



THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS

• Serving Schools and Principals •

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AFFILIATED WITH:

- National Association of Secondary School Principals
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges
- National Middle School Assn.
- National Association of Elementary School Principals
- New England League of Middle Schools

Dear Reader:

In 2003 I ran against Joan Jarrett for an East Region Trustee's position with the National Middle School Association. Joan was victorious, but the real winner was NMSA. Joan proved to be a consummate educator, a wonderful leader and a credit to the profession through her service on the board. I am delighted to have an opportunity to recommend her as our next president-elect.

A passionate advocate for NMSA, Joan stands out, even among an impressive group of leaders on the Board of Trustees. Whether presenting a workshop at a conference, facilitating a meeting for affiliate leaders or discussing issues with colleagues on the executive council, she has proven to be eloquent in her presentation, thoughtful in her deliberations and wise in her counsel.

In turbulent times, we need leaders who are unwavering in their beliefs about what is central to our core values, know how to get things accomplished and can inspire those around them to be at their best. With the state of the economy, these are certainly turbulent times, and will likely be so for the next couple of years. The challenge for NMSA's leadership will be to make wise decisions about what can be done with fewer resources, how to advocate for middle level education with a new administration in Washington and how to continue to support members and affiliates. I can think of no one that I would rather have as our president during these times than Joan Jarrett. She has the character, the knowledge, the skills and, most important, the passion to lead NMSA as its next president-elect.

Regards,

Earle G. Bidwell

Earle G. Bidwell
Assistant Executive Director for Middle Level
Connecticut Association of Schools