



THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES 2010 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Westward Ho! The Continental Expansion of the English Language
Denver, Colorado, September 23 – 26, 2010.

As Region IV Chair Alice Irby described the 2010 Annual Conference, “The AGM was filled with good spirits, cooperative delegates and presentations about our educational programs that made us feel proud to be part of an organization that has such creative members who are dedicated to enhancing the lives of students and teachers.” All 110 attendees seemed to agree that the Conference was a valuable mixture of substantive meetings, interesting presentations pertinent to the Conference theme, “Westward Ho! The Continental Expansion of the English Language” and cowboy country hospitality. For ESU Chair, Patricia S. Schroeder it was a “welcome home” to the state that she represented in Congress for 24 years.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Building on the ESU’s new Mission and Vision Statements, Vice Chair Mark Stollar discussed the enormous outreach capabilities of electronic media. He proposed next steps in the quest to insure that the ESU’s message is consistently disseminated through the internet and he affirmed the Board’s commitment to assist Branches in optimizing use of their websites.
- The ESU’s British University Summer School (BUSS) Fellowship program was showcased, featuring presentations by Branch leaders on the value of the fellowships to their Branches and alumni who spoke movingly on the value and impact for their BUSS experiences on their teaching.
- Dr. George Ray, Chairman of the ESU Education Committee, announced seed grants to Branches that will undertake middle school debate tournaments in the next year, thanks to a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.
- Dr. Ray also announced a new partnership with the Folger Shakespeare Library offering ten Branches the opportunity to host Shakespeare Set Free Mini Institutes, adapting the successful pilot conducted this past summer.

THE 2010 ESU ANNUAL CONFERENCE



MEETING OF REGIONAL CHAIRS -- On Thursday, September 23, while many conferees were taking optional tours of Denver and the Denver Art Museum, the Regional Chairs held their meeting. Seven of the eight Regional Chairs attended: Dorianne Parker, Region I; Fay Selvage, Region II; Richard Biernacki, Region III; Alice Irby, Region IV; Ken Hubble, Region V; Barbara Kiffmeyer, Region VI and Jane Foster Carter, Region VIII. Also attending were Alice Boyne, President and Executive Director and Chris Broadwell, Deputy Director. Alice Irby volunteered to

chair the meeting. The Regional Chairs each reported on their spring Regional Meetings and shared information about various topics related to the activities and issues of their constituent Branches. They asked headquarters staff to initiate a list-serve to facilitate their inter-communication and requested that the ESU Regional Manual be made more available. To view the ESU Regional Manual, click on this link: www.esuus.org/agmreports/Regional Manual rev 2009.pdf .

The **MEETING OF THE NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS** took place Thursday afternoon, September 23rd at The Brown Palace Hotel. Pictured (*l to r*) are Executive Committee Members John Rampe, Secretary Matilde Jones, President and Executive Director Alice Boyne, Chair Patricia Schroeder, Vice Chair Mark Stollar, Natalie Pray and E. Quinn Peeper.



ESU Chair, Patricia Schroeder, opened the meeting with a moment of silence in memory of Karen Jeff Hickey, Director of Education, who passed away after an extended illness on August 23. Mrs. Schroeder also announced the resignation of Sylvia Bruton as Region VI Chairman and welcomed her replacement, Barbara Kiffmeyer.

Dr. E. Quinn Peeper, Chair of the Nominating Committee, placed the name of Judge James W. Kerr, Jr. in nomination to the National Board as Director-At-Large to fill a vacancy on the Board. Judge Kerr is a Senior US Administrative Law Judge and Associate Municipal Judge, City of University Park, Texas and long-time member of the Dallas Branch. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously and Judge Kerr took his seat with the Directors.

Jack Carney, Chair of the Audit Committee, presented the fiscal year 2010 audit to the National Board. The Board accepted the audit. To view the audit click on this link:

[www.esuus.org/agmreports/ESU Final Audited Statement 2010.pdf](http://www.esuus.org/agmreports/ESU%20Final%20Audited%20Statement%202010.pdf) .

Vice Chair, Mark Stollar introduced Carol Losos, the ESU's new Director of Educational Programs. He also stated that as the ESU has new mission and vision statements are in place, the Board needs to ensure that all of the organization's outlets are delivering its message consistently internally and externally. He focused on the ESU's online presence, recommending that he form a committee to monitor usage; set and enforce standards; and make recommendations to the Board on electronic media policy. The Board approved the formation of such a committee. Mr. Stollar called on Melanie Basner, Volunteer Webmaster, who reported on the status of Branch websites saying that 37 Branches have active ESU template websites while nine have created their own websites of which only three are kept current. Mr. Stollar made the following resolutions, which were passed by the Board:

- The ESU email address provided to each Branch will be the official Branch email address;
- All Branches will have an active ESU template website and the Branch membership forms which they have approved will be posted on each site;
- No new custom sites will be allowed; Custom sites that are more than six months out of date must be deactivated;
- The national organization has the authority and responsibility to correct, amend or remove misrepresenting materials published or posted on ESU websites and elsewhere, and to approve links to other sites.

The Board spent time discussing the state of the Branches, with attention to at-risk Branches and non-compliant Branches.



The **OPENING RECEPTION AND DINNER AT THE DENVER ART MUSEUM** was a high spirited kick-off to the Conference. During the reception, guests, most in western attire, were welcomed by the Denver Branch host committee, including (*l to r*) Canon Rebecca Crummey, Joyce Wilson, Chair Basil Carpenter, Branch President Jane Earle and Patterson Benero. Everyone was invited to tour the Museum's Western Arts Gallery.



(l to r) Frank Bauman of San Francisco, Sarah Carney from Dallas and Pat Schroeder, ESU Chair.



Following dinner, everybody enjoyed a program by award-winning poet, performer, historian, educator and recording artist Liz Masterson, *Songbird of the Sage*, introduced by Conference Committee Chair Basil Carpenter. It was an engaging blend of cowboy language, lore, wisdom and music that had the audience singing along.

ESU Chair Patricia Schroeder, presiding over the **FIRST PLENARY SESSION OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** on Friday, September 24, spoke of her visits to the Los Angeles, Seattle and Cleveland Branches and reported on the launches of ESUs in Malta and Istanbul, which were attended by several representatives from the ESU of the US. She also said that she will attend the ESU International Council Meeting in Albania in October, where she will invite the International Council to hold its 2011 meeting in Philadelphia, concurrently with the Annual Conference of the ESU of the US.

ESU Vice Chair Mark Stollar reminded the group that the new mission and vision statements and tagline have been established and should be incorporated into all ESU materials at the National and Branch levels. To view the new mission and vision statements and tagline, click on this link: www.esuus.org/agmreports/ESU Mission 6.11.10.pdf . Mark also spoke about the next steps in his work relative to branding the ESU, specifically the need to ensure that all electronic media convey consistent and correct information about the ESU.

In the absence of ESU Treasurer Hollister Sturges, Alice Boyne presented his report. To view the Treasurer's Report, click on this link: www.esuus.org/agmreports/Treasurer Report AGM 2010.pdf .

ESU President & Executive Director Alice Boyne presented her overview report to the AGM. To view her report, click on this link: www.esuus.org/agmreports/Report of the Executive Director.pdf .

Chairman of the National Nominating Committee Dr. E. Quinn Peeper presented the Slate for Election to the National Board of Directors – Class of 2012: Peter Ames, Boston, MA; Janice Anderson, Houston, TX; Alice Boyne, New York NY; Vivien H. Gurfein, New York, NY; Duane Hughes, Montclair, NJ; Warren D. Long, Jr., Shreveport, LA; Robert P. Morse, New York, NY; E. Quinn Peeper, New Orleans, LA; Herbert J. Rowe, Naples, FL; Patricia S. Schroeder, Orlando, FL; Hollister Sturges, New York, NY; James A. Williford II, Pinehurst, NC. Peter Ames, the only non-incumbent lives in Brookline, Massachusetts and has extensive experience as a consultant to non-profit organizations. Since 2003, he has been advising nonprofit and government agencies in the United States, Britain, Canada, Turkey, New Zealand, Kenya and Greece on planning, cultural policy, performance indicators and governance. The slate was elected by the AGM delegates.



Membership Committee Chair Richard Biernacki reported on his newly-formed committee's goals and activities. To view the Membership Committee Report, click on this link: www.esuus.org/agmreports/Membership Report.pdf .

Development Committee Chair Debbie Webster was unable to be present, so the Development Report was given by Julie Brinker, Development

Director. To view the Development Report, click on this link: www.esuus.org/agmreports/Development report.pdf .

Julie called upon Dr. Quinn Peeper a report on the 2010 National Patron trip to Scotland and an overview of the 2011 trip, "The Best Private Country Homes and Gardens of England." This special opportunity for ESU National Patrons is scheduled for June 7-15, 2011. For more information please contact Julie Brinker at ESU National Headquarters, jbrinker@esuus.org, or visit www.esuus.org.

Representing the ESU Education Committee on Debate, Dr. George Ray presented a detailed report on the educational programs and activities of the ESU through the last year, and plans for the future, including the Middle School Debate project and the pilot version of the ESU/Folger Shakespeare Library Shakespeare Set Free Mini Institute for teachers. To view the Education Report, click on this link:

www.esuus.org/agmreports/Education Report.pdf .

George also announced that thanks to a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the ESU is making available seed grants for Branches that undertake ESU/Middle School Debate Pilot Programs, and he invited Branches to sign on. He explained that in the past few years the ESU Committee on Debate and the ESU Education Department have been developing a scalable debate program for middle schools. During the 2009-10 school year, Sandhills, Columbus and Kentucky ESU Branches successfully piloted debate programs. To expand the pilot:

- The National ESU will provide ten Branches with seed grants of up to \$1,000.
- The grants will be given to the first Branches to express interest from Regions I, II, III, V, VII and VIII.
- The grants will be contingent upon a Branch committing to mounting a Middle School Debate event by the end of the 2011-2012 school year.
- The grants are for planning and executing the initial tournament.

The National ESU will provide a comprehensive Program Handbook, templates for publicity materials, hand-outs, and coordination. With the assistance of the Debate Advisory Committee, we will help Branches identify local professional debate coaches/advisors and partners (such as local colleges and universities). Each participating Branch will need to establish a debate committee, identify and recruit schools, and, in conjunction with your local advisor(s), organize any training programs and the tournament. Branches will also provide judges and other staff for the tournaments. If your Branch is interested in applying for a seed grant, please contact Carol Losos, Director of Educational Programs and National Debate Coordinator, at closos@esuus.org.

Central Florida Branch President Diane Sandquist made a short presentation to the AGM about her Branch's exciting efforts to engage younger people through their student membership program.



Concluding the session, Chair Patricia Schroeder presented National Merit Awards, for their many services in furtherance of the ESU mission to Keith Eiken, Kentucky Branch; Donna Miller, Robert Pittman and Julia Rankin, Central Florida Branch; Alice G. Childs and Frank L. Klapperich, Jr, Naples Branch; Donald J. Rosato, Philadelphia Branch; and Janet Collins, San Diego Branch.

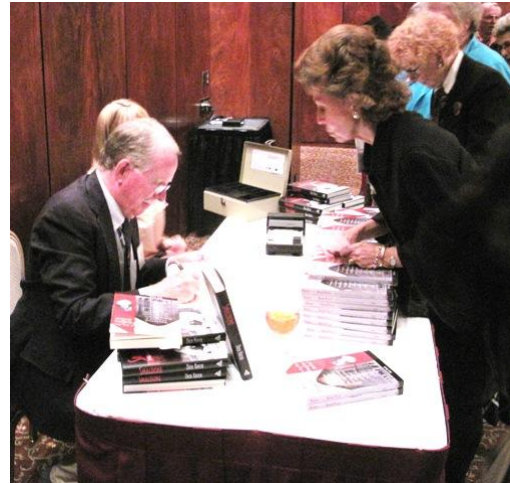


Present to receive their National Merit Awards from Patricia Schroeder were (l to r) Alice Childs, Donna Miller, Julia Rankin and Robert Pittman.



On behalf of the Board of Directors, Patricia Schroeder also presented a special award to Joan Leslie for her outstanding, long-term service to The English-Speaking Union of the United States at the Branch, Regional and

National levels. Joan Williams Leslie has been a member of The English-Speaking Union for over half a century, in London, New York, Washington DC and now in Central Florida. She served on the board of the Washington, DC Branch as well as the Central Florida Branch where she also served as President. She served terms on the National Board from 1971 to 2003 as both a Member-At-Large and as a Regional Chairman. She served on the National Executive Committee from 1978 to 1990. She directed the ESU's Excellence in English awards, which recognized exemplary methods of teaching English as a first and as an acquired language. Her gifts as a writer, an actress and a leader have enriched the work of The English-Speaking Union enormously.



LUNCHEON on Friday at the Brown Palace Hotel featured speaker Dick Kreck, author and columnist for *The San Francisco Examiner* and the *Los Angeles Times* as well as the *Denver Post*, from which he retired after 38 years. Mr. Kreck appropriately spoke about his book, *Murder at the Brown Palace*. The 1911 murder is notorious in Denver history and its story provides interesting insight into the culture and life in this western city at that time. (l to r) Dick Kreck autographs his book for Board Member Natalie Pray.

On Friday afternoon, eight **REGIONAL MEETINGS** were convened by Regional Chairs for their constituent Branch members.

Later many conferees enjoyed the traditional **Tea at The Brown Palace.**





On Friday evening, a **RECEPTION FOR NATIONAL PATRONS** was hosted by ESU Chair Patricia S. Schroeder at the Governor's Mansion Carriage House. The reception included a visit to the Governor's private residence. ESU Chair Schroeder and President Emerita, Doe Thornburg OBE, thanked the patrons for their support and dedication to the English-Speaking Union. (l to r) National Patrons Michael Harold and Board Member Quinn Peeper of New Orleans with ESU Deputy Director Chris Broadwell.

were Vice Chair Mark Stollar and Volunteer Webmaster Melanie Basner, who discussed progress and trends in establishing Branch websites for every Branch, and Branch Services Coordinator Margaret Umberger and Deputy Director Chris Broadwell who answered questions on membership and other topics. To view the Branch Operations Manual, click on this link: www.esuus.org/agmreports/BranchOperationsManual.pdf .

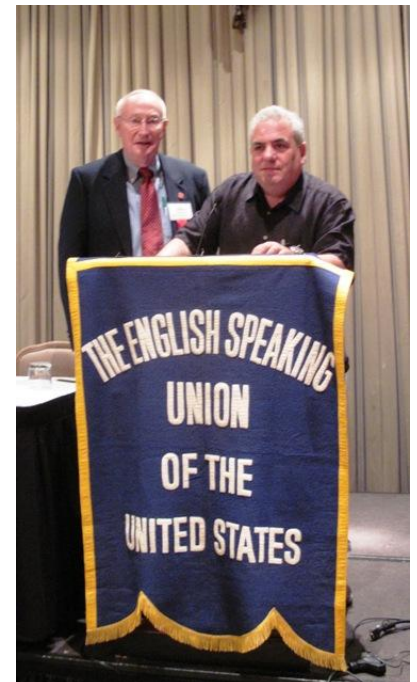


The **SECOND PLENARY SESSION OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**, Chaired by Patricia Schroeder was conducted largely by George Ray of the ESU Education Committee and showcased the ESU's national educational outreach programs and a local, Denver program.

A video presentation on The Denver Public Schools Shakespeare Festival was presented by its founder and coordinator, Joe Craft, who is himself a BUSS Fellow, and his associate, Terri Freund. The Festival is an annual day-long event, in its 26th year the oldest and largest Shakespeare Festival in the country. Held in downtown Denver it provides the forum for students to perform sonnets and scenes from Shakespeare as well as demonstrate dance, vocal and instrumental music of Shakespeare's time. The Festival begins with a parade to performance venues, continuing throughout the day on multiple stages.

George Ray (l) introduced Michael LoMonico, Senior Consultant on National Education at the Folger Shakespeare Library. Michael gave the group a taste of the Shakespeare Set Free Mini Institutes. To illustrate the method of teaching Shakespeare through performance, he divided the audience into men and women, on opposite sides of the vast room, and directed them in unison to act out the balcony scene from *Romeo and Juliet*. Michael called upon Julia Rankin of the Central Florida Branch who enthusiastically commented on her participation in the pilot Mini Institute held at National Headquarters in July, and Gail Tomlinson from Philadelphia conveyed the positive review of the pilot given by a participating teacher sponsored by the Philadelphia Branch.

Michael told of the agreement between the Folger Shakespeare Library and the ESU to mount Shakespeare Set Free Mimi Institutes, replicating the pilot held at Headquarters this past July, in ten Branch communities next summer.





In celebration of the Denver Branch's rich history of granting British Universities Summer School (BUSS) Fellowships –124 – this plenary session and the luncheon following spotlighted the program. Branches award BUSS fellowships to teachers for summer study at Oxford University, the Scottish Universities International Summer School at the University of Edinburgh and the Globe Theatre in London. The BUSS program recognizes the importance of teachers and gives them a cross-cultural experience in the UK and a chance to be students again themselves. Branch representatives, Wayne and Ann Maddox from Fort Worth and Jeremy Woan from San Francisco, said that the program is an important part of their Branches' education outreach and praised it for its positive, broad impact on the students of participating teachers. A show of hands revealed that well over half the Branches with delegates present are involved in the BUSS Fellowships now. Pictured (*l to r*) are Denver Branch BUSS Alumni Michael Thornton, Mary Connelly, Joann Vollmer (who also served as

Denver Branch coordinator for many years) and Fletcher Woolsey.



Fletcher Woolsey, ESU BUSS program alumnus and high school teacher of US history, American government, sociology and psychology, was speaker at the **LUNCHEON** on Saturday. His stirring speech centered on the unique adaptability of the English language. To illustrate, he drew on his own experiences as a student at Columbine High School in 1999 during the shootings and on his experiences at Oxford as a BUSS Fellow. He went on to illustrate eloquently the changes wrought by the Continental Expansion of the English Language -- the conference theme. He also described how the ESU through its BUSS program has enriched his experience as an educator, and impacted the lives of so many other educators and their students. "I have discussed the growth of English in the United States, the subtle yet crucial differences between English-Speaking countries and the changes witnessed by this young man following a tragedy in his hometown. These disparate situations all serve to remind us of the ultimate power of the English language. Namely, the power to bring people together. Whether it serves to cobble

together a nation or a conduit to bridge other cultural differences, or as the salve for a wounded community, the glorious flexibility of English can save the day." To view the entire text of Fletcher Woolsey's speech, click on this link:

[www.esuus.org/agmreports/Fletcher Woolsey address.pdf](http://www.esuus.org/agmreports/Fletcher%20Woolsey%20address.pdf) .

On Saturday afternoon, ESU staffers conducted very well attended **WORKSHOPS**. Development Director Julie Brinker conducted a workshop on Branch fundraising. She provided ESU fundraising templates to those in attendance and discussed best fundraising practices at the Branch level. Deputy Director Chris Broadwell and Branch Services Coordinator Margaret Umberger held a workshop to provide answers to any questions on the centralized membership billing, but as that discussion was brief, members of the Membership Committee Richard Biernacki and Jerry Grdina expounded on their report to the AGM and stimulated more discussion on strategies for increasing and retaining ESU membership.



The **RECEPTION** and **DINNER** on Saturday evening was an elegant culmination of a full conference. Pat Schroeder thanked the Denver Branch host committee: (*l to r*) Jane Earle (Branch President), Kitty Comstock, Pat Schroeder, Ruth Beckley, Joyce and Jim Wilson.



(l to r) Gail Tomlinson from Philadelphia with Alice Kirby from San Diego, Region VIII Chair Jeremy Woan, Los Angeles Branch President Peggy Spear and Board Member Jean Bruce Poole from Los Angeles.



Greensboro's Kitty and George Robison with Denver's Ruth Beckley (center).



Marilyn Van Story from San Francisco, former National Board Member and Region VIII Chair Jane Foster Carter; President & Executive Director Alice Boyne; Frank Bowman from Portland and Region VIII Chair Ken Hubble.



(l to r) Jim Smith and Bill Maschmeier from Seattle, Denver Branch Host and Board Member Basil Carpenter, Jim Wilson from Denver and Fred Kleinschmidt from Seattle.



(l to r) Martha Chawner from Dallas with President Emerita Doe Thornburg from Chicago.



(l to r) Michigan Branch President Annalee, Board Member Patricia Moore, Board Member John Rampe, Region VI Chair Barbara Kiffmeyer (front), Kathy and Joe Luttmmer, President Emerita Doe Thornburg, Cleveland Branch President Jerry Grdina and Denver Branch Host and Board Member Basil Carpenter.



(l to r) Sarah and Region VII Chair Jack Carney, Ann and Wayne Maddox, Board Member James Kerr and Rita Potter, all from Dallas.



(l to r) Board Member Quinn Peeper and Michael Harold from New Orleans, Patricia Haggerty from Seattle, Denver Branch Hosts Polly and Philip Cox and William Maschmeier from Seattle.



Speaker for the **DINNER** was Colonel Cheryl A. Kearney, Permanent Professor and Department Head, Department of Political Science at the United States Air Force Academy. She spoke eloquently about the history of the establishment of the Air Force Academy and of the dramatic contribution to education and culture the Academy has made in its relatively short history. With Colonel Kearney is Polly Cox, dynamic member of the Denver Branch Conference Host Committee.



At the **THIRD PLENARY SESSION OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** on Sunday, September 26, Gail Tomlinson, Vice President of the Philadelphia Branch, invited members to the 2011 Annual Conference in Philadelphia from October 6 to 9. The theme of the Conference is "Taking Liberty with Language." For information on the ESU 2011 Annual Conference, Click on this link: [www.esuus.org/agmreports/Save the date TAKING LIBERTY.pdf](http://www.esuus.org/agmreports/Save%20the%20date%20TAKING%20LIBERTY.pdf)

In closing, Resolutions Committee Fred Kleinschmidt presented hilarious and somewhat irreverent, but nonetheless sincere resolutions of recognition and thanks to the Branch Hosts and others responsible for conducting a most successful Annual Conference. The resolutions, which were passed unanimously, may be viewed by clicking this link: [www.esuus.org/agmreports/2010 AGM Resolutions.pdf](http://www.esuus.org/agmreports/2010%20AGM%20Resolutions.pdf) .



Following the closing AGM on Sunday morning, many conferees attended a Special Eucharist service and tour at Saint John's in the Wilderness Episcopal Cathedral. The sermon delivered by the Very Reverend Peter Eaton, Dean of the Cathedral, was an exceptionally inspiring message, woven around the ESU's history and good works. To view the sermon, click on this link: [www.esuus.org/agmreports/Eaton Sermon.pdf](http://www.esuus.org/agmreports/Eaton%20Sermon.pdf) .

Conference Chair Basil Carpenter often repeated his goal that the events, speakers and programs of the 2010 Annual Conference would "bring members in on horseback but send them out on silver wings." The high spirits and renewed commitment of the Conferees as they departed showed that his goal was accomplished.

Please note: If you have difficulty opening the linked documents by clicking on them, copy and paste the entire link into your web browser and press enter.

10/25/10

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