

K • A • T • E

Kansas Association of Teachers of English

KATE Executive Board Meeting Minutes

22 October 2009

Marriott Hotel, Wichita, KS

Members present

Andy Anderson, Tara Baker, Ginny Beesley, Matt Bova, Ann Bradford, Joy Bunch, Clark Coker, Judy Collins, Vicky Cooper, Matt Copeland, Diana Costello, Sara Driesbach, Genesis Ferch, Deborah Holloway, Clark Killion, Elaine Klincik, Kaleen Knopp, Deb Kohn, Phillip Marzluf, Mimi Rainen, Paula Ripple, Will Sewell, Vicki Sherbert, Robin Sides, Carl Singleton, Jane Wagner, Dana Waters, Terri Zimmer.

Call to order

President Ginny Beesley called the meeting to order at 6:45. Members introduced themselves and stated their schools. Kaleen Knopp asked for applause for Joy Bunch, vendor coordinator; Andy Anderson, web master; Elaine Klincik and Deb Koehn, decorations; Vicky Cooper, design of graphic; and Clark Coker for registration and conference treasure work.

Approval of agenda

Ginny added two items to the agenda: a KSBE report by Matt Copeland and a New Business item of conference dates. Elaine Klincik moved the agenda be approved. The motion was seconded and passed.

Approval of minutes

Phillip Marzluf moved the minutes of the June 13, 2009, meeting be approved. The motion was seconded and passed.

Announcements

There were no announcements. Conference chair Kaleen Knopp received a round of applause for the conference.

Reports

Treasurer: Clark Coker called attention to the Conference Report. Registrations numbered 153, many for only Thursday to hear Billie Collins. Income for the conference stood at \$11,465. Most expenses were still outstanding, but Clark estimated the income would balance the expenses. Kaleen Knopp reported that Billy Collin's normal fee is \$15000. He had reduced his fee to \$10000 for coming to Kansas State University and the KATE conference, of which KATE paid \$3600. The October Treasurer's Report showed a balance of \$36,252.35, with most bills outstanding. Clark

asked that the membership form to be posted on the website and that registrants not use old forms with incorrect fees.

Marketing: Jane Waggoner reported that 1300 flyers had been sent to solicit membership, and that most of the new members had received flyers. Fort Hays State University will be billing KATE for flyers. Jane expressed a desire to pass her chairmanship on to someone else. She reviewed what she does, explaining that most of the work falls in August, the biggest part being pulling together the mailing list. Jane agreed to retain her position for one more year and work with her replacement. Matt Copeland reported that the state database is updated through August. He volunteered to help the Marketing Chair navigate the KSDE website and databases. Ginny pointed out that this is an opportunity for our newest members to get involved.

KATE Update: Elaine Klincik reported that she would like to be replaced as editor but would continue until a new editor was found. Ginny asked that members be more forthcoming with articles to be published in *Update*. Kaleen added that a lack of articles is what continually pushed the *Update* behind deadline. The Board will explore ways to generate material for *Update* more easily. Kaleen suggested a forum with a question that each member would respond to with a paragraph. She noted that the conference presenters could be contacted with an e-mail complimenting them on their presentation and asking them to write an article for a publication. Elaine passed a sheet soliciting articles; the next deadline is November 13. Ginny will forward a Board e-mail list to Elaine for soliciting articles. Clark Killion pointed out that the Yahoo site he had set up when he was president was still available. Elaine asked how many were members of the Facebook KATE group. Elaine will move the August 15 preconference issue to July 31. The issue will then be at schools when they begin so teachers can apply for funds to attend the conference. The conference registration form will be included in the June issue. Elaine pointed out that she gets a lot of returned mail from incorrect addresses. She reported that she sends *Update* to members from the previous two years with a sticker saying "Your membership has lapsed."

Kansas English: Will Sewell reported that the *Kansas English* submissions will be submitted to the g-mail account and then be peer reviewed. Matt Bova forwards blind copies to the other editors, then handles correspondence with submitters. All editors now have assigned duties and are now able to process submissions fairly quickly. They are receiving out of state submissions and encouraged members to submit.

Young Kansas Writers: Robin Sides reported that she had heard nothing from committee chair Annie Heidersbach so no progress had been made to determine how to publish *Young Kansas Writers*. Ginny reviewed that a committee of Annie, Robin Sides, and Robyn Seglum (who has resigned and moved) was formed at the last October Board meeting and charged to report at the February meeting recommendations on how to handle the publication. The committee was reformed with Jane Wagner, chair, Robin Sides, and Genesis Ferch. They will prepare a report for the February meeting. Judith Collins volunteered to arrange support for the publication through K-State. Elaine suggested exploring NCTE's National Gallery as a model for publishing students writing. Phillip Marzluf will forward last year's survey results to the committee.

William Allen White Award: Diana Costello submitted her resignation as William Allen White Award representative. She reported that she had enjoyed the work but she could not longer devote the time to reading because of a change in her job. Committee members must read two or more books per week until January; then they begin to read nominees. They must read approximately 80 books

from June to September. She encouraged all teachers to go to the William Allen White website and read the books. By June librarians can get the nominated books quickly and easily. Tara Baker was appointed to the position.

SLATE: Steve Maack sent a report that there were no issues at present.

NCTE Liaison: Andy Anderson reported that KATE had not submitted any names for the NCTE Leadership Development award and the NCTE Edwin A. Hoey Outstanding Educator award. He suggested we initiate a formal process for selecting nominees and go through the conference forms at the January meeting. Kaleen suggested we announce remind attendees of the nomination forms in their packets at the Friday luncheon; then a peer review board meet to review the applicants and make recommendations at the January meeting. Matt Copeland suggested observing for possible nominees at breakout sessions. Nomination forms should go to Andy Anderson. Andy will then work with the peer review volunteers to bring recommendations to the January meeting. Andy will attend the NCTE conference in November.

NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing: John Ritchie will report at the February meeting. The deadline for 8th grade submissions is February. Kaleen will check with John Richie about the presentation of the winners on the State Capitol steps

NCTE Literary Magazines: Judy Beemer sent a report that Olatha's literary magazine was recognized as one of the top in the nation.

Conference 2009: Kaleen Knopp, conference chair, reported that the conference was going well. She had heard of many teachers who had not been able to attend because of cuts in district funding.

Board nominations: Andy reported that the slate of nominations was accepted. New board members are Bryan Anderson, Washburn Rural High School; Nick Bowling, Washburn Rural High School; Curtis Chandler, Wamego Middle School; Shawn Denton, Ottawa High School; Annie Heidersbach, Shawnee Mission West High School; Kara Huck, Dodge City High School; Clark Killion, Dodge City Community College; Roseann LaBarge, Wheatland High School; Mary Schmutz, Junction City Middle School; and Rachel Buckley Smith, Baldwin High School. John Ritchie, Washburn Rural High School was elected second vice president. The election was delayed because of the need for a tenth candidate. The senior past president is charged with the responsibility of gathering ballots, contacting the nominees, and seeing to the election. Kaleen said that we need to abide by the Constitution so that we are not late with these deadlines. Lori Goodson, as senior past president, will contact the new members. Sarah Drysbach is moving and has resigned from the board. President Ginny Beesley appointed RuthAnn Harris to fill the vacated position. Board nominees must be or become NCTE and KATE members.

Scholarship fund: Phillip Marzluf reported on the scholarship fund, which has not been used for 20 years. Phillip proposed either developing a process for applying for this scholarship or suspending the scholarship and putting the money into the general fund. Andy Anderson said that there is a form that was adopted for applying and criteria is set on the form. Ginny asked Phillip to write an article for Update and find the form. Clark Coker reported that \$1 of each membership goes into the fund; presently there is around \$1500 in the fund. KATE has around ninety paid memberships. After some discussion of how the fund could be used, Andy volunteered to report at the February meeting.

Andy pointed out that the KATE Outstanding Teacher award receives no nominations and the Board needs to examine that as well. Kaleen suggested when members see an outstanding practice in a breakout session, they nominate that teacher. Ginny charged board members to nominate for the awards. Clark Killion suggested sending to school principals the awards information. Perhaps award winning can be as a PR value to get administrators to let teachers attend the conference. Matt Copeland pointed out that we have a membership of 90 and 50 of the members are on the board, yet board members are ineligible. Matt Copeland moved that in the event there are no non-board members nominated, board members can nominate themselves or other board members. The motion was seconded. The deadline for nominations is May 1st. Andy Anderson pointed out that some of the awards require an application process we may need to rethink. Paula Ripple pointed out that if the committee saw four good conference presentations and asked the presenters to apply, that would create a pool of nominees. Ginny called for the vote. The motion failed. Matt Copeland pointed out that the person who won the Best Teaching Practices award has traditionally been the NCTE Teaching Excellence award nominee. William Sewell moved that a committee be formed to examine the Outstanding Teaching Practices Award and bring a proposal to the February meeting. Motion was seconded. William Sewell, Matt Copeland, Tara Baker, and Andy Anderson will serve on the committee.

Conference 2010: Phillip Marzluf, 2010 conference chair, announced October 7 & 8 as the conference dates. He asked for proposals. Matt Sewell asked if KATE could set up a NING on the website.

KSDE: Matt Copeland reported that personnel changes at KSDE. He predicted the state budget shortfalls will be worse next year. This year recorded a \$157 million shortfall; K12 education is 1/3 of the budget. Matt recommended that we keep this in mind for next year's conference. Often professional development funds are the first cut from a district's budget. The state has absorbed 3300 teaching positions in the last year. Matt reported on the Common Core State Standards Initiative to create common core standards. All states with the exception of Texas and Alaska have joined the initiative, working with SAT, the College Board, and Achieve, Inc. The standards draft will be finalized in December. Kansas will align to or adopt the common course standards. Matt recommended looking at the draft in anticipation of another window for feedback opening. Changes to Language Arts are not drastic. The biggest change is that narrative writing is ignored. NCTE's website has detailed reporting on the "College and Career Readiness Standards" link. Matt clarified that the initiative is defining standards, not curriculum.

Old Business

Ginny reopened the discussion tabled in June about publishing formats. Points of discussion were as follows:

- many younger teachers do almost all reading on-line
- all conference material is online but no one registers until they get paper copies; conference information should be distributed in both formats
- electronic overloaded results in people just hitting delete
- a publication committee needs to review data we have collected
- administrators would not consider Facebook professional
- we need to be mindful of audience

Will Sewell moved that we publish both print and electronic *KATE Update*. The motion was not seconded. Elaine Klincik suggested a committee explore this issue. The format she uses would need to be changed for electronic publication. Ginny appointed a committee of Elaine Klincik (chair), Clark Coker, Kaleen Knopp, and Ginny Beesley to explore the issue. They will have a formal proposal for the February meeting.

New business

Ginny raised the issue of changing the number of conference days. One possibility is a Friday only conference. Diana Costello reported that her table had favored a one day conference. Clark Killion said that another possibility would be to have a Sunday afternoon board meeting and the conference on Monday. Matt Copeland said that stripping the conference to one day would not leave time to process. Kaleen Knopp pointed out that the reason we can schedule the Marriott is that we have an overnight conference. Joy Bunch pointed out that we should be gearing up for our centennial year after next. Clark Coker advised we see what the money and numbers look like in February. Matt Bova suggested that if the numbers support bringing in a high profile speaker we should consider that again next year.

Kaleen announced that the next meeting date is February 20 in Abilene. The venue will be announced. Inclement weather day will be February 27. The June meeting date will be June 12.

Adjournment

Clark Coker thanked Ginny Beesley for a good year and moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:40.

Dana Waters, secretary