

Region IV Policy Committee Meeting

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Meeting called to order by Michael Culwell at 8:05 a.m.

Michael provided agendas to attendees.

Breakfast was served from 7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Michael plans to continue to have breakfast at future VISION Conferences.

Attendee Introductions.

Introductions of Region IV policy committee members.

It was approved that Rana McVay serve as the secretary for the meeting.

Blaise King motioned, and Jennifer Turner seconded that the agenda be approved. Motion passed.

Brandon Grace motioned, and Jennifer Turner seconded that the minutes be approved. Motion passed.

Financial Report:

- National office is doing well.
- Region IV finances are well too (Operating Fund is where we run the regions from)
- Designated funds are healthy as well.

Membership Report:

- Overall growth is good.
 - Organizational membership is 27,000+
 - Region IV membership is 8,000+

Board Meeting Notes:

- Financially healthy
- Membership is up
- 100-year anniversary will be in 2026 in Louisiana, Dode is asking that regions look at artifacts to see how we can engage in the celebration.
- The board is still in opposition to the school vouchers being discussed at the legislative level.

Michael shared a copy of the roster to policy members and asked that updates be provided, as necessary.

Region IV ACTE Fellows were recognized.

Recognition of Region IV Fellows as lead by Brent Casey. Attendees were recognized.

VISION 24 Highlights:

- Attendance approximately 5,000
- Region IV Business meeting will be held at 2 p.m. Michael asked that Region IV states be prepared for roll call.
- ACTE Awards Gala to be held at 7 p.m. He shared the names of the Region IV awards finalist.
- Region IV Reception to be held Thursday, December 5th in room 217B from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. Reception being sponsored by SAVVAS Learning.
- Elections start Friday, December 6th. Michael provided background information on the candidates.
- Reminder of State Association Breakfast scheduled for Saturday, December 7th.

Region IV Conference Update:

- Dazsa Carter provided an update on the Region IV Conference that will be held in Oklahoma City, OK April 23-25, 2025.
- Call for presentations will be opened until January 31, 2025.

Region IV Conference 2026 is being discussed. The conference is scheduled to be held in Arkansas. The initial 2026 Region IV Conference was scheduled to be held in Louisiana but based on ACTE scheduling the 100-year anniversary VISION Conference in Louisiana in 2026, the Region IV Conference was moved to Arkansas.

ACTE Legislative update will be provided during the Region IV Business Meeting.

State Reports:

- Jennifer Turner provided Arkansas update. They are working hard on planning of Region IV 2026 Conference opportunities. There are a lot of biking opportunities. They are excited about sharing opportunities and partnerships in Arkansas. With Arkansas New Governor, they are expecting widespread changes, especially as related to school vouchers.

- No report from Louisiana. Michael shared that Louisiana is preparing for VISION 2026 and VISION 2025 will be held in Nashville, TN.
- Blaise King reported that their Mississippi Summer Conference had attendance of approximately 1600 people. He discussed change shifts due to school scheduling conflicts: based on funding formula they can only count students in 9-12 grades, and this has affected their funding because middle school students are no longer being counted. School vouchers are huge in Mississippi. AWS is moving into Mississippi.
- Jeff Waugh spoke on behalf of New Mexico. Jason Hayes is no longer representing New Mexico. Jeff shared that New Mexico recently lost their ACTE representative that handled all things ACTE. They are going through a transition. Their state conference is scheduled to be held in January. The state has raised teacher salaries. This will help improve teacher recruitment.
- Kristal McCathern shared that Oklahoma is ramping up on the planning of the Region IV Conference. Skye McNeil, Oklahoma Executive Director, shared that Oklahoma is ramping up the legislative process. Last session was a good year. CTE courses are being calculated for graduation credit. She shared that state funding is associated with Ad Valorem Taxes. Oklahoma has 32 new legislative representatives. This past year, Oklahoma hosted a group of Georgia CTE representatives as a sister city collaboration. This visit is an opportunity to learn from one another.
- Brandon Grace reported that Texas has a new Executive Director, Darlene Miller. Summer Conference was held with CTAT this past year. They are ramping up for next year's summer conference that will be held in Corpus Christi, TX.

There was additional discussion regarding school vouchers and how they affect each state. There are numerous concerns in the states of Arkansas and Texas.

Policy Committee Agenda Items:

- Michael invited everyone to remain in the meeting if they were interested in reviewing the Region IV Policy Manual. He shared that all regions are going through policy updates.
- Major changes involved the name of Vice President versus President. When policy is referring to Region IV, President will be utilized. When referring to the board, Vice President will be utilized. Other than that, the other changes were mostly clean up.
 - Blaise King motioned, and Brandon Grace seconded that the policy manual updates be accepted. The motion passed.

- Michael addressed his Region IV travel, and he would like to attend at least one state conference before his team ends. He would like to attend a regional conference that he has not been to.
- Additional Expenditures:
 - Michael has reviewed the current expenditure based on conference and member needs/requests.
 - There was a discussion regarding Region IV Awards Chair.
 - Recommendation of just room; not a suite & to follow the Policy Committee amount of \$750.00. It was agreed to allow the \$750 stipend without paying for a room.
 - Michael would like to provide additional travel funds for Region IV Fellow members to travel to NPS. Michael plans to research & determine what that amount is. Committee in agreement to provide additional funds. After further discussion and review of current policy, it was agreed to provide 5 comp codes (registrations) per state for NPS (National Policy Seminar).
 - Michael entertained a motion to approve financial changes. Brandon Grace moved, and Jennifer Turner seconded the motion to approve financial changes. The motion passed.

Non-policy committee members were dismissed from the meeting for policy members to discuss the ACTE Strategic Plan

Michael shared the strategic planning document and provided an update that the Fellow stipend is now \$1,500.00.

Member Value & Engagement:

- See page 3 of strategic plan (purple area of table)
- Plan to do a better job of sharing best practices across the regions
- Discussion on how to strategically align the planning of the Region IV Conferences. It was suggested that planning documents be shared with the states. It was also suggested that a conference planning toolkit be developed. Michael suggested the goals be updated as they are associated with conferencing.
- Based on the New Mexico Region IV conference, it was suggested that there be more best practice sessions at the conference where states come to discuss how they apply CTE policies. There was a request to extend the meeting time and schedule it in a larger room.

Professional & Leadership Development:

- See page 5 of strategic plan (green area of table)
- No discussion

Advocacy & Awareness

- See page 8 of strategic plan
- Add room for discussion during Region IV conference break-out sessions

Inclusion, Access, Equity, & Diversity (IAED)

- See page 9 of strategic plan
- Request for demographics from ACTE office. Demographics should be consistent for all states.
- Alicia Hysop will share what demographic questions the national office obtains.

Teacher Pipelines & Strategic Partnership Goals:

- Michael reviewed current goal on his documents. Information was not included on the strategic planning sheet.

Michael asked that we thank SAVVAS Learning for their partnership/sponsorship for the VISION conference events.

No New Business

Brandon Grace moved, and Blaise King seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 9:55 a.m. The motion passed.