

NAGT – Far Western Section 2022 Report

October 2022

Submitted by Mark Boryta

Leadership 2020-2022: (leadership terms are 2 yrs)

President: Mark Boryta mboryta@mtsac.edu

1st Vice-President: Paul Troop paul.troop@sbcglobal.net

2nd VP/Newsletter editor (continuing): Richard Jones rmjones7@hawaii.edu

Secretary/Treasurer (continuing) Gene Pearson epearson@pacific.edu

Scholarship Coordinator and contact for OESTA: Ryan Hollister ryhollister@sbcglobal.net

Past President: Winnie Kortmeier winnie.kortemeier@wnc.edu

The FWS is still slowly recovering from the pandemic, but we ARE recovering.

We are honored to select Ms. Lorraine Cathey for the OESTA Section award this year. Ms. Cathey teaches Science to grades 4-8 at the St. Thomas the Apostle School, a private school in San Francisco, where they “appreciate and respect the religious, racial, economic, social, and cultural diversity within our student community.” She was nominated by a colleague who was excited by her use of hands-on classroom investigations, her efforts toward her own continuing education that have led her to bring new resources into the school (a weather station and use of a scanning electron microscope were mentioned), and her multifaceted approach to reaching all of her students. Ms. Cathey was not able to attend the GSA this year due to a family illness.

We were also honored to select Ms. Michelle Laverty for the OESTA State award (NV). Ms. Laverty teaches Earth and Environmental Sciences at Edward C. Reed HSM (a public HS) in Sparks. Her advocate was impressed that Ms. Laverty teaches ES and also is the Leadership Advisor – a role that further publicizes the role of geosciences within the HS community. She also has embraced working with IEP students, emphasizing her dedication to her students.

We are hosting a Fall Field Conference the weekend after GSA (Oct 14-16)! A Spring 2023 conference may be in the works. The Fall conference will be held at East L.A. College (ELAC) with a variety of field trips, including those accessible by train/bus. There will also be several workshops designed with K-12 teachers in mind. Formal installation of newly elected officials should be occurring at the Business Meeting on Friday evening during this conference.

Our finances, expertly managed by Eugene Pearson, have remained stable despite a decline in sales of our field guides (due to pandemic-related issues).

Respectfully,

Mark Boryta