

NORTH CAROLINA SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION  
NCSTA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Room 215 Ledford Hall, Meredith College, Raleigh, NC  
March 21, 2015 10:45 a. m.

**Board Members Present:** Sam Wheeler, Carrie Jones, Renée Coward, Carolyn Elliott, Rebecca Hite, Brad Woodard, Tammy Schooley, Samantha Barlow, Cindy Bullard, Amanda Clapp, Carol Maidon, Beverly Lyons, Joette Midgette, Mike Talley, Sandra Weitzel.

**Board Members Not in Attendance:** Angela Adams, Tomika Altman-Lewis, Randy Bechtel, Fred Beyer, Mark Case, Judy Day, Nina Daye, Stephanie Grady, Ann McClung, Manley Midgett, Carol Moore, Fran Nolan, Linda Stroud, Kay Swofford, Justin Tillett, Beverly Vance, Joe Wachs.

**Call to Order** by President Sam Wheeler at 10:50 a.m.

The President welcomed all members and declared a quorum.

### **Main Agenda Items**

#### **President's Report and Executive Committee Report**

##### **2018 NSTA Regional Conference**

President Wheeler discussed the 2018 NSTA Regional Conference to be held in Charlotte. Joette Midgett and Wheeler met with representatives of NSTA to discuss financial agreements. The NSTA rep offered \$30 per person for the first 1000 North Carolina residents with \$20 per person for numbers of NC residents over one thousand. (In 2013, NCSTA received a flat fee of \$30,000 with an additional \$1 dollar per participants over the 1000.)

**Motion to approve the contract with NSTA for the 2018 NSTA Regional Conference at the \$30/\$20 rate with authorization for the NCSTA representatives to be able to negotiation any potential increases for NCSTA-- submitted by Amanda Clapp and seconded by Brad Woodard. Motion unanimously approved.**

#### **Building Awareness**

- Member Highlight on the Website: President Wheeler suggested featuring Ann McClung.
- President Wheeler has talked with Liz Baird, Education Director of the NC Museum of Natural Sciences regarding sponsoring an NCSTA member for an Educator of Excellence trip.
- Remind members that in 2016, the NCSTA PDI will be Greensboro.

#### **PDI Discussion**

President Wheeler discussed the following strategies to enhance the PDI:

- Build presence of BTs and Pre-Service (Poster sessions for Grad/Undergrad research). Carol Maidon requested that the Poster Sessions be held on the first day so university students can be told this spring before the end of the semester.
- Science Major Graduate and Undergraduate Science Major Poster Presentations
- Invite Engaging Professors of Science and Science Education to present at PDI
- Invite Engaging Professors of Literacy to present at PDI
- Brainstorm potential PDI Major Speakers
- Contact local Bookstore Children's Literature Specialists to present on current science books.
- Strand Representatives are needed to host Birds of a Feather/Subject Rooms.
- What could we sell (one day maximum) that teachers would want? Back-up power supply? Bracelet jump drives? Car chargers? What sponsor could pay for them? Or the possibility of bringing in additional vendors who will pay the \$600 (Commercial Vendors) and \$200 for the Non-Profits.

## **Awards**

President Wheeler recommended that the board members meet in districts to brainstorm potential nominations for the NCSTA Awards. The nomination deadline is May 31, 2015. All members are asked to nominate prospective awardees. Last year's awardees will also be asked to make nominations.

## **Discussion of Board Position Openings and Responsibilities**

Mike Talley and Mary Ellen Durham were asked to co-chair the Nominating Committee. District Directors 2, 4, 6, and 8 will be up for nominations. Nominations will be open May 1 and closed September 15.

District 6 Director Rebecca Worlds tendered her resignation due to family commitments. Amanda Clapp recommended Brandon Wilson, a teacher in District 6 to serve as that District's Director. President Wheeler appointed Wilson as the District 6 Director.

## **Importance: We Are It.**

President Wheeler reminded Board members to keep their eye on the goal: NCSTA is the only statewide organization that supports science teaching and provides professional support for science educators in North Carolina.

## **Board Minutes Approved**

**Motion to approve the 2015 January NCSTA Board Minutes submitted by Sam Barlowe and seconded by Brad Woodard. Minutes approved.**

## **Membership Strategies**

Carrie Jones discussed different strategies to increase membership. She reminded the Board that these strategies can be found in the "Official NCSTA Folder" in the Promotional Materials Google Docs, including an NCSTA Brochure; a Membership Application Form; Sponsorship Letters, including one to the Parent-Teacher-Student Association; and a Vendor Flyer. Board members are encouraged to make copies of these documents to take to different meetings to share with prospective NCSTA members.

## **Job Descriptions**

Carrie Jones discussed the need for all board members to complete their individual job description with a timeline with the objective of helping new board members know what their job responsibilities are in order to

## **Building Awareness of our State's Resources**

- District Directors discussed their individual efforts to research and list the available resources in their districts. Discussion about the need to email Beverly Vance the NCSTA DPI representative to determine district-wide science contacts.
- Carolyn Elliott reminded all members to insure that they are not only providing information to Science Matters, but also receiving the information as a group member of Science Matters.
- Carol Maidon will share her list of the universities' faculty members who are working with science education.

## **Business Manager's Report**

Business Manager Joette Midgett discussed the problem with email access on the website. The web designer has been contacted and will work to resolve the problem, but is currently concentrating on emails from Vendors for the PDI. Board members can contact Joette to get emails until the problem is resolved.

I-Contact is a newly acquired software which allows the Business Manager to do business-related bulk emailing, Cindy Bullard to send the NCSTA newsletter, and Kay Swofford to send PDI emails, all with free access for non-profits. Discussion of concern with the possibility of overwhelming recipients with too many emails and them "unsubscribe." President Wheeler asked all board members to avoid making bulk email requests to the Business Manager unless they fall in the three major areas described above.

## **Legislative Action**

Rebecca Hite discussed some of the legislative strategies NCSTA can take to build awareness and better support science teachers with the reminder that non-profits can advocate, but cannot lobby or provide gifts to legislators.

On the state level:

1. Ask legislator(s) and/or governor to read a Resolution prepared by NCSTA to the General Assembly.
2. Ask legislator to Lead a Letter.
3. Partner with legislator(s) on legislation to support education.

On the federal level:

1. Ask legislator to read a Resolution prepared by NCSTA as part of the Congressional Record and read before Congress for C-Span.
2. Ask legislator to Lead a Letter.

Other Options:

Contact other associations to partner on essays/website articles. For example, partner with the Autism Society of North Carolina and submit an article for their website on “Best Practices for Teaching Students with Autism.”

**Motion to approve authorizing Rebecca Hite to investigate different ways to increase legislative-based actions submitted by Cindy Bullard motion with a second from Amanda Clapp. Motion approved.**

FYI: The Environmental Educators of NC Conference will be on September 24-25 at the Eastern 4-H Center in Columbia, North Carolina.

## **Upcoming NCSTA Board Meetings:**

PDI Planning Committee Meeting, July 23-26, 2015, NCCAT Ocracoke

- Review Survey Comments from 2014 PDI
- Select presenters for PDI
- Schedule presenters in strands
- Edit PDI Booklet

Virtual Meeting, 5:00 p.m., Thursday, July 30

(In future meetings, Sandra Weitzel will host the virtual meetings through an available meeting platform.)

September 12, 2015, 214 Ledford Hall, Meredith College, Raleigh, at 10:45 a.m. Exec. Bd. Mtg. at 8:30 a.m.

**Reminder:** Encourage members to consider donating funds back to the NCSTA General Fund, vs. the NCSTA Trust Fund to allow more flexibility of funds.

Meeting adjourned by President Sam Wheeler at 2:20 p.m.

\*Secretary’s Note: The NCSTA Board Meeting documents are in Google Docs in the “Official NCSTA Folder” (in the March 2015 Folder). All board members are encouraged to submit district and committee reports directly into the appropriate folder. Contact the Secretary at [reneecoward@gmail.com](mailto:reneecoward@gmail.com) if you experience difficulty.

Respectfully submitted,  
Renée Coward  
NCSTA Secretary