KASL Membership Meeting at Kansas Library Conference

October 26, 2017
Hyatt Regency
Wichita, KS

The meeting was called to order by Martha House, President, at 4:30 pm. She began with several housekeeping items including entering the raffle drawing for District baskets and information for District Directors about merchandise bags.

I. Minutes
Minutes from the Membership meeting from 2016 were sent through the KASL email list. No changes or concerns were brought forward. Tabitha Logan motioned to accept the minutes from last year. Julie Doyen seconded. Motion passed.

II. ESSA
According to an article by Celia Lopez-Jensen, the process for ESSA was not as open in KS as in other states. KASL did make comments, and although it did not make a difference in language, it did get Celia’s attention and a positive response.

The big question is how a lack of mandates will affect us and whether there will be any funding. No one really knows how it will work at the federal level. Steven Yates, AASL President in attendance, said DeVos has all 50 plans now and so we wait and see. Several positive comments came from the ESSA advisory committee regarding the input received during the open comment period, and the KSDE board had positive comments during testimony for the new standards.

III. Merge with KLA
A. Vote Results
Results of the vote from KASL membership with 62 votes were that 71% are in favor of the merge. Background of the idea to merge was reviewed: began with the reality that numbers are shrinking, a little over 300 members in the state. It is difficult to find leadership for necessary roles. Leadership talked to all participants at district workshops last spring as well as got feedback from Marla’s survey. Officers went over the plan several times and Martha has been working with KLA on details for over a year. Some details that are important are that we our keeping our name, our logo, our officers, our money. Martha is very happy with the agreement.

B. Next Steps
Council wants to make the transition as smooth as possible. The agreement goes into effect July 1, 2018. Over the next year officers will be talking about how to downsize while still providing services to our members. Martha will be sharing information through the listserv. Question from member: will we have our own conference next year? Answer: next fall KLA’s conference will also be our conference. At that point we will be catching our breath, making sure the organization is running as it should. Comment from member that maybe we could join another literary organization for a conference. That is something that we could explore,
and there is some history of joining with KRA before, but there is also value in connecting with other libraries.

Question from member: What do we get out of what is paid in membership dues? Answer: We are hoping to use some of the interest we have from various accounts to pay for some things, but we will also get some money from membership dues.

Question from member: What are their membership numbers? Answer: Last year their conference attendance was a little under 500 while KASL’s was a little over 150. An estimate of total membership for KLA is 1500-2000.

Question from member: How can we get more members? Answer: Martha’s philosophy is that we do what we can to keep the members we have happy. We hope that when we make connections with our colleagues then we grow, but we’re focusing on members we have. Mirah added that one of the things they emphasize in their professional education is the importance of a professional organization, and that when people leave their program they will be motivated to join. Kudos were also given to ALA and AASL for their resources.

IV. State and National School Library Standards

The new State Standards were posted recently on the KSDE site as well as to the listserv. The new AASL Standards will be announced at the national conference in November.

V. Next Council Meetings

A. Winter: Committees and District Planning

Martha is asking District Chairs to meet on their own, however they want (remotely or face to face) to get work done. Committees should meet as well. Hopefully this will save some time while also being productive. More information will come in the next several weeks.

B. Advocacy Initiative, Christie Snyder

The Advocacy Committee has been doing work. A brochure has been passed out with monthly themes that advocacy can be built from. Included are monthly questions, people to focus on, and hashtags to use. More information will come via the listserv and Twitter.

Thanks to Christie and Robin Hargrave for all their work.

C. Spring: April 21, Wichita

VI. Officer Reports

Marla Wigton, Past President

One of her main roles is to look at the guidelines. Especially because of the merge, this will be an important year. She will be attending the AASL Conference to hear first hand information on the national standards. She will be looking for a new President-Elect as well as new Secretary.

Brenda Lemon, Treasurer

Her report went out on the listserv. According to Martha, the organization has money and handles it well.

Special Guest: Steven Yates, AASL President
He is an Assistant Professor at the University of Alabama. Word from Betsy DeVos is that all 50 ESSA plans are in, now we wait and see how that will be handled. There is a task force of volunteers to make sure AASL is on top of doing whatever needs to be done. A lot of states do not understand how federal programs work, such as Title I, II, and IV, so there will be workshops offered across the country to help with that. AASL is part of ALA and provides a wonderful network of people working for us on Capitol Hill. He has made a commitment to go to Washington to speak to them and is impressed with all that goes into Washington advocacy. He has not see the new national standards but is really excited about them coming out in Phoenix. There will be around 2000 people there and around 100 authors. He encouraged those of us not attending to use the hashtag #notataasl to keep up with content from the conference.

VII. Opportunities for Leadership
   A. President-Elect
   B. Secretary

VIII. District Workshops
   Handouts and cards are available at the KASL Display table.

   **Districts I & IV: Saturday, March 10, 2018**
   Meadows Elementary School
   201 SW Clay St., Topeka, KS 66606

   **Districts II & III: Saturday, March 3, 2018**
   Wichita, KS (exact location TBD)

   **Districts V & VI: Saturday, April 7, 2018**
   Bernadine Sitts Intermediate Center
   3101 N. Belmont Pl.
   Garden City, KS 67846

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Marla Wigton drew the District Basket winners: Cindy Rogers, Kelly Frederick, Kristy Oborny, Rachel Yoder, and Ruth McCauley.