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*Kansas Association of Teachers of English*

KATE Executive Board Meeting  
18 October 2007  
Marriott Hotel, Wichita, KS

### **Members Present**

Andy Anderson, Bryan Anderson, Tara Azwell, Tara Baker, Judy Beemer, Ginny Beesley, Janae Brady, Terri Browning, Joy Bunch, Clark Coker, Matt Copeland, Vicki Cooper, Diana Costello, Lisa Deal, Chris Goering, Peter DeVries, Lori Goodson, Ruthann Harris, Annie Heidersbach, Peggy Jewell, Linda Jones, Elaine Klincik, Kaleen Knopp, Deb Kohn Rosanne LaBarge, Steve Maack, Phillip Marzluf, Suzy Oertel, Shelia Penick, Paula Ripple, John Ritchie, Jeff Roper, Robyn Seglem, Vicki Sherbert, Kathy Shumard, Robin Sides, Carl Singleton, Jane Wagner, Dana Waters, Greg White, Shelby Witte.

### **Call to Order**

President Matt Copeland called the meeting to order at 6:00. He congratulated Lori Goodson on a successful conference.

**Approval of Agenda** Chris Goering moved the agenda be approved. The motion was seconded and passed.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Annie Heidersbach moved the minutes be approved. Matt Copeland asked that the following correction be made: *Native Son* was challenged in the Auburn Washburn School District. The motion was seconded and passed with correction.

### **Announcements**

Matt asked that members and new board members introduce themselves and identify their teaching assignment. He announced that Glenna Mock had notified him she would be unable to attend the meeting.

### **Reports**

**Treasurer's report:** Clark Coker handed out three reports. The end of the year report showed a balance of \$28,710.80. He called our attention to an error in the money market

column that should say “income” rather than “interest.” Clark had transferred funds to the money market account. He explained that the conference report is a quick snap shot of the conference expenses and income and will change in the next month. Conference registration was up from 186 last year to 193 this year and the conference showed a profit of \$13,338.26 with some bills still outstanding. The October treasurer’s report showed a year to date balance of \$42,670.27. Chris Goering moved that the Treasurer’s Reports be accepted as corrected. The motion was seconded and passed. Linda Jones asked if the conference profit jeopardized KATE’s non-profit status. Andy Anderson explained that it did not. Clark reported that doing the conference accounting along with his regular Treasurer’s duties was working effectively. Matt thanked Clark for his efforts.

**Marketing:** Marketing chair Jane Wagner passed around the conference flyer that the Marketing Committee had mailed to 4000 English teachers. Names for the mailing had been provided from Fort Hays’ data bank. She thanked Lori Goodson and Matt Copeland for helping proof the copy. The committee is preparing a mailing for schools. They contacted all colleges to get names of English graduates; some colleges would not provide the information, so Jane asked members to furnish them with contacts that might provide a source for names. Matt thanked Jane for her efforts.

**Membership:** Membership chair Karen Ford was unable to attend the meeting

**KATE UpDate:** Editor Elaine Klincik announced that Friday, November 15 is next deadline for *KATE UpDate* copy, but stated she could allow for some later submissions. Elaine said she is struggling for submissions and asked for the Board’s help. She passed a sign-up sheet for submissions. Kaleen Knopp suggested members submit “Valuable things I learned at the KATE Conference” to be published in *UpDate*. Jane Wagner suggested Elaine include remarks from the conference evaluations.

**Kansas English:** Editors Kami Day and Michele Eodice sent a report with Andy Anderson. He reported that the editors had had a record number of submissions. Back issues of the previous issue can be ordered from Andy with the corrected volume and issue number. The theme of the next issue is “multicultural issues” and the deadline is March 1, 2008. The editors thanked JCCC for printing and mailing services. Andy reported that the editors were sorry they couldn’t be present.

### ***Young Kansas Writers and Younger Kansas Writers:***

*Younger Kansas Writers* editor Linda Jones reported that, as the Board approved at the previous meeting, fifth to eighth grades would now submit to *Younger Kansas Writers* and ninth to twelfth grades would submit to *Young Kansas Writers*. Notice of grade levels have been changed on the website and the editors are waiting to see if that is a more successful format. The deadline for submissions is March 1. Linda was concerned that the new CD might not be compatible with some computers and asked that members play it to ensure it works. *Young*

*Kansas Writers* editor Carlene Stueve notified Linda that Wichita Independent School had not received their CDs and Linda had brought them to the conference. Joy Bunch asked if all members were to receive copies of the CD. Annie Heidersbach pointed out that KATE advertises copies of KATE publications as part of membership and should mail them to all members. Linda reported that copies had been mailed to students published but other copies had been brought to the conference to be picked up. Matt suggested that we put CDs in all conference packets. He directed Elaine to announce in *KATE UpDate* that CDs are available from the editors. Elaine will publish contact information for Carlene Stueve, and Andy Anderson will put information on the KATE website. Andy reported that *Young Kansas Writers* is not published on the website because of privacy issues. Lori Goodson will announce tomorrow that CD's will be mailed to those who want them. Bryan Anderson suggested we have those who want CDs sign up on the website. Annie Heidersbach moved that in the future KATE mail the *Young Kansas Writers* CD to all members not attending the conference. The motion was seconded. After discussion of the present situation, Paula Ripple called for the question. The motion passed. Matt directed Lori Goodson to announce tomorrow that anyone who had not received the *Young Kansas Writers* CD leave his or her name with the editors and the CD will be mailed.

**William Allen White Awards:** Ginny Beesley deferred to Dianne Costello, the new William Allen White representative, for the William Allen White report. Diana reported that she was excited to serve as William Allen White representative. The list includes books for grade levels 3-5 and 7-8. Diana will review books and attend the next meeting.

**SLATE:** Matt Copeland explained that as an employee of the Kansas State Department of Education, he felt it inappropriate for him to retain the SLATE position. Steve Maak will replace Matt as SLATE representative. Matt reported that censorship challenges are on the increase. He emphasized the importance of SLATE and encouraged members to pay attention to the censorship issue in their own districts. Teachers need to know that resources are available to help them fight challenges. Joy Bunch pointed out that NCTE provides help. Kathryn Shumard asked if material from NCTE could be downloaded for Board members to send to their legislators. Andy Anderson reminded members that the NCTE link is on the KATE website.

**NCTE Liaison:** Andy Anderson reminded members that KATE board members must be members of NCTE. He called attention to the NCTE website that explains NCTE positions and provides resources, including research the positions are based on. The NCTE homepage has buttons by grade level as well. Andy has provided a link to the NCTE website on the KATE website. Andy will attend the business meeting at the NCTE annual conference in New York.

Andy called our attention to the privacy policy on the KATE website that he adapted from NCTE's policy. He asked that the Board review and approve the policy. Andy summarized the statement and reasons it is important to include on the KATE website. Bryan Anderson moved that we approve the privacy policy for the KATE web site. The motion was seconded. Matt asked that the statement be read. Chris Goering moved that the motion be tabled until the February meeting. The motion was seconded and passed. Andy will update the Poetry Out Loud information and add some of the power point presentations from the conference. The

names, schools, and e-mail addresses of the board's officers are currently on the site. He will add this information for all board members. Andy asked for other information that should be posted on the website. Kayleen Knopp asked if all conference power point presentations could be posted. Andy said he would explore linking them to the conference schedule which is posted on the site. Greg White pointed out that some presenters had told attendees their power points would be on the website. Andy suggested Lori announce that power points would be posted on the KATE website. Steve Maak pointed out that the Wichita schools could not access the KATE website. Andy will talk to the JCCC tech people. Kayleen Knopp thanked Andy for all the work he does with KATE's website. Chris Goering stated that KATE should have its own domain instead of going through the JCCC website; the name of the organization should be the name of the website. Andy replied that we could buy a domain if it is available. Steve Maak and Matt Copeland cautioned that there may be security issues. Lori Goodson recalled that when the voting to elect new board members was on line this year, KATE had received a record number of ballots. Matt suggested a committee explore the pros and cons. Kayleen Knopp moved that we form a committee to explore a KATE.org website. The motion was seconded and passed. Andy Anderson (chair), Bryan Anderson, Shelby Witte, and Robyn Seglem will form the committee.

**NCTE Promising Young Writers Award and NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing:**

Barbara Bleeker had nothing new to report for the NCTE Promising Young Writers Award. Gerrit Bleeker sent a report announcing the names of the NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing for 2007: Katie Glueck and Lauren Mills, Blue Valley North; Sarah Anstaett and Devin Smith, Olathe North; Allison Stuewe, Salina Central; Courtney Pigott, St. Thomas Aquinas; Hannah Morrison, The Independent School; and Emily Thomas, Wichita High School East.

Barbara Bleeker and Gerrit Bleeker are resigning their positions as state coordinators for NCTE Promising Young Writers Award and NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing, respectively. The board discussed how to honor the Bleekers' years of service. Andy reminded us that we had honored Mel Riggs with a plaque and gift certificate at the conference. Ruthann Harris moved that KATE invite Gerry and Barbara Bleeker to attend next year's conference to be honored. The motion was seconded and passed. As conference chair, Ginny Beesley will be in charge of recognizing the Bleekers.

Matt appointed Lori Goodson as coordinator of NCTE Promising Young Writers Award and John Ritchie as coordinator of NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing.

**NCTE Literary Magazine Awards:** Chris Goering reported that Karen Stous had not been in contact with either him or Matt regarding the NCTE Literary Magazine Awards. Steve Maak reported that Karen had contacted him to judge, but since his school was entered he had declined. Matt said that Chris is leaving the Board, so he considers the position vacant. Annie Heidersbach explained the duties of the position. Kayleen encouraged new board members to take advantage of the opportunities. Judy Beemer expressed interest. Matt encouraged her and others who might be interested to speak to president-elect Lori Goodson.

**KATE Conference 2007:** Lori said the conference is going well and thanked all those who had helped with the conference. Matt complimented Lori on a job well done. Kayleen Knopp reminded us that the board had suggested the conference chair compile a notebook to be passed on to the subsequent conference chair.

**Board Nominations:** Annie Heidersbach asked for KATE Executive Board nominations for next year and pointed out that nomination forms are in the conference packets. She explained some of the duties of board members. Elaine will publish the nominees in *KATE UpDate* and the ballot will be placed on-line after the February board meeting. The constitution sets the date for the election to be complete as May 1. Matt thanked the new members for attending the meeting tonight.

### **Old Business**

Matt announced the following board appointments: Steve Maak, SLATE representative; Lori Goodson, NCTE Promising Young Writers Award coordinator; John Ritchie, NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing coordinator; Joy Bunch and Robyn Seglem, unfinished board terms.

Matt introduced the question of continuing or discontinuing the Share-a-Thons tabled at the February meeting. Both KATE Share-a-Thons were cancelled because of low enrollment. Linda Jones reported that after sending letters to everyone in her area, she had received no response. Tara Azwell reminded us that she had only seven or eight attend the Share-a-Thon in Emporia the previous year. She felt that the Share-a-Thon had been valuable, but that teachers were just too busy to respond and it will be a struggle to gain attendance. Bryan Anderson asked if the Share-a-Thon could be done on-line. Greg White asked if we could recruit more successfully by putting on-line ideas into the hands of the board members who could share them with others in their schools. Sheila Penick pointed out that the conversation exchange is missing in an on-line format. Annie Heidersbach stated that summer is the time of year teachers don't want to think about school. Linda Jones added that other times during the school year present too many conflicts. Kaleen Knopp emphasized that Tara and Linda had put a lot of time and effort into an activity that didn't work out and it would be unfortunate for that to happen to someone else. Tara Azwell moved that we discontinue the Share-a-Thon. The motion was seconded and passed.

Kaleen Knopp noted that in her session, attendees expressed interest in a summer retreat for research presentations. She suggested that KATE could explore offering focused retreats in the summer. Tara Azwell pointed out that other organizations do that presently. Lori Goodson added that retreats could also conflict with the summer writing projects. Matt Copeland reported that KSDE is in the beginning stages of developing a P-20 literacy plan and KATE will be a part of that; they will be forming a literacy task force in the spring.

### **New Business**

Membership Chair Karen Ford had contacted Matt with frustration about her duties. Karen receives membership forms and dues and forwards dues to Treasurer Clark Coker. Matt pointed

out that the duties of the Marketing Chairperson replicate the duties of recruiting new members assigned to the Membership Chair. Matt had discussed with Karen and Clark Coker eliminating the position of Membership Chair and sending memberships directly to Clark; the marketing committee would continue with recruiting duties. He directed our attention to a draft of necessary rewording of the Constitution he had attached to the agenda. Andy Anderson explained that all the membership records were copied to him so he could keep the membership data bank and e-mailing list current. Matt recommended that restricting the files to one person, the Treasurer, and eliminating the Membership Chair would avoid confusion. Concern was voiced that with Clark Coker performing duties of both Treasurer and Conference Treasurer, adding membership duties was excessive. Annie Heidersbach pointed out that in the past we had paid a professional service to maintain our database, and she thought it would be appropriate to pay Clark a stipend for taking on the extra duties of membership. Jeff Roper made the distinction that such a stipend would not be for Clark but for the position; Clark would not retain the position forever. Andy Anderson explained that paying a board member a stipend would result in a change of KATE's tax status. Paula Ripple cautioned that there is an ethical problem when the treasurer pays himself. Clark Coker interjected that he did not want a stipend. KATE presently comps the treasurer's hotel room at the conference and he felt that was adequate; the only other payment KATE now pays is an honorarium for the editors of KATE's publications. Paula Ripple objected that as a professional organization KATE should retain the position of Membership Chair. Greg White pointed out that if we combine Marketing/Membership it creates problems with the wording in the constitution. Matt answered that his proposed amendment was worded to avoid that problem. Ginny Beesley moved that KATE adopt Matt's amendments as written. The motion was seconded. The wording of the proposed amendments was discussed at length. Matt asked if Clark Coker would be willing to accept a position of Treasurer/Membership chair. Greg White moved to amend the motion to say KATE accepts Matt's proposed amendment to the constitution with the addition of "Treasurer/Membership Chair." The motion was seconded. Dana Waters proposed that KATE maintain the separate position of Membership Chair and simply remove the marketing duties from the membership chair position. Andy Anderson recalled that the point of changing the constitution to add a Membership Chair position was to maintain stability in the position. Annie said that the objective of this motion is to streamline. Clark Coker stated he would accept both positions with no changes in the constitution. Joy Bunch cautioned that changes to the constitution should be considered and voted on at the following meeting. Jeff Roper called for the question. Motion to amend the wording of the previous motion failed. Ginny Beesley withdrew her original motion. Matt Copeland appointed Clark Coker to the position of Membership Chair; Clark will retain his position as Treasurer. Ruthann Harris moved to approve the appointment. Motion was seconded and passed.

Andy Anderson pointed out that no one had applied for the Outstanding Teaching Practices award. He asked that we consider what we want to do with that award at the next meeting. Matt suggested that, since submitting a form has been a problem, KATE include a checkpoint on the presentation application form stating "I would like my presentation to be considered for the Outstanding Teaching Practices award." The criteria would be for the application of the practice in the classroom, not the conference presentation. KATE should recognize excellence in teaching. Chris Goering said that since we changed from Outstanding Teacher to Outstanding Teaching Practices, the response has not been successful. Annie Heidersbach, Peggy Jewell, Andy Anderson, Peter DeVries, Kathryn Shumard, and Tara Baker volunteered to form a committee to report recommendations at the February meeting. Matt charged the committee

to look at all awards and scholarships. Kaleen Knopp will join the committee to bring scholarships into the discussion.

Matt asked for a motion to reimburse Andy Anderson for some of his expense in representing KATE at the NCTE annual conference. Chris Goering moved that we reimburse the NCTE liaison up to \$1000 in expenses to represent KATE at the NCTE annual conference. Motion was seconded. It was pointed out that past practice was to reimburse up to \$500 in expenses for conference attendance. Chris withdrew his motion. Chris Goering moved we reimburse the NCTE liaison up to \$500 in expenses to represent KATE at the NCTE annual conference. The motion was seconded and passed.

Ginny Beesley, chair of the 2008 KATE conference, announced her conference theme. She asked that members submit ideas for the conference and for keynote speakers as soon as possible.

Matt called our attention to the calendar and confirmed the meeting dates for next year. The KATE annual conference will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Wichita on October 30 and 31, 2008.

Matt thanked members Jeff Roper and Chris Goering for their service on the board. Matt announced that he and Andy Anderson will meet with the new board members tomorrow morning, following installation, for orientation.

The next KATE Executive Board meeting will be in Abilene at the Eisenhower Library, February 16, 2008. Kathryn Shumard suggested new members be given a map to the meeting room in the back of the Eisenhower Library.

## **Adjournment**

Ruthann Harris moved the meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 9:20.

Dana Waters, secretary