

September 8, 2012 OSTA Board Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 9:05. Members present were Julie, Michelle, Jim, Jeff, Joyce, Tina, Kay E., Toni, Annette, Ava, Becky, Sally, Beth, Natalie, Bethany, and Kay G. Members absent: Bob and Brandi. Our new professional development chair, Michelle Smith, was introduced by Beth. Michelle is an associate professor of education at Cameron University. Welcome, Michelle!

Treasurer's Report: Toni reported that we currently have \$12,290 in our account. Major expenses since last report were reimbursement for Science Congress, deposit to the zoo for awards reception, and payment to Member Clicks. She has \$400 to deposit from vendors. Vendors can now pay by credit card. Beth explained that a budget committee meeting is long overdue but all the hard work by Toni has made a huge difference in the way we do business and Beth commended Toni for her extraordinary efforts.

President Elect's Report: Tina reported that so far we have 12 nominations for awards.

College Report: Julie reported that there will be a Teaching Evolution workshop October 5-7 and there are still openings. She also reported that NABT will begin October 31 in Dallas.

District 4 Report: Kay G reported that OBTA needs nominees and would like to present the OBTA award during our fall conference activities. Sally made a motion that we do this. Tina seconded and the motion was passed by board members.

District 5 Report: Sally talked about the School for Art and Science in Tulsa that burned down Thursday morning. She reported that Tulsa Schools are scrambling for placement of teachers and students and replacing all the supplies and equipment that was lost. Sally was asked by numerous members to let OSTA know who would be a good contact so that we could help.

Membership Report: Jeff reported that our membership is going up with our fall conference registration, 246 total. He requested that we vote on changing membership renewal dates to coincide with when the teacher actually joins. We

can do that now because we have Member Clicks. Kay E moved that we do so. Jim seconded and the motion passed.

Communications Report: Bob had to be gone but Beth reminded members to read his information sent via Base Camp. She also proposed an "operating/communication" protocol: If we have information that needs to be sent out beyond your district, send it to Bob first. Let him decide if it needs to go out statewide. The general consensus was that this was a good idea.

Awards Report: Julie reported that she is still waiting to find out who all the nominees are. Jim interjected that OCAS (in the State Dept.) is an organization that will provide great certificates for our nominees.

Nominations Report: Kay reminded us that even numbered positions are up for reelection. Board members who want to reup can put in their information online.

Constitution Report: Jeff reported for Bob. He reported that our new constitution has to be voted on this fall. He and Bob are working on the new version which has to be posted 30 days before it is voted upon. Julie asked if preservice teachers are still going to be part of the new draft and they are. There was a discussion about how details can be included in the **by-laws**, which don't have to be approved by the entire OSTA membership. Toni said that dues amount should not be included in the constitution but in the by-laws so that the board can set that amount. We have to approve the new constitution 30 days before Nov. 10. It will be posted before our October 13 meeting for membership to view. We will discuss it at that meeting and then it will be ratified at our fall conference.

Old Business: Mission and Vision Statements: There was a discussion about how we arrived at the draft. The bullet statements begin with action verbs because we want to be known as a group of ACTION. There was discussion about the bullet statements. We left in one "that" and took out one. Jim made a motion to accept the purpose statement as edited and Toni seconded it. The vote passed and we now have an official purpose statement:

The Oklahoma Science Teachers Association promotes excellence in science education. It is the mission of the Oklahoma Science Teachers Association

(OSTA) to build a community dedicated to advancing science teaching and learning through:

- Supporting teachers through professional learning communities and programs that promote opportunities for the advancement of science education.
- Working in a collaborative effort with stakeholders (formal and informal science educators, policy makers, scientists, and other organizations) in an effort to provide opportunities for all students to participate in the process of learning accurate science.
- Informing policy makers and the public regarding issues in science education.
- Establishing OSTA as a resource for science education so all students are scientifically and technologically literate, responsible, and productive citizens.
- Recognizing excellence in the science education profession.

Discussion about the mission statement: Our "mission" is what we want OSTA to look like in the end. Our goals need to support the mission and how we will accomplish it. General consensus was that we should also spell out OSTA as in the purpose statement. Kay G motioned that we accept the mission statement. Bethany seconded and the motion passed. We now have a Mission Statement:

Oklahoma Science Teachers Association (OSTA) is a professional organization dedicated to promoting and advocating for accurate science instruction for all students at all levels.

Discussion about goals statements: Someone interjected that we change goal A to "To support student centered educational experiences which fosters an active interest in science." Goal C was changed to "To maintain ~~a~~ communication networks." Joyce made a motion that we accept the edited goal statements. Annette seconded. The vote passed and we now have goal statements:

- a) To support student centered educational experiences which foster an active interest in science
- b) To develop and nurture collaborative partnerships
- c) To maintain communication networks

- d) To provide quality professional development opportunities for science educators

Discussion about Vision Statement: General consensus was that we should spell out OSTA as in the previous statements. Kay E made a motion to accept the vision statement. Bethany seconded and the motion passed. Here is our new Vision Statement:

The vision of Oklahoma Science Teachers Association (OSTA) is to promote science teaching and learning at all instructional levels to enhance scientific literacy within the state of Oklahoma.

Tina commended the board for their hard work on the purpose, mission, goals, and vision statements. Beth explained that any new business and future plans will now be based on these statements. Kay E suggested that our new statements go out to the media. Beth will get with Bob who can send it out.

Indoor Display discussion: Suzanne had posted on Base Camp that the cost will be approximately \$750. Annette got "volunteered" to help Suzanne with the design. General consensus: Display should have OSTA logo, mission statement, and URL. Kay G made a motion to approve the banner payment and Kay E seconded. There was a lot of discussion. How will it be used? Will it be used enough to justify the cost? What exactly will be on it? Kay E: It needs to be SLICK and look professional. It must be durable. Toni: We probably should use the graphic design of the company that will be making the banner to ensure complete professionalism. Where will it be kept and how will members use it? \$750 initially is a lot but in the long haul, it will pay for itself. Old banner has been laid to rest. Suzanne has put a lot of time and effort into this. \$750 is a reasonable cost. Finally there was a vote and Kay G's motion passed.

District Director Boundaries discussion: Beth proposed 4 state bands with I-40 and I-35 as the boundaries. Sally voiced concern about leaving out rural area teachers. Annette proposed a rural representative. Other discussion: We need MORE for our district directors to DO. Boundaries are confusing for members. Should it matter what district they are in? Sending and receiving communications seems to be a major problem because directors don't have email addresses for all

the teachers in their district. "Districts" were important when information was hand mailed. Directors aren't needed now really for communications but for representing their school levels and for voicing concerns of teachers in their areas. Should there be a central and Tulsa district to go with the 4 bands? The way we are currently organized is not growing our membership. Natalie voiced that she would rather be on a committee or task force rather than sending out director emails that may or may not be read or answered. Bob is also passionate about inability to contact other science teachers. Toni expressed hope that Member Clicks will help us attract new members and retain old ones. Several agreed that we should offer more opportunities so teachers feel their membership is valuable. Jeff offered some historical background as to why we have "regional" directors. Originally directors could only vote on issues concerning their district. Joyce added by saying that district directors used to be required to offer professional development in their district. Tina: We need our workforce and our list of duties so we can reorganize. Directors need to know what their assigned duties will be. Bethany has been working on limited job descriptions. Beth suggested that each region be given certain duties. She also agreed we need better defined duties. Sally: We can't be a board of just where the people are. It's about building collaborative partnerships across the state. Jeff proposed 4 regional directors and 2 at large directors. Annette proposed the 4 regions have large and small district representation. Tina: It all comes down to what are we going to do. Communications is already being done by Bob and the state science director. Beth: The bottom line is exactly as Tina said. **WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?** Let's build on Bethany's work by coming up with a list of duties. Becky and Bethany have researched other state associations and did not come up with a lot. Most job descriptions are pretty vague. Toni: This conversation is ongoing at the national level. It is not just an Oklahoma problem. Beth asked Bethany, Becky, Sally, and Tina to be task force that will come up with ideas for director duties for our next board meeting. Julie voiced concern about arbitrarily attaching duties to regions without taking into consideration the strengths and weaknesses of each director. The taskforce will reevaluate job descriptions and will post their discussions on Base Camp.

FALL CONFERENCE; Items to sell were discussed. Beth showed samples of items we could order from Land's End with the OSTA logo on them and then sell at the conference. BUT Land's End still hasn't gotten it worked out. Hopefully this will be resolved soon. Everyone agreed there shouldn't be any sized items. Still have piles of t-shirts from long ago conferences! "NSTA in a Box" would have books, NSTA items and we could purchase them for 30% off retail to sell. So we will have an OSTA store at the conference. Mugs? Lunch bags? Toni wanted to make sure payment method was clear. Bob was volunteered to set up Telius (?) for this. There was a motion by Kay E to use NSTA's "Conference in a Box" as a fundraiser at our fall conference. Joyce seconded and the motion passed. Kay E volunteered to coordinate this.

Friday night: Everything is pretty much set up for the reception at the zoo. Deposits have been made. Decisions about tables and tablecloths have been made. However, a bartender is still needed.

Elections: When will we do it? Schedule is a little different this year since we have a keynote speaker. Consensus: Give out ballots when they register and provide ballot boxes outside the auditorium after the keynote. We should have different ballots for different regions. Use different colored paper.

Proposal and Awards Deadline is October 5. We will vote on these at our next meeting.

Saturday: The big logistics are done. A division of labor is needed. Beth is doing lunch. Michelle, Jeff, Natalie, and Sally are doing registration. Joyce and Becky volunteered to coordinate parking signs. Nametags, folders, certificates, ballots: When should we put this together? At the zoo after reception? UCO students do this and stuff bags? Beth proposed comping conference fees for preservice teachers at other universities and Annette made a motion for this with Joyce seconding. After much discussion, the motion was withdrawn. We already have a student price. Tina said she will post everyone's jobs on Base Camp.

Keynote speaker: Vanessa Westbrook. She will do 2 sessions and a small group discussion for the board and the Metro Science Consortium. Topic: Next Generation of Science Standards.

Breakfast: Doughnuts? Suzanne may have someone who can donate doughnuts!

Lunch: McAlisters. Beth will coordinate.

Awards: Jeff is doing this. He proposed that we give UCO a plaque of appreciation for their support over many years. The cost would be approx. \$45. Kay G made a motion that we approve purchase of the appreciation placque. Sally seconded and motion carried.

Technology: Tina made a motion that we hire a tech person the day of the conference as we have in the past. Cost would be approx. \$300. Joyce seconded and the motion passed.

Silent Auction: Joyce asked members to bring items for this. "Gently loved!"

New Business: OKEEC. Environmental Education standards have been posted. Beth asked us to review them for discussion at our next meeting. OKEEC is seeking an endorsement from OSTA.

"Institutional" membership: Jeff reports that Casady School has asked for this. They want all their science faculty to be OSTA members. We need a definition of this but there will not be a discount. Toni says if they submit a purchase order, then there teachers could join individually by referencing the invoice.

WE WERE DISMISSED AT 11:45! NEXT MEETING ON OCTOBER 13TH!