

**July 28th OSTA meeting** was called to order at 9:05. Special guest: Tiffany Neill, state science director. Members present: Beth, Sally, Becky, Joyce, Suzanne, Ava, Tina, Natalie, Jim Jenkins, Brandi, Bob, Jeff, Julie, Kay G. Beth set the purpose for the meeting: Setting a new direction for OSTA, new goals, new partnerships, and new mission. What could our organization look like in the future? Members who attended the Science Congress were given opportunity to voice what they took away from the conference. Julie, Joyce, Suzanne, Kay, Beth, Tina, and Natalie attended. Tina felt we are in the middle of the pack as far as other state organizations go. Suzanne liked the focus of the conference which was the new generation of science standards and the discussions at the meetings she attended. Joyce liked the workshop she went to which was about PR and advocacy. Julie felt we should all become very familiar with the new standards. Natalie went to a meeting about retaining new members and retaining the ones we have. Next year the Congress is in Puerto Rico. Unlikely any of us will go.

Goals: Mission statement (our purpose), vision statement guiding principles, short term and long term strategic plans

Alabama mission statement was jumping off place for ours. Ours should be the basis for all that we do. We broke into small groups to work on our own versions and then came together to create our own. The following 3 sections are what we currently have:

1. Mission statement: OSTA is a professional organization dedicated to the promotion of and advocacy for accurate, effective, and relevant science education for all levels of science instruction.

2. Vision: A community of dedicated science professionals who utilize real world resources to enhance and enrich science education at all levels.

3. Purpose: Provide accurate and relevant professional growth opportunities

Inform policy makers and the public of science education issues

Develop and nurture collaborative partnerships with other professional and community organizations

Recognize and reward excellence in science education

Maintain a communication network to benefit the membership

Housekeeping business: 1. Land's End web site. We can go to Lands' end and order any of their merchandise with our OSTA logo.

2. Friday night state conference activities: We will be at the zoo in the education building in rooms 3 and 4. Teresa Randall comped the room for us! Kay showed us the catering contract which covers 50 people, set up, and cleaning. It does not cover bar. Total cost is \$989 with a deposit of \$350. Motion to accept bid was made by Tina and Natalie seconded. Discussion included inviting dignitaries, award recipients and their families. We have to assume that we will not get any of this back. So this is a big cost for our board. Beth really stressed the board's responsibility. Then there was discussion about what to charge and how. Discussion about getting the word out to make this worthwhile and the awards meaningful.

3. Discussion about award nominations. Board members should nominate 2 people each. Nomination forms on OSTA website. Beth called for vote on accepting the bid for Friday night's conference reception and motion passed.

4. Vanessa Westbrook, writer of new generation science standards has agreed to speak at our conference (waived her usual speaking fee!) for no cost except for her mileage. She wants to do two workshops and a keynote. That would make our fall conference structure a little different. Beth called for a motion for covering Vanessa's travel expense. Motion to cover her expense up to \$500 was made by Jim J and seconded by Sally. Motion carried.

5. Tina: We need to decide what we are going to do for breakfast and lunch at fall conference. Discussed promoting Hampton Inn as our conference hotel. There would no cost to OSTA. Agreed upon thru general consensus. Breakfast: Bagels, coffee, fruit, juice, doughnuts?? Suzanne will check into doughnuts. Lunch: McAlister's? Pick up and mingle. Discussion about conference schedule, when to do keynote, vote, workshops, eat breakfast and lunch. Forensic science and global climate change people want longer blocks of time, 2 to 3 hours. Tiffany asked about Picture Perfect Science presenters. It is an elem curric. Bob shared ideas proposed thus far, 7 as of this meeting. Sally asked that we really try to get AP Biology presenters. FREE stuff at conference: Bags? Backpacks? Do we want to incur the cost? Brandi mentioned a raffle or a ticketed give away. Would that take away from the silent auction? Will discuss more at next meeting.

6. Suzanne: Banner should cost well under \$1000. Exact cost depends on what we put on it.

7. Michelle Smith as Prof Dev committee chair? Tina moved that we ratify her, Kay 2nded. Motion passed.

Discussion of mission, vision, and goals drafts from each group: Tina presented first. Natalie's group went next. Then Julie's group. Goals for all 3 groups were almost the same. Mission and vision statements varied slightly. We compared the 3 mission statements together and discussed. We agreed upon this for the mission: Oklahoma Science Teachers Association (OSTA) is a professional organization dedicated to promoting and advocating for effective and accurate science content through excellence in instruction for all learners.

Lunch and worked on vision statements. Suzanne shared that a vision statement is what your mission looks like when it has been accomplished. Consensus for vision: OSTA is a community of dedicated, informed and effective science educators who provide outstanding educational experiences in science for all learners.

Guiding Principles: This was the general consensus.

- a) Supporting teachers through professional learning communities and programs that promote opportunities for the advancement of student centered education.
- b) Working in a collaborative effort with stakeholders in an effort to provide opportunities for all students to participate in the process of learning accurate science.
- c) Informing policy makers and the public regarding issues in sci education.
- d) Recognizing excellence in science education
- e) Maintaining a communication and resource network for the benefit of the membership

Tina emphasized that all of the above are DRAFTS.

Next: short and long term goals: What are we going to do to get there?? Broke into small groups to discuss. Secretary had to leave and this is all I know...

