

## **Sunday, February 27, 2011. Grand Opening Meeting.**

MR. GALBRAITH: Thank you. Good afternoon. I'm Bruce Galbraith, the executive director of NAPSG. Normally you would be greeted by our president, Ellen Stein. Ellen is not at our conference this year. Her husband is ill, and I know that you will send her your warm regards, best wishes, and hold her in your hearts and your prayers at this time. I know she really misses being here.

The purpose of this brief startup is to introduce a few very special guests. We have two who have come a long, long distance; the first is Ann-Marie Kee, from the Canadian Associations. Ann-Marie, would you stand, please, and let us welcome you?

And secondly, a person whom I had the pleasure to meet for the first time last summer in London, and it was not on NAPSG's nickel. This is Dr. Helen Wright, head of the Girls School Association in the UK. Would you please stand and be recognized?

We have five new member schools this year. The head of one, Eric Temple from Carey School in San Mateo, California, is here. Please stand and stay up, because we're going to ask anybody else that's at this meeting for the first time to join Eric and stand up so we can welcome first-time attendees. We're delighted to have you here.

We're very proud of our honorary members, some of whom have been president of our association. Would you hold your applause, then give a great round of applause to Diana Beebe, Burch Ford, Edes Gilbert, Nancy Kussrow, Liza Lee, Joan Twaddle, Julia Williams, our honorary members. The legacy we have from you is priceless, and we are very, very grateful and we will sustain it to the best of our ability.

I'd like to introduce now the vice president who will conduct the rest of the meeting. Please welcome Doreen Kelly.

MS. KELLY: How's everybody doing? Good? Are we ready to have a great conference? I hope so. Ready, let's breathe.

You are here, we are in this place. For you honorary members, I bow down. You inspired me to be here, make this a priority, and hope that others who are new here will also make this a priority conference. At this time, just a reminder of what we're all about. Okay? To make sure that we're growing in our leadership, that we're being intellectually stimulated by the program, and have the time and permission to be well, have fun, and be joyful during this time. So we hope that through this conference you'll be able to engage. As one of my colleagues said earlier today, a lot of good brain food in this conference: A great opportunity for fellowship and a restorative time, so we encourage you to take the opportunity to enjoy every bit of that.

At this time, raise your hand if you have ever planned this conference. Jill, do you feel the empathy in the room? All right. So you know that you know that you know that this is an incredible task when you have been tapped on behalf of our organization to run this conference. So I would like Jill Muti, head of Ashley Hall, to come forward. As she does, I'd like to offer her our sincere thanks on behalf of the organization for hosting and planning and preparing this time for us. Let's give Jill a warm welcome.

MS. MUTI: Welcome to Charleston. It's a pleasure to have you here this weekend, and I'm so glad that the weather is cooperating and that we're able to enjoy a little bit of Carolina blue before we send you back to some pretty gray places.

The theme of our 90th annual meeting is, "Take another look." We have invited speakers to address, from the perspective of their specific areas of expertise, questions pertinent to the future of education in the United

States, in the context of what we wish to preserve from our shared pedagogical tradition. Thus, for example, while we all acknowledge the manifold ways in which sophisticated technology impinges on cultural assumptions about literacy and research resources, we also know that not all technology is appropriate to classroom instruction and that certain tools we use in our daily lives may be virtually dysfunctional when applied to educational purposes. Therefore, we need to look forward in anticipation of future developments, but we must also look to the past to be sure we do not lose what has served us so well for so long. What applies to technology applies, as well, to every school function, from finances to parenting. We hope our guest speakers will help you see with the eyes of Janus, one pair vigilantly scanning the horizon for what is coming toward us and one pair regarding respectfully and protectively the accumulated wisdom of the past.

I'd like to take this opportunity to quickly thank my colleagues in Charleston who have helped make this weekend a reality. A huge thank you to Dr. Nick Bozanic, who helped me tremendously in putting this program together. Burt Hudnall, Margaret and Ian MacDonald, and DuBose Egleston.

I hope that you enjoy the program and the short week ahead. Thank you for being here. A word about the oyster roast: It is extremely casual, so please wear clothing that you feel comfortable getting dirty. Thanks.

MS. KELLY: Again, one of the greatest things about this organization is that it embodies a legacy of excellence that honors and values tradition and, as Jill has pointed out, points us in a direction of innovation. Over the last couple of years your feedback has really been imperative as we have planned the program, and I just want to make you aware of a couple of changes to the pattern of the program, particularly for those of you who have been long-term members and may be acquainted with the with a different pattern.

We will be having a very short and efficient business meeting tomorrow morning, rather than today. We have also separated out our memorials, which will immediately take place after the second speaker tomorrow. And that's really important if you have not experienced that. That is a bit of what one of our speakers might call a Sabbath time, a sacrosanct time to honor those who have given their lives and their careers to children. And so that's an important time to honor their memory. We hope that you'll be part of that, as well, but just want to make you aware of the slight pattern changes within the week.

Bruce, if you would come up, and we'll just carry on with the introduction with our remarks and our keynote.