October 11, 2014 OSTA Minutes

**Meeting was called to order** at 9:05 by President Joyce Cheatham. Also present were: Ava Wilhelm, Bethany Lorenz, Tina Fugate, Tina Rogers, Annette Huett, Deborah Hill, Tim Laubach, Tiffany Neill, Travis Hurst, Bob Melton, Michelle Smith, Beth Allan. Bethany made a motion to accept the minutes of our September meeting. Annette seconded, and the board passed the motion.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Our current balance is $15, 519.16. Bank reports were made available to the board. At our last meeting, Joyce had appointed Tina Fugate to the position of treasurer. She asked for a motion to make this appointment official. Tina R made a motion to approve. Bethany seconded and the board passed the motion. Welcome to the board, Tina F!

**Division Reports:** Annette has spoken to the teacher at the Moore-Norman Career Tech about our engineering processes poster with the OSTA logo. He will have his students working on this in the next few weeks but it will not be ready for the conference. The teacher is also checking on the cost. They will be charging us only for the materials.

**Committee Reports:** Suzanne was absent but Joyce reported for her that NSTA will be able to reimburse us for the cost of our keynote speaker. Joyce will have to contact Maura, the NSTA CEO to get this done.

Travis reported that we now have 281 members.

Bob reported that there have been some issues with Member Clicks and he will be calling their support staff to get this worked out. Bob also said we are getting more hits on our website and our Facebook page. The Twitter feed is being used more as well.

Awards committee met on October 10 and chose the following awardees:

Jack Renner Award: Dr. Bruce Weems at ECU

Elementary: Megan Veldhuizen at Woodland Hills Elementary in Lawton.

Middle School: Geary Crofford at Woodall School in Talequah

High School: Amy Clardy at Haworth High School in Haworth

The awardees will get free OSTA membership for 2015 and will be introduced at the reception by their nominator. Nominators will be limited to TWO minutes.

Bob and Tina reported that the nominations for new board members are posted on Base Camp. Presently there are no nominations for President Elect. We have nominations for the other open positions (after board members texted during meeting to coax them into it). We have 3 nominations for the 2 directors at large, one nomination for secretary, one nomination for MS/JrH, and 2 for college/university.

The Finance/Budget committee will meet after the board meeting with Tina F, new treasurer.

**OLD BUSINESS:** OJSS report. The reviews are in and all the articles have to be rewritten. The roll out for the conference will not be possible.

Pre-Service Board Members: At OU there seems to be no interest right now even though they get to go to the NSTA conference in Chicago for free. There was much discussion about reaching the college student/new generation of science teachers. There was some discussion about giving graduating science ed students a free one year membership to OSTA, but right now we have SO many that are alternatively certified. So it didn’t seem like a good idea. Tiffany asked what the benefits of membership are. This sparked a LOT of discussion. First answer to membership benefits: legislative updates, our website, PD support, and some day in the hopefully-near-future---- our journal. Then Bob suggested having smaller quarterly workshops rather than the one large fall conference. This could definitely be seen as a benefit. Tiffany offered this idea: “buffet of options:” virtual PDs, regional workshops at minimal cost, etc. Bob then suggested that we table this discussion until our January meeting. Tim suggested that we do a survey at our fall conference or post conference to see what members want. The survey should have very specific questions. Bob asked that the board send him survey questions that will reflect a different direction for PD support from OSTA. Travis suggested “Google Hangout on Air,” an app that would allow us to do virtual workshops that would be broadcast on You Tube. Joyce and Tiffany suggested ON SITE workshops at state parks, electrical plants, water treatment plants, Camp Classen. Tina F noted that this would be an awesome way to get industry involved.

State Director’s Report: 250, more or less, have attended regional workshops. K-2 numbers are low. Feedback from these teachers is that the new standards are a good fit but how do we build on it? “Science Standards Framework Project” will kick off in November. Hopefully, there will be 2 teachers per grade level working on this. The STEM Summit was a success. Tiffany met a particularly dynamic teacher, former military, who is very passionate about mentoring new teachers. Could this be something that OSTA might want to support?

Executive Task Force: Not very active right now.

Safety Summit: Tina reports that one of the board nominees has a real passion for this and if elected, could be the leader for an all new OSTA Safety Summit.

**AWARDS RECEPTION:**

It is still being held on the 31st at the Dunlap/Cotting Firm on Sheridan in downtown OKC. The buffet will be Italian themed. All agreed that 50 should be a safe number for attendance. Bethany is bringing the wine. Her retired art teacher friend is making centerpieces at a cost of $300. Board members can take them home after the reception. Program starts at 6:30. Board members need to be there by 5. Travis will be getting the award plaques. Bethany is making the programs. OERB and Pearson will be sponsoring the event. Tina F will give Bethany check to pay the caterer. The venue will have tech capabilities. CASMEO is not responding to emails. General consensus is that they are no longer a partner. Deborah read a list of people she has invited, which included Dr. Bareesi. (She accepted on 10/14.) Deborah noted that she has received limited response. Tina F suggested inviting legislative leaders. Tamara was volunteered in her absence to take pictures during reception that can be posted online.

**CONFERENCE:** Cost is $35 for members, $50 for non, and $15 for pre-service. Theme: “OSTA Flips for Science.” Pre-registration is Bob. Volunteers will be here at 6:30. We have 60 registered so far. Bob and Michelle will be doing onsite registration on Saturday. Michelle is doing name tags. Tim brought the banner. His attendance is iffy: New Baby!!! Tina and Joyce will be organizing the helpers for the outside signs. The strands: Flip the scientist stereotype, flip into new practices, flip technology into science. Breakfast: 8:00 to 8:50. Deborah will be going to Panera Bread on Memorial and Meridian. She was reminded to tell them we are tax exempt and she will need the tax number and the money for them. Tina R is getting lunch from McAlisters. The numbers for lunch and the possibility of lunch tickets were discussed. Michelle and Tina R will decide on this later. GIZMOS is still iffy on lunch sponsorship. Beth will let us know.

Vendors: 18 tables have been requested. Pearson, OERB, OESE, and NSTA will get comped tables. So we will need 24 tables in all. The Silent Auction (funds used for Science Fair cash prizes) will be on the bridge.

Back to nominations: Some are vacant. Bethany made a motion to reopen nominations for the vacant spots. Annette seconded and the motion passed. Bob will be opening the nominations back up on the web site. All OSTA members can nominate. Tim was put on the spot about the president elect position and ALLLLLLLLLLLL the great things about Tim were mentioned. But at this moment in his life, his family (new baby! We want to see pics!) has to come first and he declined. Beth suggested that we ask teachers NOT on the board and teachers who used to be on the board to be on our committees. Then when vacancies open up, we will have teachers who already have an understanding of the mysterious inner workings of the board. So then Bethany made another motion to reopen all positions for one week. It was seconded and the board passed the motion.

Tiffany reopened the discussion about difficulties with the website, Member Clicks and Base Camp. Travis, Bob, and Tiffany “volunteered” to be committee for this.

Poster session is still iffy. Tim reports one poster is ready for display and discussion.

Door prizes and silent auction items were discussed. So are the theme baskets door prizes or silent auction items? No consensus was made on this. People in charge can decide on day of conference. Tina R will email vendors about donating books. Annette volunteered to put the baskets together and Ava will help.

T-shirts are not designed but they will be by conference time. Justin will be here to sell them at the conference.

Certificates: Online? After conference? General consensus: online. They will be signed by Michelle and Beth will get the template to Bob and Bob will send it out to attendees.

OK STEM Centers: This is funded by a giant grant. It will provide money for regional extended PD once a month. It will pay the teachers who commit, $800 a month, and in return they commit to doing local and regional PD. Teachers will commit to being out of their classrooms for 15 school days.

ITEMS STILL NEEDED FOR THEME BASKETS: OU items, Thunder items, Curl Up With a Good book items. Items can be brought to reception or day of conference.

ITEMS STILL NEEDED FOR SILENT AUCTION!!!

Meeting adjourned at 12:00. See you on Halloween!