
K • A • T • E
Kansas Association of Teachers of English

KATE Executive Board Meeting Minutes

9:00 a.m.

Schuler Education Center, Topeka, Kansas

25 June 2005

Members present: Tara Azwell, Clark Coker, Matt Copeland, Diana Costello, Karen Ford, Lori Goodson, Todd Goodson, Ruthann Harris, Annie Heidersbach, Linda Jones, Susan Micka, Glenna Mock, Stacey Lierz-Ziegler, Karen Stous, and Dana Waters.

Call to Order:

President Ruthann Harris called the meeting to order at 9:15.

Approval of Agenda:

The following items were added to the agenda: Reports from Promising Young Writers, NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing, and the Share-a-thon. The agenda was approved.

Approval of Minute:

The following corrections in the minutes of the February 12, 2005, meeting were made: Ginny Beesley and Donna Burke were added to the members present. Karen Stous instead of Karen Ford was recorded as Nominating Committee chair.

Dana Waters thanked Annie Heidersbach for recording minutes in her absence. Diana Costello moved the minutes be approved as amended. The motion was seconded and passed.

Announcements and Correspondence:

Karen Stous welcomed new board members Mark Gordon and Lori Goodson, who will be seated at the October meeting.

The following members had sent notification that they were unable to attend the meeting: Chris Goering, Clark Killion, Andy Anderson, Jane Wagner, Dave Smit, Gerrit Bleeker, Barbara Bleeker, Elaine Gurenbacher, Carlene Stueve, Deb Cohen, and Donna Burke. Ruthann read a message from Barbara Livengood who is undergoing chemotherapy. Barbara sent her regards and her thanks to Carlene Stueve for her work on *Young Kansas Writers*.

Ruthann announced that she had sent an updated membership list to board members via e-mail.

Reports:

Treasurer's report: Clark Coker handed out a report on the year to date, noting that it is not the final annual report. He reported income of \$21,172 and expenses of \$14,277.97, leaving a balance of \$22,307.01, with \$10,211.82 in the checking account. Clark will move some of that balance into the money market account. He asked for a motion to pay expenses until the end of the year, including 4-H. Ginny Beesley moved that KATE pay all expenses as reported by the treasurer. The motion was passed and seconded. Clark asked for guidance on paying KATE's publication editors. Ruthann said that historically KATE pays the editors \$100. Ginny Beesley moved that Clark issue checks to Linda Jones for *Younger Kansas Writers*, Carlene Stueve and Barbara Livengood for *Young Kansas Writers*, and Elaine Gruenbacher for *KATE Update*. The motion was seconded and passed. The *Kansas English* editors will be paid following publication of those issues.

Membership: Karen Ford reported she is still receiving dues from last year and is receiving some for this year. She will pass checks on to Clark Coker. Jean Dimmit had forwarded an uncashed Ebsco check from 2004 to Karen. Karen Stous reported that Ebsco checks are usually recorded as income for *Kansas English*. Ruthann clarified that all membership dues should be paid to Karen Ford, the membership chair. Karen Ford stated that dues should be accompanied by the membership form found on the KATE website. Karen will be present at the membership table at the Fall Conference. She explained that the two-year membership option is causing confusion, and it would be simpler to go strictly a one-year membership. Clark asked for clarification of institutional memberships. Ruthann explained that only elementary schools have institutional memberships.

Marketing: Dave Smit sent his report to Ruthann, who noted that Dave has sent samples of KATE publications and membership flyers to all universities to distribute to graduating English teachers. Todd Goodson reported that some of K-State's students had not gotten flyers and that the university departments need to tweak the distribution.

KATE Update: Elaine Gruenbacher sent her report with Matt Copeland, who reported that Elaine had not received some of the copy sent to her because of the e-mail filter at her school. She asked that copy be sent to her school e-mail address via e-mail attachment: elaine.gruenbacher@usd264.com. She will then respond to the sender. Senders who do not receive a confirmation from Elaine should re-send the copy. The deadline for copy for the next issue of *Update* is July 15. Elaine asked that members send personal and professional news about KATE members, as well as any commentaries or creative pieces. She apologized for the lateness of the previous issue; she had trouble with the mailing list. The Board was concerned that this problem be resolved so that future issues could be published on schedule. Elaine asked that members notify her if they know of someone who did not receive his or her issue.

Board members were impressed with the layout of the new issue and felt Elaine had done a good job. They expressed a wish to see more pictures, and felt that pictures in

the next issue from last year's Fall Conference would generate interest for the upcoming conference. Annie Heidersbach said that she would re-send the pictures from the last conference to Elaine. Annie will send the registration forms and details of the conference to Elaine for the next issue. She will be in close contact with Elaine to ensure the scope of the conference coverage is big. Members liked Elaine's idea to include information on the new Board members who will be seated in October. The Board commended Elaine on her first issue.

Young Kansas Writers and Younger Kansas Writers: Linda Jones reported her first time editing *Younger Kansas Writers* had been a struggle. The deadline, which conflicted with end of school activities and forensics competitions, had made it difficult. In addition, Linda had to key in hard copy submissions for the electronic publication. She had received many little drawings and had scanned in some. Selecting submissions for publication had been challenging. Linda asked that the deadline of March 15 for submissions be earlier and copy be submitted on disk. She suggested that another alternative would be to issue the disk publication at the Fall Conference rather than trying to issue it before the end of school. Karen Stous moved that the board direct the *Young/Younger Kansas Writers* editors to create a new submission form setting a deadline of March 15 and requiring submission in electronic form. The motion was seconded. Ruthann read Carlene Stueve's report on *Young Kansas Writers*, which reported that Carlene and Barbara Livengood also had problems with receiving submissions in hard copy; next year Carlene and Barbara will not consider submissions that are not accompanied by some form of digital format. Carlene will burn 500 CDs and will mail them to the teachers who submitted students' work. Carlene noted that some teachers were submitting works of other teachers' students. She asked that KATE enforce the requirement that individual teachers have memberships in order to submit their students' work. Annie Heidersbach suggested editors put together a conference session on appropriately preparing submissions for KATE's publications. Linda Jones amended Karen Stous's motion to change the submission deadline from March 15 to March 1. Matt Copeland seconded the motion for amendment. The motion for amendment passed. The motion passed. Ruthann directed the editors to submit the new form at the October meeting.

William Allen White award: Shannon Nickell has resigned as KATE's representative on the selection committee. The William Allen White committee includes representation from different organizations who deal with children's literacy, and KATE was designated as one of those organizations. Tara Azwell, who had previously served as representative for Emporia State, explained that the list of 90 to 100 nominees had doubled, and she found it impossible to read all the nominations. The list is sent out in February or March and the voting takes place in the fall. The William Allen White Library in Emporia provides library copies of the books and will mail them out. The committee holds approximately four meetings a year to do the voting and plan the recognition ceremony. Ginny Beesley volunteered to be KATE's representative in the fall.

Promising Young Writers: Ruthann reported for Barbara Bleeker, who announced the 2005 winners were Maude Thomas, Central Junior High; Lydia Belcher, Nash Riggins, and Allison Ice, West Junior High; all of Lawrence. A new list serve of state coordinators will facilitate discussing ways to promote interest. Barbara asked that KATE members

alert their eighth grade teachers to the award. She thanked Tara Azwell, Diana Costello, Lori Goodson, and David Krumme for serving as judges.

NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing: Ruthann reported for Gerrit Bleeker, who said the judges have completed evaluating submissions for 2005. He had received 26 entries from 14 schools and now must winnow the winning Kansas entries to Kansas' quota of 8 winners. He thanked judges Judy Goodpasture, Clark Killion, Matt Copeland, Karen Stous, Pat Fellers, and Andy Anderson.

KSDE Liaison: Stacey Lierz-Ziegler handed out copies of the scope and sequence for the Kansas writing standards/research standards, which are now a stand-alone standard, separated from the reading standards. Reading is tested every year; writing is not. The writing standard now has two components: writing and research. Schools can organize these together if they wish. Writing now has 4 benchmarks: narrative, expository, persuasive, and technical. Technical will not be assessed at the state level. Research is confined to the 4 years of high school. Schools are tested only once, and schools may choose when to test students on an individual basis; they may test by individual student or by class. All students must be tested by their junior year. This will take effect in the 06-07 school year; only reading and math will be tested in the 05-06 school year. Writing rubrics for all genres have been revised with more concrete language; the content has not changed. The wording has been revised to match the scope and sequence, and the standards. The next task will be to look at listening, speaking, and viewing standards. Stacey asked for English volunteers interested in serving on that committee. Ruthann Harris volunteered. Stacey will e-mail a report to Ruthann to be included in *KATE Update*.

Kansas English: Ruthann reported for Andy Anderson, who announced that the new editors of *Kansas English* are Kami Day, Johnson County Community College, and Michelle Eodice, KU. JCCC will print *Kansas English* for \$522 per issue. *Kansas English* will return to the previous, smaller format and be published twice a year. Andy asked that board members remind people to submit for *Kansas English*.

NCTE Liaison: Ruthann reported for Andy Anderson that Andy has redesigned the web page and is almost finished. He had sent a board membership list, which the board reviewed and corrected. Corrections will be sent to Andy to update on the web. He will use Excel to record our membership instead of NCTE Manager, and hopes to finish the details at the conference.

TeraLyn Cohn, a second year teacher at Southeast in Wichita, has been chosen as KATE's nomination for the NCTE Leadership Award. Andy had received no applications for KATE's Outstanding Practices Award. He will complete the NCTE Affiliate Report due July 15.

Andy reported that he had visited Romania in the NCTE exchange program. He has included information and a Google Group site for KATE and Romanian teachers to share ideas on the KATE website. Two Romanian teachers will be attending the Fall Conference in Wichita as KATE's guests. Dana Waters moved that KATE comp the hotel

room for the Romanian women for Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday nights. The motion was seconded and passed.

Slate: Matt Copeland reported that no issues have occurred.

Nominating committee: Karen Stous reported the result of the KATE Executive Board elections as follows: Shelia Buchanan, Yates Center HS, Yates Center; Bryan Anderson, Washington HS, Leavenworth; Kathryn Shumard, Augusta HS, Augusta; Rose LaBarge, Wheatland HS, Grainfield; Tara Azwell, Emporia State University, Emporia; Mark Gordon, Jefferson West HS, Meridian; Steve Maack, Wichita HS East, Wichita; Peggy Jewell, Wichita State University, Wichita; John Ritchie, Wamego MS, Wamego; Jennifer Fry, Wichita HS East, Wichita. Lori Goodson, Wamego MS, will be seated as second vice president; as past president, Clark Killion will become chair of the nominating committee.

Share-a-thon report: Karen Stous reported that ten teachers had attended the Share-a-thon in Topeka the previous day. Eight of the attendees were board members. Conference discussions included vocabulary, technical writing, reading strategies, and the role of KATE. Susan Micka reported that organizing the Share-a-thon was fairly simple. The location advantage was a low cost facility with adequate room that would have allowed KATE to hold the registration costs at \$10, including lunch, even with greater registration. The disadvantage was the distance from the western part of the state. Annie Heidersbach suggested KATE publicize the Share-a-thon at the Fall Conference. It was hoped that the Share-a-thon might be used to increase membership. Tara Azwell volunteered to chair a committee for the Share-a-thon next year, to be held in Emporia. The committee will include Susan Micka, Annie Heidersbach, Ruthann Harris, and Karen Stous. Karen Stous will write a piece for *KATE Update*. Karen suggested we move the June board meeting date and location to correspond with the Share-a-thon. The date and location will be announced at the KATE Fall Conference and registration forms will be available. The tentative date is Friday, June 9, with the board meeting to be Saturday, June 10.

Old Business

Since the two-year membership option is a record keeping problem, Clark Coker moved we remove the two-year membership option and go to one year only. The motion was seconded and passed. Memberships already in force will remain valid, of course. Andy Anderson will be notified to change the form on the web page, and Karen Ford will write a blurb for *KATE Update*.

KATE Conference: Annie Heidersbach reported that the Fall Conference will be held October 20-21 at the Marriott Hotel in Wichita. The theme is "Teaching Outside the Box: Fostering Creativity in Our Students and Ourselves." Annie's biggest concern has been speakers. She received delayed declines from several speakers, which delayed her finalizing this detail. Dr. Bill McBride, author of *Entertaining the Elephant*, will be the keynote speaker. McDougal Litell has agreed to share the cost for speakers. Martin Wineberg will provide entertainment for the Thursday evening cash bar and hors d'oeuvres. Annie has several other possibilities in mind that she will finalize soon.

Breakout sessions have been submitted and are being slotted; Annie needs specific information from members who are presenting sessions.

Linda Jones suggested attendees bring books they have purchased and no longer use to a book swap. Diana Costello will be in charge of the book swap. Clark Coker suggested asking the tutoring services to present at a session. Annie will try to arrange a session on Heartland Award books, as some KATE board members serve on the committee.

Annie will try to have more tables in the publishers' exhibits. She will work on that with Joy Bunch.

Annie is having t-shirts designed, and she is working on more activities between sessions. She would like to have more interaction at the tables at luncheons, for example cards with poems or teaching ideas. Annie reminded board members of the poetry reading Wednesday evening at 7:30 before the conference.

Annie asked for a brief meeting following adjournment with the official conference committee: Todd Goodson, Elaine Gruenbacher, Ginny Beesley, Matt Copeland, Lori Goodson, Jane Wagner, Ruthann Harris, Chris Goering, Donna Burke, Diana Costello, and Susan Micka. The conference mailing will be done by Elaine Gruenbacher; Annie will ask Andy Anderson to do the conference programs. Annie will need photos of all board members by August 1 to be put into the program.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 12:05. The next board meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. October 20, 2005, at the Wichita Marriott.

Dana Waters, secretary