

# NEDRA NEWS

New England Development Research Association Newsletter

Volume I, Issue I

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Greetings, and welcome to Volume I, Issue I of the New England Development Research Association (NEDRA) newsletter! This first issue will be devoted to letting you know who we are, where we have come from, and where we are planning to go.

RESEARCH & RECORDS

## INITIAL STAGES

For all involved with NEDRA, the past twelve months have been very exciting. Last summer a group of development researchers began talking with colleagues about forming a group like NEDRA. The idea is now a reality, with the mission of setting up an organization for those involved in development research. The group will promote the professional status of researchers and provide educational, training and networking opportunities beyond those provided by other professional associations.

NEDRA is the result of the time, effort, and good ideas of its Planning Committee: Joe Donnelly at Radcliffe, Susan Ehrman at Harvard Law School, Nancy Eidelman and Katie Fultz at Harvard Medical School, Mary Leen at Boston College, Betty McDonald of Harvard School of Public Health, Helyn MacLean at Tufts, Beth Melvin at McLean Hospital, Megan Page at Harvard, Judy Rottenberg at Brandeis, Sarah Royer at the Museum of Science, Mike Schultz at Salem State College, and Kim Watson at Bentley.

NEDRA's Planning Committee, which has been meeting since February, developed a questionnaire and distributed it at the CASE District I conference on Prospect Research in April. About 100 researchers responded; all wanted to join the group and were enthusiastic about an educational and networking organization for researchers. The average length of service in development research of the respondents was 2.9 years, with 39% having been in the field less than one year, 32% one to three years, 11% three to five years, and 18% over five years -- a diversity that will prove beneficial to all.

Judging from this response, a support and networking group has wide appeal. In fact, others are forming around the country. The Minnesota Prospect Research Association, which has been around for a few years and is our "big sister," is planning a nationwide network of smaller organizations and is working on a national conference for late 1988!

## FORMING THE GROUP

After the encouraging response from the survey, the committee pressed forward at an incredible rate. NEDRA is now legally incorporated as a non-profit organization and will pursue tax exempt status in the next year. Part of incorporating involves electing officers and directors.

Our officers and directors are: Joe Donnelly, President; Beth Melvin, Vice President; Susan Ehrman, Treasurer; Mike Schultz, Secretary; and Nancy Eidelman, Katie Fultz, Judy Rottenberg, Sarah Royer, Kim Watson, Directors.

Committees on Membership, Newsletter, and Programs have also been formed. Thoughts and suggestions on any of these topics are welcome and vital to the success of NEDRA. We are anxious to hear from you if you have any comments or ideas, or if you would like to serve on a committee. Addresses and phone numbers are listed below.

FUTURE PLANS

Perhaps the most exciting news is that we are planning our first program. NEDRA will hold a breakfast panel in mid-November on Ethics in Research, a topic frequently alluded to but, sadly, never discussed at the April CASE conference. It should prove to be an exciting and informative discussion, and we hope you'll plan to attend. More information will be included in the next newsletter.

Future plans include more programs on topics that the questionnaire respondents indicated were of interest, such as research techniques and sources, computer searching, and prospect tracking. We also hope to conduct a salary survey for researchers and to publish job opportunities in upcoming newsletters.

NEDRA is just getting off the ground and needs support, both in the form of ideas and memberships. The benefits to you are the training and educational programs we plan to hold at least twice a year (hopefully more often!), a subscription to NEDRA News, and, even more importantly, the opportunity to meet and talk with others in the research field. PLEASE GET INVOLVED - WE NEED YOUR HELP. If you have any general comments or questions about NEDRA, feel free to give Joe Donnelly a call or drop him a line. Addresses for committee leaders are as follows:

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