

KATE UPDATE

Conference Edition

Inside find:
Speakers, breakout
sessions, registration
form, and more!
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August 2005

Kansas Association of Teachers of English

Volume 23, Issue 2

Teaching Outside the Box: the evolution of a theme

by Annie Heidersbach

Conference Chair

A few years ago while taking a summer creative writing seminar, I ran across a quote that inspired me. "The world leaders in innovation and creativity will also be world leaders in everything else." (Harold McAlindon) I wrote the quote down in my beat up journal and skimmed over it every so often since, agreeing silently with it and setting forth to nurture that kind of innovation and creativity in my students. Since then, however, the importance of this has become less and less obvious as we teach in these difficult times of AYP and QPA and every other acronym that assumes all learners are alike. It is paradoxical really... studies continuously report that creative thought and problem solving are desirable characteristics for upper level employment, and yet our educational system continues to place high test scores and standardized assessments on our desirable list. I can only ask out loud...what kind of leaders are we producing in our educational system? Where has the importance of innovation and creativity gone within our classroom walls and within ourselves? More importantly, how can we get the magic back?

Growing up, I remember various teachers for various reasons. There was Sister Mary Margaret who opened up the world to me when she taught me to read by bringing in street signs as reminders. From that day on, my older sister Amy was bothered by my incessant chatter from

the back seat shouting out gems like "Burger King", "K-Mart" or "Right Turn Only." Mr. Barnes, my 3rd grade teacher, taught us Science by blowing things up in the parking lot and allowing us to create new colors of nail polish while the rest of the classes simply read from their books and answered the questions at the back of the chapter. Then there was Mr. Fudenberg (Mr. "Fudd" to us) who recited

*"The world leaders
in innovation and
creativity will also be
world leaders in ev-
erything else."*

-- Harold McAlindon

Shakespeare in all different dialects from Southern twang to affluent New Yorker and who gave us extra credit if we could come up with a new dialect all our own. As different as they all were, these teachers had one thing in common- they taught *creatively*. I can't tell you how I appreciate them now that I know how difficult it is to put aside our easy lesson plans to really inspire our students and ourselves.

So how do we get this magic back? How do we become motivated as well as motivating those we teach? These are the questions that intrigued me to develop the theme of this year's KATE Conference, "Teaching Outside the Box: Fostering Creativity in our Students and Ourselves". I invite you to come and be inspired, to be encouraged, to be reinvigorated by the wonderful speakers and presenters highlighted this year. So pen, don't just pencil, it in your calendar for this October 20th and 21st at the Wichita Marriott hotel. Let's help each other find our own innovation and creativity!

Conference credit offered

Teachers interested in earning three credits from Friends University are invited to enroll in English Seminar. Information below.

Tuition: \$210 (\$70 per credit hour). Payment must be made by cash, check, or credit card. To receive credit, payment of \$210 must be made to Friends University on the first day of the conference.

Course Description: This is a graded course that has been created for educators and professionals who are working either in the public or private sector. The primary intent is to analyze the content of some of the sessions, review research in the field of English, and provide application for the information obtained at the conference in a lesson plan. 3 credit hours.

Course Requirements:

1) One page analysis each of three sessions

2) Lesson plan using a concept that was discussed at the conference:

Expected Learner Outcomes
Procedure for the Lesson
Audience and Appeal
Assessment

3) Research of three sources that support your lesson plan instruction

*Information from three sources that helps validate your lesson plan
Minimum of three pages, Times New Roman font, 12 point
APA or MLA documentation in-text and references required
Format APA or MLA required*

Evaluation:

The written material will be graded on content, organization, conventions and documentation. The lesson plan will be graded on intellectual content, planning and sequence, creativity and meeting the lesson plan requirements.
Questions: Contact Constance Reimer at reimer@friends.edu

1st summer Share-A-Thon a valuable experience

by Karen Stous

Senior Past President



SUMMER SHARING

John Triplett, Junction City High School, shares vocabulary strategies at the Share-A-Thon June 24.

The first KATE Summer Share-a-thon was deemed a success - thanks in part to the valiant computer e-mails from Susan Micka, one of its key organizers.

The ten KATE members present represented high school and junior college instructors as well as a doctoral student in English education. They met at the KNEA building in Topeka the morning of June 24th to share ideas and exchange lessons on the following subjects: reading comprehension strategies and vocabulary strategies, persuasive writing, technical writing, and the role of KATE,

As a result of a recommendation from those present to the KATE Executive Board, the Summer Share-a-thon will be continued. Next summer Tara Azwell, 2006 Share-A-Thon Chair, will host the event on the Emporia State University campus.

If you didn't receive the information about this event, it's very possible KATE does not have an updated e-mail address for you. You won't want to miss out so send it to Karen Ford, Membership Chair, kford@holtonks.net and Andy Anderson, NCTE Liason, aanders@jccc.edu

UPDATE Staff: Elaine Gruenbacher, Editor.

KATE UPDATE is published four times a year as a benefit of membership. Its purpose is to inform the membership of activities of KATE and NCTE, announcements of clearly indicated policy and to provide a means for discussion of ideas and issues concerning the content and teaching of English and language arts. Published points of view do not imply endorsement by the officers or membership at large.

For information or communication concerning the KATE UPDATE, write to **Elaine Gruenbacher, 1010 N. Ridge Rd. #1113, Wichita, KS 67212; Phone (620) 584-2361, ext. 5213; email: egruebacher@usd264.org.**

KATE UPDATE is a member of the NCTE Information Exchange Agreement. Articles, ideas, and comments from KATE members are welcomed.

Update on State Writing Standards and Assessments

by Stacey Lierz-Ziegler

Kansas Writing

In November of 2004 the State Board of Education approved the revisions of the writing standards. These revised writing standards can be viewed and downloaded from the KSDE website.

Please note that the Kansas Writing Standards are now separated from the Kansas Reading Standards. This was necessary due to the federal regulations regarding AYP.

However, it is the preference of an individual district as to how they want to organize their communication arts program.

With that said, the Kansas Writing Standards contain two standards—writing and research. The Kansas Reading Standards also contain two standards—reading and literature.

A new addition to the standards document is the writing and research scope & sequences. These are extremely user-friendly and help organize in the curriculum alignment process.

The organization of the revised writing standards is slightly different. The benchmarks are now the four modes of writing –

narrative, expository, persuasive and technical.

The assessment of the Kansas Writing Standards has not changed. The assessment will still occur every other year with 5th grade being assessed on narrative, 8th grade on expository and 11th grade on persuasive. Technical mode of writing will not be assessed at the state level. The next scheduled writing assessment will take place in 2006-2007.

This coming school year the Listening, Speaking and Viewing Standards will be viewed and revised by a committee comprised of language arts, technology and art teachers across Kansas. Hopefully, those revisions will be ready to be approved by the BOE in February of 2006.

Please feel free to contact me through e-mail or by telephone for any assistance regarding the Kansas Writing Standards and Assessment.

Stacey Lierz-Ziegler
Kansas Writing Consultant
Slierz-ziegler@ksde.org
(785)296-4930

NCTE Leadership Development Award awarded to Teralyn Cohn

Teralyn Cohn of Wichita Southeast High School has been selected to receive the NCTE Leadership Development Award, an award supported by the Pearson Prentice Hall Education division. The purpose of the award is to nurture the development of new leaders within state/regional/provincial affiliates and NCTE.

Teralyn is an energetic teacher who has recently received a grant she proposed for a paperless classroom. She has presented at the KATE Conference on the STAR program.

The award is presented to an early career teacher (1-5 years experience) who has never attended an NCTE Annual Convention and who has demonstrated a capacity for professional leadership as well as a willingness to join and participate in the affiliate during the upcoming academic year. The recipient is selected from each state. Teralyn will receive \$500 to help defray costs of attending the 2005 NCTE Annual Convention and a ticket to the Affiliate Breakfast at which awardees will be recognized.

EXCERPTS FROM THE JOURNAL OF DR. B.J. DOGG, PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

by B.J. Dogg, Ed.D.

Believing in the importance of reflective practice, Dr. Dogg kept a journal throughout his first year as a building principal. In order to demonstrate the thinking process of a highly trained administrator, selected entries are compiled below.

AUGUST 1

After much time spent preparing to assume an administrative role in education, today I received an appointment as Principal of Ronald Reagan Middle School. I couldn't be more thrilled. RRMS has received a bad reputation (particularly given what happened to the last Principal), but I feel confident that the effective application of scientific methods of school administration can bring RRMS a new sense of vision and purpose! After spending five years as a teacher of physical education and head coach, I feel very well prepared to begin my new career as a professional administrator.

I look forward to meeting the staff and beginning the process of shaping the building according to my Administrative Vision.

SEPTEMBER 1

During my initial meeting with the faculty at Ronald Reagan Middle School, I brought up the subject of the Mission Statement. I was shocked to learn most faculty members seemed not to have committed the Mission Statement to memory.

The first thing I did when I became building Principal was review the Mission Statement! And I continued reviewing it until it was imprinted in my memory:

Ronald Reagan Middle School strives to educate each child to be

standard and competent, able to contribute appropriately to our community and our nation, and possessing values suitable to our community's recognized sources of authority.

I was delighted to have such a carefully focused Mission Statement, and I resolve to focus the attention of my teachers on its fulfillment. I have told the teachers that, starting tomorrow, I will stop them randomly in the hallways, and they should be prepared to recite our Mission Statement. This shouldn't be a problem, as I now recite the Mission Statement each morning on the intercom as soon as we finish the Pledge of Allegiance.

OCTOBER 1

I had an idea today.

Why couldn't we set the Mission Statement to music? We could have the student body sing the Mission Statement at assemblies, and we could have the teachers do the same before faculty meetings!

I will talk to our music teacher at once about this. If she does a nice job with it, I could give her a personal day or something to demonstrate to the other teachers how proper thinking will be rewarded.

I wonder why no one has thought of this before.

OCTOBER 2

Unfortunately, the music teacher did not appreciate my plan to put the Mission Statement to music.

She is certainly not a team player!

(Note to self: start a list of faculty members who are not team players.)

At any rate, I decided to put the Mission Statement to music by

myself, and I think it turned out rather well.

It goes like this, to the tune of Yellow Rose of Texas:

Ronald Reagan Middle School, strives to educate each child to be standard and competent, able to contribute appropriately to our community and our nation

and possessing values suitable to our community's recognized sources of authority it's a lovely little middle school, the best one for me!

We will have to put in a few extra syllables in a few places, and I decided to add that line at the end, to make it come out even, but I'm excited to introduce the new song to the school community.

OCTOBER 3

Spent the better part of the morning working with members of the student council, teaching them to sing the Mission Statement.

Tomorrow the whole school will have a surprise when the stuco kids sing the Mission Statement over the intercom after the morning announcements.

I can't wait.

OCTOBER 4

I must admit I was disappointed by the students' reaction to the singing of The Mission Statement.

Sometimes when we think out of the box, it takes those around us a bit of time to see and appreciate what we are doing. We will continue singing The Mission Statement each day! I have no doubt the school's stakeholders will come to see the wisdom soon.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING NEWLY ELECTED KATE OFFICERS, EXEC BOARD

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Lori Goodson, Wamego MS, Wamego

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Sheiia Buchanan, Yates Center HS, Yates Center

Bryan Anderson, Washington HS, Leavenworth

Kathryn Shumard, Augusta HS, Augusta

Rose LaBarge, Wheatland HS, Grainfield

Tara Azwell, Emporia State University, Emporia

Mark Gordon, Jefferson West HS, Meridan

Steve Maack, Wichita East HS, Wichita

Peggy Jewell, Wichita State University, Wichita

John Ritchie, Wamego MS, Wamego

Jennifer Fry, Wichita East High School, Wichita

New Board members will be seated at the Executive Board meeting Thursday, October 20, at 6:00 PM at the KATE Fall Conference at the Wichita Marriott.

The KATE Experience

by Ruthann Harris

President

Experiencing my first KATE conference in 1993, I was overwhelmed by the energy generated by those presenting breakout sessions and the excitement of those attending them. What valuable gifts I received from truly usable lesson plans (Anybody else still have that booklet on book report options from baseball cards to mobiles?) to tips on classroom management. I had no idea what planning a conference entailed.

When invited to join the KATE Board, I didn't have clue what this group actually did—do you? (Thanks here goes to Kay Flook and Judy Goodpasture for pulling me in and along.) Then came the invitation to go into the officer line. Everyone needs to again thank—or blame—those same ladies for my yes. Planning the 2004 conference was way down the road and I still didn't have a clue what was entailed even though I "helped" every year.

Let me tell you, planning an annual conference is a baptism by fire experience that doesn't happen quickly or easily, but is well worth it; especially when it's over. The conference theme is announced a year prior to the

event which means it has to be decided upon close to two years prior to the actual event. Authors and speakers have to be decided upon and approached as soon as possible. We have one conference; they have many requests. Breakout sessions can't be scheduled until presenters "volunteered." Oh, and all of this (and more) needs to be organized, confirmed, reorganized, confirmed, etc. in time to send out advance mailings and print the conference program. WHEW!

This event happens because of the hard work of the Board, which only meets three times a year, and everyone else who volunteers their time and energy through out the year. Annie Heidersbach is the 2005 Conference Chair. Her theme is **teaching outside the box**. I promise there will be energy and enthusiasm, wonderful keynote and luncheon speaker. And, of course, volunteers will provide those wonderful breakout sessions to help the first year teacher get started and reinvigorate the veteran. Come experience some ways for **(fostering creativity in students and ourselves)**.

KATE members enjoy evening social at 2004 Fall Conference

SPENDING TIME WITH FRIENDS

Pat Fellers, Linda Jones, and another KATE member take a chance to sip a glass of wine and visit.



LEADERS AT WORK

Andy Anderson and Ruthann Harris, KATE Board members, visit about important KATE business.



Revising state assessments takes many people, much work

by Karen Stous

Senior Past President

For the past three years, I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve on the KSDE committees charged with rewriting the Reading and Writing Standards. I believe I was originally asked to serve because of being KATE president.

The committee on which I serve, "Communication Arts," went through procedures as content review, basis review, and item review for the two new 2006 reading assessment forms. Currently we are addressing "Item Review" for the additional forms of the reading assessments available in 2007.

This daunting job is not yet finished, but it has reinforced to me that Kansas continues to strive to do what's best for its students. This committee was largely responsible for convincing "those to be" that we needed the reading assessment results for individual students to truly improve learning. This way the assessment can be a teaching tool.

We educators cannot change the federal mandates, but through committee work such as this, we can have an opportunity to let our Kansas State Department of

Education know what we believe will work best.

I am fortunate to work in a district that supports the professional development involved by my attending these working meetings at least two days each month. I must admit there have been many exhausting days that I had wished I were with my students. But this is important work for them and you.

Other KATE members have served on this committee and Andy Anderson, NCTE Liason to the KATE Executive Board is also a committee member.

The KSDE leadership for these committees met with some changes throughout these three years. The current officials are Veronica Williams, Reading Assessment and Stacy Lierz-Zigler, Writing Assessment. Both will be available to visit with and talk to at the annual KATE conference this fall. They will present the newest updated information regarding the new state assessments. Reading will be given starting in 2006 and Writing will be every other year beginning in 2007.

"Creativity is piercing the mundane to find the marvelous."
--Bill Moyers

FALL CONFERENCE

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Conference speakers practice what they preach

by Annie Heidersbach

Conference Chair

As educators, we are only too well aware of theory and opinion about our field. We have been in-serviced to death and then some, right?

So when researching speakers for this year's Conference in October, *Teaching Outside the Box*, I knew we didn't need any more of the dull, dry commentary from "experts" who haven't taught or written anything for years. After all, teachers want to be inspired, not in-serviced!

I wanted to find people who were not only inspiring as presenters, but who were inspiring in their professional and personal lives as well. People who practiced what they preached. And I think we hit the jackpot with these three men.

Dr. William McBride

The conference will open on Thursday morning with a wonderful presentation by Dr. William L. McBride, a National Language Arts Consultant with McDougal Littell and author of "Entertaining an Elephant: A Novel About Learning and Letting Go".

Dr. McBride travels throughout the US conducting workshops in public school and university settings, both as a teacher and a consultant. In middle and secondary schools, he has served as a reading specialist, an English and drama teacher, a gifted instructor and curriculum coordinator. On the university level, Dr. McBride has assisted in the training and evaluation of middle and secondary English teachers.

While he is a well-known national speaker, he is beloved for his heartwarming novel, *Entertaining an Elephant*, which is used by school districts across the nation. The book tells the story of a burned-out teacher who becomes re-inspired with both his profession and his life.

I couldn't put it down and finished it in one sitting; it is the kind of novel that will keep you thinking and will make you question everything you do in your classroom with reflection and honesty. As our opening speaker, McBride guarantees to send you home inspired and renewed.

Chris Crutcher

Can you think of a better way of spending a Thursday afternoon lunch than with Mr. Chris Crutcher, young adult author extraordinaire? This generous man has volunteered to fly in from Las Vegas for one afternoon with us, only to have to turn around hours later and head to Oregon. He told me he has a "soft spot in his heart for Kansas"... who knew we were so enticing!

Chris Crutcher is an author and therapy consultant born in Dayton, Ohio and who grew up in Cascade, Idaho and graduated from Eastern Washington University. After teaching in Washington and California,

Crutcher became the director of a "last chance" K-12 alternative school in Oakland, CA before returning to Spokane to write his first book, *Running Loose*, in 1982.

Since then, he has produced eight other novels, a collection of short stories, and an autobiography. Crutcher's fast-paced fiction- heavily influenced by his work as a therapist and child protection advocate- is known for its expert balance of comedy and tragedy, as well as its unflinching honesty.

He has received many awards (too many to mention here) and is a popular columnist and public speaker. His latest novel, *The Sledding Hill*, is rumored to be "THE talk novel of the year" according to the *Miami Herald*.

Personally, I am so excited to meet the man who wrote *Stotan*, a book that is required reading for the swim team at my school, who have dismissed our "Viking" mascot for a "Stotan" one each year!

Whitney Terrell

Finally, there seems no better way to end a conference than with a local hero of mine, Mr. Whitney Terrell. A few years ago, a friend of mine who teaches at a Kansas City college, handed me the book *The Huntsman*. She told me that she had never had a novel touch so many students the way this one had. She was right.

Engaging from the start with its Kansas City backdrop, I eventually fell in love with the story and lost myself in it. Whitney Terrell was born and raised in Kansas City, a product of private education. He is a graduate of Princeton University and he has an MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop.

He currently lives in Kansas City, where he is a writer-in-residence for the School of Professional Studies at Rockhurst University. Mr. Terrell will be speaking on Friday's luncheon about he creative process he goes through with his own writing and will give us tips on teaching this process to our students as well as ourselves. In fact, here's some

free advice he gave in a Q&A session not long ago. He was asked whether readers will be turned off by the fact that he is a white man writing about he coming of age of a black boy. He responded,

"This question goes to the heart of what it means to be a writer. It implies that the writer can only write about who he or she is. In a larger sense, I think we all agree that this isn't true. Young writers should not be scolded for writing about old people, nor women for writing from the point of view, say, of men. Or what about a writer in the twentieth century writing about a soldier in the civil war? Or a British sailor in the war of 1812? Writing is about empathy — imagining yourself in the place of another. Both writers and readers are asked to do this."

I hope you are excited as I am to listen to, speak with and learn from these extraordinary men who are shining examples of the creative potential in all of us! See you on October 20th and 21st!



DR. WILLIAM MCBRIDE



CHRIS CRUTCHER



WHITNEY TERRELL

Breakout sessions? No... Breakthrough sessions and other perks at the conference

by Annie Heidersbach

Conference Chair

While the three speakers for this year's Conference might be the "rock stars" of education and writing right now, many of us are happiest when we are in the comfortable conference rooms of the Marriott, with our free ice water and notepad in hand, ready to steal all the great ideas of the breakout presenters. This year is going to be better than ever as far as diversity of sessions, designed to fit everyone's needs, so don't just bring a notepad, bring a 3-ring binder with tabs, 'cause you're going to get lots of ideas! Here is just a sampling of session topics to look forward to:

- Get your groove on with Matt Copeland and Chris Goering as they present "Reading to a New Tune: Connecting Canonical Literature and Contemporary Music. This is designed to give you new ways to engage students in reading, gulp, the classics!

- The crew from Manhattan, Wamego and Fort Riley are bringing you an amazing session on Collaborative Service Learning Projects. This session describes four collaborative service-learning opportunities: an after-school writing club, a family writing project, an on-line collaboration with middle schoolers and a project that targets at-risk high school students. Everyone will find something they like at this party!

- Globetrotting in your dreams or on your agenda? Our very own Andy Anderson will be introducing two Romanian teachers who will present about the educational system in their country. This important exchange will shed light on all of our educational blessings here in Kansas, as well as help us to bridge that global gap! And you thought Dodge City was a long way to travel!

- They say a picture is worth a thousand words? Well, Dave Smit from K-State is going to prove that a picture is worth at least a really good writing assignment in his session "How to Lie with Pictures". This presentation will give you specific assignments in which you can better foster visual literacy, so get out your specs!

- Deb Kohn from Oakley High School is presenting on one of my favorite topics... censorship! Her session "Banned Books? Not Here!" will describe in detail a project that directs students in multiple activities regarding censorship, including discussions about the US Constitution to stereotyping, reading their own banned book and writing a persuasive essay either agreeing or

disagreeing with a rationale. Includes student examples.

- Matt Copeland will be holding a special 2-session seminar on the use of Socratic dialogue (a Cliff's Notes version of what's in his wonderful new book, *Socratic Circles*).

- Do you think Fridays are difficult to plan for? What about Mondays? Jill Adams from the University of Kansas will be presenting "Reading, Writing, Thinking, Speaking and Listening: 15 Ready to Use Lessons for Monday." This session promises to have you back at school on Monday better than ever!

There are many other sessions, but I'm running out of room. But they include exciting topics such as creative dynamics to improve vocabulary, an overview and understanding of the newly revised Writing Standards, assessing visual rhetoric in multimedia presentations, book talks over the wonderful Heartland booklist for this year (a committee I am privileged to be on) and lots more!

Finally, don't forget to plan ahead and stay for the happy hour and appetizers on Thursday afternoon. My good friend, Martin Wehrenberg will be there with his guitar and Jimmy-Buffer-meets-Hank-Williams type show. Hopefully, we can all wear our complimentary Conference T-Shirts to that (if we can find someone to donate them). And please be looking for the spoken word poets in the hallway between sessions, as well as the creative idea cards on the tables at the luncheons! Hope to see you all there... and remember to tell a colleague about this very important Conference... the more, the merrier (and louder, and more inspiring, etc.).

See the KATE website for complete information on breakout sessions.
<http://web.jccc.net/kate/>

"Creative minds have always been known to survive any kind of bad training."

-- Anna Freud

Minutes of the June 25, 2005 Board Meeting

Dana Waters, secretary

Members present: Tara Azwell, Clark Coker, Matt Copeland, Diana Costello, Karen Ford, Lori Goodson, Todd Goodson, Ruthann Harris, Annie Heidersbach, Linda Jones, Susan Micka, Glenna Mock, Stacey Lierz-Ziegler, Karen Stous, and Dana Waters.

Call to Order:

President Ruthann Harris called the meeting to order at 9:15.

Approval of Agenda:

The following items were added to the agenda: Reports from Promising Young Writers, NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing, and the Share-a-thon. The agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes:

Diana Costello moved the minutes be approved as amended. The motion was seconded and passed.

Announcements/Correspondence:

Karen Stous welcomed new board members Mark Gordon and Lori Goodson, who will be seated at the October meeting.

The following members had sent notification that they were unable to attend the meeting: Chris Goering, Clark Killion, Andy Anderson, Jane Wagner, Dave Smit, Gerrit Bleeker, Barbara Bleeker, Elaine Gurenbacher, Carlene Stueve, Deb Cohen, and Donna Burke. Ruthann read a message from Barbara Livengood who is undergoing chemotherapy. Barbara sent her regards and her thanks to Carlene Stueve for her work on *Young Kansas Writers*.

Ruthann announced that she had sent an updated membership list to board members via e-mail.

Treasurer's report: Clark Coker handed out a report on the year to date, noting that it is not the final annual report. He reported income of \$21,172 and expenses of \$14,277.97, leaving a balance of \$22,307.01, with \$10,211.82 in the checking account. Clark will move some of that balance into the money market account. He asked for a motion to pay expenses until the end of the year, including 4-H. Ginny Beesley moved that KATE pay all expenses as reported by the treasurer. The motion was passed and seconded. Clark asked for guidance on paying KATE's publication editors. Ruthann said that historically KATE pays the editors \$100. Ginny Beesley moved that Clark issue checks to Linda Jones for *Younger Kansas Writers*, Carlene Stueve and Barbara Livengood for *Young Kansas Writers*, and Elaine Gruenbacher for *KATE Update*. The motion was seconded and passed. The *Kansas English* editors will be paid following publication of those issues.

Membership: Karen Ford reported she is still receiving dues from last year and is receiving some for this year. She will pass checks on to Clark Coker. Jean Dimmit had forwarded an uncashed Ebsco check from 2004 to Karen. Karen Stous reported that Ebsco checks are usually recorded as income for *Kansas English*. Ruthann clarified that all membership dues

should be paid to Karen Ford, the membership chair. Karen Ford stated that dues should be accompanied by the membership form found on the KATE website. Karen will be present at the membership table at the Fall Conference. She explained that the two-year membership option is causing confusion, and it would be simpler to go strictly to a one-year membership. Clark asked for clarification of institutional memberships. Ruthann explained that only elementary schools have institutional memberships.

Marketing: Dave Smit sent his report to Ruthann, who noted that Dave has sent samples of KATE publications and membership flyers to all universities to distribute to graduating English teachers. Todd Goodson reported that some of K-State's students had not gotten flyers and that the university departments need to tweak the distribution.

KATE Update: Elaine Gruenbacher sent her report with Matt Copeland, who reported that Elaine had not received some of the copy sent to her because of the e-mail filter at her school. She asked that copy be sent to her school e-mail address via e-mail attachment: elaine.gruenbacher@usd264.com. She will then respond to the sender. Elaine asked that members send personal and professional news about KATE members, as well as any commentaries or creative pieces. She apologized for the lateness of the previous issue; she had trouble with the mailing list. Elaine asked that members notify her if they know of someone who did not receive his or her issue.

Annie will send the registration forms and details of the conference to Elaine for the next issue. She will be in close contact with Elaine to ensure the scope of the conference coverage is big. Members liked Elaine's idea to include information on the new Board members who will be seated in October. The Board commended Elaine on her first issue.

Young Kansas Writers and Younger Kansas Writers: Linda Jones reported her first time editing *Younger Kansas Writers* had been a struggle. The deadline, which conflicted with end of school activities and forensics competitions, had made it difficult. In addition, Linda had to key in hard copy submissions for the electronic publication. She had received many little drawings and had scanned in some. Selecting submissions for publication had been challenging. Linda asked that the deadline of March 15 for submissions be earlier and copy be submitted on disk. She suggested that another alternative would be to issue the disk publication at the Fall Conference rather than trying to issue it before the end of school. Karen Stous moved that the board direct the *Young/Younger Kansas Writers* editors to create a new submission form setting a deadline of March 15 and requiring submission in electronic form. The motion was seconded. Ruthann read Carlene Stueve's report on *Young Kansas Writers*, which reported that Carlene and Barbara Livengood also had problems with receiving submissions in hard copy; next year Carlene and Barbara will not consider submissions that are not accompanied by some form of digital format. Carlene will burn 500 CDs and will mail them to the teachers who submitted students' work. Carlene noted that some teachers were

submitting works of other teachers' students. She asked that KATE enforce the requirement that individual teachers have memberships in order to submit their students' work. Annie Heidersbach suggested editors put together a conference session on appropriately preparing submissions for KATE's publications. Linda Jones amended Karen Stous's motion to change the submission deadline from March 15 to March 1. Matt Copeland seconded the motion for amendment. The motion for amendment passed. The motion passed. Ruthann directed the editors to submit the new form at the October meeting.

William Allen White award: Shannon Nickell has resigned as KATE's representative on the selection committee. The William Allen White committee includes representation from different organizations who deal with children's literacy, and KATE was designated as one of those organizations. Tara Azwell, who had previously served as representative for Emporia State, explained that the list of 90 to 100 nominees had doubled, and she found it impossible to read all the nominations. The list is sent out in February or March and the voting takes place in the fall. The William Allen White Library in Emporia provides library copies of the books and will mail them out. The committee holds approximately four meetings a year to do the voting and plan the recognition ceremony. Ginny Beesley volunteered to be KATE's representative in the fall.

Promising Young Writers: Ruthann reported for Barbara Bleeker, who announced the 2005 winners were Maude Thomas, Central Junior High; Lydia Belcher, Nash Riggins, and Allison Ice, West Junior High; all of Lawrence.

NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing: Ruthann reported for Gerrit Bleeker, who said the judges have completed evaluating submissions for 2005. He thanked judges Judy Goodpasture, Clark Killion, Matt Copeland, Karen Stous, Pat Fellers, and Andy Anderson.

KSDE Liaison: Stacey Lierz-Ziegler handed out copies of the scope and sequence for the Kansas writing standards/research standards, which are now a stand-alone standard, separated from the reading standards. Reading is tested every year; writing is not. The writing standard now has two components: writing and research. Schools can organize these together if they wish. Writing now has 4 benchmarks: narrative, expository, persuasive, and technical. Technical will not be assessed at the state level. Research is confined to the 4 years of high school. Schools are tested only once, and schools may choose when to test students on an individual basis; they may test by individual student or by class. All students must be tested by their junior year. This will take effect in the 06-07 school year; only reading and math will be tested in the 05-06 school year. Writing rubrics for all genres have been revised with more concrete language; the content has not changed. The wording has been revised to match the scope and sequence, and the standards. The next task will be to look at listening, speaking, and viewing standards.

Stacey asked for English volunteers interested in serving on that committee. Ruthann Harris volunteered. Stacey will e-mail a report to Ruthann to be included in *KATE Update*.

Kansas English: Ruthann reported for Andy Anderson, who announced that the new editors of *Kansas English* are Kami Day, Johnson County Community College, and Michelle Eodice, KU. JCCC will print *Kansas English* for \$522 per issue. *Kansas English* will return to the previous, smaller format and be published twice a year. Andy asked that board members remind people to submit for *Kansas English*.

NCTE Liaison: Ruthann reported for Andy Anderson that Andy has redesigned the web page and is almost finished. He had sent a board membership list, which the board reviewed and corrected. Corrections will be sent to Andy to update on the web. He will use Excel to record our membership instead of NCTE Manager, and hopes to finish the details at the conference.

TeraLyn Cohn, a second year teacher at Southeast in Wichita, has been chosen as KATE's nomination for the NCTE Leadership Award. Andy had received no applications for KATE's Outstanding Practices Award. He will complete the NCTE Affiliate Report due July 15.

Andy reported that he had visited Romania in the NCTE exchange program. He has included information and a Google Group site for KATE and Romanian teachers to share ideas on the KATE website. Two Romanian teachers will be attending the Fall Conference in Wichita as KATE's guests. Dana Waters moved that KATE comp the hotel room for the Romanian women for Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday nights. The motion was seconded and passed.

Nominating committee: Karen Stous reported the result of the KATE Executive Board elections as follows: Shelia Buchanan, Yates Center HS, Yates Center; Bryan Anderson, Washington HS, Leavenworth; Kathryn Shumard, Augusta HS, Augusta; Rose LaBarge, Wheatland HS, Grainfield; Tara Azwell, Emporia State University, Emporia; Mark Gordon, Jefferson West HS, Meridian; Steve Maack, Wichita HS East, Wichita; Peggy Jewell, Wichita State University, Wichita; John Ritchie, Wamego MS, Wamego; Jennifer Fry, Wichita HS East, Wichita. Lori Goodson, Wamego MS, will be seated as second vice president; as past president, Clark Killion will become chair of the nominating committee.

Share-a-thon report: Karen Stous reported that ten teachers had attended the Share-a-thon in Topeka the previous day. Eight of the attendees were board members. Conference discussions included vocabulary, technical writing, reading strategies, and the role of KATE. Susan Micka reported that organizing the Share-a-thon was fairly simple. The location advantage was a low cost facility with adequate room that would have allowed KATE to hold the registration costs at \$10, including lunch, even with greater registration. The disadvantage was the distance from the western part of the state. Annie Heidersbach suggested KATE publicize the Share-a-thon at the Fall

Conference. It was hoped that the Share-a-thon might be used to increase membership. Tara Azwell volunteered to chair a committee for the Share-a-thon next year, to be held in Emporia. The committee will include Susan Micka, Annie Heidersbach, Ruthann Harris, and Karen Stous. Karen Stous will write a piece for *KATE Update*. Karen suggested we move the June board meeting date and location to correspond with the Share-a-thon. The date and location will be announced at the KATE Fall Conference and registration forms will be available. The tentative date is Friday, June 9, with the board meeting to be Saturday, June 10.

Old Business

Since the two-year membership option is a record keeping problem, Clark Coker moved we remove the two-year membership option and go to one year only. The motion was seconded and passed. Memberships already in force will remain valid, of course. Andy Anderson will be notified to change the form on the web page, and Karen Ford will write a blurb for *KATE Update*.

KATE Conference: Annie Heidersbach reported that the Fall Conference will be held October 20-21 at the Marriott Hotel in Wichita. The theme is "Teaching Outside the Box: Fostering Creativity in Our Students and Ourselves." Annie's biggest concern has been speakers. She received delayed declines from several speakers, which delayed her finalizing this detail. Dr. Bill McBride, author of *Entertaining the Elephant*, will be the keynote speaker. McDougal Litell has agreed to share the cost for speakers. Martin Wineberg will provide entertainment for the Thursday evening cash bar and hors d'oeuvres.

Linda Jones suggested attendees bring books they have purchased and no longer use to a book swap. Diana Costello will be in charge of the book swap. Clark Coker suggested asking the tutoring services to present at a session. Annie will try to arrange a session on Heartland Award books, as some KATE board members serve on the committee.

Annie will try to have more tables in the publishers' exhibits. She will work on that with Joy Bunch.

Annie is having t-shirts designed, and she is working on more activities between sessions. She would like to have more interaction at the tables at luncheons, for example cards with poems or teaching ideas. Annie reminded board members of the poetry reading Wednesday evening at 7:30 before the conference.

Annie asked for a brief meeting following adjournment with the official conference committee: Todd Goodson, Elaine Gruenbacher, Ginny Beesley, Matt Copeland, Lori Goodson, Jane Wagner, Ruthann Harris, Chris Goering, Donna Burke, Diana Costello, and Susan Micka. The conference mailing will be done by Elaine Gruenbacher; Annie will ask Andy Anderson to do the conference programs. Annie will need photos of all board members by August 1 to be put into the program.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 12:05. The next board meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. October 20, 2005, at the Wichita Marriott.

IN THE KNOW

KATE UPDATE

KATE Executive Board

2004-2005 OFFICERS

President

Ruthann Harris
Wichita East High School
rharris@usd259.net

First Vice President/Conference Chair

Ann M. Heidersbach
913-993-7924
Shawnee Mission West HS
annheidersbach@smsd.org

Second Vice President/SLATE

Matt Copeland
785-339-4100
Washburn Rural High School
copeland44@aol.com

Membership Chair

Karen Ford
785-364-2641
Holton High School
kford@holtonks.net

Treasurer

Clark Coker
620-227-9228
Dodge City Com. College
coker@dc3.edu

Secretary

Dana Waters
620-227-9369
Dodge City Com. College
dpwaters@dccc.cc.ks.us

Immediate Past President

Clark Killion
620-227-9301
Dodge City Com. College
ckillion@dccc.cc.ks.us

Senior Past President

Karen Ann Stous
785-364-3390
Holton High School
kstous@holtonks.net

NCTE Liaison

Andy Anderson
913-469-8500 x3698
Johnson County Com. College
aanders@jccc.net

EDITORS

Update

Elaine Gruenbacher
620-584-2361
Clearwater High School
elaine.gruenbacher@usd264.com

Kansas English

Kami Day
913-469-8500 ext 4576
Johnson County Com.College
kday@jccc.net

Michele Eodice
University of Kansas
michele@ku.edu

Young Kansas Writers

Barbara Livengood
Central High School, Salina
barbara.livengood@usd305.com

Carlene Stueve
Salina South High School
carlene.stueve@usd305.com

Younger Kansas Writers

Linda Jones
Colby High School
1870 S.Franklin Ave.
Colby, KS 67701
vjones@uxks.com

KANSAS COORDINATORS

SLATE
Matt Copeland
785-339-4100
Washburn Rural High School
copeland44@aol.com

NCTE Writing Achievement Award
Gerrit Bleeker
620-341-5561
Emporia State University, Emporia
bleekerg@emporia.edu

KATE Outstanding Teaching Practices
Award
Andy Anderson
913-469-8500 x.3698
aanders@jccc.net

William Allen White Award
Shannon Nickell
785-865-3754
Tonganoxie High School
slnickell@hotmail.com

NCTE Promising Young Writers Award
Barbara Bleeker
620-341-5562
Fax: 316-341-5547;
Emporia State Univ.
bleekerb@emporia.edu

KATE Scholarship
Matt Copeland
copeland44@aol.com

Carlene Stueve
carlene.stueve@usd305.com

NCTE Excellence in Literary Magazines
Karen Ann Stous
785-364-3390
Holton High School
kstous@holtonks.net

Kansas Association of Teachers of English
c/o Elaine Gruenbacher
1010 N. Ridge Rd #1113
Wichita, KS 67212