
K • A • T • E

Kansas Association of Teachers of English

KATE Executive Board Meeting Minutes
7 June 2008
Eisenhower Center, Abilene, KS

Members present

Tara Azwell, Tara Baker, Ginny Beesley, Judy Beemer, Joy Bunch, Clark Coker, Vicki Cooper, Matt Copeland, Lori Goodson, Candice Hill, Peggy Jewell, Kaleen Knopp, Steve Maack, Phillip Marzluf, Suzy Oertel, John Ritchie, Robyn Seglem, Carl Singleton, Dana Waters, and Greg White.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 by President Lori Goodson. Lori handed around copies of the agenda and minutes.

Approval of Agenda

Matt Copeland moved to approve agenda. The motion was seconded and passed.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the 16 February 2008 meeting were reviewed. Steve Maack asked that the minutes be amended to read "South Central Writing Project" rather than "Southwest Writing Project." Kaleen Knopp moved to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded and passed.

Announcements

Lori Goodson announced that Shelby Witte has resigned from the Board and will need to be replaced.

Reports

Treasurer's report: Clark Coker handed out the 2007 Conference Final Report and the Treasurer's Report June 008. Clark stated that the organization is doing well, and he won't transfer any money into the money market account this year. KATE's total income was \$26,296.59, with expenses of \$24,391.34, and a balance of \$30,616.05. Clark announced that because of the way our fiscal year falls, he will begin KATE's fiscal year August 1. The conference generated \$3,517.23, with \$22,154 income and \$18,636.77 expenses. Speaker fees were low, but food and room costs at the Marriot have escalated. Lori expressed concern about the entertainment expenses for the conference. Clark pointed out that we have increased charges to \$20. The group discussed the increase in the Marriot's charges. Peggy Jewell moved we accept the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded and passed.

Marketing: Marketing Chair Jane Wagner was unable to attend. Diana Costello has officially resigned from the Marketing Committee. Lori announced that Jane had offered to resign if her absences were a problem. The board wished her to continue. Jane asked the board to prioritize the list of recipients for

the conference mailing. Carl Singleton offered to let KATE use FHSU's mailing list as in the past. Matt Copeland pointed out that the KSBE list includes all teachers of English, both public and private. John Ritchie suggested the mailing go out around Labor Day. Matt suggested the mailing be prioritized as follows: teachers, principals, librarians, forensics and debate coaches, reading specialists, special education teachers. John pointed out that new teachers need to be reminded KATE provides a state-wide network and professional development opportunities.

Membership: Clark Coker reported the membership mailing last year cost \$1400, and a mailing to members to update their membership and encourage lapsed members to pay dues would cost \$500. Greg White suggested an e-mailing. Clark was concerned with privacy issues. Carl Singleton pointed out that all the information is public and in our files. Clark will send out an e-mail asking members to verify and update membership information.

KATE UpDate: Elaine Klincik sent a report that the current issue of *KATE UpDate* is ready to be mailed. Elaine asked for copy for the next issue; the deadline is July 31. Matt Copeland suggested Elaine include a blurb in the next issue announcing that members will be receiving the membership update e-mail. Lori passed a sheet for members to volunteer to submit articles to *KATE UpDate*.

Kansas English: Lori reported that Michele Eodice and Kami Day will be resigning as editors of *Kansas English*. She asked board members to suggest replacements to Andy Anderson. Andy sent word that Johnson County Community College will continue to help with publishing and mailing. Kaleen Knopp stressed that *Kansas English* provides an opportunity for publishing that can be included on a resume or used for professional advancement.

Young Kansas Writers: Lori read an e-mail from Annie Heidersbach who reported that the committee charged with finding ways to resolve the issues with *Young Kansas Writers* had not met. Steve Maack suggested the committee meet at the conference. Lori suggested Ginny provide a time at the conference for committee meetings. Matt reminded us that we have the room at the Eisenhower Library reserved for the day, and since we have been finishing the board meeting before lunch, committees could meet in February and June in the afternoons. Phillip Marzluf had researched what other affiliates have done to publish student work and found the following: on-line publication, printed issue; one day conference; opportunities for teachers to publish writing, use of NCTE sponsored events followed by statewide recognition. One state had 17 different categories in its competition. Phillip suggested KATE may be trying to do too much, in light of what he had found with his research. Kaleen Knopp said she will visit with affiliates in Milwaukee to see how they are publishing student writing. Greg White pointed out that many students are interested only in competitive publishing they can list on college applications. Peggy Jewell suggested that if the competition were localized where winners advanced it might be more successful. The committee was reformed with Phillip Marzluf as chair, Robyn Seglem, Greg White, Kaleen Knopp, Linda Jones, Carlene Stueve, and Barbara Livengood. The committee will communicate by e-mail and meet at the conference. The publications will remain suspended until the committee meets.

William Allen White Award: Diana Costello sent word that she is working her way through books.

SLATE: Steve Maack reported on legislation that introduced a bill to correct wording what had prohibited teachers with a past DUI on their records from obtaining teacher certification. Special interest groups moved to attached an amendment to the bill that removed the presumption of defense for teachers who include in their curriculum any material not approved by the local school board. The bill would have required school boards to review all details of all curriculums for approval. Because of diligence by KNEA and teachers, the Senate passed the bill without the amendment. Matt Copeland emphasized that it is very important that teachers remain vigilant because such strategically calculated attacks on curriculums will continue. Joy Bunch reported that as a teacher dealing with this in her district, she has instituted a recommended reading list giving students options. Lori asked that Steve write an article on this issue for *KATE Update*. Steve pointed out that the legislators seemed unaware of the ramifications of this bill. He explained that he usually focused on committee members when he contacts legislators. Matt Copeland reminded us that KATE has a position statement on the student's right to

read. Joy pointed out that NCTE's position statement has not been updated for some time and should be reviewed more frequently.

NCTE Liaison: Andy Anderson sent a report stating he will attend the NCTE Conference in San Antonio and will vote on KATE's behalf.

Promising Young Writers: John Richie reported that he had 28-29 submissions from juniors for Promising Young Writers, mostly from the Kansas City area. He said that the process is on track and will be completed by August.

NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing: Lori Goodson reported that she had received 25-30 submissions from 8th graders for the NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing. The judges have finished and results have been sent to NCTE. The official post will appear on the web site. She announced that the next deadline for submissions will be January. Kaleen Knopp suggested KATE explore linking this award to *Younger Kansas Writers* submissions. Lori Goodson cautioned that we would need to explore conflicts with NCTE publications. Matt Copeland suggested that one solution might be delaying publishing winners' work for a year.

NCTE Literary Magazine Awards: Judy Beemer reported that she had asked Andy Anderson to send out a bulk e-mail asking for literary magazine submissions, but hadn't seen the e-mail. She has received two submissions; the deadline is June 30. Guidelines for submission are on the NCTE website. Ginny Beesley will include information about the award in the conference registration packet. Judy also suggested a display at the conference to generate interest for next year.

KATE Conference 2008: Ginny Beesley, conference chair, announced that author Sharon Draper and Patti Stock, past president of NCTE, will be speaking at the conference. Ginny had received a full slate of presentation proposals. She would like to have Writing Project readers at the Friday luncheon. Because she is concerned with the declining number of exhibitors, she is considering soliciting local businesses: bookstores, school supplies vendors. Steve Maack volunteered to ask Watermark books to attend. John Richie suggested soliciting technology vendors. Clark Coker suggested we ask them to do presentations as well. The MACE conference could give advice on how they handle problems such as Internet fees and supply names of vendors might be interested. Since 2/3 of the conference fees were generated by non-KATE members, Steve Maack asked if KATE should dramatically increase conference registration fees for non-members to encourage membership. Greg White added that principals would be encouraged to have their faculty join KATE as it would lower the costs for school districts that reimburse registration fees if their faculty were members. Clark said 196 registered for the conference last year. He reviewed numbers of non-members who had registered. Steve Maack moved that KATE raise the full conference registration fee for non-KATE members to \$125, the Thursday fee to \$90, and the Friday fee to \$75. The motion was seconded. Kaleen Knopp pointed out that the conference mailing should include verbiage explaining that KATE membership is an advantage when registering for the conference. Clark emphasized that it must be clear the conference registration fee is separate from \$25 membership fee. The motion was voted on and passed. Matt Copeland suggested we look at the effects of raising the registration fee for non-KATE members at the October board meeting. Ginny is concerned about the increasing costs of the Thursday evening event and is considering reducing the food. Steve Maack offered to get students to entertain for a nominal fee. Matt Copeland pointed out that entertainment should be background and not a distraction. Recorded music, a piano, and an open mic were suggested. Matt pointed out that often attendees prefer to eat out. Dana Waters suggested reducing food costs by continuing the cash bar at the Thursday evening reception but serving food only at the board meeting, since board members have no opportunity to have dinner. Joy Bunch said that in the past the reception had always been paid for by the book publishers. If KATE changes that practice, the letter to publishers needs to be revised to reflect the change. Kaleen suggested KATE credit the publishers in the conference catalogue. Clark Coker will work with Ginny to print name tags, folder labels, and meal tickets.

Award Nominations: Lori reported that KATE's selection for the NCTE Leadership Development award is Janea Brady from Wichita North, and the selection for the High School Teacher of Excellence award is

Judy Beemer of Junction City Senior High. Lori asked how the board could include more members in voting on the selections. The board discussed ways to encourage teachers to participate. Kaleen Knopp suggested the use of *KATE UpDate* to solicit competitors for the awards. Peggy Jewel suggested we use the Thursday reception at the conference to generate interest. The deadline for submitting nominees is May 1; KATE could collect names at the conference in October and make selections in February. Judy Beemer suggested putting forms in the conference folders. Lori Goodson volunteered to man a table at the Thursday reception to encourage members to nominate candidates. Lori pointed out that KATE should be nominating candidates for the NCTE Hoey and Halle awards as well. She suggested we explore doubling up on nominations. Matt said that KSDE is forming a new task force to publicize teaching awards and recognitions. Matt encouraged members to watch KSDE meetings streamed on the Internet. KATE award winners will be recognized at the conference. Joy Bunch suggested that we include tent brochures on the tables at the conference with "Did you know..." information about KATE. Ideas for information included board members' names and advantages of KATE membership.

Nominations: Andy Anderson sent a report on the nominations for board members. The following nominees had been contacted and agreed to serve if elected: Mimi Rainen, Shawnee Mission West; Debbi Lopez-Boren, Shawnee Mission Northwest; Christina Courtney, Blue Valley Middle School; Anne Bradford, Augusta High School; Judith Collins, Kansas State Salina; Keri Austin-Janousek, Lawrence Free State; Sara Dreisbach, Independence Community College; William Sewell, Ottawa High School; Matt Bova, Eudora High School. The board charged Andy to continue the nomination process and submit the complete ballot by e-mail.

Old Business: No old business was presented.

New Business: No new business was presented.

Adjournment: Matt Copeland moved the meeting adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 12:25.

Dana Waters, secretary