

Minutes from Texas K-12 CTO Conference Call March 25, 2008

1. Members in attendance: Alice Owen, Roger Geiger, Mary Ann Beseda, Randy Wilbanks, Shawn Casey, Ed Zaiontz, Harold Rowe, Jan Short, Lenny Schad, Fran McTigrit, Gray Salada, Joe Barnett, Frankie Jackson, Diane Borreson; Ernie Stripling, Bob Daughrity, Mardee Barnett, Andy Berning
2. 501(c)3 status – Alice reported that we are working with Karen Yoho at CoSN to help us achieve this status and to set up our own bank account.
3. CTO Clinic June 17 – 18 in Katy – We have a good start on sponsors for the clinic. If there are other vendors interested, send the information to Alice. At the meeting in D.C. with other state chapters, it was decided to keep the first member attendee registration free, second and other member attendees at \$125 each, and non-member registration fee will be \$299. Alice asked for topic ideas, and these suggestions were offered: Web 2.0 tools, IT Security (both intrusion detection and forensic investigation), Open Source alternatives for desktop applications, Benchmarking techniques and best practices, and Green computing. A possible keynote might be Bailey Mitchell talking about CoSN's new initiative regarding the CTO in 2012.
4. Membership – There was a general discussion on whether non-members should attend meetings. Everyone agreed to allow one 'free' visit before joining. We need to reach out to smaller districts and to the South Texas area in particular. Other suggestions were a membership drive at the clinic, following up with an email invitation to join when they attend their first meeting, and color-coding badges at meetings so that we can recognize visitors and make them feel welcome.
5. State funding – Several members attended and presented to a committee from the Legislature regarding school funding for technology in general and the tech allotment in particular. The general consensus message was that it takes approximately \$400 per student per year to be successful. Committee members listened and agreed but do not have any easy fixes for increasing funding.

6. Old Business – We discussed the joint meeting with TECSIG in the fall. We have used this format to share Anita Givens’ presentation and to see if it helped recruit new members. The discussion focused on the fact that the two groups have different priorities and that we have to share the cost of the hotel meeting rooms. The group agreed to go back to a separate meeting at a district or a vendor facility, and to have it sometime during the first half of October. Topics suggested for the fall meeting were national level updates from Keith Krueger, 21st Century Superintendent, Data Retention, and Online Testing, with a focus on topics of interest to smaller districts.
7. New Business – Gray has a proposed budget and everyone agreed to the categories and distribution of funds. This is a starting point and Gray is waiting for the actual numbers from CoSN.
8. Awards Committee – CoSN has asked the state chapters to establish a state awards committee, with the state winners being eligible for the national awards. Mary Ann agreed to chair this committee, and the members will be Dianne, Mardee, Frankie, and Joe (thanks to everyone for volunteering). The committee will recommend a name for the awards, criteria, and type of recognition (plaque, money, etc.). The committee will meet via email and also at the clinic. The goal is to present the awards at the October meeting.
9. Dates to Remember – May 29 at 1 PM (Conference Call); June 17/18 (Clinic at the Merrill Center in Katy); August 28 at 1 PM (Conference Call) and March 10-12, 2009 (national CoSN conference in Austin).

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Ann Beseda