OSTA Minutes for September 21, 2013

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

Minutes for August 17 were discussed. Natalie made a motion to accept the minutes. Bethany seconded and the board approved the minutes.

Visitor: Wallace Mitchell from Pearson spoke a few minutes about how proud Pearson is to be a sponsor of OSTA. Pearson will work directly with our caterer for the awards reception on Nov. 1.

President’s Report: Tina is on a NSTA task force whose purpose is growing their membership. She asked us for suggestions. Tim suggested they rework their “Learning Center.” It seems to have an imbalance between members and nonmembers.

Middle School Report: Jessica had posted pictures of the award plaques that her class could do. But Travis was given that task through Edmond Trophy. Tina took responsibility to clear that up.

State Director’s Report: Tina reported for Tiffany. She told us that the standards draft team receives their final draft on the 23rd. The standards are getting lots of positive feedback. Bethany is on the draft team. Brandi is working with Tiffany on ways to help teachers raise their test scores. Discussion ensued about how to influence our legislature and governor to back us and our standards. Kay shared some of what occurred at the OKSCI Department Chair meeting. It was mostly about the low test scores which were really low because of the raised cut scores. She said they also discussed the disparity between practice tests and actual tests. The Presidential Award for Math and Science for 11-12 has still NOT been announced. (Keeping our fingers crossed, Annette!)

Science Matters: Suzanne reported via Base Camp that she has communicated with NSTA about our book store but has not received much information. We will sell what was left over from last year.

Membership: Bob reported for Travis that there has been lots of activity. Member Clicks has been updated. We have 35 new members which is GREAT! Membership profiles are being updated as well.

Communications: Base Camp has the current proposals for our conference and nomination forms for the awards and open board positions. Tim asked about a poster session and if there is a deadline for proposals. Various dates were suggested but 10/20 was agreed upon. Bob then said it should be for all proposals, not just posters and all agreed.

Awards: There are 2 nominations so far. Board must do PR for this and nominate 2 people. We must do this ASAP because the deadline is 10/4.

Nominations: Beth has spoken to someone about running for President Elect but we need more. We need nominations for treasurer, elementary, high school, and 2 directors at large. We are only as strong as our board. Becky and Brandi need to apply for their positions if they want to remain on the board.

OJSS: The roll out date cannot be met because articles are not coming in as expected. A formal announcement about OJSS will be made at the conference. There will be a workshop about journal writing at the conference as well. Spring ’14 is the projected roll out date.

Engineering Design Conference: OERB and Pearson and SDE will be sponsoring. We need to set a date. Beth and Bob are on the grant so they will help plan it. Connecting engineering to the classroom is the main focus. STEM practices across the state are needed!! Beth asked that we vote to have OSTA collaborate with them. Bethany made the motion. Tim seconded and the board approved the motion.

Conference Reception: Beth has procured Pearson funding! We must nail down a caterer. We will be using one of OERB’s caterers. Joyce is not sure about which one. Wine is still an issue. How many people do we plan for? Everything else looks GOOD for the reception.

Conference Day: The board needs to arrive early to help with vendors and volunteers. Parking might be an issue because Nov. 2 is UCO Homecoming. Right now we have only 30 registered. The program will include awards, conference at a glance, vendors, advertisers, and a small box with board members’ names. Tina will be notifying presenters sometime soon. She will post the session proposals on Base Camp and let us look at and make suggestions before she notifies presenters.

T-shirts are fun and are available online. There is a link on the conference registration.

Elections can be done via Monkey Survey. We can do it as soon as we approve the ballot. So in theory, elections can be held before the conference. Dr. Macgruder can’t come to the awards reception. He told Tim he really wants his keynote to be about what WE want him to speak on. Tim thinks he should speak on science and literacy and then discuss the wealth of resources at OU. Joyce suggested a Q and A.

The half day sessions on the conference agenda were the next item of discussion. AP Biology people are a go. OESC would be good for a half day. The Forensics Institute was not set. Climatology was well attended last year. Consensus was to have climatology, not forensics. Lunch-n-Learn with Tiffany is a go. Kay will help with the book store. How can teachers pay? Credit cards can be used this year because Bob is purchasing a cube. The online code for OSTA from NSTA was discussed. We still don’t have one and we still don’t know if we got our 10% from book sales last year. The Lands’ End Code is still active. We will leave it in the program. It doesn’t cost us anything. Tina will put together presenter packets so presenters will know exactly what to do with the tickets. Attendees will put their names on the tickets and place them in buckets by the prizes they want. Must be present to win!

New business: Kay talked about textbook adoption which is next school year. It coincides with reading and literature. We need to lobby to get reading moved back.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20. Next meeting on Oct.26.