March 30, 2013 OSTA Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 9:10. Members present: Joyce Cheatham, Tina Rogers, Beth Allan, Jim Jenkins, Tim Laubach, Becky Hammack, Bethany Lorenz, Brandi Williams, Natalie Bowman, Travis Hurst, Bob Melton, Michelle Smith, and Ava Wilhelm. Members absent: Toni Ivey, Annette Huett, Jessica Hornberger, Kay Gamble, Sally Fenska, Suzanne Spradling, Sue Hull.

February minutes were NOT automatically approved because a couple of changes need to be made. The name of the electronic journal needs to be changed to Oklahoma Journal of School Science, not Oklahoma School of Science. At the last meeting the board accepted Jeff Patterson’s resignation and accepted the nomination of Travis Hurst. Travis is the science specialist for Edmond Schools. Becky asked that we please get her name spelled correctly. It seems we have been spelling it HammOck, and it is supposed to be HammAck. Sorry, Becky. Beth made a motion that we accept and amend the minutes of the February meeting. Bethany seconded and the motion passed.

President’s Report: Tina is on the NSTA writing team. She reports that a lot of GOOD work is being done and believes that we will all be pleased with the final result. There are 4 OSTA board members and 2 former members on the team. Tina is also on the membership task force to increase NSTA membership along with growing OSTA. The membership task force is looking at doing professional development in areas of the panhandle and at collaboration through NSTA with Texas and Louisiana.

Retiring President’s Report: Beth handed out fun student books that came with UCO’s new scanning electron microscope. She invited teachers to bring students to see how it works. She also has extra college textbook samples to give away.

High School Report: Jim has contacted his legislators about Bill 758 and has had positive feedback from them. He urged members to contact their legislative members as well. He also mentioned that funding is gone for State Science Fair, Science Olympiad, and OJS. Seriously--- NO funding. Higher ed has to carry the cost, which they have been doing through comped rooms and registration fees. UCO and ECU are the only places that sponsor regular and state science fairs. Beth added that the UCO program is mostly self-sufficient. She asked if OSTA wants to get in the business of supporting these activities. There does not appear to be any support for this at the state level. Should OSTA start looking for partners that support our mission?

College Report: Tim has started a student chapter of NSTA. His strategy is to get pre-service teachers involved, getting them to produce and present, and coordinate with other chapters to develop teacher leadership. (Go Tim!) Beth suggested a pre-service strand at fall conference to give these students resources and skills that they can take with them and use. Perhaps a NEW teacher strand too?

District Three Report: Brandi attended the Superintendents and School Boards of Oklahoma meeting where the Vision Project was discussed. They are focusing on how to recruit and keep STEM teachers.

District Six Report: Natalie explained OKC Schools new “Academy” project. Each school got to pick a specific curriculum and students will be able to take career specific classes. The goal: higher graduation rates with students ready to go into a job. Each school is developing curriculum around their chosen area.

State Science Director: Tina reported for Tiffany. She asks that we contact our legislators. Change can happen but we must be heard!! The 20/20 Conference is coming this July. Tiffany is looking for presentations that integrate science and literacy. She’d like to see lessons that use the PRACTICES to teach content. If you have a presentation you will have to contact Tiffany directly because the deadline has already passed. Conference is July 9-11.

Communications Report: Bob reported that we have 264 members, not including those added from the last conference. He thinks we’re close to 300. Those who have actually clicked into Member Clicks are very low. The date for FSI has been posted. VERY FEW have signed up. Participation on Member Clicks and our Facebook is very low. There is still much to be done to really utilize what Member Clicks can do. Board members urged to log on and set up accounts.

Awards Report: Tina reported for Sue Hull, new chair. She says that Sue is excited to be on the board. Her first task is to get state science fair awards out to the winners. There seems to be some confusion about how many we are giving out. 3? 4? Tina said she would check previous minutes for the answer.

Professional Development Report: Michelle reports that only 4 people have signed up for FSI, April 13. Questions that were discussed: What do we do if this is all we have? How much advertising have we done? Did we wait too long? Is members only too limiting? She feels it is not clear on the website that you can join OSTA and then sign up for FSI. When do we have to let FSI know if we want to cancel? Beth recommended that we do it now, giving two weeks’ notice to the FSI people, and ask to reschedule in the fall. April 13 is not a good day because of testing. Many districts are doing Saturday school for test prep. Tina asked for a motion to suspend the spring FSI. Jim made the motion and Tim seconded. The motion passed. Beth will talk to the FSI director. She thinks that putting FSI into the fall conference will be too much competition for the other workshops. Tina suggested having a sign up for a spring FSI **at** the fall conference. Michelle also passed out information from the Oklahoma Museum network. General consensus: prices are too high!

OLD Business: K20 Report: K20 Center does professional development for Common Core. Their 2 science specialists have volunteered to do Saturday workshops for NO cost. Joyce asked that Brandi contact them for possibly doing presentations at fall conference.

More Old Business: Collaboration with OERB: They are interested in working with us to use their new building. First they are looking for master teachers to help them revise their curriculum to align with Common Core. They will provided compensation. Secondly, they will let us use their shiny new space for PRE conference, all for free. Thirdly, they are supporters of NGSS and their board has been in touch with their legislators. Yea! So, do we WANT a preconference? Would we want to do an all OERB preconference? Do we use their facility and do our own or a combination of both? A discussion about the logistics of a Friday preconference ensued. Paying for subs could be a problem. Does OERB pay for subs? Tina voiced that she is in favor of letting OERB do it all since it would be the first time we have a preconference.

 More Old Business: Fall Conference: Joyce asked if we have a Friday meeting, we need to make sure it doesn’t overshadow Saturday. Any ideas for a theme? Common Core? NGSS? These are the hot topics. Bob suggested, “Get in the Zone, Central Standard Time!”

More Old Business: E-Journal which will be referred to as OJSS, Oklahoma Journal of School Science: Tim reported that he has posted a call for authors and articles and reviewers. He says the deadline for submission is August 1. He posed these questions: Do we have a separate web site or link on OSTA’S site for OJSS? Do we make it available only to members? Would OU and OSU be able to have subscriptions for their pre-service students? Bob says that would not be a problem if OU and OSU have an institution membership with a log-in and password. Bob also thinks that we could post the journal through Member Clicks, making it a true member benefit. Bob feels we already have the existing framework to do all of this. He suggested even putting abstracts of articles out for public view as a teaser. Beth suggested advertisers and feels that this is an extremely lucrative source of revenue. Bob reminded us that we don’t have any advertisers right now and we would have to draft an advertising policy before we could do that. Beth also asked Tim and the editors if they would consider presenting at the fall conference on how to get published in OJSS.

More Old Business: Membership Benefits: Tina is still in the process of contacting museums for member discounts. The surrounding states offer so much more but they also have outside funding. In Kansas they have monthly newsletters, a camp, and a spring workshop. Tim will post information about what other states do on Base Camp. Some ideas for benefits that we discussed: access to journal, access to members’ only workshops, member discounts at businesses or science related places.

More Old Business: Treasurer Duties: Board discussed how it is unrealistic for us to expect our treasurer, a professor and mother, to take on the accounting duties of OSTA. Beth suggested that we hire an outside accountant and Toni would be the liaison. Board discussed the cost of an outside accountant. Beth suggested Bethany’s father who is a retired accountant. Tina volunteered to talk to Bethany and Toni. Natalie also volunteered to talk with her accountant contact to get advice on what to do. More discussion on this for sure at our next meeting!

NEW Business: NSTA National Convention in San Antonio. Tina asked for volunteers from the lucky few who get to go to please represent us at the regional meeting. Becky, Brandi, Beth, and Tim will get to go to San Antonio.

More new business: National Congress of Science: This year’s congress is being held in Puerto Rico. The board traditionally sends the president-elect and covers all the cost. We need to know how much we spent last year and if we have the money to send Joyce. Right now plane tickets are between $450 and $550. The hotel is $250 a night. If you are not Joyce and can cover your own plane fare, you can stay with Joyce. Look for more information on Base Camp about the costs and available funds because we cannot wait until July. We will discuss via Base Camp and then Bob will send out a monkey survey for voting.

Date of next meeting still to be determined. It is supposed to be April 20. Tina will send out a doodle on Base Camp to see if that date will still work.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30.