

VATE Executive Board Meeting  
Saturday, May 22, 2010 10:30am  
Longwood University, Farmville, Virginia

Members present: Kirk Dolson, Peggy Gearhart, Chuck Miller, Sarah Tanner-Anderson, Adria Merritt, Sara Zeek, Linda MacCleave, Crystal L. Haskins, Jan Suppa-Friedman, Linda MacCleave, Jennifer Bartholomew, Kathryn Geranious, Ryan Tibbens

- I. Call to order, adoption of agenda – The meeting was called to order at 10:50am.
- II. Welcome and Introductions – Welcome given by Adria Merritt.
- III. Reports
  - A. Secretary's Report – minutes have been adopted via email and posted
  - B. Webmaster's Report – Linda MacCleave – **See Full Report:** *Highlighted comment:*  
There were four member renewals online and one online registration.
  - C. Public Relations – Kathryn Geranios –
    - Kathryn will work with Jennifer to create a publicity campaign to get the word out regarding the Literacy Fair.
  - D. Multicultural Liaison – Mary Davis – No report
  - E. Excellence in Student Literary Magazines – Freyja Bergthorson –
    - Freyja created a list of schools who participated in the Literary Magazine competition.
    - PRESLM: This year Freyja will type a list of contact information for sponsors as she gets them, since there is now a plan/use for the information. Prior to our discussions, the information was extraneous, so she did not keep a record of it. She thinks that VATE could send an invitation to the 'Literary Magazine Sponsor.' Freyja noticed from judging in the past that sponsors in many schools seem to change frequently. Consequently, she did include the one name she knew (the one from her school, the magazine she co-sponsors).
    - Letters of invitation have been sent out to judges. Judges will receive between four and eight copies of literary magazines in mid-July and will have until the end of August to evaluate them using the provided rubric.
    - It was suggested that at the fall conference, we could have a table to highlight the magazines. VATE could possibly have a link on the website to showcase articles.
  - F. NCTE Achievement in Writing Award – Troy Ketch –
    - The Achievement Awards in Writing are on schedule. We received 61 student entries. Troy recruited 14 judges. He focused on increasing the number of college instructors in the judging pool. He picked up four judges from VCU and one from GMU. Judging teams will have eight or nine student entries to evaluate. That's a good low number that will encourage them to sign up to judge again next year. Troy will be mailing student entries later this week and expect results by mid July. He hopes to attend the VATE board meeting after the contest results are determined to share them with the board.
  - G. SLATE Liaison – Deborah Carrington –
    - Charlie Conover and Deborah will present at the annual conference (proposal pending); Deborah is in process of reviewing 'Use Policies' across the state. In the presentation, she wants to make a comparison and talk about issues of academic freedom, censorship in relation to 21st century literacies.
    - A state level Advocacy Day may be planned for next spring.
  - H. VETAC Liaison – Rafe Telsch – No Report
  - I. VCEE Liaison – Hood Frazier – Information regarding the Meade Award has been sent out.
  - J. VDOE Report – Tracy Robertson – **See Full Report**
  - K. VSRA Liaison – Silvia Babcock – No report
  - L. NCTE Liaison – Jan Suppa-Friedman –

There are VATE members judging Caroline Matthews and Mary-Beth Cancienne-Actblu will assist with judging journals this year. The Media Literacy Awards deadline is Wednesday, June 30, 2010. Although Kathryn Geranios is interested in applying for the award for 2011, VATE is still looking for nominees for this year's deadline.

    - NCTE Conference: Adria is going to Orlando and will represent VATE.

- Regarding the NCTE Affiliate Award, Jan needs information regarding membership, cultural diversity (VATE will solicit information from Mary Davis).
- Carrie Perry was a candidate for an NCTE position.
- Participate in SLATE update: Jan became involved on VATE's behalf. Next year's date is April 21, 2011. Adria mentioned that every member should try to attend at least once. Jan was able to meet with her congressman.
- Adria, Kirk, and Sarah have participated directly with curriculum development. Jan is asking that these individuals please provide a brief synopsis and any supporting materials of their experiences.
- Adria, Julie and Chuck plan to go to the Leadership Development Conference.

#### M. Members-At-Large

- Elementary –Nancy Webb/Kirk Dolson –
  - Kirk had two elementary teachers to submit articles to the Needle's Eye. His school is piloting the RTI program and Kirk has been working closely with RTI and sees the need to connect early elementary and secondary teachers in regards to reading instruction. For more information refer to AIMS Web. VATE is asking that Kirk have a panel discussion at the fall conference about such matters.
  - In addition, Kirk would like VATE to connect with early elementary teachers. Kirk suggests that VATE refer to the International Reading Association's statement regarding RTI. RTI is a focused reading and remediation program for at-risk students.
  - Kirk will coordinate a differentiation strand for the fall conference. The strand will open with a panel followed by several 50 minute sessions that focus on topic such as ELL, and special education.
- Middle –Arleatrice Winters/Jennifer Bartholomew –
  - Jennifer suggested wanted to make VATE aware of the Reader's Institute at Longwood University July 16-17. VATE could send members to this conference to spread the word about the VATE Conference.
  - Spring Fling (the spring 2011 Literacy Fair) would be a one day event. Locations considered for Spring Fling are college campuses sponsored by a college affiliate or high schools. There could be an opportunity for student teachers to present a workshop or display lessons. Judges could be local writers, teachers. It was suggested that the event take place in the latter part of March after Writing SOLs have been administered.
  - Once the categories have been decided upon, then we can decide submission requirements. Categories may include: Fine Arts, Performance Projects, Multi Genre, Technology, Writing, Creative Class Projects, Research. In entry paper work should state that VATE reserves the right to publish work and names of participants to promote traffic on the website. It was suggested that VATE keep in mind quality over quantity regarding categories. Notes to consider for the committee to consider.
- Secondary – Ryan Tibbens –No report
- Colleges – Mary Beth Cancienne-Acgtblu/Daniel Woods – No report

#### N. Affiliate Chair Report – Roark Mulligan –

- PenVATE is busy with starting up and with an SOL symposium on September 30.
- CNU-VATE had an assessment workshop with Paula Brown, the assessment coordinator for Hampton schools, and we had over 50 students and faculty attend—the event was open to everyone and was a big success.
- PATE had a successful mini-conference, Chris, wrote a brief description of the conference for the next newsletter—PATE might have an affiliate column or article in each newsletter. V-BATE's article was great.
- NorVATE has members and officers
- To energize student affiliates, Hood and Roark spoke about having a student affiliate session at the fall conference where the students could suggest ways that they might be involved in VATE. That group could report to the board.

- No one has contacted me for the \$300 start-up money yet.
  - Work on an affiliate start-up package is under way—Roark will have this for the conference.
- O. Vice President's Report – Julie Singleton-Smith – no report
- P. Past-President's Report – Chris Woods –
- Currently, there is one vendor for the VATE Conference.
  - Conference responsibilities – the vendor invite and registration form have been added to the VATE website, and the vendors have had their second emailing about the forms, date, etc. All is on track concerning vendor arrangements.
- Q. PATE news – Chris is the 2011 president of PATE. The PATE Mini Conference was very successful there was a forum that compared and contrast new and veteran teachers. Mary Bailey spoke on her book. Chuck participated. The next conference date is March 29, 2011 @ William Fleming High School. The Big Read was a huge success.
- R. President-Elect's Report – Sarah Tanner-Anderson – **2010 VATE Conference**
- There are six or seven proposals and many verbal commitments. Please encourage teachers in your area to submit proposals.
  - Adria sent a mass email to last year's presenters. An Art teacher from Emporia, Virginia will have a class project where students will make light houses to be used for decorations at the conference.
  - Writers, David Black (secondary) and Mary Bailey (elementary) will present at the conference.
  - Kyleen Beers is the speaker for Saturday's dinner.
  - Once all the proposals are submitted, Sarah will finish room assignments.
  - Sarah is planning to have the Board meeting Friday before the conference.
- S. Executive Secretary's and Conference Coordinator's Report – Chuck Miller –
- Chuck hopes that the momentum that we currently have will continue through the conference. Membership is at 385. There are three school memberships. Membership renewals scheduled for June and July will receive an email from Chuck next weekend. In the last week, there have been four membership renewals from PayPal. Ideas for membership and or publicizing the conference are welcome.
  - Chuck attended the PATE Mini-Conference. There will be a beach walk and poetry writing contest at the conference. Chuck and Julie are considering a number of different locations for the 2011 VATE Conference. VATE should consider dates for the conference. The site they have looked at was Staunton.
  - Library subscribers received a free copy of the VEB.
  - Chuck would like to nominate Lynn Payne for the Foster Gresham Award; he already has her resume.
- T. Treasurer's Report – Peggy Gearhart –
- We received two registrations for the conference and three memberships.
  - The only expense incurred since the last conference was the publication expense.
  - Peggy suggests that we keep all conference expenses in the one bank account.
- U. President's Report – Adria Merritt –
- Stepping the Affiliate Showcase up a notch for this year's conference. VATE mentioned having some sort of "Parade of Affiliates" during the banquet, where active affiliates and all members present, march in as their name is called. The president will offer a brief greeting; state their membership, and one year's highlight. After that, we will recognize each with a certificate, but in addition, offer one affiliate with the Blue Ribbon of Excellence for Service (literally, a nice blue ribbon). They would still create the tri-fold and display them in the Exhibit Hall like last year, but the tri-folds will be judged based on a rubric we create. We could invite area supervisors to be judges. This is in effort to get them involved and get them to come to our conference (VA Beach, Norfolk, Hampton, and Newport News supervisors, for example). The winner is the one who will accept the Blue Ribbon of Excellence. Adria suggests that VATE could even offer one of those plaques that travel. For example, the ones in which there is a name plate added, and the plaque travels to each winning affiliate for that year. The goal, of course, is to have the affiliate engraved the most. Possibly, VATE could invite Kyleen Beers to present the winner with the award.
  - Promising Young Writers- Carol Blauvelt provided contact information and winning essays.
  - 2011 Literacy Fair: Members-elect and at-large members have agreed to form the steering committee

- Members should actively seek candidates to serve as the VEB editor following Robert's term.

Publications – Carolyn Matthews – no report

Needle's Eye – Sara Zeek –

- The spring issue of the NE was published in April. Linda MacCleave posted the issue on the website and Sara sent out emails to members notifying them of the posting. She had a great selection of articles and thanks everyone for making it happen.
- Sara proposes the following to change the deadlines:
  - 1. Sept. issue (deadline Aug 31- vacation articles and conference)
  - 2. Nov. issue (deadline Oct. 31 with everyone committed to submitting VATE conference articles on time, What I Know for Sure, and affiliate news)
  - 3. Jan issue (focusing on NCTE and other events, affiliate news, publications and successes, )
  - 4. Apr/May issue (focusing on spring issues and forecasting summer events, What I Know for Sure, -deadline Mar. or Apr.—Sara would like VATE to decide).
  - Sara will send out a note in Aug reminding everyone of the deadline and encouraging them to submit for the Sept. issue like last year. The "What I Did on Vacation" articles were fun to read and heard positive things about them, so she would like to include them again. Publishing in Sept. rather than in July gave people one last reminder of the VATE conference.
- She encourages everyone to continue to ask people to send in articles on classroom plans and events, publications and successes, state, regional, and local events, the "What I Know for Sure" column, affiliate news, and of course, NCTE news. Sara would love to see an article for each area of representation on the board, if possible. Sara could spread these out over the year.
- The board agreed to Sara's proposed dates and agreed that the September issue should be a print issue in order to get a copy of the conference details in people's hands before the registration deadline.

VEB – Robert Williams –

- The next-to-last VEB continues to grow apace. Robert has all Chris's Big Read pieces in hand, plus a few others coming along (in review, pretty definite), and only need to round up 2 or 3 more nice, long pieces to top it off. Robert hopes to go to press in June, as usual for the past four years.

Policy and Practice Chair – Linda MacCleave –

- The student-affiliate chair is an official Board member.

V. Old Business – None

W. New Business – Robert Williams was recommended for the VATE Service Award Announcements – No announcements

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 1:35pm.