

**Panhandle Plains Executive Committee**  
**January 8, 2016**

**Executive Committee Meeting**

**Location:** Barnes and Noble Café, Amarillo

**Members present:** Nick Flynn, Paul Baumgardner, Mary Graff, Wayne Hardin, Amy Graff, Cathy Clewett, Matt Chisum, Jason Yarbrough (by phone)

The meeting began at 6:30 PM. A discussion of the past year covered the following topics:

1. Tours – generally successful but feedback from members indicated that they liked having a mix of tours and meetings.
2. Members liked and appreciated having the Section purchase dinner for the meetings.
3. The Section partnered with the Discovery Center providing activities for National Chemistry Week and Earth Day.
4. The Section had a table at the Panhandle Math and Science Conference in August and awarded three AACT one year memberships to three teachers in the Panhandle. Mary Graff noted that one of the recipients did not want the membership, but did not return the code so it could be used by someone else. The other two recipients were asked for feedback on the use of their codes, but did not respond to this request.
5. The section successfully revised our bylaws bringing them up to date for using electronic balloting and updating guidelines from ACS.
6. Elections were held in the fall to elect officers for the next year.
7. Wayne Hardin was able to have the financials brought up to date, by working with ACS to have missing and uncashed checks reissued.
8. The balance at the end of the year was approximately \$27,840.

**Discussion of other items:**

1. Chemistry Olympiad. Does the Section want to pursue this with students in our area? Points of discussion included time commitments for teachers and students to prepare, availability of lab facilities for that portion of Olympiad testing, resources – people – to manage the testing and preparation, and disseminating information. Region 16 would be a major contact for most of the panhandle, but there are districts that are not part of Region 16, These would have to be contacted separately. The general consensus was that it is not practical to do this in 2016, but to start planning for 2017. A presentation at the 2016 Panhandle Math and Science Conference in August 2016 was suggested as a place to let teachers know about the Olympiad and see if there is interest to participate.
2. Continued discussion of the section financials. There are still a few issues to resolve with our accounts. Wayne Hardin in continuing to work on this.
3. The Section paid for meals with each meeting last year. The committee agreed to continue that for the meetings in 2016 – our financial state is robust enough that we can continue this for our members and guests.
4. Matt Chisum suggested that we present Erv Kohn a plaque for his long service to the Panhandle Plains Section both as an officer and as the long term counselor. Mary Graff will check to see how many years he was councilor and his years of membership. Paul Baumgardner will get the plaque when he has the information/details to include. A presentation will be made at a later date.

5. Awards Banquet. The Section wants to revive the Awards Banquet in 2017. This is a program to recognize the outstanding chemistry student from panhandle high schools. It will be held in the spring of 2017 with date to be determined. It was suggested that the end of February would likely be the best time because March, April and May are very busy for schools with UIL competition, sports, and other spring school activities. We are considering the weekend of the Senior High Science Bowl. Nick Flynn will contact Michelle at Region 16 for help in getting contact information and dates. Cathy Clewett will check with WTAMU food service about availability of venue and cost per person. Several other venues will also be considered. A program for this banquet was briefly discussed with no decisions being made.

#### **2016 meetings:**

Continue meeting schedule of the third Thursday of February, April, June, August, and October.

1. February 19 – Program by Ben Richardson, Pantex (tentative),. Location to be determined.
2. April 21 – Bushland Ag Station Tour (tentative)
3. June 16 – Bar Z Winery Tour and Tasting (tentative)
4. August 18 – ACS Tour Speaker (to be determined)
5. October 20 – Conservation Center Panhandle Plains Historical Museum (tentative)
6. November – Executive Committee Meeting

#### **Forms:**

FORMS – Annual Report due February 15, 2016. Paul Baumbardner, Nick Flynn, Matt Chisum and Mary Graff all have input to include. The financial report is due at a later date and Wayne Hardin will take care of that.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
/signed/ Mary Graff  
Secretary (outgoing)

**NOTE:** Mention was made concerning the grant that was awarded last year to a High School teacher, but not discussed. Wasn't one of the conditions of the award that a presentation would be made either to the Section or at the PMSC?