



Post Office Box 2327 Butler, PA 16003 - 2327

Dear Friend and Supporter,

My how the time flies...

Here we are with two months of 2008 behind us and, although the snow keeps coming, I'm hoping that sunshine has to be just around the corner! It hardly seems like almost five months ago when so many of us gathered for PCTELA Conference 2007. It was an exciting, enjoyable, and enlightening conference. We were inspired by Jim Burke, laughed and learned with Alex and Blake from Flocabulary, and were moved to tears by author Stephen Chbosky. We reconnected with old friends and made new ones. It's our hope that those who attended went back to our classrooms refreshed and revitalized and that they continue to draw on the energy of those days.

Before we do anything else, **we want to thank all the publishers and vendors who supported us** in that venture. The presence of these professionals added so much to the conference and we couldn't have succeeded without you. It is my hope that all of you who were there enjoyed your visit and found it to be as valuable as we found it to be for our members. Teachers come to our conference eager for new ideas and materials and they value the opportunity to meet with the publishers and other vendors who are in attendance. In addition, without the support of these companies and institutions, we could not provide the quality speakers and amenities needed to ensure a successful conference experience for our attendees.

Now we look forward to **CONFERENCE 2008!**

Conference 2008 will be held on **October 10 and 11 at the Lancaster Host Resort and Conference Center in Lancaster, PA.** We've already lined up a couple of great featured speakers in **Jeff Wilhelm** ("You Gotta Be the Book") and NCTE President, **Kathleen Blake Yancey**. I can tell you from experience that these educators are dynamic, inspired, and, as important, great fun! We're also hoping to add another author/presenter and to put together a great line-up of **Saturday workshops, PA authors, and a new and improved elementary strand!** Our attendance in 2007 was very good and we are confident that our ranks will increase at this year's conference as we convene to hear these

nationally known speakers, view presentations from educators throughout the state, and discuss the newest innovations, insights, and concerns in our field while enjoying the wonderful attractions and scenery of Central Pennsylvania.

This year it is our hope to raise the quality of our Saturday workshop series. This past year we enjoyed the support of several publishers who supplied us with workshop presenters. In addition, many publishers and vendors have worked with PCTELA to sponsor special receptions and/or sponsoring various aspects of the conference including the luncheon, breakfasts, coffee, student receptions, and publications such as the conference brochure or program. **If you are interested in sponsoring and/or promoting a special event, speaker or resource at the conference, contact us at your earliest convenience** so that we can make the appropriate arrangements and thoroughly promote their appearance at the event.

Of course, in addition to these offerings, an extremely important part of the conference is the exhibition of professional materials. We respectfully ask for your generous support and cordially invite you to join us. As with so many other ventures, the costs for our conference continue to skyrocket. However, we are able to once again offer our vendor space at the same level of support as we asked for last year, \$200 per table. We are prepared to offer a discount of \$25 for a cost of \$175 per table for any vendor who makes a reservation and sends payment by May 1, 2008. Additional discounts are available for vendors who wish to secure more than two tables.

As part of our thanks to you, we will include your company's name in all conference materials and we invite your representatives to be our guests at our luncheon and breakfast. Please contact me at the above address or at email bdandoy@zbzoom.net if you have any questions.

The PCTELA conference has become a successful, first-class, and growing professional development opportunity for many educators throughout our state. We thank you in advance for your continued support of our efforts. I hope to see you at the conference.

Yours truly,

Robert A. Dandoy
Executive Director
The Pennsylvania Council of Teachers of English and Language Arts