

**ASTE Northeast region meeting minutes**  
**January 15, 2010**  
**ASTE International Conference, Sacramento, CA**

Members in attendance: Gerry Saunders, Monica Young, Lauren Jetty, Paul Preczewski, Glenn Dolphin, Nina Leonhard, Star Weaver, Lisa Bircher, Beth Kline, Regina Toolin, Paul Jablon, Orvil White, Yael Wyner, Pam Abder, Janice Koch, John Tillotson, Joe Shane, Alec Bodzin, and Tamara Peffer.

All members were introduced. The proposed executive committee as described in the proposed By-laws was introduced:

Alec Bodzin – Regional Director, conference co-chair

Regina Toolin- Treasurer

Tammie Peffer- Interim Secretary

Beth Klein – past Regional Director, conference co-chair

Star Weaver, conference co-chair

**Treasurer Report**

Regina Toolin noted that the beginning balance prior of 2009 was \$1955.79.

The current balance is \$2472.59 Expenditures regarding the deposit for the 2010 regional conference at PEEC were discussed. The organization is in good financial shape.

**Review of 2009 ASTE Northeast Region meeting**

Al Bodzin, Beth Klein, and Star Weaver were the conference co-chairs and reviewed the conference activities. There were 24 participants and the conference included round tables, paper presentations, and evening discussion co-led by graduate students, Paul Preczewski and Sheila Borges. All noted that the “graduate hot topic round table session” were excellent, prompted wonderful discussions and will be repeated next year

**The 2010 ASTE Northeast Region meeting will be held on October 21-22, 2010 at Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC)**

The conference will begin on Thursday afternoon with a panel session and activity. An afternoon break will follow that with optional activities available including a very scenic waterfall hike.

After the evening roundtable sessions (with dessert and wine), we will gather around a bonfire and make s’mores. Paper sessions will be given during Friday morning and early afternoon.

Session formats will include 20-minute paper sessions (15 minute presentation followed by 5 minutes of questions and discussion) and roundtable discussions.

The 2010 conference registration fee includes all meals and lodgings.

Lodging options at PEEC will include cabins and yurts.

Hotels in the Poconos are located about 20 minutes away.

Graduate student-led hot-topic round tables will be coordinated by Paul Preczewski, Sheila Borges, and Tamara Peffer. Outreach will occur via e-mail and NING graduate network

Paul Jablon provided a history of AETS/ NEASTE.

Joe Shane proposed that the conference include syllabus sharing. Al Bodzin suggested 10-minute methods activities presentations. Discussion occurred and attendees felt these would be great additions to add to the 2010 conference.

### **Identification of new conference co-chairs for the 2011 ASTE Northeast Region meeting.**

Members discussed changing regional meeting site locations to a 2-year rotation term. All agreed this would be a good idea to expand the membership to new science teacher educators in our region. Al asked people to think about becoming conference co-chairs for the 2011 and 2012 meetings.

### **Active Regions.**

Beth Klein updated the members on ASTE Board discussions on how active ASTE regions are defined. It was noted that criteria vary across regions with regards to by-laws, operating procedures and election processes. Some regions are more active than others.

It was stated that if regions do not want to adopt the new criteria they have the option of not providing a regional representative to the ASTE board.

The ASTE Board requested Regional Directors committee to develop criteria. These included: Elected officers, annual conference or some method of communication, minimum of 10 members, and if board rep, to require By-Laws or SOP that define how board rep is selected.

Members agreed with the process described and noted that these align to our proposed Northeast By-laws that an Ad-hoc committee had been working on since last October.

A discussion about regions providing financial reports to the ASTE board occurred. Several members felt financial reports may serve as a barometer indicating activity level of regions. Others felt it was not necessary given that some regions wish to be more autonomous.

### **Northeast By-laws Presentation/Review**

In October, an Ad-hoc committee developed the Northeast By-laws that are consistent with ASTE SOPs. The members read and commented on the proposed Northeast By-laws.

The following items were discussed:

The definition of a Northeast region member, the defined geographic location of our region, issues pertaining to dues, the composition of the Executive Committee and the requirement that they are ASTE members.

A motion was made to modify the duties to ensure that the Regional Director be authorized in addition to the Treasurer to serve as a bank account second signature/ authorized for the regional bank account. A single signature would be required for fund dispersal. Members were in favor of this amendment to the By-laws.

Janice Koch motioned to approve by-laws as presented with the bank account signature amendment. Seconded –Yael Wyner. By-laws were unanimously approved.

## **7. Other Business**

Al stated that we do not have an official Northeast region Web site and such a Web site should be created and housed on the ASTE server. Al will develop the Web site and coordinate with Eugene Wagner to upload the pages to the ASTE server. The site will include the Executive Committee and contact information, By-laws, regional conference information, meeting minutes, announcements, and other documents deemed important for the Northeast Region membership.

Email/ Listserv discussion: – Currently all communications go through national ASTE members listserv, Web site, and publications. A regional listserv does not exist. It was noted that personal invitations to science educators go out to science educators in the Northeast region in nearby areas of the regional conference for the past 5 years. Al currently maintains a list that includes members from New England, PA, and New Jersey that have been used for past conference invitations to disseminate information about the regional conference to science educators who are not national ASTE members. Issues pertaining to maintaining a regional listserv were discussed. Most members felt the current process is sufficient. All agreed that the “special invitations” list should be maintained and continued by future conference chairs.