

FIRST ANNUAL CESE MEETING: JUNE 28, 1997

CESE conducted its first annual meeting on June 28, 1997, at the First Unitarian Church in Albuquerque. About 70 people listened to a packed agenda. The attendees evaluated the meeting as a 4.02 on a scale of 1 lowest to 5 highest.

Welcome and introduction of Executive Board – *Marshall Berman*

Marshall Berman introduced the Board, and welcomed all attendees.

History of the Ducks - *Mark Boslough*

Mark talked about the history of the Ducks. In June, 1996, the Albuquerque Journal printed a letter three times by creationist John R. Doughty, disputing the results of a science survey. On June 12, four opposing letters were published, including three authored by CESE members: David A. Thomas, David E. Thomas and Marshall Berman. David A. Thomas compared creationist "facts" to ducks in a shooting gallery: "easy enough to shoot down, but no matter how many times you do it, they pop right back up again."

On June 15, Valerie Santillanes published an article entitled "Evolution Delays New Standards for NM Schools." Mark Boslough sent an e-mail message to some friends entitled "Time to get DUCKS in a row." Several messages were exchanged on the "DUCKS" subject, and by June 20, a family of seven Ducks had begun to spread their wings and survey the landscape!

The Ducks contacted the State Department of Education (SDE) and a member of the Board of Education. They provided input and public testimony on the NM Science Content Standards. As their numbers grew, they became involved in endorsing the positions of certain candidates in the November 1996 and February 1997 elections, and in support of Senator Eisenstadt's Senate Bill 155.

Much of this history is documented on Chris Frazier's web page for those who are interested: <http://redtail.unm.edu/BoE/>

CESE History, Mission and Goals - *Dave Thomas*

Dave Thomas discussed the formal creation of CESE on February 28, 1997. He also presented the CESE Mission and Goals (see our newsletter, the Beacon), and brought us up to date on recent events.

Nomination and Election of Officers - *Marshall Berman*

Additional nominees were requested for officers of CESE. None were submitted, and the current slate was elected for one year. The meeting also endorsed the officers as comprising the Board of Directors, for purposes of incorporation.

Treasurer's report - *Nancy Shelton*

Nancy Shelton indicated that the treasury was currently in the red.

Status Report on New Mexico Science Content Standards and Benchmarks - *Marshall Berman*

Marshall discussed the status of the SDE and SBE review of the content standards, benchmarks, and performance standards. A separate e-mail message will address this issue.

CESE incorporation: non-profit status - *Kim Johnson*

Kim proposed that CESE become a non-profit organization, but that dues and donations will not be tax deductible.

E-mail Ducks - *Kim Johnson*

Kim said that he would act as list server. Kim (and Marshall) will keep a current list of all Ducks, filtered and unfiltered. If you desire to circulate your message to the full Ducks list, please note that on a message to Kim (or Marshall).

The group discussed the desirability of getting an e-mail account. Alan Morgan noted that this would require owning a computer, and might be difficult for some members. Rebecca Brannon proposed that a new e-mail category be used: super-filtered, containing only a very small number of key messages. The Board will consider this suggestion. If you would prefer super-filtered status, please send Kim a message with that information. Also, Marshall, Kim, and other CESE members are willing to provide help to novices wishing to get on e-mail.

Alan Morgan (857-0312) will be establishing a phone tree to reach CESE members without e-mail. Please contact him if you wish to help.

Current and future CESE Activities - *Marshall Berman*

Marshall said that CESE currently has 295 members, but additional recruiting is needed. We now have members from New Mexico, Colorado, Alabama, Arkansas, Maine, New York, South Dakota, Washington, DC, and Benin, West Africa.

Comments by Senator Eisenstadt

Senator Pauline Eisenstadt spoke about our contributions to Senate Bill 155. She congratulated us on coming a long ways since we began. She also encouraged us to consider a lobbyist, although our finances currently cannot accommodate this. Pauline received an ovation for her efforts on behalf of teaching good science.

Membership Vote to Establish Dues

The membership approved a motion to institute dues to cover CESE's costs: \$25 per member, \$10 for students. An annual public CESE meeting was also endorsed.

The BEACON

CESE published its first newsletter, the Beacon. The Board is looking for a good writer/editor for the Beacon. Do we have a volunteer?

Speaker's Bureau

Owen Laurion is our Speakers Bureau chief. He will be contacting the membership very soon.

Networking Efforts

Marshall met with the Northern New Mexico NETWORK for Rural Education. A possible joint meeting in August was proposed. The Network would like to use CESE talent in science and math education efforts with rural and tribal schools.

Web Page

CESE has a web page. Please check it out!
www.highfiber.com/~dfbeck/CESE/CESEhome.html

Partnering Opportunities

Partnering with other organizations (NMAS, NCSE, ARISE, etc.) - *Marshall Berman*
Marshall discussed the possibility of informal partnerships with other science and education organizations. The CESE would remain independent, but be able to draw on and provide additional support for projects of mutual interest. Three organizations were mentioned: New Mexico Academy of Science, National Center for Science Education, and American Renaissance in Science and Education

Magic Tricks - *Dave Thomas*

Dave entertained us all with magic tricks, one of which involved the support of TV anchorman Tom Joles.

Distribution of Member Pins, Dues Collection - *Nancy and Jerry Shelton*

The handsome new CESE pins were distributed, and dues were collected.

Socializing

An abundance of high-quality food and conversation was enjoyed by all.