

November 2007

Welcome to *KAIRS Today* 2007-08

This is the monthly electronic newsletter of the Kansas Association of Religious and Independent Schools (KAIRS). *KAIRS Today* is sent as a service to KAIRS members across Kansas. Each issue will also be available on the KAIRS Web site at www.kairs.org.

Our goal is to keep you informed about legislative, regulatory and national news, and educational issues. Contact Corey Reese, editor, with questions or concerns – crkairs@yahoo.com.

From the Editor: We will be changing our KAIRS Today schedule this year, as we move to five issues instead of 10. Currently, we are planning November, and December issues for the remainder of 2007.

NOVEMBER ISSUE:

1. NOVEMBER 13 MEMBERSHIP MEETING
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NOVEMBER 13 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The upcoming meeting, Tuesday, November 13, has a full agenda. The discussions will include:

- An update on the KAIRS Executive Committee conversation with Kansas Commissioner of Education, Dr. Alexa Posny.
- The ongoing discussions with North Central in regard to accreditation.

Resolutions will be introduced pertaining to the following topics:

- Accreditation
- Kansas Colleges to affiliate with KAIRS
- Sports/Coaching as a Ministry

Please plan to attend either in person in Topeka at the Kansas District Office of

the LCMS (Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod), located at 1000 SW 10th Ave. or via the Internet. Please email Bill Dieckhoff, KAIRS Secretary, with your lunch reservation, by Friday, November 9. Billdieckhoff@holycrosslutheran.net

DISTINGUISHED TEACHERS AND HALL OF FAME SUBMISSIONS – DUE NOW!

The honoring of our teachers and outstanding educators is one of KAIRS most important activities. Most nominations were due Friday, November 2, but if you have someone in mind and are running late, please alert the appropriate person for your school system.

FORMS CAN BE DOWNLOADED OFF THE KAIRS WEBSITE: www.kairs.org.

Don't delay – please nominate one of your outstanding teachers NOW!

- Catholics: Contact Diocese's Superintendents
- Lutherans: Submit nominations to Bill Dieckhoff, billdieckhoff@holycrosslutheran.net, asap
- ACSI Schools & Independent School (includes Seventh-day Adventists): Nominations to Shelli Kadel, kadelshelli@juno.com, asap

All submissions due to KAIRS/Shelli December 3.

HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS DUE DECEMBER 1

The Hall of Fame is a wonderful way KAIRS can honor our life-long educators who have given so much of their lives for Kansas school children. Please send your nominations to Nick Compagnone by December 1, nickcom@aol.com.

THE FORM CAN BE DOWNLOADED OFF THE KAIRS WEBSITE, www.kairs.org.

MINUTES FROM OCTOBER KAIRS MEETING

KAIRS Quarterly Meeting, October 2, 2007, Topeka, Kansas

Nick Compagnone called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

Terry Tilson opened with a prayer.

Nick welcomed all members and guests. (A total of ten were in attendance) He presented the agenda items for the meeting and reviewed the executive board minutes from the August 28th meeting. Items included: Hall of Fame, resignation of Pam Nummela as vice president, and public policy. Nick presented the name of Terry Tilson as a replacement for Pam and it was

accepted. Terry is the new vice president of KAIRS.

David Swank, treasurer, presented both last year's final report as well as the current quarterly report. Nick commented on the proposed budget, noting the trimming of expenses for the upcoming February conference in Topeka. Motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the treasurer's report.

Nick talked about becoming an associate member of Hand in Hand and putting this on our web site.

From the agenda Nick introduced the topic of Religious and Independent Colleges and referenced four subtopics. These included accreditation models, teacher corps, corporate partnership, and public policy.

Two guests were introduced as representatives of two Kansas colleges. Dr. Phil Kerstetter, president of Wesleyan College in Salina, spoke of the present organization of Kansas colleges – the Kansas Independent College Association (website: www.kscolleges.org) Its membership includes 18 colleges in Kansas, with the majority having a religious affiliation. He said some might be interested in becoming a part of KAIRS; others may not, since these colleges belong to other groups outside of Kansas as well. He did say it would be helpful to talk together because KAIRS has much the same mission. Topics in common would include teacher preparation, mission and purpose, salaries, etc.

Dr. Dwight Reimer, president of Central Christian College in McPherson joined the meeting as a guest. He indicated that Central Christian had been the oldest junior college in Kansas, but is now a four-year college. They have initiated a teacher preparation program, with a desire to partner with other Christian high schools in the state for student recruitment. Presently, Central Christian College is working with three high schools, offering courses to students.

The administrators present shared the different ways teachers receive training, and the potential positive aspects of working together with the religious high schools. The discussion included the benefits to the colleges in having students who are familiar with a Christian/religious mission in their high school. From the high school perspective, it is beneficial to have student teachers from the religious colleges who view the profession of teaching as a ministry.

After considerable discussion Nick addressed the next steps. Dr. Kerstetter suggested that he and Dr. Reimer report to their college counterparts concerning the possibilities of attending the KAIRS annual conference and begin to discuss the possibility of becoming KAIRS members. The KAIRS executive board will bring an action for consideration to the annual KAIRS conference as a point of discussion. Both KAIRS and the Christian colleges in Kansas have much in common.

Over lunch Nick introduced Bill Meagher, sports director at Hayes Recreation Commission. He discussed the importance of viewing coaching as a ministry. Coaches should see improvement in faith of kids throughout the years. What is the purpose of sports? It should be seen as an academic/educational tool. He noted that it is essential that coaches are aware of the fact that they represent our schools. It is also important that coaches give players expectations of conduct. Parent education is more difficult, but necessary.

Nick suggested offering help from KAIRS to our schools in promoting good conduct, and character building. These could include posting code of conduct on the KAIRS website.

There was some discussion of the NAIA program, Champions of Character, which attempts to integrate civility, hospitality, and sportsmanship, and turn these virtues into character building traits.

Nick suggested that a sectional be offered at the annual conference to support continuation of this objective of character building.

Next meeting is November 13th, 10 a.m. at the Kansas District Office of the LCMS, located at 1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka.

Meeting adjourned and the executive board went to the State Department of Education building and met with the new commissioner of education, Dr. Alexa Posny.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Dieckhoff
Secretary

Those in attendance:

Nick Compagnone, KAIRS President
David Swank, KAIRS Treasurer
Bill Dieckhoff, KAIRS Secretary
Terry Tilson, KAIRS Vice President
Boyd Beck, Secondary Principal, Maranatha Academy, Shawnee
Jim Bradshaw, Executive Director of Educational Services, Kansas District,
Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
Dr. Phillip Kerstetter, President, Kansas Wesleyan College in Salina
Dr. Dwight Reimer, President, Central Christian College, McPherson
Dr. Ron Allen, Central Christian College
Bill Meagher, Sports Director, Hayes Recreation Commission.

KAIRS PRESIDENT ADDRESSES NORTH CENTRAL MEETING

The KNCA (Kansas North Central Association) annual meeting convened in Wichita Oct 1-3. Dr. Nick Compagnone was able to speak to the membership in both open and breakout sessions. Nick addressed the issues of private schools, and the different challenges of the focus on mission, as well as federal and state mandates. He shared how using the NCA model helped make school improvement doable and effective. At the State committee meeting, Nick also encouraged North Central to continue exploring avenues for alternative accreditation with KAIRS schools.

NEW KAIRS VICE PRESIDENT APPOINTED

Pam Nummela, KAIRS Vice President for the past year, has taken a new position at her church, and is no longer the principal of Bethany Lutheran School in Overland Park. At the October 2nd KAIRS meeting, the name of Terry Tilson, Superintendent, Berean Academy, was presented as a replacement for Pam, and it was accepted. Terry is the new vice president of KAIRS. Thanks to Terry for his continued service to KAIRS.

KAIRS NOVEMBER MEETING AVAILABLE VIA INTERNET

The November 13 meeting will be broadcasted via the Internet. Please contact Corey Reese at crkairs@yahoo.com if you would like to join the meeting in cyberspace.

CENSUS TO BE TAKEN VIA WEBSITE

We are currently working with technical advisors and hope to be able to tabulate our KAIRS Census information via our website in the next month or two. We'll keep you posted, but we're thankful to have such competent technical experts working on our project.

IMPORTANT 2007-08 KAIRS DATES

General Meetings

November 13 - 10 a.m. (Topeka)

April 8, 2008 - 10 a.m.

Annual Meeting

February 11 & 12, 2008

Distinguished Teacher Nomination Dates

Catholics – Contact Diocese's Superintendents

Lutherans – Submit nominations to Bill Dieckhoff by November 2

ACSI Schools & Independent School (includes Seventh-day Adventists)–

Nominations to Shelli Kadel – November 2

December 3 – All submissions due to Shelli Kadel

Hall of Fame Nominations

December 1 — to Nick Compagnone

KAIRS 2007-08 OFFICERS

President: Nick Compagnone, Salina Catholic Diocese
nickcom@aol.com

Vice President: Terry Tilson, Head of School, Berean Academy
ttilson@berean.elbingks.com

Secretary: Bill Dieckhoff, Holy Cross Lutheran School, Wichita
Billdieckhoff@holycrosslutheran.net

Treasurer: David Swank, Trinity Academy, Wichita
swankd@trinityacademy.org

Annual Meeting Secretary: Shelli Kadel, Wichita Friends School
kadelshelli@juno.com