

**VATE Executive Board Meeting  
Saturday, January 24, 2009  
Harrisonburg, Virginia, Memorial Hall**

**I. Call to order, Adoption of the agenda**

- A. Chris Woods officially called the meeting to order at 10:52 am.
- B. Agenda adopted.

**II. Welcome, Introductions, and Recognition of New Board Members**

**Members present:** Crystal Haskins, Chris Woods, Linda MacCleave, Leila Christenbury, Chuck Miller, Adria Merritt, Sarah Tanner-Anderson, Mary Beth Cancienne-Acgtblu, Grace Sole, Carrie Perry, Robert Williams, Silvia Babcock, Deborah Carrington, Arleatrice Winters, Gena Southall, Shelah Novak, Hood Frazier, Mary Davis, KaaVonja Hinton-Johnson

**III. Reports**

**A. Secretary—Crystal Lassiter**

Minutes from October 24, 2008, Executive Board meeting will be approved via e-mail before the end of the week.

**B. Treasurer's Report: Leila Christenbury**

Leila reviewed the Treasurer's Report, which notes that VATE is 6 months into the fiscal year. To date, the impact of the recession on future membership renewals is unknown. Most organizations such as ours are preparing for very tough times. In addition, to date, the proceeds from the 2008 VATE Fall Conference have not been transmitted. As of this report, current outstanding indebtedness is approximately \$4,200; \$3,200 (*VEB* printing and mailing; bills not received) plus \$1,000 (NCTE conference reimbursement; receipts not received). The Treasurer's Report was adopted and accepted. (Linda MacCleave moved that report be accepted, Silvia Babcock seconded, and the motion carried.) [\*See Report.\*](#)

**New Business Regarding the Report:**

- Robert Williams moved that a PDF version of the spring 2009 issue of the *VEB*, rather than the printed version, be provided for VATE members. Linda MacCleave seconded, and the motion carried.
- Carrie Perry moved that all copies of *The Needle's Eye* be available online and that all members be e-mailed a hyperlink to the newsletter on the VATE site. Sarah Tanner-Anderson seconded, and the motion carried.
- VATE 2009 Conference: Adria Merritt and a small committee will discuss ways to decrease expenses. Sarah Tanner-Anderson will assist Adria in her efforts.
- Richard A. Meade: Chuck Miller moved to continue the Richard A. Meade Scholarship; Robert Williams seconded, and the motion carried. This conversation will continue via e-mail before February 8, 2009.
- Carrie Perry moved that we suspend support of officers to attend 2009 NCTE Affiliate Leadership Conference. Sarah Tanner-Anderson seconded, and the motion carried.
- Carrie Perry moved that we suspend support of officers to attend 2009 NCTE Fall Conference. Robert Williams seconded, and the motion carried.
- Leila Christenbury moved that we suspend stipends (Executive Secretary and Webmaster). Hood Frazier seconded, and the motion failed.

**NOTE:** ALL OF THE ABOVE APPROVED MOTIONS (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE ELECTRONIC PRINTING OF *The Needle's Eye*) ARE IN RESPONSE TO CURRENT FISCAL CONTINGENCIES AND MAY BE REVISITED AT FUTURE MEETINGS.

**C. Executive Secretary's and Conference Coordinator's Reports: Chuck Miller  
Membership**

32 members did not renew membership as of December; 35 members as of January 24, 2009. Chuck will send out reminders. 35 memberships are due at the end of January. VATE has 437 (333 solid) members to date. There are three building level memberships and no corporate members.

**2009 Conference**

The hotel has a website for hotel reservations. The website is <http://resweb.passkey.com/go/virj09d>. Chuck will research per diem meals to keep meal function costs low for members. Chuck is asking each board member to do one thing to help increase memberships before the next board meeting.

**D. President-Elect's Report: Adria Merritt**

Ideas to help decrease costs:

Early Friday, October 30, 2009, will be a day for registration and the *Museum Mile* will run from 8:00 am-10:00 am on Saturday morning. During luncheon, Adria suggested that we feature Book Trailer competition entries. We should seek sponsors to help cut costs. VATE will host a lunch, provide banquet speaker, and showcase student work.

**E. Past President's Report: Carrie Perry**

Carrie welcomed VATE's new board members and returning members. A special thanks was given to Shelah Novak, MS MAL and Chris Woods, President for continuing their positions. There is a vacancy: High School Member-at-Large Elect. Any suggestions with contact information are welcome. Jan said that Lynn Armstrong from Prince William County would be willing to serve as High School Member-at-Large Elect. Carrie would like the board to start thinking about our next slate of officers. Please send Carrie names of anyone who should be considered, especially for Vice President, and the 4 members-at-large elect.

**F. Vice President's Report: Sarah Tanner-Anderson**

Please consider contributing to the Literary Map (<http://www.vate.org/litmapva/litmapva.htm>) for professional development.

**G. District President Report: No report**

**H. Student Affiliate Reports**

**JMSATE- Grace Dole, Co-President**

The JMU affiliate is considering new ways to attract members. There are currently 35 members in the James Madison affiliate. They are hosting a School Supply Drive in an effort to give back to the communities in which they completed their practicum. In addition, they are providing their services within the Boys & Girls Club. Next fall semester, they plan to have graduate school students come back to share their reflections and experiences with upcoming teachers within the affiliate.

**I. Members-at-Large**

1. **Elementary: Anita Gill-Anderson/Nancy Webb:** No report.
2. **Middle: Shelah Novak/Arleatrice Winters:** No report.
3. **Secondary: Brent Fleisher:** (Conference Treasurer Report): Brent was unable to attend; however, he sent a report via e-mail to Chris stating that all debts for the conference are paid. He has been trying to get memberships within his building.
4. **College: Mary Beth Cancienne-Acgtblu/Gena Southall:** Mary Beth is looking forward to working with Gena Southall. She is looking to increase college membership.

- J. NCTE Liaison: Jan Suppa Friedman**  
Jan Suppa-Friedman presented Crystal Haskins an award from VATE for receiving the NCTE Leadership Development Award. [See Report](#)
- K. VSRA Liaison: Silvia Babcock**  
VSRA is still working on giving Silvia all necessary information regarding VSRA conference. The governing board is meeting in February, and she will take all information to the meeting. She is asking that fliers are sent out electronically, as accruing costs are an issue. Silvia also brought up the option of receiving graduate credit for attending the conference. Adria and her conference committee will research this.
- L. VDOE: Tracy Robertson: [See Report](#)**
- M. VCEE Liaison: Hood Frazier**  
VCEE conducted two workshops and a business meeting at the VATE Conference. The First Panel Presentation was with students from Radford University, University of Virginia, and James Madison University to discuss the preparation of English teachers from students' perspectives. The Second Panel presentation was with an English educator, Leila Christenbury; an English Supervisor, Liz Simons; and an English teacher, Sarah Tanner-Anderson about issues surrounding the teaching of English.
- N. VETAC Liaison: VATE extended a welcome to Rafe Telsch.**
- O. SLATE Liaison: Deborah Carrington**  
Deborah Carrington had a table at the conference. She reported a great deal of interest. Deborah wrote a piece for the *Needle's Eye* concerning SLATE.
- P. NCTE Achievement in Writing Award: Troy Ketch: No report**
- Q. NCTE Promising Young Writers Award: Roark Mulligan: No report**
- R. Excellence in Student Literacy Magazine Award: Frejya Bergthorson: No report**
- S. Multicultural Liaison: Mary Davis**  
The listing of keeping the talent bank as a duty for the multicultural liaison is no longer in the policy manual, but Mary suggested that the talent bank is necessary to the organization. In addition, Mary is suggesting a short reading list that reflects what Virginia teachers are using in their classrooms. Mary Davis will categorize the reading list so that it accurately reflects diverse and contemporary focuses. VATE will apply for the "NCTE Fund Teachers for the Dream" grant to fund VATE's minority outreach initiative: Carrie Perry agreed to write the grant in March.  
**Multicultural Award:** The deadline is May 1, 2009. Mary is asking if members have knowledge of affiliates that are actively trying to enhance multicultural awareness through school and/or community activities to please contact her.
- T. Public Relations: Kathryn Geranios: No report**
- U. Webmaster's Report: Linda MacCleave: [See Report](#)**

#### IV. Standing Committees

- A. Publications: Carolyn Mathews**  
Christina will contact Carolyn to improve communication concerning the *Needle's Eye*.
1. **Needle's Eye: Christina Kempt**  
Christina is requesting information to put in *The Needle's Eye*.
  2. **Virginia English Bulletin: Robert Williams**  
Robert supports Williamsburg for the 2009 conference location.
  3. Special: Vacant
- B. Affiliate Chair: Vacant**

**C. Policy and Practice Manual Revisions: Linda MacCleave**

Leila moved to accept the [three suggested changes to the Policy Manual](#). The motion was seconded, and it carried. Linda will make revisions as a result of today's discussion.

**V. Old Business**

**A. 2009 Conference Proposed Changes**

Location, chair/officer roles, and schedule changes: Members were asked to review the suggested changes on a sheet created by Chris and Carrie.

**B. Non-profit tax status: Leila Christenbury**

Leila received the [letter from IRS](#) verifying VATE's non-profit status.

**VI. New Business**

**Conference 2009 proposed changes**

The members of the Conference Committee will contact with each other and bring proposed changes to the board.

**VII. Announcements**

The next VATE Executive Board Meeting will be held April 25, 2009, at Chesterfield County Library, and the following is July 18, 2009, at the conference site in Williamsburg, both to begin at 10:30 a.m.

**VIII. Adjournment**

The motion to adjourn was made at 3:10 pm. The motion carried.