

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

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

Members Present

Ginny Beesley, Terri Browning, Matt Copeland, Diana Costello, Chris Goering, Lori Goodson, Peggy Jewell, Linda Jones, Elaine Klincik, Kaleen Knopp, Steve Maack, Carl Singleton, Carlene Stueve, Dana Waters, and Teresa Zimmer.

Call to Order

President Matt Copeland called the meeting to order at 9:30. Members introduced themselves.

Approval of Agenda

Lori Goodson added an ALAN announcement to the agenda. Chris Goering moved the agenda be approved. The motion was seconded and passed.

Approval of Minutes

Chris Goering moved the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded and passed.

Announcements

Matt announced that he has taken a job with the Kansas State Board of Education and will be resigning as SLATE representative. He reported that Glenna Grinstead has resigned from the board due to ongoing family issues and Matt will announce her replacement at a later date.

Matt thanked Elaine Klincik for bringing refreshments.

Reports

Treasurer's report: Clark Coker sent the treasurer's report. To date KATE's income has been \$26,102.31 with expenses of \$18,539.33, for \$7,562.98 profit. Clark will be moving funds into the money market account. He reported that there is no cost effective way to make electronic payments for conference registration and dues. Clark asked that his fax number be added to the conference registration form.

Marketing: Marketing chair Diana Costello reported that she and co-chair Jane Wagner are in the process of contacting the universities for a list of English education graduates to invite to the fall conference. They hope to see the growth from last year continue. Diana suggested they do an early fall conference mailing rather than relying on *UpDate*. Matt will help supply mailing labels. He suggested both a spring and a fall mailing. Peggy Jewell will supply a list of WSU's graduates to the marketing committee for the mailing.

Membership: Karen Ford sent a report that KATE has 257 paid members. The e-mail data base of prior members is updated to 2004. Matt suggested we contact lapsed members through e-mail. Karen and Andy Anderson will work on this. Diana will talk to Andy about the marketing committee sending postcards to lapsed members.

KATE UpDate: Editor Elaine Klincik ascertained that members had received the e-mail version of *KATE UpDate* sent before the printed version was mailed. She suggested on the conference registration or the membership form, KATE give members the option of an e-mail version. Chris Goering suggested we post *UpDate* on the KATE web site instead because school filters sometimes block out large e-mail files. Matt said we are required as an NCTE affiliate to send out hard copy of our publication four times a year. Elaine passed around a sheet for members to sign for submitting articles. Matt said the State Board of Education was hesitant to make available e-mail addresses for teachers. However, KSBE is starting list serves, available by subscription, this fall. He will try to ensure KATE information is available on the list serves.

Kansas English: Editors Kami Day and Michele Eodice sent a report that the issue of *Kansas English* has been delivered. Matt pointed out the call for submissions for the next issue, "Made in Kansas." The editors are interested in publishing more Kansas writers. Matt reported they were receiving adequate submissions. Lori Goodson suggested we solicit submissions for KATE publications at the fall conference. Matt encouraged conference presenters to submit their presentations to *Kansas English*.

Young Kansas Writers and Younger Kansas Writers: Editor Carlene Stueve reported *Young Kansas Writers* received fewer than 200 submissions, down from 800 before KATE went to electronic publication. The editors had burned only 400 CDs. Teachers Carlene consulted reported that the problem was not the electronic format but a lack of time to submit students' writing.

Linda Jones reported that *Younger Kansas Writers* had received 350 submissions 3 years ago; this year she received 110 and all were from the same Wichita school. Linda e-mailed teachers who had submitted in the past and had received complaints about the electronic format. Teachers also reported writing assessments had interfered with time to submit, since the deadline falls within the testing window. Members discussed moving the deadline and concluded fall is not feasible because it is too early for students to produce quality work. Linda suggested at the conference we have a running display of the CD and consider providing printed versions

of *Younger Kansas Writers*. Diana Costello pointed out that elementary teachers do not attend conference. Linda questioned how important *Younger Kansas Writers* is to KATE since few elementary teachers are members of KATE and provide none of the expense of the publication. Lori Goodson suggested putting *Younger Kansas Writers* on line. Matt reminded us that in the past, printing these publications had strained KATE financially; he asked if KATE should announce we are considering suspending publication to see what kind of reaction we get. Elaine pointed out that elementary teachers are not members but yet they find submission forms on line, so there must be some interest. Linda said that many teachers who have been submitting for years are now no longer teaching and new teachers are perhaps not aware of the publication. Kaleen Knopp cautioned that before we suspend publication, KATE should explore its obligations to NCTE and also consider the impact on the reputation of the organization. Carlene Stueve asked if it would be feasible to print *Younger Kansas Writers* and send copies only to submitters; other copies could be available at the conference. She pointed out that schools were given permission to print the publication for students. Matt reported only six elementary schools are members; most elementary teachers do not join, and only two elementary school teachers attended last year's conference. Diana added that we have not attracted more elementary members with *Younger Kansas Writers*, so maybe we should discontinue publication.

Ginny Beasley moved that we consolidate *Younger Kansas Writers* and *Young Kansas Writers* into one publication for grades 5-12 and eliminate the requirement that the teacher be a KATE member to submit. Kaleen Knopp seconded. It was clarified that student work can only be submitted by a teacher. Motion passed. Elaine Klincik suggested we publish posters and send them to teachers to promote both KATE membership and submissions for the publications. Annie Heidersbach, Diana Costello (as representative of marketing), Elaine Klincik, Chris Goering, and Terri Zimmer will serve on the poster committee. Matt suggested a short survey at the conference to determine what teachers wanted in a student publication.

William Allen White Awards: Ginny Beasley resigned as William Allen White representative effective October 1. Matt appointed Diana Costello to serve as KATE representative. Ginny reported that the committee is in the screening process to select books published in 2006, grade levels 3-8, for the list.

SLATE: Matt Copeland reported that the challenge to *Native Son* in the Blue Valley district had been resolved when the parents withdrew their challenge. The parents group asked that the administration develop a permission form for parents to sign off on all novels. The administration replied that absolutely no "opt in" policy would be put in place. The Blue Valley parents group is continuing to work with legislators to introduce laws that would make teachers liable for profanity and other material deemed objectionable in books they teach. Matt asked for members interested in serving as SLATE representative to contact him.

NCTE Liaison: Matt referred to the report sent by NCTE Liaison Andy Anderson. Andy reported the online voting for board members was successful. Sixty-five votes were cast through "Ballot Bin," a free on-line service. Members voted on thirteen nominees for ten spots. Ruthann Harris will send a formal letter notifying new board members of their election. Kaleen Knopp, KSU, Salina, was elected second vice president. The following nominees were elected to

the Executive Board: Tara Baker, USD 443, Dodge City; Judy Beemer, USD 475, Junction City; Janae Brady, USD 259, Wichita; Vicki Cooper, USD 435, Abilene; Diana Costello, USD 408, Marion; Candice Hill, USD 305, Salina; Phillip Marzluf, KSU, Manhattan; Suzy Oertel, USD 437, Topeka; Vicki Sherbert, USD 379, Wakefield; Shelby Witte, USD 475, Junction City.

Andy thanked Karen Ford for handling membership forms and reported KATE now has 257 members.

KATE will continue our affiliation with the Kansas Arts Commission to sponsor Poetry Out Loud with the same regional coordinators next year. Lori Goodson announced she has scheduled a session at the conference for Poetry Out Loud. She suggested we have student winners recite at the luncheon on Thursday. Andy Anderson and Annie Heidersbach were appointed to coordinate with the students.

Andy asked that anyone finding errors on the KATE web page e-mail him. He has updated the membership and conference forms and is working on capability to fill them out on-line. KATE Executive Board minutes, the KATE Constitution, and *KATE UpDate* are archived on KATE's web site. The board expressed appreciation to Andy for his work creating and maintaining KATE's web page. Chris Goering suggested KATE purchase its own domain. Matt pointed out that KATE's site is secured through the Johnson County Community College web site. Matt gave Andy full permission to pursue purchasing necessary software from TechSoup for updating the site.

Prentice Hall has opted to continue sponsorship of the NCTE Leadership Development award. Bryan Anderson, who was last year's nominee but did not attend, will be the NCTE Leadership Development Award recipient from Kansas and will be recognized at the State Affiliate Breakfast at the NCTE conference. Devra Parker has been chosen as the NCTE High School Teacher of Excellence recipient from Kansas and will be recognized at the NCTE Secondary Luncheon. Kaleen Knopp moved KATE use unawarded KATE scholarship money to supplement the expenses of Bryan Anderson and Devra Parker with an award of \$500 each toward conference expenses, to be verified with conference receipts. Motion was seconded and passed. Elaine Klincik moved that KATE pay for meal tickets for a board representative to attend the NCTE State Affiliate Breakfast and Secondary Luncheon with the nominees. The motion was seconded and passed.

Andy reminded board members that membership in both NCTE and KATE is required for Executive Board membership.

Promising Young Writers: Garrett Bleeker sent thanks to Kansas judges Tara Azwell, David Krumme, Diana Costella, and Lori Goodson for their help in choosing four winners of NCTE's Promising Young Writers for 2007. He was pleased to report that NCTE had changed their policy for releasing winners' names; KATE will now be able to announce the winners at the fall conference.

NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing: Barbara Bleeker sent a report that thirty-four submissions for the NCTE Writing Awards from sixteen schools are currently being judged. She will receive scores by mid-June and announce winners at the fall conference.

NCTE Literary Magazine Awards: Chris Goering reported he had not received any information about literary magazine submissions from Karen Stous or Andy Anderson. Matt had no report from Karen.

Summer Share-A-Thon: Linda Jones reported that she had sent notices and brochures to all her area schools and had received only one response for the Colby Share-A-Thon. Peggy Jewell had only received notice that one school would be bringing a van of attendees, but since they did not confirm, she cancelled the Wichita Share-A-Thon. Peggy had sent notices to all the former student teachers in the area. Chris Goering commented that even if the share-a-thon was unattended, just the notification was good attention for KATE and might result in more attendance at the fall conference. Linda said she would not be willing to coordinate the Share-A-Thon in her part of the state next year. Elaine Klincik suggested we consider other dates and make a decision about continuing the Share-A-Thon at the fall conference. Matt thanked Linda and Peggy for their efforts.

KATE Conference 2007: Lori Goodson reported that all the sessions have been filled for the 2007 Fall Conference. The *Wichita Eagle* is participating in the sessions. Lori is using the check list to ensure all tasks are completed on time. She has been in contact with the Marriott to make arrangements. She asked that board members remind colleagues to register. Matt encourages board members to volunteer to help Lori.

Lori asked that board members review books for the *ALAN Review* and submit a review of 150 words to her by July 5.

Old Business

Matt presented Andy Anderson's draft of revisions to Article IV, Section 2, of the KATE Constitution to better define officers' duties and provide mentoring partnerships for officers. Chris Goering moved that we approved the amendments to the constitution as submitted. Kaleen Knopp seconded. Matt asked that Friday morning after the installation of new Executive Board members, the new members meet with the president for a brief orientation. Lori will schedule the meeting immediately following the breakfast during the first session, from 9:00-9:45. Motion carried.

The following language was added/revised: Article IV.2.3 (duties of the President): *(5) appoint board members to work on KATE and NCTE committees; and (6) encourage a mentoring role between current committee chairs and board members serving on committees.* Article IV.2.4 (duties of the Immediate Past President): *(4) confirm ad-hoc and NCTE appointed positions are willing to fulfill their appointed duties and, communicating and working actively with the KATE board, assist the Senior Past President with establishing mentoring partnerships between*

committee chairpersons and new board members;.... Article IV.2.5 (duties of the Senior Past President): (2) contact the newly elected board members immediately following the election and notify them when they will formally assume their office; (3) ensure the newly elected board members' names are read into the KATE Executive Board minutes following the election; and (4) establish mentoring partnerships between committee chairpersons and new board members with input from the current board.

New Business

Matt asked for suggestions for appointments to fill the board position vacated by Glenna Grinstead and the SLATE representative position Matt is resigning. Dana Waters suggested appointing a runner-up from the election to fill the board position. Matt asked those interested in becoming the SLATE representative to contact him.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be at the Fall Conference, October 18, 2007, at 6:00 in the Marriott Hotel, Wichita.

Chris Goering moved the meeting adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 12:20.

Dana Waters, secretary