

K • A • T • E

Kansas Association of Teachers of English

KATE Executive Board Meeting Minutes
16 February 2008, 9:30 a.m.
Eisenhower Center, Abilene, KS

Members present

Andy Anderson, Tara Azwell, Ginny Beesley, Tara Baker, Judy Beemer, Janae Brady, Clark Coker, Vicki Cooper, Matt Copeland, Diana Costello, Lori Goodson, Candice Hill, Peggy Jewell, Elaine Klincik, Kaleen Knopp, Steve Maack, Phillip Marzluf, John Ritchie, Vicki Sherbert, Jane Wagner, Dana Waters, Greg White, and Terri Zimmer.

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

Tara Azwell moved the agenda be approved. The motion was seconded and passed.

Approval of Minutes

President Lori Goodson called for approval of the October 18th minutes. Jane Wagner asked that the minutes be corrected to reflect that she had used the KSDE teacher list instead of the Fort Hays data base. Matt Copeland moved the minutes be approved as corrected. The motion was seconded and passed.

Announcements

Matt Copeland welcomed the new board members. He passed around a list of mentor pairings for new board members. Tara Baker, Judy Beemer, Janae Brady, Joy Bunch, Vicki Cooper, Dianna Costello, Candice Hill, Phillip Marzluf, Suzy Oertel, Robyn Seglem, and Vicki Sherbert were paired with current board members.

Board members introduced themselves and described their professional assignments.

Reports

Treasurer's report: Clark Coker handed out the treasurer's report as of February 2008. The balance was reported as \$33,362.27. This balance did not include billing for *Kansas English* and a few miscellaneous bills. The Conference report included increases in food costs and fees for exhibits and room setup. Kaleen Knopp, conference chair for 2009, asked if sharing conference spaces with the College and University Librarians Section Conference, whose conference may run simultaneously with KATE's, would reduce expenses. Andy Anderson reported that room rates had increased as well. KATE is booked into the Marriott for four years but can cancel the booking at any time. The group discussed moving the conference to another center.

Marketing: Jane Wagner reported that the marketing committee will continue to contact English program graduates to offer KATE membership. Peggy Jewel is supplying names of English graduates from WSU. Jane asked that anyone who has a name for university contacts supply it to her. Lori suggested that because of FERPA it might be better to let the schools contact their students directly. Peggy reported that her students had signed releases. Lori suggested sending information to professors who direct the student teachers. Kaleen suggested the package of flyers be addressed to a specific person rather than a department.

Membership: Clark Coker reported that he and Andy Anderson were meeting to finalize the membership list to send to NCTE. He noted that we have many "members" who have not actually paid dues for membership. Clark will send out a letter reminding people to remit dues and asking for updated contact information. This will also serve to notify members of the membership chair change. Members who pay dues at the conference often do not update forms. Clark will do the mailing to home addresses this summer. Jane Wagner asked that Clark coordinate his list with hers so she can be most effective with the fall conference mailing. Matt suggested that Jane's mailing was to a different audience for a different purpose and they should not use the same list. Andy announced that he successfully cleaned up the e-mail list. He passed out the updated board membership list and asked that members note any corrections. Matt clarified that both Joy Bunch and Robin Seglem had been appointed to fill out existing terms; Andy noted the dates on his list. Diana Costello asked that her name be removed from the marketing committee.

KATE UpDate: Elaine Klincik reported that *KATE UpDate* will be mailed by the end of the week. Janae Brady had volunteered to help with the mailing. Elaine thanked KATE for new publishing software. She announced that even though this issue of *UpDate* is late, the editors of *Kansas English* and *Young Kansas Writers* would adhere to their March 1 deadlines. The next deadline for *KATE UpDate* is March 30.

Kansas English: Kami Day and Michele Eurodice sent a call for submission to *Kansas English*. The deadline is March 1. The theme of the issue will be Diversity in Kansas. They encouraged secondary teachers to submit their work. The most recent issue (91.2 Winter 2007) has been published. The editors sent a copy to Governor Kathleen Sibelius since the theme was "Made in Kansas." In addition, *Kansas English* will now be listed in the MLA Bibliography Index. Andy Anderson brought back issues which had been misprinted and copies of the current issue. Kaleen Knopp suggested members take copies to colleagues who need to publish, adding that *Kansas English* provided an opportunity to publish in a reputable, peer reviewed publication. Andy made new labels for EBSCO. To update KATE's library, Andy is seeking any extra copies of *Kansas English* from John Franklin's tenure as editor. He needs one of each issue.

Young Kansas Writers: Ginny Beesley reported that Linda Jones, Carlene Stueve, and Barbara Livengood are resigning as editors. They have been frustrated by a lack of submissions. *Young Kansas Writers* has had no submissions. Lori Goodson reported that she stopped submitting student work when the publication went to CD publishing. Matt Copeland reminded us that we moved from paper to CD publication because we could not support the expense of paper publication. He pointed out that *Young Kansas Writers* is now open to teachers who are not KATE members. Clark Coker suggested a more interactive web presence as a venue for publication. Steve Maack said that the Southwest Writing Project is publishing on blogs. He stated that it is so easy for students to publish on-line that students no longer are excited about being published in electronic format, and CD format is becoming obsolete. Clark pointed out that our goal is not an object but a means to recognize student writing. John Ritchie suggested we talk to Robin Seglem about a KATE Wiki site that would be more interactive. Teachers could take their students to the site. Kaleen Knopp pointed out that the competitive aspect would be appealing to students. Greg White added that such a format would also relieve the teacher from being in the mix. Steve Maack moved to suspend the publication of *Young Kansas Writers* until we could explore other means of on-line publication. The motion was seconded and passed. Ginny Beesley suggested that the three current editors be put on a committee to explore ways of re-envisioning the journal. The committee will be Annie Heidersbach (chair), Linda Jones, Carlene Stueve, Barbara Livengood, Robin Seglem, Lori Goodson, and Phil Marzluf. Andy pointed out that we will need to address Constitutional issues that define publication dates. Steve Maack emphasized that the No Child Left Behind Act has impacted the lack of creative work coming out of English classes, even in honors classes. Clark Coker pointed out that checks will be issued to the three editors for this year's work. He will contact Carlene Stueve about KATE's CD burner.

William Allen White Award: Diana Costello reported that she had completed the January 15 recommendations and had begun reading the next list. She said the position is a good fit with her job as grade school librarian.

SLATE: Steve Maack reported that he had received no reports or official concerns.

NCTE Liaison: Andy Anderson reported that he had attended the NCTE Board meeting in New York and it was brief. The only resolution brought forward was to support teachers of gay lesbian students. TYCA is addressing the issue of dual credit, and Andy is chairing the committee to develop a position. This grew out of the KATE position on dual credit. The statement will probably be formatted as a best practices statement. He is also on the committee to honor the anniversary of NCTE. Andy will be working on information about Edwin Hopkins.

Promising Young Writers: Lori Goodson had received about thirteen entries for the 8th grade award which she will be forwarding to the judges. Kaleen Knopp asked if there might be a link between entries for this award and *Young Kansas Writers*. Lori said the only entries typically come from Johnson County. Andy said that that material might be what we should be publishing.

NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing: John Richie reported that the number of NCTE Achievement Award entries have remained stable. He reported that everything is in place, but he will not receive entries until late March as the deadline is later than Promising Young Writers.

The Achievement Awards in Writing are for eleventh graders. Submitting teachers must be NCTE members, but member teachers can submit work from students who are not their own students. Matt Copeland pointed out that at the high school level submissions are often made by the English Department. NCTE sends out flyers soliciting submissions.

NCTE Literary Magazine Awards: Judy Beemer has received no submissions for the NCTE Literary Magazine Awards.

KATE Conference 2008: Ginny Beesley reported that she has contacted Sharon Draper to speak at the KATE conference in October. She is negotiating Draper's fee. Ginny has also contacted Monte Selby. Ginny will talk to Steve Maack about the possibility of sharing costs for Draper with the Wichita schools. Steve reported that Sherman Alexie will be coming to Wichita schools in the fall, and he suggested Ginny explore having Alexie if the dates coincide. Jerry Johns has also committed to speak at the conference. Clark Coker asked if Ginny anticipated any increase in conference registration fees and meals because of the nationally known speakers. Andy Anderson moved that we raise the meal fees for the conference from \$18 to \$20. The motion was seconded. Lori pointed out that the Marriott may charge KATE more for meals, as well. Jane Wagner asked if people would be allowed to come attend after the meal to hear the speaker at a reduced fee. Matt Copeland questioned how effectively we could control admissions. Clark reported that 130 attended the Thursday luncheon and 100 attended the Friday luncheon at the 2007 conference. He suggested that to reduce conference costs, we cut entertainment for the Thursday evening reception or increase publishers' table fees. Steve Maack said the Wichita schools have some good student string quartets that might entertain at less expense. Clark suggested we solicit on-line tutoring services both for presentations and for exhibitors' tables. The motion to increase the meal fees from \$18 to \$20 was voted on and passed.

Nominations: Annie Heidersbach sent no report on nominations.

Old Business

Andy Anderson reported he had researched web site name availability for the KATE web site and decided on <KATEonline.org>. The cost for the name was \$7.19. Andy has kept the web page simple so he can update it quickly. He is still working on adding the KATE forms. Andy pointed out the KATE website links to literary maps. Steve Maack asked if we could add a link to a blog site or an internal page for publishing student work on the KATE website. Privacy issues regarding publishing student work with the students' names were discussed. Steve suggested on the publication form we include parental consent forms for publishing names. Lori Goodson suggested we contact other state affiliates and see how they have handled student privacy. She suggested we table the discussion of using the KATE website to recognize student work until the June meeting. She emphasized that it is important for KATE to recognize student writing by taking the submissions for the NCTE awards to the publishing level. A committee of Annie Heidersbach (chair), Linda Jones, Carlene Stueve, Barbara Livengood, Robin Seglem, Lori Goodson, and Phil Marzluf will explore ways to recognize and publish student writing. Matt Copeland called for the committee to first establish the purpose of KATE publications, whether it be to honor student writing, to put students' writing in the students' hands, or to market KATE. Andy reminded us that in the past we were unable to honor writing award winners at the conference because NCTE announced winners following the conference dates.

New Business

Steve Maack reported that Wichita High School East's Poetry Out Loud competition had eight readers and the regional will be held next Saturday. Ginny Beesley reported that Western Kansas had their regional last week. All her Quinter High School students had presented poems to a school assembly.

Diana Costello moved that letters be sent to the *Young Kansas Writers* editors thanking them for their efforts, notifying them of the suspension of *Young Kansas Writers* and of the committee to re-envision ways to publish student writing. The motion was seconded and passed. As senior past president, Annie Heidersbach will send commendation letters to the past editors.

Kaleen Knopp announced that the date of the 2009 Conference will be October 21 and 22.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 11:40.

Dana Waters, secretary