

NCSTA

REFLECTOR

North Carolina Science Teachers Association



Promoting excellence
in science teaching
and learning

September 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Fellow NCSTA Members,

Welcome to our inaugural relaunch of your Reflector newsletter! I am so excited to have this way to reach each of you once again. This was my number one goal as I started my presidency, but please know, it has been a labor of love from many of those on the NCSTA Board. The importance of the newsletter is that it provides a means for us to communicate, and, after all, communication is everything. Through this vehicle you can stay abreast of all the opportunities that NCSTA affords you, and those are ever increasing. Remember, this is your newsletter. Our editor, Brian Whitson, invites you to share your expertise in our newsletter.



I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you on completing the most unexpected, challenging, frustrating, surprising, perplexing and probably exasperating year you have ever taught this spring. We all had different models, platforms, expectations, and delivery modes, but we survived and succeeded because we are professional science educators. Therefore, once again I say congratulations to you for your exceedingly hard work this year and for serving our NC students. I know you have also faced uncertainty regarding the opening of school and delivery of curriculum thus fall. Please know we are here to help you and let us know your needs.

The COVID virus has been a challenge for NCSTA as well causing the board to make the difficult decision to postpone our November PDI conference until next year. However, with challenges often comes great creativity, and I have seen that among our board members this spring. We will hold our Awards Ceremony in November via the internet in order to continue to honor and celebrate our wonderful teachers. We are also working on new ways to support our members through unique outreach efforts such as developing a NCSTA YouTube Channel. Read on to learn more about these endeavors and opportunities and how you can participate.

Considering recent events concerning social justice, you should know that NCSTA embraces and supports diversity and racial equality in all science instructional settings. I hope you will read our Social Justice and Anti-Racism Statement below addressing the current events in our communities.

Do not forget to exercise your NCSTA right to vote this fall. We will have members vying for various board positions and amendments to our Bylaws that need your vote. Please participate in this important member responsibility.

Best wishes for a successful fall of 2020.

Dr. Carol Maidon, President

NCSTA ELECTIONS & BYLAWS AMENDMENTS



The election period for NCSTA officers and board members is now open. This year the organization's membership will vote for the following administrative positions: President Elect (1 year term), Treasurer (2 year term), and District Directors for districts 1, 3, 5 and 7 which are 2 year terms. The individuals who are elected to these positions will serve as the members' voice in setting the direction for science education in North Carolina, policies for the association, and the planning and implementation of NCSTA activities. To ensure this professional organization considers the unique needs and concerns of its constituency, it is vitally important that each member cast a ballot for the nominees of his or her choice.

Please vote for the president elect, treasurer, and the district director for your respective NCSTA district. Voting will be conducted electronically from now until midnight October 10, 2020.

Electronic Voting

In order to vote, you must be a current member of NCSTA. Log in to the website: www.ncsta.org . Above your name, you will see the voting option.

NCSTA Board Nominees - Click on name for nominee information

President Elect

[MaryKate Holden](#)

Treasurer

[Mary Ellen Durham](#)

District 1 Director

[Cliff Hudson](#)

District 3 Director

[Emily Cayton](#)

[Kristana Rogers](#)

District 5 Director

[Brad Rhew](#)

District 8 Director

[Lindsay Smith](#)

ByLaws Amendments

The NCSTA board of directors has been very busy updating our by-laws. Please take the time to look at the changes and cast your vote: [2020 ByLaws Amendments](#)

ELEMENTARY SCIENCE - VIRTUAL SESSIONS

ELEMENTARY SCIENCE:
You can do "at home"
(A Virtual Make-It-Take-It)

3 Sessions:

October 1, 15, 29

[Register Now](#)



Teachers are facing the challenge of teaching science "from a distance". Join us for three sessions to see 75 things that can be made by children at home to help them learn science concepts. These learning aides are made from items commonly found at the home or grocery store.

Members of the North Carolina Science Teachers Association (NCSTA) will be presenting these ideas via "Zoom" sessions.

**When: Thursdays, October 1st, 15th and 29th
from 4:30 until 6:00 p.m.**

Presenters: Laura Lowder, Pfeiffer University
Brad Rhew, Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools
Manley Midgett, Meredith College

Topics addressed include: weather, electricity, sound, the Solar System, inertia,

force & motion, sink or float, properties of matter, and gravity.

FREE for NCSTA Members

\$30 for Non-members (complimentary membership included)

One Registration covers all three sessions.

Credit Card Payments Only.

A Zoom link will be sent to those who register on the day of the session(s).

Contact Manley Midgett at 919-218-7917 or midgettm@meredith.edu

[Register Now](#)

SHARE YOUR VIDEOS ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL

As you know, the school year was interrupted by the pandemic. Science teachers have been asked to teach remotely with many doing so for the first time with little or no training. Your North Carolina Science Teacher's organization wants your help in populating a new YouTube Science Teachers' channel. Please volunteer to help other science teachers and post your videos of best practices of distance teaching and learning. Several science teachers have already volunteered and posted videos for you to use too.

Videos to be added to the YouTube Science Teachers' channel should be sent to this email address (ncstatech@gmail.com) for reviewing and posting. Thank you for considering helping all science teachers get a grasp on this new reality!

You can access the new YouTube Science Teachers' videos at the North Carolina Science Teachers Association channel.

NCSTA YOUTUBE CHANNEL

We welcome you to explore these videos on our YouTube channel as we continue to build our YouTube Library.

[District Directors Welcome](#)

[Elementary Science](#)

[Middle School Science](#)

[High School Science](#)

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2019 NCSTA AWARD WINNERS

District Outstanding Science Teacher Awards

District 1

Stephanie Hendrix - Elementary

Mary Hill - Middle

District 2

Jeannine Fernandez - Elementary

Emily Kelly - Middle

Chelsea Ash - High

District 3

Kathy Wall - Elementary

Aleah Abernathy - Middle

District 4

Erica Caine - Elementary

Dillon Crockett - High

District 5

Neal Andrews - Elementary

Temple Cantrell - Middle

Heather Montgomery - High

District 6

Lara Cabaniss - Elementary

Jennifer Snyder - Middle

Calin Martin - High

District 7

Ruth Kiser - Elementary

Melissa Oldaker - Middle

Payton Blankenship - High

District 8

Elisa Flynn - Middle

Tom Savage - High

Kristi Brown - John Park High School Student Teaching Award

Distinguished Service in Science Education

Ted Miracle - Jo Duckett Wallace Elementary School Award

Elizabeth Stabenow - Ann Watkins Middle School Award

Patricia Velasco - Nancy Wynne High School Award

Jeffrey Edwards - Ann and Bill Palmer Supervisor/Administrator Award

Kelly Ficklin - Don Bailey University Award

Laurie Merlo - Commercial Award

Jameson McDermott - Non-School Award

Jayson Duncan - Vi Hunsucker Award

NCSTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee

President [Carol Maidon](#)

President-Elect [Sandra Weitzel](#)

Secretary [Brad Woodard](#)

Treasurer [Mary Ellen Durham](#)

District Directors

District 1 [Cliff Hudson](#)

District 2 Michelle Chadwick

District 3 Evelyn Baldwin

District 4 [Adrienne Evans](#)

District 5 [MaryKate Holden](#)

District 6 Tim Guilfoyle

District 7 Molly Barlow

District 8 Tom Savage

Standing Committees

Membership/Goals Manley Midgett

Finance [Mary Ellen Durham](#)

Nominations/Elections Carrie Jones

Publications/Communications Brian Whitson

Conference [Mike Tally](#)

Constitution & By-Laws Ann McClung

Ad-Hoc Committees

Awards Alisa Wickliff

Curriculum & Study Grants [Brad Rhew](#)

PDI Sponsorships Manley Midgett

University Liaison [Laura Lowder](#)

Trust Fund Manley Midgett

History & Records Brad Woodard

NSTA Liaison Carrie Jones

NCSLA Liaison Ann McClung

Non-Public Schools Kim Alix

Legislative [Mike Tally](#)

Student Competitions Ralston James

Science Matters Carolyn Elliott

Multicultural Tomika Altman

Business Manager Joette Midgett

CLASSROOM ACTIVITY - VIRTUAL STYLE!

Virtual Classification Activity - Contributed by Manley Midgett

These days, when teachers and their students are separated geographically more than ever, it is challenging to conduct laboratory activities. It is even more difficult since students may not have the lab materials at home. Classification is one of the major science process skills we teach at [all grade levels](#).



In science, we do not “corner the market” on classifying, but we do a lot of it. We classify much more than just plants and animals. We classify rock types, landforms, [\[more\]](#)



NCSTA Social Justice and Anti-Racism Support Statement
Please share our position statement

[Download](#)
25.4 KB