

NMRT Board Member Final Report

1. Office Name: President

2. Office Term (Date: Ex. 2005-2006): 2013-2014

3. Discuss/summarize your involvement with your committees this year:

This was an exciting year for the President's Program Committee. It was a pleasure to support them as they planned and flawlessly delivered an exciting pre-conference. Chair, Tammy Ivins, was an excellent leader and I was mostly needed just to offer the occasional piece of advice and to give final approval on decisions as they were made.

The Governance Committee successfully took a long list of initiatives to the spring ballot—all of which were passed. I primarily supported them by reading drafts of documents as they were prepared.

4. Based on your year's experience in this office, what future directions do you see your office or NMRT needing to take this year or the following year?

NMRT is a fairly strong organization with a history of providing a number of important services to new professionals. It is actually quite easy for the President to simply maintain the status quo and assume that everything will keep going well. I certainly did some of that this year, but I also tried to make the changes that were most important to me (transition to a pre-conference/fundraiser, change in the dues structure, updated requirements for Board member conference/meeting attendance).

The difficulty for me in fulfilling the role was that, being less than a year from the 10-year membership mark and with multiple significant changes in my life over the past 3-5 years, I've reached a point of burn out. As a result, there were times when I know I was not serving the organization in the best way possible. Therefore, on a personal level, I would recommend that those running for election in the future carefully consider what commitments and changes they might face personally and professionally over the 4 year cycle (election year, VP, Pres., Past Pres.) and plan ahead for how to balance those commitments.

On a more global level, I would recommend maintaining a very close eye on the round table's budget (which is getting better but still stretched quite thin), closely examining the committee structure and the role each committee plays to ensure that the round table is being served in the best possible way while continuing to provide members with valuable experiences, and a thorough re-vamp of the web site.

5. What tips or hints do you have that might help your successor carry out the duties of this office?

I'm thrilled to have handed the reigns over to Megan. She is a natural leader, respected and liked by others in the profession/organization, and is clearly energized to take over the role. I would encourage her to charge forward boldly, reach out for help whenever she needs it, and to remember to take a break and take care of herself from time to time, too.

6. Please address the role of the board member as coordinator. For example, projects between membership promotion, diversity & recruitment and student outreach would need to be coordinated. How might activities such as this be handled by board members efficiently and smoothly? Your thoughts here will be most helpful for future boards.

As Past President, I suppose I've earned the right to be blunt. It's possible for the officers (not excluding myself) to fade away a bit between meetings and to let the organization simply float by. Increased communication between Board members about what their committees are doing (or not doing) will be necessary to move the round table forward. Once better between-meeting communication is established in general, it will become considerably easier to coordinate between committees that are supervised by different Board members. Synchronous leadership chats have been variably successful in the past. As I write this, I wonder if encouraging/requiring monthly (rather than tri-annual) reporting should be considered simply to ensure that folks are thinking about their roles more regularly.

7. Date of report: 7 August 2014

8. Submitted by: Emily Prather-Rodgers