

Everyone was welcomed to the NSTA Regional Conference in Charlotte in the Providence Meeting Rooms 1-2 of the Westin Hotel at 7:30 PM

Meeting was called to order by our President Mike Tally

Those present were President-Elect Carol Moore, Sandra Weitzel, Raulston James, President Mike Tally, Brad Woodard, Sharon Green, Mary Ellen Durham, Carol Maidon, Ann McClung, Manley Midgette, Joette Midgette, Valerie Sellers, Cliff Hudson, Nina Day, Brian Whitset, Carrie Jones, Michelle Chadwick, Angela Adams, Randy Bechtel, Meredith Mitchell and Erica Caine

We were explained why the 2019 Conference would not be held in Greensboro due to the raise of the rates. We discussed that most of the membership of NCSTA comes from Greensboro, Wake and Forsyth Counties. The last time the conference was held in the Western part of the state the organization lost revenue. This could be said of the eastern part of the state as well. It was decided on Winston-Salem for the 2019 PDI.

There was discussion for the 2020 site amongst Raleigh's McKimmon Center, Hickory and Benton Convention Center in Winston-Salem. A few board members went to Hickory a few weeks ago to visit a possible site there. Benton Convention Center would have just one floor along with Hickory to hold our PDI as well as McKimmon Center. The downside to the McKimmon Center was that it did not have a hotel nearby or connected and it was for a Wednesday-Thursday (\$22,000 was the price). Hickory included a hotel next door, no food was nearby, free parking and \$9,5000 for rental space. Benton included payment for parking, hotel minimum as well as 12 large rooms. All three sites has free Wi-Fi. Benton and Hickory have concession stand options. Hickory would provide one big room with 4 sections, while Benton offered the basement level for its Exhibit Hall and the General Session could be held there. Benton was a 20 mile drive from the airport, speakers could be shuttled from the Piedmont-Triad Airport to Benton. Hickory would be a 1 hr. drive from Charlotte and three hour drive from Raleigh, people may not come from the east due to travel time the day before and their teaching obligations. Mary Ellen mentioned that before when the PDI was held in the east or the west our attendance dropped. We need the conference centrally located since the majority of our attendees come from the Triangle area. 100 teachers difference would wipe out rooms rented. Joette presented a handout to all board members showing attendance numbers since 2007 in Greensboro, Charlotte and Winston-Salem. During the first year at Benton, we had 1,060 people attend. We typically have a drop in attendance after the NSTA regional conference in Charlotte as shown in Joette's handout to us. After much discussion of these sites the board decided by a vote of 7-3 to hold the 2020 PDI at Benton Convention Center in Winston-Salem. It was reported that the convention center had been updated technologically and renovated.

Lori Khan has sent an email on Curriculum Grants. She reported that an AP Biology teacher has requested a Sickle Cell Anemia kit valued at \$1,000. Carol Maidon suggested that the school fund (no 1099 form is required for anything over \$600). Carol Moore asked for written correspondence in the form of letter to be written by Lori Khan. Carol Moore said she had a template for this. Carol Maidon made a motion to accept this grant. Meredith Mitchell

seconded. We had a quorum of voting members and the vote was taken with the motion carrying.

Several mentioned having new teacher sessions to picque the interest for new teachers and give them added support.

District Drive-In's were discussed.....
Have these at aquariums, Discovery Place, etc.
These may increase numbers.

What does NCSTA give its members in addition to PDI?

Ann McClung suggested having regional events in the spring after our fall PDI. To increase membership and those coming to PDI we need to consider venue cost, driving distance, partnerships and sponsorships as we did during our summer retreat a few years back. Our bylaws and constitution state we must have one general meeting during the year (our PDI). The best sessions at pDI are ones with varied content and strands. We use to have textbook adoption groups as vendors and presenters, we don't have adoptions anymore. 2017 Conference cost \$52,000 in Greensboro at Kourry Convention Center.

Reminder that NCSTA sponsored events would be in the afternoon and Evening starting with the Share-A-Thon headed up by Lori Khan at 2 pm, followed by our speakers from PBS at 3 along followed by the Awards Ceremony and Reception.

Election Results

Cliff Hudson was re-elected as District 1 Director

Evelyn Baldwin District 3 re-elected

Molly Barlowe won election to District 7 and Carol Moore is the incoming president with Carol Maidon being elected President-Elect.

Save the Date for the 2019 PDI will be given out at our NCSTA booth which will be located when attendees come up the escalator from the Exhibit Hall so we have a good chance to catch our NC educators and speak with them about memberships.

Ticket Prizes will be an IPAD Mini, Spheros, Maki Maki and 10 \$50 gift cards to the NSTA store. The prizes will be given away before the Awards Ceremony. Social Media will be captured by Brian Whitset and Nina Day will take pictures during the Awards program.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm..
Respectfully Submitted,

Brad Woodard