

TxCRLA State Meeting
October 18, 2007
The Woodlands Waterway Marriott
The Woodlands, Texas

Attendees: Betty Black, Karon Mathews, Sharon Haigler, Rhonda Torres, Kathy Stein, Linda Callen, Richard Trevino, Carolyn Mello, Kathy Stein, Leslie Jones, Mary Leonard, Sara Weertz, Lane Johnson, Juanita Robinson, Russ Hodges, Nancy McKenzie, Mary Ann DeArmond, Sue Coody, Christine Hubbard, Frank Cronin, Rosemary Karr, and Mitchell Burchfield.

President Karon Mathews called the meeting to order at 4:47 p.m. Dr. Mathews first introduced Sharon Taylor, president of CRLA, and Russ Hodges, past president of CRLA. She then introduced the TxCRLA officers: Kathy Stein, president; Sharon Haigler, newly elected president-elect; Richard Trevino, Jr., newly elected treasurer; Ann Rogers, secretary, who was not present; and Linda Callen, recently appointed membership chair.

REPORTS

Secretary's Report

Members received copies of Secretary Ann Rogers' report of the previous TxCRLA meeting. President Karon Mathews explained that Mrs. Rogers was absent due to her husband's health problems.

Carolyn Mello moved that the minutes be accepted; Rosemary Karr seconded the motion, and the assembly voted to accept the report.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Sharon Haigler distributed the treasurer's report from July 1, 2007 to September 30, 2007. Balance to date was \$16,811.63. She added that since September 30, checks were written for \$2500 (CASP 08 seed money) and that \$1000 was allocated for mailing costs and to help defray the expenses for Sharon Taylor's attendance at CASP 07.

Membership Chair's Report

Linda Callen reported that a number of membership files were lost due to the unexplained departure of our former membership chair. Repeated efforts to secure the files were unsuccessful. She reported that, presently, there are 74 members.

Mrs. Callen asked the assembly for suggestions for rebuilding. Rosemary Karr suggested that the NADE online newsletter featured strategies for increasing membership. Russ Hodges agreed and mentioned that the Texas national membership has increased over that of California.

Several expressed appreciation of Mrs. Callen's efforts to recoup the missing files.

New Business

A. Elections:

Karon Mathews presented Sharon Haigler as the new TxCRLA president-elect and Richard Trevino, Jr. as the new TxCRLA treasurer.

B. Proposed By-Laws:

Karon Mathews presented the assembly with a proposed set of by-laws for TxCRLA and explained that they were modeled after those of the national CRLA. She asked Kathy Stein to enumerate the proposed changes. The changes are:

1. [Article 4, section 3] Two members of the Executive Board, by priority of offices held and availability, will represent TxCRLA at the annual CRLA conference and Leadership Workshop with basic registration and conference expenses reimbursed by TxCRLA.
2. [Article 4, section 5] The Membership Coordinator is appointed by the President.
3. [Article 4, section 6] No elected officer is eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office but may return to a previously held office after two years.
4. [Article 5, section 3] In general, rational minds and common courtesy will govern the meeting and administration of TxCRLA. When requested or deemed necessary by more than one member present, *Robert's Rules of Order* will serve as the parliamentary authority.
5. [Article 6, section 3] The officers will be elected by written and/or electronic ballot. Mode of balloting will be determined annually by the Executive Committee.
6. [Article 8, section 2] When amendments to CRLA bylaws affect the bylaws of TxCRLA, such amendments will automatically become effective for TxCRLA. Notice of such automatic amendment, written and electronic, will be sent to the membership.

Discussion followed the presentation of the proposal.

Russ Hodges corrected the question that the adoption of by-laws would mean throwing out the organization's constitution. He explained that any changes to the constitution are through the by-laws and that the organization cannot have by-laws without a constitution.

He then moved that the proposed by-laws be accepted, the motion was seconded, and the motion carried.

Karon Mathews thanked Gladys Shaw, Valerie Smith-Stephens, and Karen Agee for their help in approval and advisement in the preparation of the proposed by-laws.

C. Report from CRLA President Sharon Taylor:

1. Sharon Taylor announced that the national 2007 conference of CRLA will be in Portland, Oregon, beginning on Wednesday October 31, 2007, and ending on the following Saturday. There are presently over 600 registered to attend.
2. Mrs. Taylor then addressed the proposed name change and indicated that there continued to be ongoing dialogue between the “no reading” (in the name) and the “reading” camps. She also stated that there would be no vote unless there was a quorum of the whole membership, that number to be determined. She said that she was pleased with the response because it gives opportunity to clarify “Who are we?” and “Where are we going?” Discussion followed:

Karon Mathews stated that the TxCRLA board was in support of the name change.

Russ Hodges suggested a vote among members to see if a change is even desired. The reason is to determine the true mission of the organization. He stated that supporters of the name change “want the organization to remain small.” He said that he was in favor of the change because such a change would promote TxCRLA across the board (i.e., reading, writing, and math). He indicated certification purposes, such as for math programs, would be more inclusive. He proposed CLA, College Learning Association, for the name change. He added that California was against changing the name.

Russ Hodges stated that a blue ribbon commission submitted a 60-page report modeled after other organizations, such as the APA. The report proposed that such models have areas of specialties within the main organization and that regional meetings of the entire organization were still warranted.

Karon Mathews suggested that a vote be taken for support of a name change. There was disagreement that such a vote be taken on the basis of quorum issues. Sharon Taylor stated that Article 5, section 2 states that a quorum is made up of 10% of the membership. President Karon Mathews announced that a quorum was present.

Mitch Burchfield moved that the TxCRLA supports only a name change but not a specific name. Gladys Shaw seconded his motion, and the motion carried that TxCRLA favors a name change.

CRLA president Sharon Taylor stated that the CRLA board is not leaning one way or the other on such a name change. She added that it is important to take our time on this issue.

D. Report by Mary Leonard, legislative liaison:

Mary Leonard reported that the Texas State Legislature is occupied with testing in the elementary and high school levels.

She stated that the Legislature, specifically the committee concerned with HB1, wants feedback from college faculty members on the skills essential for their particular content areas.

She added that, because of the relative quiet on the developmental education issues, she did not see a need for immediate involvement as an organization. She added that it doesn't appear "that people are reacting upon us."

Mrs. Leonard asked that the members add their email addresses to her contact list.

Other Announcements

Karon Mathews thanked the board for its service to the organization.

Russ Hodges asked for applause for Karon Mathews and Lane Johnson for their service.

Karon Mathews recognized Russ Hodges, Gladys Shaw, and others for their help to her for the past year.

Dr. Mathews expressed the need for statewide involvement in TxCRLA and the need for officers.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Respectively Submitted,

Sharon Haigler, (for Ann Rogers, TxCRLA Secretary)