



# NMLSTA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

December 3, 2023

1:00 – 2:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)

## I. Call to Order

Motion to accept meeting agenda.

Moved by: Suzanne Cunningham

Second by: Anne Schoeffler

Action: Accepted

## II. Roll Call

Board Member	Present	Board Member	Present	Board Member	Present
Loris (Lori) Chen		David Amidon	X	Mary Lou Lipscomb	X
Alison Seymour	X	Kathy Biernat	X	Corinne (Cori) Nelson	X
Anne Farley Schoeffler	X			Vicky Burn Shea	X
Suzanne Cunningham	X	David Curry	X	Kristin Slota	X
Jodie Harnden	X	Sharyon Holness	X	Elizabeth Weismann	
		Carrie Jones	X	Kathy Brooks (NSTA)	X
		Peter Kelly	X	<b>Vacancy</b>	

## III. Review/Approval of minutes from November 12, 2023, meeting.

Moved by: Anne Schoefer

Seconded by: Peter Kelly

Action: Accepted

## IV. Old Business

### A. Donations and Sponsorships Policy (Alison)

A review of previous discussions about the acceptance of paid advertising of products or services to members was completed. Using a letter previously drafted by Alison, Kathy Biernat produced a graphic poster. The poster would be added to the website and used at conferences. Discussions about the poster: Anne – add bullet points in awards section; Kristin and Mary Lou – using traditional thank you notes to acknowledge receipts of gifts (discussion over email versus snail mail thank you letters took place); Kathy B and Alison – include an updated version of the original letter on website and behind poster.

Action: Motion and vote to accept the use of the poster and letter regarding policy to guide future fundraising.

Moved by: Anne Schoefer

Seconded by: Suzanne Cunningham

Action: Approved

### B. Bylaws (Anne)

In January a side-by-side display of the old/new bylaws will be posted to the website for member review. Comments will be reviewed by the board and the final bylaws draft will be presented at our March meeting in Denver.

### **Standing Committee Reports** (alphabetical order)

AOA (Kristin): Meeting coming up.

Awards (Anne): Hurt Award applications to go out in early December and close in mid-January. Will email FOSS and post information on website.

Classroom Teacher Awards: Robert Henry (NH) Erosion and Depositing Soils in Stream Table; Margaret McDonnell (AZ) STEM in Science Classroom.

Conferences & Webinars (Mary Lou): Report from email

12/3/2023 Program Coordinator Report:

Webinars:

12/7 Bekkah Lampe NOAA

1/18 Ben Blonder, Rebecca Lipson UC Berkeley Place-Based Scientific Inquiry book

2/22 Kate Garvey My Sci Life Sponsor

4/11 Miles Stevenson Moving Still Productions Climate Change Resources

Bekkah's NOAA presentation is coming up on Thursday, and as of this morning, only 5 have registered. If you can make it Thursday, please sign up. The link is on our website.

I will be contacting the January, February, and April presenters in mid-December for their advertising information.

Do we want to have a May webinar? I've had a request from Sina Kirk (Infiniscope) asking if we have any dates left. She has done one each of the last 2 years. We have allowed MySciLife to do webinars 3 years in a row, but they have also sponsored our Meet and Greets in Chicago and Atlanta. I think the board needs to discuss this.

Denver Conference:

Share-a-Thon:

The Meet Me in the Middle Middle-Level Share-a-Thon planning is going very well. At this point there are 23 presentations logged in my Google form. All SaT presenters must sign-up through NSTA, but I'm only sending the link for submission to NSTA to those who fill out my Google Form. NSTA wants each of the groups sponsoring a Share-a-Thon to accept the people/organizations that want to present. The NSTA Share-a-Thon registration will be available until February. I'll be sending out more letters to potential presenters during December.

If you are interested and able to participate, click the link in the article on the landing page of our website.

It appears that that our SaT will be on Thursday afternoon—but that still could change.

Discussions: Webinars:

A May webinar by Infiniscope (presented each of the last two years/not volunteered) or MySciLife (donates more funds to NMLSTA). Wait until 2025 for Infiniscope to present.

Attendance has been low at the webinars. May, with some schools ending their terms, is not a good month for webinars.

NSTA 2024 Denver

Currently our Share-a-Thon is scheduled for Thursday afternoon, which is before the poster sessions are presented. Other Share-a-Thons are elementary and informal education. Kristin stated this would not be good for attendance. Alison stated it would be okay to ask for a change of date.

Concerning the Share-a-Thon, information regarding NSTA sign up letters will be coming to us.

Discussion and comments: Dave C: National Earth Science Teachers put on a Share-a-Thon themselves. Signups for Share-a-Thon are at 23. Mary Lou will contact MySciLife CEO about the Meet And Greet in January. The tri-fold poster for the poster session will be sent to Denver, and Alison will use it at the Share-a-Thon. Expect news from NSTA about presentation days and times. Mary Lou stated that she is enjoying working with NSTA/s new contact.

Early Career Teacher Network (Kristin) 11/29/23 7:00 PM Meeting Notes:

We want to be careful not to duplicate efforts, so the partnership with NSTA will help avoid that.

Teachers are exhausted. This affects their buy in.

Some newer teachers seem to view teaching as more of a job than a calling/passion and may be less likely to do work outside of a contracted day.

We will focus our efforts on supporting teachers who teach science to grades 5-9 once we have a plan.

Next Steps:

1. Post survey link on NMLSTA Facebook.

2. Push survey link out to science teachers in your state, local districts, science coordinators, etc. Recruit other NMLSTA members to share a survey in their state and district. States covered: IN- Suzanne Cunningham, MN- Kathy Biernat, MS- Vicky Shea, NJ- Lori Chen (an email sent to NJSTA 11/30), PA- Dave Curry and Kristin Slota, TN-Vicky Shea, WI- Kathy Biernat.

3. Poster Session for Early Career Teaching at NSTA Denver- Lori Chen (with support of Vicky Shea and Kathy Biernat if schedules allow)

4. NSTA Middle Level Science Teaching Committee table at NMLSTA Share-a-thon at NSTA Denver- Kathy Brooks

Next Meeting: January 2024. The google survey shared by Kathy Brooks is due by January 5, 2024.

We will plan to meet as a committee again after we have survey results. Middle Level Teaching (Kathy Brooks) "NMLSTA and NSTA's Middle Level Teaching Committee are hoping to find ways to make the work lives of early career science teachers easier by offering these teachers support to help them avoid exhaustion and early burnout in the teaching profession. These organizations are collecting data from pre-service and new science teachers to learn more about what supports they need to help them manage the daily expectations and their workload, while continuing to be effective educators. We would also appreciate input from mentors of early career teachers about what they feel we can do as an organization to support their mentees. Please use the link below to access the survey. Feel free to share this link with your science colleagues. Thank you!"

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1J-VV6X9MNPdHbA7bYwdASHiBALsSeOcZt9n-ZET4XB0/>

State Affiliates Networking (Alison): Another email has been sent out. Plan to include state affiliation logos on to our website. Include state contacts when sending out webinar information.

Treasurer (Jodie) See Treasurer's report in the NMLSTA drive. Tight budget. One check for the classroom teacher award has been sent out. We need to push NMLSTA memberships at the NSTA conference. Mary Lou stated that Elizabeth Weismann's father passed away this fall. Some

members' dues have been approved. There could be some backlog in the listing of paid membership dues.

Technology and Communication (Lori/Peter): Peter stated the Idea of the Month is going strong. Lori stated she is updating the website and will continue to follow up on postings.

#### **IV. New Business**

##### **V. For the good of the order/Announcements**

- A. Anne mentioned that Carrie Jones won the Classroom Teacher award in 2022.
- B. Kathy Biernat will email newly designed brochure for usage at 2024 functions (INSTEM 2024 at Purdue University) and stated that the QR code is still valid on NMLSTA pamphlets.

##### **VI. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the Board of Directors meeting. Next meeting, January 7, 2024, 1:00 PM Eastern.

Moved by: Anne Schoeffler

Seconded by: Mary Lou Liscomb

Action: Accepted