

Los Padres CATESOL

Board meeting minutes (Fri, June 5, 2020)

Present via Zoom: Terease Chin, Annette Flower, Susan Gaer, Jillian Mullen, Randy Rightmire, John Robertson, Doug Smith, Danny Tsai

John explained that many of us have been incredibly busy the past 2.5 months, shifting instruction to online formats. Plus we have had to re-orient our thinking to find ways to use this period of sheltering-in-place for productive meetings and endeavors. Thus, our board hasn't met since the lockdown began toward the end of March. Fortunately, under Susan's visionary direction, statewide CATESOL has been busy, first with a successful in-house series of instruction and mentoring sessions (end of March) regarding possibilities with online instruction. Secondly, with a Spring Virtual Conference (May 8-9) that gathered almost 500 attendees and garnered 79 new members for CATESOL. Danny was an IT facilitator and trouble-shooter, while many of us attended, and raved about, the conference.

On the horizon, OC CATESOL has scheduled their **Fall 2020 Virtual Workshop** for Sat, Aug 8, 9:00 – 1:30, called: "Falling for Digital Learning: Engaging ESL Students Online."

Beyond that, the statewide (virtual) **Annual Conference for CATESOL**, "Turning Point," is still on for Oct. 8-11. (Susan recommends that a couple of us join the organizing board for this conference. Anyone interested? Margi Wald is the contact person.)

In addition to all this purposeful activity, our board has a vision for getting our membership together in-person at the **Mission Rose Garden** at the end of summer (early September?) to celebrate our survival thus far, plus our readiness to embark upon a new term in our "temporary normal."

Considering what has been mentioned above, what can be fruitfully promoted to our membership over the summer months, and beyond?

- View videos on the CATESOL website (follow the "Resources" link to "Online Training"), showing technology-savvy CATESOL members giving workshops (in March) showing **online possibilities**.

- Attend the **OC Fall 2020 Virtual Workshop** – Sat, Aug 8.

- Follow up the OC Workshop with a socializing event that is also a **virtual debrief** on what attendees gained from the workshop. CATESOL has a meeting room (that holds up to 100 people) available to chapters for free, which (if we reserve the meeting room for a specific date and time) we may choose to extend without charge to all, or we may charge a nominal fee to non-members (Susan's advice). Option 1: free to all; Option 2: starting free, then maybe adding a charge to non-members after a couple events. We register thru the CATESOL portal.

- Attend our **social activity** (Wine & Cheese?) in the Mission Rose Garden in early September (with masks and social distancing, as necessary).

- Attend the **CATESOL (virtual) Annual Conference**, this Oct 8 – 11.
- We can start brainstorming our **Los Padres Winter/Spring 2021 conference**. (Susan said that the CATESOL virtual conference took about two months to organize and implement, though I think a longer timeline would be appreciated.)
- In the meantime, each chapter has a **Message Board** on the CATESOL website, and I am going to start using and promoting ours. (I am currently the site administrator.) We can discuss basically anything that relates to TESOL, so let's test the possibilities and see where our interests take us.

John will approach Keith about sending out a blast to our membership asap, promoting these summer activities.

Other ideas that came up at our meeting:

- Addressing cross-cultural understanding and empathy in the classroom.
 - Individuals should bookmark resources that come to our attention over the coming weeks, for possible use.
 - Consider the materials and speakers from "Just Communities."
 - Consider a speaker from the UCSB Black Studies department.
 - Consider wakelet.com and Ken Shelton.
- Adapting materials to online so they maintain student interest
- Sponsoring a book club

Next meeting: Fri, June 26, July 3, or July 10, 1-2pm. I just sent out a Doodle Poll to ask everyone about these meeting options. Let me know! John