

K • A • T • E

Kansas Association of Teachers of English

KATE Executive Board Meeting Minutes
19 February 2011
Eisenhower Library, Abilene, KS

Members present

Montika Allen-Atkinson, Andy Anderson, Bryan Anderson, Virginia Beesley, Matt Bova, Ann Bradford, Heather Caswell, Curtis Chandler, Clark Coker, Vicky Cooper, Jeremy Gibson, Denise Gilligan, Debbie Holloway, Clark Killion, Steve Maack, Penny Macumber, Eileen Montalvo, Phillip Marzluf, Suzy Oertel, Mimi Rainen, John Ritchie, Jeff Roper, Heidi Stohs, Carlene Stueve, Jane Wagner, Dana Waters, and guest Joy Bunch.

Call to order

President Phillip Marzluf called the meeting to order. He welcomed members and asked that they introduce themselves. Phillip handed out a roster of board members. Ginny Beesley will check attendance compliance with the policy.

Approval of agenda

Phillip Marzluf made the following changes to the agenda: Under New Business, Clark Coker requested the addition of discussion about the mailing lists for our publications and establishment of a standard contract for conference speakers, and Phillip removed discussion of the Heartland Award. Ginny Beesley moved the agenda be approved. The motion was seconded. The agenda was approved.

Approval of minutes

Clark Killion moved the minutes from the October 7, 2010, meeting be approved. The motion was seconded and passed.

Announcements

Phillip congratulated Curtis Chandler on being named Kansas Teacher of the Year.

Kaleen Knopp, Deb Kohn, Mary Smutz, Kara Huck, and Kevin Heinholt had notified Phillip they were unable to attend.

Phillip announced that he would be unable to attend the June meeting. Vice President John Ritchie will chair the meeting. The June meeting date will be June 18.

Phillip distributed the KATE calendar with all dates, including the awards deadlines.

Reports

Treasurer: Clark Coker reported that the conference struck a profit of \$2112. There were 129 attendees, continuing the downward trend from 153 in 2009, 178 in 2008, and 197 in 2007. Clark cited the general state of the economy and the earlier date in October as contributing factors. The Treasurer's Report recorded an income of \$20,588 and expenses of \$17,945, with a few bills outstanding; the balance of accounts is \$27,809.03. Clark announced that this year through the

conference will be the last year of his tenure. Phillip suggested a new treasurer shadow Clark at the fall conference. Clark's replacement will be discussed at the June meeting. Phillip pointed out that the proposed amendments to the constitution will reflect that our officers often serve in longer than 2 year cycles.

Membership: Clark Coker reported that he had updated the membership list, sending out e-mails asking people to confirm their membership and deleting those who said they weren't interested. He had deleted 280 members, but had kept a notebook of all old lists of members. Membership now stands at 98, down from 132 last year, and 159 in 2007-08. Clark's resignation would also include resigning his position as Membership Chair.

Marketing: Deb Kohn was absent. Jane Wagner reported that in her district, all requisitions for funds for next year must be submitted by this April. Other districts were also requiring early requisitions for next year. Jane asked that all conference fees for next fall be set and posted before April to allow for early requisitions. Andy Anderson will put the 2011 Conference registration form on the KATE website. Fees for the conference will remain the same.

KATE Update: Suzy Oertel reported that the post conference *KATE Update* has been mailed. The next issue will be published in March. Suzy passed a list for volunteer articles. John Ritchie will send her conference articles. Suzy noted that the pre-conference issue will be hard-copy.

Kansas English: Matt Bova reported that Will Sewell has resigned as co-editor. He will continue to act as reviewer and will submit copy. The 110 copies of the assessment issue were mailed to paid KATE members a month ago and the issue is also on-line. He reported that the issue had been well received. Matt had retained 40 issues to cover KATE's obligations to libraries. The cost for printing and mailing was \$1400. Matt had subcontracted layout and cover design to Dan Royer for \$250. Matt created a *Kansas English* website that can contain a list of who should receive the journal, hold journal archives, and list library and publishing policies. Andy Anderson had linked the *Kansas English* website to KATE's website. Matt is working to develop a model that will let one editor control all the variables. He would like to eliminate some of the variation in content and develop a regular feature format with a good blend. Matt reported that the biggest challenge is getting material. Steve Maack pointed out that in order to know how to submit to *Kansas English*, one must have a journal in one's hand; publishing information needs to be on the website. Matt hopes *Kansas English* will gain its own momentum. He recommended getting journals out in the public where people see them and pick them up. Matt announced the submission deadline for next issue is April 1. Andy is completing a list of volumes and issues to regularize the numbering. He will put the list on the website for library use.

To contain costs, Matt suggested we consider publishing only one edition per year. Phillip said the KATE Constitution requires only that we publish, and he suggested that to drive down the costs, we put the issue in the conference folder. Carlene Stueve pointed out that members who can't attend the conference must still receive their journals. She said she had not received her copy of *Kansas English*. Clark Coker said the membership list changes as memberships come in sporadically throughout the year. He will notify Matt as memberships are received to alleviate the problem. Andy Anderson announced that the creativity issue is ready to go to press, but it should have been published 4-6 months ago. He asked what volume and issue number should be on it. Matt announced that Andy and he will discuss the issue in the small group session following the meeting.

Young/Younger Kansas Writers: Carlene Stueve reviewed the history of the journals on CD. She had produced 3 or 4 electronic copies and had received 800-1000 submissions for each. Andy Anderson pointed out that only 8-12 schools were submitting, and that many teachers submitted work through the one teacher in the school who was a KATE member. Clark Coker noted that KATE has no institutional memberships. Carlene recalled that we had moved to electronic publication because publishing costs were prohibitive--\$1500 per publication. Phillip Marzluff recalled that he had conducted a survey and found that teachers wanted a hard copy of the journal. He reminded the board that one of KATE's mission statements calls for serving as a venue for student publication. Members discussed the advantages publishing the journals provides for soliciting memberships, and

the disadvantage of publishing on-line for free access. Curtis Chandler said that ways to increase membership can't be finance based; the appeal is networking with other English teachers. Denise Gilligan said attending the conference, being involved, and getting resources had convinced her to be a member.

Jane Wagner volunteered to take the editorship of *Young Kansas Writers*. Jeremy Gibson and Montika Allen-Atkinson volunteered to help. In the small group session following the meeting, the group will discuss costs, distribution, and deadlines and report at the June meeting for a final decision.

William Allen White award: Phillip reported that Ann Phillips had read nearly 100 titles and the selections are due in April. Ann suggested KATE invite Wichita's Clair Vanderpool, the Newberry Medal winner for *Moon over Manifest*, to participate in the KATE conference.

SLATE: Steve Maack reported there is less censorship pressure since attention has turned to the budget crisis. He reminded the board that he can recommend NCTE resources for those who need them. Steve mentioned the flurry over the new replacement version of *The Adventures of Huckelberry Finn* and suggested those who teach it bring up the controversy for discussion. Steve will send a reminder to everyone about Banned Books week.

Steve asked NCTE Liaison Andy Anderson to find out if NCTE has a position statement on collective bargaining organizations. He suggested that maybe it is incumbent on KATE to take a position on that. He encouraged us to become active with our legislators. Poetry Out Loud will be affected if arts budgets are cut. Steve reminded us not to correspond with legislators from district e-mails or school phones. KNEA has an e-mail legislative update and links to contacts, and KNEA membership is not necessary to access it. Joy Bunch reminded us that Debbie Holloway is running for a national position from KNEA.

NCTE Liaison: Andy Anderson reported that NCTE had added two new resolutions that appear on its website, one asking for inclusion in decision making; the other to teach inclusion and social justice, with equitable school opportunities. NCTE discussion included whether or not NCTE should actually oppose core standards. Andy explained the difference between a "sense of the house" (only those members present at the meeting) and an official resolution, representing the entire membership. Andy reminded us that to be a KATE board member, we are required to be members of NCTE as well as KATE.

NCTE Writing Awards: John Ritchie reported that he is in charge of 11th grade awards. He has received 29 submissions. John will ask Jeremy Gibson and Ginny Beesley to judge entries. Lori Goodson has been responsible for the NCTE Promising Young Writers award for 8th graders.

NCTE Literary Magazines: Phillip had received no report from Annie Flurry. Judy Beemer's report can be found on the website.

Teaching Awards: Mimi Rainen reported that in the past, nominations for awards has been a problem. In an effort to address this, Mimi, Vicki Cooper, and Kara Huck attended conference sessions to solicit nominees.

- **Halle Award (Middle School):** Deadline is June 1
- **Hoey Award:** Curtis Chandler has been nominated for this award..
- **NCTE Secondary Section High School Teacher of Excellence:** Deadline is May 1
- **NCTE Leadership Development Award:** This award is currently unfunded by NCTE.

Mimi will send an article to *KATE Update*. Mimi, Vicki, and Kara will continue to attend conference presentations and encourage presenters to apply for these awards.

KATE Best Teaching Practices Awards: Currently four KATE Best Teaching Practices awards are to be awarded, two for each level. Clark Coker cautioned that we need to look at the affect on the budget if we award these. The awards subcommittee will meet to discuss this in the small group session following the meeting with the goal of developing a more feasible allotment for this award. The deadline for nominations is before the June meeting.

Conference 2011: John Ritchie reported that the Centennial Conference will focus on celebrating the best of the past and looking forward to the future. Kansas Teacher of the Year Curtis Chandler will keynote Thursday morning. Jay Asher, author of *13 Reasons Why*, will be the Thursday luncheon speaker and will do a breakout and autograph session as well. The Friday luncheon will present readings by National Writing Project writers. John passed out Call for Proposals and suggested revisions for Friday's schedule.

New Business

Clark Coker asked that *Kansas English* be sent only to paid members. He will contact the editor as soon as dues are paid. Suzy Ortel pointed out that *KATE Update* is published electronically and should reach as many people as possible. Andy Anderson suggested that the *Update* and even the hard copy for conference is a good advertising tool and should be distributed to as many people as possible. Carlene Stueve suggested that all members forward the on-line version of *KATE Update* to colleagues who might join and to administrators.

Clark Coker asked for the agenda item of a standardized contract for speakers be moved to small group discussion following the meeting..

Phillip announced the small group sessions following the meeting:

- Constitutional revisions/ Board membership list: Ginny Beesley and Clark Coker will reconcile the Board membership list. Phillip suggested the task be collapsed into the Constitutional revision session. Suggested revisions to the Constitution will be acted upon at the June meeting.
- *Kansas English*: Matt Bova, Andy Anderson, and Steve Maack will discuss *Kansas English* issues. Clark Coker reported that \$1400 has been the average cost per issue of *Kansas English*.
- *Young Kansas Writers*: Jane Wagner, Montika Allen-Atkinson, Jeremy Gibson, and Heather Caswell will discuss *Young Kansas Writers* publishing issues. Clark reported that \$1500 per issue has been the average cost (\$400 for CD publication). Phillip asked for a detailed report at June meeting with a firm yes or no to publishing it.
- 2011 Conference: John Ritchie will chair the small group on the Centennial Conference.

Other board members will join groups to which they wish to contribute. Phillip asked for an action plan from each group.

Adjournment

Steve Maack moved the meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:50. The next meeting will be at the Eisenhower Library, Abilene, Kansas, on June 18.

Dana Waters, secretary