

Minutes for January 21, 2012 Board Meeting

Beth called meeting to order at 9:03. Introductions were made for the benefit of new members. Present at this meeting were: Beth Allan, Tina Rogers, Kay Emde, Annette Huett, Joyce Cheatham, Jim Jenkins, Julie Angle, Bethany Lorenz, Brandi Williams, Kay Gamble, Sally Fenska, Natalie Bowman, Suzanne Spradling, Jeff Patterson, Bob, Melton, Ava Wilhelm. Not present: Becky Hammock, Kathy Pursley, Christa Askins, and Toni Ivey. Kay E made the motion that the minutes from the last board meeting be approved. Jim seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved. Beth spoke about the agenda and said that she would like input from board members on our future agendas.

Treasure report: According to Toni our finances are in a bit of an organizational mess. Jeff mentioned that because people are registering online, we should change our PO Box. Beth suggested a conference call between Jeff, Toni, and her to discuss money procedures. Susan said she would ask about reimbursement for Science Matters. Beth mentioned that a budget will be forthcoming.

High school report: Jim mentioned that he uses a science starter web site in his class. He was wondering if a similar website might be useful to teachers statewide. Jim asked the board for input. Bob reported that the OSTA website averages 45 to 50 hits a day, with more hits during the legislative sessions. He wonders if another website would compete with our OSTA site. OR could Jim's idea be linked to the OSTA site? SPAM could be an issue so it may have to be a separate site. Beth suggested that Jim do more research, seeking input from other high school teachers, and report back to us at our next meeting.

College report: Julie reported that the deadline for entries to the OKN-JSHS is Feb. 22. She also discussed National Lab Day which will be celebrated at OSU with actual scientists interacting with sophomore and junior students and encouraged attendance for that. She said that information for that will be posted on base camp. She passed out 2 handouts for OKN-JSHS. She also mentioned that the national standards for science have been completed and will be presented later this spring for approval.

District 4 Report: Kay made a plea for biology teachers to be recognized for the state biology teacher of the year award. She needs nominations! She reported that the process for the nominated teacher involves essay writing and the making of a DVD of the teacher's teaching. Board and former members can apply and can help other candidates. She also said that you don't have to be an OSTA member to be nominated. Self nomination is encouraged as well. Deadline has been extended to May 31. The NABT website is linked to our OSTA site.

District 5 Report: Sally reports that membership in the Tulsa area is still low. She wants ideas for how to get OSTA out there. She also mentioned that Tulsa area students will be coming to UCO for the regional science fair on Feb. 21.

State Science Director: Not present because at the time there isn't one. However, we do have a new state STEM director who is coming to OK from Ohio, Jeff Downs.

Science Matters Report: Suzanne reports that the PreK thru 12th Environmental Expo is at the OKC Zoo on Friday, February 3. The theme is *Get Outside!* There is a link to it under Events on OSTA website. There will be lots of goodies for elementary teachers. Registration is \$40 which also includes lunch, big door prizes, and keynote address from Jenifer Reynolds of Discover Oklahoma. On February 18 there will be a Project Wild workshop at Lake Arcadia called Wild about Reading. She also told us about some online science learning centers that are being piloted in Michigan. She also explained that she is applying for an NSEF grant for informal science education and would like some input from science teachers about the impact of informal science experiences such as field trips to nature parks and science museums.

Membership report: Jeff reports that membership enrollment is currently at 179. Beth requested that mass emails to members be sent via BC to protect members' emails and addresses. Discussion about membership ensued.

- Membership is slow right now.
- A lot of members not placed in the correct region. How do we fix that?
- Region 6 seems to have a lot of confusion. Are they really region 6? Many district 3 members are showing up for region 6. Directors need to check to make sure their members are placed in the correct region.
- Why don't people renew membership? Many don't join because we have only one big event a year. Elementary teachers feel excluded because they don't just teach science. Most members don't realize the value or benefits of membership. Auto Renewal??
- What can we do to enhance science teachers professionally?
- Kay G suggested that we come up with workshops or links on our website to pass on information about the common core shift.
- Perhaps a newsletter?
- Suzanne asked if we offer exclusive information on our website. States that are growing their memberships push information out to the state associations. Bob

says that we do that. Suzanne said that she will find out more the states whose memberships are growing. Thanks, Suzanne!

- Bob thinks that the key to membership growth is our events: spring, summer, and fall. These events could be coordinated with the Oklahoma Writing Project, environmental education, etc.
- OSTA must get out there to be the voice for our science teachers because there isn't one right now.
- Professional development funds are gone and our conferences mean more than ever.
- Beth discussed a private company in Texas that runs professional organizations FOR profit...something for us to think about.

Communications Report: Bob reported that the registration for the spring forensic workshop is open on OSTA. Limited to 50 and includes lunch. He then mentioned that the downside to base camp is that it is costing him \$24 a month. Annette made a motion to reimburse him for that cost and Joyce seconded. No vote was taken. Then there was more discussion about how to use survey monkey for voting. It costs \$25 a month but we don't use it every month. Annette suggested that survey monkey might be used for membership outreach to give Oklahoma science teachers a voice to spotlight the wonderful things that's happening in their classrooms. It was mentioned that this happens on our OSTA Facebook page, but not on a regular basis. Annette then withdrew her previous motion. Joyce motioned that Bob be reimbursed for the annual cost of base camp for last year and the cost for this year. Sally seconded and the motion carried. Another motion was made by Annette to reimburse Bob the cost for survey monkey, \$25, as it is needed. Natalie seconded and the motion was approved.

Awards: A decision needs to be made for science fair awards and OJS. Julie volunteered to take care of that. Beth commended Joyce for raising \$700 at the fall conference silent auction.

Constitution: Last year's proposal is still out there and has not been approved. It has to be approved in March or April so look for it on a future agenda.

Workforce committee: There was discussion about posting for different jobs to be done in specific divisions on our base camp.

OLD BUSINESS: Our Forensic Science Institute is on April 14th which is also a board meeting day so our meeting will be brief that day.

Safe Science Summit: Jim Collins has contacted Beth about it. Flinn has free stuff online that teachers can do and still earn a safety certificate. So is an actual summit necessary? Kay E suggested a survey about the need to determine if we have one or not. Another suggestion was made that a safety summit be held every *other* year. Another suggestion was made to change the timing of the summit so that more teachers could attend. Bob was given the task of creating a survey to find out what teachers think. Thanks, Bob!

NCSE: Tina, our president elect, gets to go. Beth suggested that more members should go because we have the funds for travel and possibly registration. The cost for hotel, travel, and registration would have to be assessed. Tina volunteered to have that information for us at the next meeting. There was a show of hands as to who would be interested. Lots of us want to go!

NEW BUSINESS: The FSI is holding a national conference for middle school and high school FS teachers this June. Exact dates TBA. But we do know that there will be lots and lots of resources and activities there!

Fall conference: Tina asked about the date for it. General consensus that October was too early in the semester plus we have to work around football and fall break.

- Suggested dates: Oct. 13 or Nov. 10. October is not good for OKC schools because they are on a long fall break at that time.
- On Nov. 10 Texas science association is having their meeting which vendors might find more enticing because Texas is bigger with more \$\$ to spend.
- BUT we are adopting science books next year so they might come on that date. But presenters could also be a problem.
- Nov. 3 was then suggested but it is the date for NABT in Dallas.
- Someone else googled and discovered that Nov. 10 is the conference for the school of science and math educators.
- Oct. 27 is OSU's homecoming.
- More discussion but general consensus was leaning towards Nov. 10. No motion was offered.
- Discussion about where to have fall conference. Science Museum of OK and Sam Noble are popular venues on survey monkey. But both don't have the space, technology, or support staff that we need.
- Perhaps a Friday night awards event at one of them? The Saturday conference could then be back at UCO. But a Friday awards event would allow family members of recipients to attend. (Great idea, Jeff!)

- An awards "event" will require lots of sponsors because those kinds of things are pricey. Kay E volunteered to hunt for sponsors. Thanks, Kay!
- UCO Atrium is another possible choice for an awards event.
- Osteology Museum another thought. Could be cheaper because they want the publicity.
- Is UCO still best choice for Saturday workshop sessions?
- We can't work in the red and the fall conference is our biggest money maker.

Collaborations: We need board members to take initiative to create workshops and make contacts. Members are asked to bring dates for events in their areas so that other OSTA members could attend and get our face out there. Banner: We need a new one! Auto renewal for membership needs to be looked at. Could we link OSTA membership to other groups such as prepaid legal? Collaboration will be on next month's agenda! Bring your best ideas!

Misc: Nominations for K-6 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science Teaching deadline is April 1st. Theme for fall conference will be on next month's agenda. Be thinking about it! See Bob if you need a name tag. (New secretary would really appreciate it!)

Meeting adjourned at 11:04.