

REMA MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2004

Martha Hickson opened the meeting by welcoming the 20+ attendees to the first meeting of the newly formed student organization, REMA, Rutgers Educational Media Association. She then reviewed the goals of the organization which include:

- Help SCILS students prepare for successful careers as school library media specialists in order to serve the New Jersey school community and to benefit the profession
- Promote school librarianship
- Improve Ed Media communication at SCILS
- Act as an advocate for Ed Media students
- Serve as a liason to the professional library community
- Provide a network for sharing expertise and experience

Martha indicated that additional information on goals is available online at the REMA Website: <http://www.scils.rutgers.edu/~rema> in the REMA Constitution.

REMA ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITES:

Deb Goetjen then explained the activities, which occurred over the summer to make REMA a reality. These included:

- Development of the REMA Constitution, which was submitted to the GSA (Graduate Student Association) to be approved and thus recognize REMA as an active Rutgers student organization. The decision is due September 19, and is expected to be a positive one.
- Election of officers - the following students were elected as officers during a REMA planning meeting:

Co-Presidents – Martha Hickson and Deb Goetjen
Treasurer – Denise Feder
Co-Secretaries – JoAnn Chmielowicz, Helen Teitelbaum
Webmaster – Jessica Trujillo
Marketing and Membership – Jim Shearer

In addition, Ross Todd has agreed to be the REMA faculty advisor.

- Creation of the Ed_Media listserv and the REMA Website (Check the website for instructions on joining the listserv)
- Petitioned the professional organization, EMAnj (Educational Media Association of New Jersey) for affiliate status. REMA was approved in August and is the first student affiliate.
- Successfully petitioned the New Jersey Regional Library Cooperatives to allow SCILS students admission to their events, courses and workshops.

- Created the REMA Bulletin Board which is located just outside the LIS Dept. office. Check it out frequently!

Deb went on to list possible topics for future meetings including:

- Teacher-librarian cooperation
- SCILS program overview with Carol Kuhlthau and Ross Todd
- Speakers from the Regional Library Co-ops
- Professional guest lecturers in the field of school librarianship

One member suggested that programming ideas be added to the list. Everyone agreed that was a good idea.

Jim Shearer then introduced our guest speaker for the night, Connie Hitchcock who spoke about NJ school librarian certification and EMAnj. Connie is a K-3 school library media specialist in Manalapan and is the Chair of the EMAnj's Credentials committee. She came to speak to SCILS students last spring and is the earliest supporter of REMA.

EMAnj:

Connie began by describing EMAnj. It is a volunteer organization made up of school librarians from all over NJ. There are currently 973 active members, 72 retired, 73 student, 2 honorary (including Dr. Michael Eisenberg, famous for his "Big 6" steps –if you don't know about this yet, you will in your studies), and 6 lifetime members. Connie explained that there are 29 committees, including financial, professional development, awards, credentials (changing to legislative), mentoring and urban libraries, to name a few.

Connie specifically discussed the mentoring program at EMAnj as it directly affects SCILS students. Once you start your first school librarian position, you are eligible for an experienced mentor from EMAnj. These mentors are volunteers who have been through a mentoring program. If the revised NJ certification standards for school librarians are approved by the Department of Education as written, they will include a requirement that all first-year school librarians establish a relationship with a certified school library media specialist mentor.

Connie explained that it is not a law in NJ requiring a school librarian in every school, but EMAnj is supporting that stand, and hopes to have that wording added to the certification requirements as well.

Connie listed the advantages of being a member of EMAnj and encouraged all attendees to join immediately and before the October 1 deadline required in order to get a student rate at the EMAnj December conference. Connie brought membership forms. Extras can be found on the table outside the LIS Dept. office. The EMAnj membership advantages are:

- Access to EMAnj website's Members Only section: (<http://www.emanj.org>)
- \$25 student rate

- Can attend the December conference at a student rate. This conference is “the best professional development for the money available for school librarians.”
- If join immediately, get a CD with your membership card with lots of valuable information (limited quantities of CDs are available, but some of the content is also available on the EMAnj website)
- EMAnj Help Desk
- Stay current with new developments- national, international and legislative
- Affiliated with ALA’s AASL section (American Association of School Librarians) and AECT (Association for Educational Communications and Technology)
- Bookmark, EMAnj’s newsletter (There will be an article about REMA in the October issue of Bookmark)

SCHOOL LIBRARIAN CERTIFICATION:

Connie then began talking about school librarian certification. She said that the NJDOE (Dept. of Education) website is a good one to check out. Connie also provided a handout with useful websites regarding NJ certification (on table outside LIS Dept.) The NJDOE began revising the school librarian certification requirement last January (see REMA website for details). Connie spoke about the current state of those changes and the future activities to be done.

These changes included getting rid of the Associate School Media Specialist certification, and increasing the number of library credits to 36 (which Rutgers provides). Currently, the NJDOE has not fully provided a process to achieve certification. Connie and others at EMAnj are working with the DOE to finalize the wording of the school librarian certification to include the process as well as the requirements. REMA will post the process Connie described on the REMA website and update it as we receive word from Connie. Basically, you will no longer require a full teaching certificate to be a school librarian, but you will need to take education courses (9 credits in a “coherent college program” from one place) in 5 key areas. Colleges in NJ are setting up in-class and/or online courses to meet these education requirements. Rutgers is putting together an online course sequence for SCILS students in Ed Media. If you already have a teaching certificate then you will not need any further education coursework.

Connie emphasized that librarians are considered part of the educational services area to the NJDOE, while teachers are considered part of the instructional services area. The remainder of the meeting included a Q&A with Connie about specific areas of the certification requirements.

The meeting was closed with a reminder to fill out a REMA membership form so that the officers will have information on members, their schedules (for meeting day/time planning purposes) and their school grade level preferences. Members are encouraged to join the Ed_Media listserv ASAP so they won’t miss out on any important information. Also, everyone was reminded once again to join EMAnj and attend the December

conference. We all thanked Connie for coming again and providing an informative presentation.