

# K • A • T • E

## *Kansas Association of Teachers of English*

KATE Executive Board Meeting Minutes  
7 February 2009  
Eisenhower Library, Abilene, KS

### **Members present**

Andy Anderson, Ginny Beesley, Judy Beemer, Matt Bova, Ann Bradford, Joy Bunch, Judy Collins, Matt Copeland, Vicki Cooper, Annie Heidersbach, Deborah Holloway, Kaleen Knopp, Phillip Marzluf, Suzy Oertel, Mimi Rainen, Paula Ripple, John Ritchie, Vicki Sherbert, Robin Sides, Jane Wagner, Dana Waters, Terri Zimmer.

### **Call to order**

President Ginny Beesley called the meeting to order at 9:30. Members introduced themselves and stated where they teach. Ginny asked members to sign in, pick up handouts, and make lunch selections.

### **Approval of agenda**

Kaleen Knopp moved the agenda be approved. The motion was seconded and passed.

### **Approval of minutes**

Kaleen Knopp moved to approve the minutes of the October 30, 2008, meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

### **Announcements**

Ginny announced a tentative date of April 17 for the "Words Up" writing workshop in Quinter, Kansas, at the J. Johnson Library. The day long writing workshop, from 9:00 to 3:00, is modeled on summer workshops for the Writing Project. The workshop will accommodate 25 students and cost around \$20. Members should contact Ginny Beesley for information.

John Ritchie announced that KATE now has a Facebook account. Access is routed through John. Members should type in KATE for access. Board members are listed as friends.

Matt Copeland announced that we would be continuing the mentorship program. He called our attention to a list of new members and their mentors. Mentee/ mentor pairings are Keri Austin-Janousek/ Robin Sides; Matt Bova/ Matt Copeland; Ann Bradford/ Judy Beemer; Judith Collins/ Kaleen Knopp; Christina Courtney/ Robyn Seglem; Sara Dreisbach/ Andy Anderson; Deborah Holloway/ Lori Goodson; Debbi Lopez-Boren/ Lori Goodson; Mimi Rainen/ Joy Bunch; William Sewell/ Matt Copeland, respectively.

Matt announced that KSBE is reviewing language arts standards. The reading committee has been formed. The writing standards committee will be formed this spring. The process of

standards review has been changed; three committees will now review each standard. The integration of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and technical standards won't change assessments until 2012. The assessment instruments will probably move away from multiple-choice. Matt asked those interested in reviewing standards for writing to contact him. Reviewers will attend one meeting a month beginning in the fall. Expenses for travel and lodging will be covered; no stipend will be paid. Matt also asked for volunteers to serve as readers of state assessments in August and October. Expenses for travel, lodging and a \$100 stipend will be paid. Matt asked for volunteers to help create instructional materials modeling how teachers address the standards in their classrooms. K-State will film the teacher's class and the film will be posted on the KSDE website as an example of what teachers are doing to address standards. The filming must be complete by May 1. Matt will have more specific information next week for those interested.

## Reports

**Treasurer:** Ginny reviewed the treasurer's reports for Clark Coker. The tentative year to date balances showed \$24,632 income, \$21,891 expenses, and a total balance of \$30,692.45. The Fall Conference lost \$1,671.77, with \$19,365 income and \$21,036 expenses. The loss occurred partly because of higher speaker expenses and partly because of increased hotel costs.

**Marketing:** Jane Wagner reported that there is a new form posted on the website for members to download and use for publicity. Jane reported that it has become increasingly difficult to contact English majors at the universities because of privacy laws and she asked for contacts who might provide names. Jane will send membership flyers to university English departments to target English majors and will include Community Colleges to target faculty members. Mimi Rainen suggested cooperating teachers serve as contacts for student teachers and supervisors. Kaleen suggested we use the Facebook account to solicit new members. Jane will work with John to utilize this resource. Jane asked for another board member to write the copy for the marketing letter to provide a different voice. Ginny Beesley volunteered. Joy Bunch suggested we examine how cuts in professional development funds can be countered with marketing strategies. This discussion will be put on the next meeting agenda.

**KATE UpDate:** Ginny announced that the next deadline is March 15. Kaleen Knopp suggested members write a little blurb about what they learned at the conference that they use in their classrooms. Ginny asked that we complete the agenda by 11:30 and take a few minutes to write blurbs before we break for lunch. Jon Ritchie will write an article about KATE's new Facebook account. Kaleen reported that she and Ginny Beesley had attended the conference in Milwaukee. They had written for 5 minutes on "Why I chose to become an English teacher." She suggested publishing something similar, perhaps in a series. Matt Bova suggested we publish some writing done in break-out sessions at the conference. John Ritchie suggested a drop box at the conference for short pieces about the conference to be published in *UpDate*. Joy Bunch suggested publishing articles reporting on Poetry Out Loud.

**Kansas English:** Matt Copeland reported that the current issue of *Kansas English* will be in the mail within the next week. Matt, William Sewell, Matt Bova, and Andy Anderson will assume co-editorship for the subsequent issues. Matt called our attention to a handout suggesting writing topics for the theme "Creativity and the Teacher" for *Kansas English*. *Kansas English* will become a peer reviewed journal. The deadline for submissions for the next issue is March 1. He asked that members inform colleagues and invite them to submit.

**Young Kansas Writers:** Annie Heidersbach reported that the committee members charged with reworking *Young Kansas Writers* need to communicate further. The committee will meet

during the committee time following the board meeting, and Annie will have more to report at the June meeting. The committee is still planning to publish in 2010. Annie had not contacted Carlene Stueve about relocating the CD burner with the new editors.

**William Allen White award:** Ginny will ask Diana Costello to write a report for *KATE UpDate* about the award.

**SLATE:** Board members reported that Blue Valley West is once again dealing with censorship issues. They will alert SLATE representative Steve Maack.

**NCTE Achievement Awards:** John Ritchie thanked Matt Copeland for helping contact teachers across the state about submissions for the NCTE Achievement awards. John suggested we publicize the awards more at the conference with pictures of the winners on the state capitol steps with their legislative representatives. He asked that we contact legislators about winners in their district. KATE's winners are selected in August but won't be announced by NCTE until October. John will be ready to move immediately so we are ready to recognize the winners at the Fall Conference. John asked if there would be funds for travel expenses for winners. Jane Wagner suggested asking organizations such as KNEA, AAUW, PEO, or PTA, to support the students by paying expenses. Kaleen Knopp reminded us that T.A. Barron had spoken with the writing winners and their parents at a conference break-out session. She will work with our keynote speaker to speak with the winners. Matt Copeland reported that NCTE has initiated a "National Day on Writing" on October 20, the day before our conference. He suggested we use that resource in conjunction with our conference.

**NCTE Liaison:** Andy Anderson reported that NCTE's "National Day on Writing" will have teachers from all disciplines write; the writing will be displayed publically to demonstrate that writing goes on in all disciplines all the time. Andy encouraged members to visit NCTE's homepage where a link ties into NCTE's centennial celebration. A wealth of interesting documents traces the history and importance of NCTE. For example, one presenter traced the history of war in NCTE journals. The history underscores the impact of NCTE over the last 100 years. Andy reminded us that Edwin Hopkins formed KATE in 1912 when he returned from the meeting that chartered NCTE, and that Kansas was a founding member of NCTE.

**NCTE Literary Magazines:** Judy Beemer reported that we had 12 entries; 3 were sent to NCTE. She asked for recommendations for judges.

**Conference 2009:** Kaleen Knopp distributed forms for presentations as asked that members distribute them to their colleagues. Kaleen noted that in many districts and colleges, all travel funds and professional development funds have been cut from budgets. She asked if KATE should postpone the conference. Members strongly felt that we should continue; the Conference is our best membership benefit. A show of hands confirmed overwhelming support for continuing the Fall Conference. Kaleen emphasized that we must urge our colleagues to attend and find creative ways to share expenses. Annie Heidersbach will write an article for *KATE UpDate* and the conference mailing on creative ways to finance conference attendance. Kaleen reported that she had contacted Billy Collins and is negotiating with him over his fee. She is writing a grant to partially fund his fee through K-State as a distinguished lecturer. The board discussed times Collins might read and charges for admittance. Paula Ripple moved that KATE authorize \$3,500 for Billy Collins' speaker fee, to be revised up to \$5000 if necessary. The motion was seconded and passed. Kaleen asked that KATE members thank K-State and the Manhattan merchants for their financial support for Billy Collins' fees. Kaleen will invite the Writing Project authors to read at the Friday luncheon. Joy Bunch will contact Karyn Miriam-

Goldberg, poet laureate of Kansas. Matt Copeland will speak on KSDE updates. Andy Anderson reported that he has negotiated a special rate for internet use for the next conference. Kaleen asked if we could link the KATE Facebook page to Billy Collins' YouTube. Kaleen asked for the board members' opinions of artwork for the program and website.

**Board nominations:** Matt Copeland called attention to the draft of the board ballot. All listings had been confirmed with the nominees. Matt asked that we increase the ballot listings to make it a truly democratic election by e-mail ballot.

**NCTE Award nominations:** Ginny reminded members that the deadline for nominations is May 1. The forms are on the NCTE website.

### **Old Business**

Ginny raised the issue of financial support to cover travel expenses of KATE's nominees for awards. Paula Ripple read the travel policy from the KATE Constitution. Matt pointed out that the wording may not cover the Leadership Award expenses, and that NCTE Teacher of Excellence award winners were reimbursed through a motion. Members discussed how to add a provision to the Constitution for these expenses. Paula Ripple moved that the following wording be added to Policies and Procedures, Article 4.B.2: "NCTE Leadership Development Award recipient and NCTE Teacher of Excellence Award recipient." Motion was seconded and passed.

### **New business**

Kaleen Knopp suggested that e-mail reminders for Board meetings include a directive to review the minutes and other relevant documents on the KATE website before the meetings.

Ginny reported that Lori Goodson had received a request from elementary school teachers to create a membership option for them of one membership fee that would include several state organizations for multiple content areas, such as English, math and reading. Ginny will suggest that the presidents of the content organizations write a joint proposal specifically addressing that option.

Ginny announced that the June meeting will be June 13, 2009 (alternate date June 20).

Ginny announced that following lunch, these committees will return to the Eisenhower Library for meetings: *Young Kansas Writers*, 2009 Conference, Marketing.

### **Adjournment**

Jane Wagner moved the meeting adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 12:00

Dana Waters, secretary  
(corrected 13 June 2009)