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

KATE Executive Board Meeting Minutes
17 February 2007, 9:30 a.m.
Eisenhower Center, Abilene, KS

Members present

Andy Anderson, Ginny Beesley, Terri Browning, Clark Coker, Matt Copeland, Chris Goering, Lori Goodson, Ruthann Harris, Gerri Hilger, Peggy Jewell, Linda Jones, Elaine Klincik, Deb Kohn, Kaleen Knopp, Barbara Livengood, Steve Maack, Glenna Mock, Shelia Penick, Paula Ripple, Robin Sides, Kathy Shumard, Carlene Stueve, Dana Waters, and Teresa Zimmer.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 by president Matt Copeland.

Approval of Agenda

Clark Coker moved the agenda be approved. The motion was seconded and passed.

Approval of Minutes

Elaine Klincik moved the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded and passed.

Announcements

Matt thanked Steve Maack, Elaine Klincik, and Kayleen Knopp for bringing refreshments.

Lori Goodson thanked Matt for providing a full calendar of KATE events.

Members introduced themselves and told where they taught.

Reports

Treasurer's report: Clark Coker passed around thank-you notes and calendars from the 4H students. Clark reported that KATE has a total of \$22647.67. He will be transferring funds from the checking account into to KATE's money market account this year. The conference showed a profit of \$6,521.52. Clark said he would have some suggestions to ease registration at the conference next year.

Marketing: Matt reported for Jane Wagner and Diana Costello that they would like to display any thank you notes or other correspondence at the conference, along with copies of a few of the *Young and Younger Kansas Writers* entries, to advertise KATE connections. To promote membership, they will contact every English education graduate completing degrees in May with information about the organization and the offer of free first year membership.

Membership: Clark Coker reported that Karen Ford had sent him four new memberships.

KATE UpDate: Elaine Klincik announced the submission deadline of March 15 for the next issue and asked for submissions; she hopes to publish by April. Elaine will propose in *New Business* to form a committee to plan content and gather articles. She hopes to solicit people who can meet physically to work on ideas. Paula Ripple suggested Elaine include information on the NEA Poetry Out Loud contest KATE is involved with. Matt reminded us that *Update* is our primary form of communication with our membership. Kayleen Knopp asked that we include information about the writing projects. Peggy Jewell asked if it would be appropriate to include testimonials about why we belonged to KATE in a feature format. Ginny Beasley suggested that board members sign up for dates we might be willing to submit. Elaine pointed out that it would be helpful if she knew when people were planning to submit.

Kansas English: Kami Day and Michele Eurodice sent a report stating the current issue, Volume 92 n 1, will be printed and mailed in April. Andy Anderson reported that they have good submissions for the next issue and are excited about it. The submission deadline for the next issue, Volume 92 n 2, is September 15 ; the theme will be Made in Kansas. The editors would like submission of articles, interviews, and poems that reflect to people and ideas started in Kansas. They would like to include more submissions from Kansas high school teachers. This issue will be published by the end of the year. Andy reported that he had not received a bill for the last issue which had been published with the wrong cover.

Young Kansas Writers and Younger Kansas Writers: Carlene Stueve reported that the editors had received one submission for *Young Kansas Writers*. The spiral bound issues for the libraries had been well received. Submissions are half of what they were formerly, and Barbara Livengood wondered if teachers were not submitting because of the CD format. She said the CD is significantly cheaper to produce. Kathy Shumard suggested we might print hard copies for those whose submissions were published. Paula Ripple pointed out that hard copy publication costs were the reason KATE had been in financial distress previously. Carlene suggested we enclose a letter with the CDs offering parents or teachers print copies for student who want them. Steve Maack suggested offering a bound form for a fee, since some students want to submit a portfolio to schools or organizations. Carlene explained that printing the CD at a school service center is much cheaper than producing a bound issue. She estimated that the cost might be \$5 plus postage. Clark Coker said we need to research costs before we make a decision. Kathy Shumard reported that LULU.Com prints books for \$4 each. Terri Browning said that she could access printing at her school if KATE would provide card stock covers and spirals; her school would probably provide the paper. Barbara and Carlene will work with her to print a limited number of copies.

William Allen White Awards: Ginny Beasley reported that the William Allen White committee selects titles for the student contest each year, so committee members read a large number of books. She suggested that we submit any new book titles for grades 3 through 8 to her and

she will put them on the list. A list of committee members appears on the Emporia State University website.

SLATE: Matt reported a censorship challenge at his school. There was an official parental challenge to *Native Son*, asking that it be removed from the reading list. The school is forming a committee to address the merits of the work. He is looking for an outside specialist to sit on the committee.

NCTE Liaison: Andy Anderson moved that we nominate Deborah Parker for the Teacher of Excellence Award and Bryan Anderson for the Leadership Development award. The motion was seconded and passed. Andy encouraged members to look at the NCTE webpage. The page lists NCTE's policy decisions and the research that supports them. The page includes public links for parents, students, and community members. He reminded us that NCTE membership is a condition for serving on the KATE board. Andy had received a request from NCTE for the Kansas literary map. He wondered if we should update the map and publish it once again. NCTE is asking that all 50 states update and publish literary maps. Andy asked for old copies of *Kansas English* published by John Franklin; three or four libraries have requested copies they didn't receive. Andy attended the affiliate membership meeting and reported that KATE is better organized than most affiliates; all are facing the same problems with membership, webpage, and finance.

Promising Young Writers: The report was deferred until the June meeting. Matt encouraged members to consider serving as judges for these awards. Lori Goodson suggested this subject would be a good article for *KATE Update*. More information about the awards appears on the NCTE website. Barbara Livengood pointed out that entries can be creative or essay, although most entries are creative.

NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing: The report was deferred until the June meeting.

NCTE Literary Magazine Awards: Chris Goering reported that he had not heard from Karen Stous.

Summer Share-A-Thon: Linda Jones reported that the Colby Share-a-Thon is being supported by her district but she has received no inquiries. Andy reported that Share-a-Thon information has been posted on our website. Linda will contact schools in her part of the state individually. Andy will do an e-mail reminder the first part of May. Peggy Jewell has nearly completed arrangements for the Share-a-Thon at Wichita State University. The coordinators set May 21 as the registration deadline. They will arrange for professional development points for the Share-a-Thons. Kayleen Knopp suggested the e-mail include a request to respond to the e-mail, or a return form, so that people are more likely to act. Matt had sent out a mailing in May of last year about KATE and suggested we do that again, including Share-a-Thon forms. Clark Coker had received a complaint from a registrant who had not received confirmation for her registration; he pointed out that we need to work on a mechanism for confirmation for both the Share-a-Thon and the Fall Conference.

KATE Conference 2006: Lori Goodson reported that Donna Alvermann will be the key note speaker at the Fall Conference, and Roy Fox from the University of Missouri will speak at the luncheon on Friday 19. Lori wants to include a panel of teacher/writers for the luncheon.

Happy Hour entertainment will be the Wamego High School Jazz Group. Independent film sessions of NCTE films. Josh Anderson, Kansas teacher of the year, will speak Friday morning. The *Wichita Eagle* in Education will provide a session each day. Lori's goal is to raise attendance from 165 to 207. She passed out forms and asked members to do or solicit sessions. She reported that the Marriott charges for Internet connections are \$200 per room with additional charges for each person who uses it. Elaine pointed out that we need to make clear to presenters that we will not provide connections so they can prepare. Matt said we also need to tell attendees that Internet is not available without charge. Andy will work with the hotel to see what connections KATE can provide. Clark Coker had concerns with the conference registration forms. He received registration forms for old conferences and those people were confused about dates. Andy said the forms were updated on the website. Clark suggested we add a fax number, and method of payment, and a preferred badge name to the form. He also suggested a form that could be filled out on the web and e-mailed.

Nominations: Ruthann Harris read the stipulations from the constitution about nominations. She asked for any additional nominations to the ten nominations she had ready. Ruthann, Annie Heidersbach, Chris Goering, Gerri Hilger, and Deb Kohn will form the committee to nominate additional members and second vice president. Ruthann pointed out that the second vice president takes on a seven year commitment. She asked if we could provide an option for electronic balloting from our website. Andy will work on providing that. Ruthann Harris moved that we amend the Section 4 of the Constitution to read as follows "It shall be submitted for vote by mail or by electronic transmission by the total member of KATE...." The motion was seconded and passed. Nominees are Terri Browning (Oxford), Misti Becker (Holcomb), Emily Armstrong (Maize), Janae Brady (Wichita North), Mimi Rainen (Shawnee Mission USD 512), Candice Hill (Salina), Stacy Shesnut (Wichita East), Lara Copeland (Friends University), Tara Baker (Dodge City High School), and Jo Dean (Beloit).

Old Business

Clark Coker reported on credit card services for the conference. KATE will need to contract with a service, and each transaction will cost 2.4%; additionally KATE will need to buy equipment. If we want to allow payment on-line we will need additional services. Kathy Shummard said that her experience has been that it is costly unless we do a lot of business. Elaine Klincik asked how many people will use the service at the conference. Clark said there was not a lot of demand but it has become a service people expect. Steve Maack noted that perhaps the form should read check or cash only. Andy Anderson reported that when he had explored connecting affiliate membership with NCTE membership he found it would create issues with the time period for membership. Clark will explore the issue further and report an exact cost at the June meeting.

New Business

Matt had sent an e-mailing and a mailing flyer for the conference last year. Paula Ripple suggested if we do that we include membership and conference information. Matt said we should shift that duty to Marketing. Matt moved we direct Diana Costello and Jane Wagner to send out an all state mailing with information about the Share-a-Thons, the Conference, and membership ,

allowing expenses up to \$1500, to be completed by May 1. The motion was seconded and passed.

Andy Anderson reported that arrangements had been completed for the Poetry Out Loud state contest on March 2 at 7:00 in the Brown v Board of Education building in Topeka. Jennifer Wesco had invited all coordinators to attend. Andy stated that if KATE begins earlier next year, we can promote Poetry Out Loud better, and that KATE should continue its involvement. Kayleen Knopp moved that we invite the Poetry Out Loud regional winners to do a presentation at our fall conference. Chris said that the Poetry Out Loud has great resources for teachers to use in the classroom even if their students do not participate. The motion was seconded and passed. Regional coordinators Carlene Stueve and Linda Jones said that although there were limited competitors, they hoped it would build. Andy pointed out that we need to get beyond the forensics students. Some members were requiring students to participate. Steve Maack said that his students did not have time to do it, although he did advertise it in his classes.

Andy Anderson stated that KATE needs to create a diversity statement. The policy would become number 2 of our policies, with subsequent policies being re-numbered. Andy Anderson moved that we amend the KATE policies to include the diversity statement. The motion was seconded and passed.

Matt Copeland raised the issue that the board has people serving in positions of responsibility who are not presently on the board, which creates communication problems, especially for the conference chair. The confused situation with exhibitors at the conference was an example. Other positions include literary magazine coordinators. Andy asked who was taking care of exhibitors for the conference this year. He outlined the duties. Tables are \$200 for one table. Publishing representatives must be contacted. The person needs to work closely with the conference chair. Joy Bunch has handled this in the past. Kayleen asked if we should stipulate that all positions of responsibility be held by members of the board. Article 4 section 2.12 states that people appointed to these positions are voting members of the board. According to this section, Matt suggested that we extend the attendance policy to ad hoc position members. Andy pointed out that anyone appointed by NCTE is a member of the KATE board. Kayleen suggested we create mentoring partnerships for newer board members with standing positions such as NCTE appointments. Matt suggested that the immediate past president coordinate partnerships. Matt stated that he would like to see us create more specific job descriptions for positions such as NCTE literary magazines or NCTE achievement awards. Andy pointed out that NCTE makes these appointments, although they usually defer to KATE's preferences. Steve Maack said that new board members should expect to serve on a committee. Andy read the list of duties to be given to new board members. He will work on an amendment to the constitution to clarify the duties of the immediate past president. Matt suggested that at the conference the past presidents meet with the new members and discuss duties and possibilities for service. Terri Browning suggested that the list of responsibilities be sent to the new board members. Andy pointed out that many of these duties are designated in the KATE notebooks and that at the next meeting, members who have not received notebooks be given them. Dana Waters and Clark Coker with contact past president Clark Killion to see if he still has notebooks. Andy also pointed out that the constitution is on the website.

Clark Coker moved that we establish a committee to delineate the duties of the immediate past president. The motion was seconded and passed. Matt Copeland, Annie Heidersbach, and Andy Anderson will serve on the committee.

Andy reported that two KATE members have been invited to the Romanian conference October 26 and 27. The Romanians will provide food and lodging.

Ginny Beasley announced Flint Hills Writing Project is sponsoring Writers Up on March 3 at the Quinter Public Library.

Andy Anderson stated that KATE needs to explore giving our awards at the State Capitol, and that we should also invite representatives to our conference.

The next meeting of the board will be June 9, 2007, at the Eisenhower Library in Abilene.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 12:30

Dana Waters, secretary