one to check operations, greet faculty, remind presenters where they were supposed to be, and the last to leave special events. Now, we'll miss her combing the hallways in tennis shoes with her clip board. We'll miss her knowledge of everything, and her patience with our many questions. Thanks Eileen for always going the extra mile!

Marilyn Valentino

Until you have been through it, you can't know how complex organizing the C's conference is. Although I have organized more than my share of conferences, I never could have gotten through this one without Eileen, and she made it easy and a pleasure for all of us chairs. Efficient and effective, she still has excess energy for jokes and multiple identities. Did I mention, Eileen is a hoot.

Charles Bazerman

Please visit <http://bit.ly/Celebrating-Eileen> for the complete list of tributes to Eileen.