

**VATE Executive Board Meeting
Saturday, March 1, 2008
Charlottesville, Virginia**

I. Call to order, Adoption of the agenda

Chris Woods officially called the meeting to order at 10:36am. There was a motion to approve the agenda; the motion was passed. The December 17th minutes are approved and will be adopted next meeting after editorial review. The board decided that Leila Christenbury will edit December 27, 2008 minutes.

II. Welcome, Introductions, and Recognition of New Board Member- The new Board Member is Crystal Lassiter.

Members present: Crystal Lassiter, Chris Woods, Mary Davis, Linda MacCleave, Leila Christenbury, Peggy Gearhart, Chuck Miller, Sandra Whitaker, Adria Merritt, Sarah Anderson, Gena Southall, Tracey Robertson, Kathryn Geranios, Jan Suppa Friedman, Mary Davis, and Yvonne Maisel

III. Reports

a. Secretary: Crystal Lassiter

b. Treasurer's Report: Leila Christenbury

Leila Christenbury presented a report for the fiscal year 2007-2008. Leila reported an interim interest payment and Southwest Virginia Affiliate donation to the budget. Due to a loss from the 2007 VATE Conference, she recommended that VATE should be more cautious as to how the organization spends money. In relation to the budget, the organization is on target. For the next conference, procedures need to be put in place and Leila will present a motion at the Board meeting detailing the procedures.

The IRS has decided that the organization needs to file taxes again. Leila will file with the IRS in the fall, five months after the end of the fiscal year. In conclusion, the conference hotels are asking that there is a "guarantee" via credit card. VATE has acquired a Platinum Visa business card. There is no annual fee; the limit is \$5,000. Chuck Miller and Leila have the credit card number. Executive officers may need access to the card; please contact Chuck Miller or Leila Christenbury.

c. Executive Secretary's Report and Conference Coordinator's Report:

Chuck Miller— revitalizing affiliates, hotel hunt for 2009. Membership is 390; 21 school level members and one corporate sponsor. Out of 120 cards sent out, an estimated 20 have returned. The organization's usual membership has been between 450-475 persons. Suggestions on how to revitalize affiliates need to be discussed.

Chris has made contact with the "Hospitality House" in Williamsburg, Virginia for hotel rates. More communication regarding hotel accommodations will take place in early spring.

d. President—Elect's report: Sandra Whitaker—Conference program 2008

There are two workshop proposals for the spring conference. Sandra has received commitments from all writers that were contacted. A publisher offered to sponsor two speakers: Andrea Betty, Michael Buckley, or Shana Norris;

These authors will focus on younger readers. Sandra will pursue Andrea Betty and Michael Buckley for the conference. It is the will of the board to have the William Byrd High School present their performance of *Seussical*. Sandra will check into minimizing the performance to 30 minutes versus the 90 minutes. She will exhaust options to integrate the performance into the conference agenda.

The Virginia Council for the Arts has been written and will be submitted on Monday. There are a number of concerns to take into account: participation for Friday, hotel accommodations, allowing Virginia teachers and guest writers to have an appropriate turn out. VDOE can provide a certificate of attendance for recertification.

e. Past President's Report: Carrie Perry—

Chris read Carrie's report. Carrie reminded the board to think about possible board members for the June board meeting. However, nominations will go out in May for the newsletter. Carrie will write a proposed slate of nominees. Based on Carrie's report, Chris will make amendments for conference registration. Chris will check with Carrie regarding formal thank yous for past board members.

f. Vice President's Report: Adria Merritt—

Adria suggested an addition to the website that offers a database of authors who may be potential speakers for teachers to browse. A list of elementary, middle, and high school authors will be provided at the next meeting. Included within the database, recommendations for a price point and expiration date for fees. In effort to publicize VATE, VATE could "adopt" an author to create investments within the schools. For example, a feature on the VATE website can allow for students to discuss authors, themes, and genres via creating a "blog." Adria will link this idea to the subsequent conference. Adria will research cyber based communication that will make this possible.

g. District President's Report: PATE mini-conference April 8, 2008

PATE is having a mini-conference with Scott Crawford as one of the key speakers. The art museum will not be open in time for the conference. Lynn Payne is asking for funding for this event. The next meeting for PATE is May 11, 2008. Leila made a motion that a 75\$ donation be given to PATE for their mini-conference. The motion was passed by the board. Chris recommended that the board attend English staff meetings in regions sponsored by our affiliates.

h. Student Affiliate Reports:

i. Members-at-Large:

- i. Elementary: Peggy Gearhart/Anita Gill-Anderson: Peggy had no report.
- ii. Middle: Shela Novak/Sarah Tanner-Anderson: Shela and Adria are communicating about Adria's proposal. Sarah is still trying to get Buckingham High School to get a membership.
- iii. Secondary: Kathryn Geranios/Brent Fliesher: Will assist Adria with creation of database. Kathryn went to NCTE in New York will now begin to look into college programs. Sandra Whitaker asked Kathryn to write an article for the *Needle's Eye*.
- iv. College: KaaVonnia Hinton-Johnson/Gena Southall: Gena is trying to get Longwood's pre-service teacher involved with VATE. Gena wants to develop their Peer Mentorship Program and add all aspiring teachers to their VATE membership. In addition, she is sponsoring a "Dos and Don'ts Fashion Show" for field placement. VATE is asking for more articles from each level of educators. It is strongly encouraged to advocate for membership at all levels.

j. NCTE Liaison: Jan Suppa Friedman: Membership recruitment awards (due 4/2/08) Affiliate Excellence Award meeting (due 7/15/08), Advocacy Day, Teachers for the Dream Award, High School Teacher of Excellence, Sandra nominated Debbie Baker. Jan is asking that names submitted for the award come from the Board.

NCTE Development Award: It has been hard to find nominations for this award. Other awards include: National Intellectual Freedom Award, NCTE Leadership Affiliate Journal Award, Newsletter Award, Affiliate Multicultural Program Award, Leila recommended Ayanna Jones the NCTE Early Career Education of Color Award.

Jan read all requirements the Board must meet in order to apply for the Affiliate Award of Excellence. Also, she mentioned that the Board is on target for the annual report for NCTE. She read through each requirement and noted evidence for each. Jan noted that the Board has to conduct at least one program (Fall Conference); two Board members must have attended two affiliate sponsored activities at the NCTE conference, the organization must apply to awards sponsored by SLATE.

The board must participate in the NCTE Affiliate Leadership Meeting June 22-24. Members will check with KaaVonnia to see if she can attend this conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The Advocacy Day is taking place in Washington, D.C; there are four members interested. Leila moved that four Board members go to the Advocacy day in Washington; it was moved for VATE to pay for one hotel room and the meals for the day. The motion was passed.

- k. **VSRA Liaison: Silvia Babcock:** Silvia Babcock was not present. However, she will work on reserving a table for VATE for the VSRA Conference.
- l. **VDOE: Tracy Robertson:** Virginia English Language Arts Supervisors (VELAS) will meet April 25, 2008 in Richmond, Va. The Spotsylvania technology staff will give a presentation on 21st century skills. Assessment committees are currently being chosen and participants will be notified. There were over 1,000 applications received for all committees. All 2007 tests are supposed to be released in March 2008. Currently released in ePAT format are grades 3, 4, and 5 reading tests. Writing test schedule for next year is posted. Middle School Writing Modules in support of Project Graduation are now posted. These modules provide 147 pages of lesson plans on all tested writing standards. Middle School Writing Modules in support of Project Graduation will be posted in March. "The Big Read" for this year is *To Kill a Mockingbird* for 2008-2009.
- m. **VCEE Liaison: Robert Williams:** Robert is revising the cover of the VEB, and he cut cover costs.
- n. **VETEC Liaison: Chad Sansing:** Hood Frazier sent his report via Leila Christenbury. March 14 is the date for the VSRA conference to be held in Richmond, Virginia.
- o. **SLATE Liaison:** Deborah Carrington was not present.
- p. **NCTE Achievement in Writing Award:** Chris received no reports.
- q. **NCTE Promising Young Writers Award:** Roark Mulligan was not present.
- r. **Excellence in Student Literacy Magazine Award:** Chris received no reports.
- s. **Multicultural Liaison: Mary Davis:** Mary did not have a report. Mary suggested that we not apply for the Affiliate award until we tap into the teachers of color.
- t. **Public Relations Report:**
- u. **Webmaster's Report: Linda MacCleave—** website awards, literary map: Linda is looking for volunteers to work on the literary map.

IV. Standing Committees

- a. **Publications:** Carolyn Mathews
 - ii. *Needle's Eye:* Yvonne Maisel; May 1st is the due date for articles being submitted for the *Needle's Eye*.

b. Dorothy could not make the meeting. She is requesting that CNU and VU to contribute ideas to the *Needle's Eye*.

c. **Policy and Practice Manual Revisions:** Linda will make revisions.

V. Old Business

a. **Conference 2007 financial report—Carrie Perry.** Carrie was not present.

VI. New Business

a. **Conference 2009 proposed changes—**Chris Woods asked the board to consider location, chair/officer roles, and schedule changes. Chris made proposals for conference restructuring. Leila recommended that the board not consider changing the annual conference to every other year. The board will keep restructuring ideas on the table.

b. The standing positions for a 3 year commitment to report to president elect are Vendor Chair, Program Design/Printing, Registration Chair, and Treasurer. There is consideration in adding a Conference Publicity position. Chris asked that there be consideration of a possible role commitment for conferences. Chris asked that the Board contemplate all restructuring ideas and come to the June meeting with ideas.

c. Mary Davis asked that we take surveys at the upcoming conference to get the opinions of the broader VATE Community and conference participants.

d. **Membership Directory—** There needs to be a membership directory which includes: name, region, email. This document will not be open to the public. The document will be distributed amongst the members. Chuck will investigate how the organization can get this information and the stipulations involved.

VII. Announcements

a. The next VATE Executive Board meeting will be held Saturday, June 7, 2008 at 11:00am in Roanoke-- Slate of Officers

VIII. Adjournment

The motion to adjourn was made at 2:40pm. The motion was passed.