

SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION of NYS (STANYS)

Suffolk Section

Executive Committee Meeting
BOCES, 507 Deer Park Road, Dix Hills, NY 11746

Minutes to Meeting: April 1, 2015

Members Present: Glen Cochrane, Jean Kohn, Joe Malave, Gary Vorwald, Matt Christiansen, Brian Vorwald, Angela Lukaszewski, Ashley Bloch, Sheilah Schumann, Alice Veyvoda

Meeting called to order at 7:43 pm.

Minutes of February 4, 2015

G. Cochrane

Brian moved to accept the December minutes as amended. Ashley seconded. Minutes were accepted unanimously. There are no minutes for the March meeting which was changed to a Zoom meeting due to weather conditions, which forced the cancellation of our regular meeting at BOCES.

Treasurer's Report

A. Lukaszewski

Angela distributed the treasurer's report for April. The conference expenditures were about \$1700, which includes breakfast, supplies, postage, and vouchers for lunches. We collected about \$400 for the Ankizy Fund which will be sent to Dr. Krause. Receipts for Eventbrite are over \$5000, but this includes 22 memberships to STANYS. Angela will develop a full account for the next meeting.

Committee Reports

A. Programs

A. Bloch

- See H: Spring Conference
- The American Museum of Natural History field trip was a big success. It was held on Saturday, March 7. About 30 people participated in a scavenger hunt.

B. MATEX

J. Kohn/A. Bloch/M. Christiansen

The committee developed a survey to determine a direction for this program. Ashley asked the Board to help promote responses to the survey. So far, 25 people responded to the survey so far. Most were interested in NGSS and the Strategic Plan. Some were interested in an "un-conference" in which people meet together spontaneously to discuss a topic of interest. Jean discussed the benefit of using more current technology to promote our events, such as a twitter account or Remind101.

Discussion continued with some ideas on how to structure the event. The consensus was that the event should include workshops, along with the vendors. The event should be a whole day with breakfast and lunch. The concern is with finding a facility. A possible date is Friday, October 2. We need to establish a date and location, and have the program figured out by June.

C. Newsletter

G. Vorwald

Deadline for Spring/Summer issue is May 15.

D. Membership

S. Schumann

- We have 22 new members as a direct result of the conference. We may have passed the 200 voting member threshold, which would mean that we would qualify for a 3rd director.

E. Long Island Science Congress

A. Lukaszewski

The Long Island Science Congress will be held at the Cradle of Aviation Museum. The event will be held on April 21-22, 2015. They anticipate having the same number of projects as last year. One change this year is that they will hold 3 rounds of judging. Awards ceremony will take place on May 18.

F. State Science Congress

G. Cochrane

- The date this year will be May 30, 2015 at Brookhaven National Lab. Forms are online, and waiting for local science congresses to identify their students.

G. Website

M. Torre

We would like to update the site.

H. Spring Conference

J. Malave/J. Ripka

The conference was held on Friday, March 27th at Brookhaven National Lab. The conference was an astounding success. The day began with a brief welcome by Glen Cochrane and Brookhaven Lab administrators Mel Morris and Scott Bronson from the office of educational programs. This was followed by our keynote presentation. Dr. Krause, a vertebrate paleontologist from Stony Brook University gave an excellent presentation his latest research on discoveries from the Cretaceous of Madagascar. Brian Vorwald gave a brief update on the status of curriculum and assessment in New York and the adoption of the Strategic Plan by the Board of Regents. Teachers then participated in 4 sessions of workshops.

Approximately 170 people participated in this most successful conference. In addition, the conference resulted in 22 new members for our section. Our neighboring sections in NYC and Nassau benefitted with 6 new members! About 40 people responded to a post survey that Glen distributed electronically. Feedback was very positive. The keynote speaker was rated with all 5's and some 4's. People clearly preferred a Friday full-day conference. Most workshops were rated favorably.

I. Awards Dinner/District Membership

M. Brown/B. Vorwald

Awards Dinner will be on Wednesday, May 20, 2015 at Villa Lombardi in Holbrook. We have 35 schools representing 31 districts that have joined as district members. Brian has received 3 nominations for Elementary, 4 for Middle Level, and 8 for High School Teacher of the Year awards. Nominations are due by April 11.

Additional Topics:

- a. The Executive Board met and decided to pursue a DAL/SAR for Special Ed/ESL. This would have to be approved by the Executive Board.
- b. Elections for section officers and board will take place in April. Nominations for all positions have been received:
 - Glen Cochrane – Chairperson
 - Ashley Bloch – Vice President for Program
 - Sheilah Schumann – Vice President for Membership
 - Angela Lukaszewski – Treasurer
 - Gary Vorwald – Secretary
 - Angela Lukaszewski – Section Director
 - Matt Christiansen – Section Director
 - Jean Kohn – Section Director
- c. Glen stated that there is interest in having Zoom meetings. We agreed to have a number of these electronic meetings, perhaps as often as every other month.
- d. DAL/SAR Meeting is scheduled for May 2. Board Meeting will be on May 3.

Adjournment

Motion: Ashley moved to adjourn; second by Jean. Passed unanimously.
Meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 7, 2015