

To: Patricia Simmons Regional Units
13a. Mid-Atlantic Region

**Report to the Board of Directors
The Association for Science Teacher Education
Winter Board Meeting - January 2006**

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POSITION/COMMITTEE/REGION: Representative: Committee on Regional ASTE Units:
Mid-Atlantic Region (2008)

CHARGES/OBJECTIVES: Webpage Upkeep and Annual Regional Meeting Reports

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES: 2005 ASTE Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference

**Report on the Mid-Atlantic Association for Science Teacher Education
2005 Annual Meeting**

**Breaks Interstate Park, Breaks, VA
October 28-29, 2005**

- We kept to our tradition of offering our annual conference at a beautiful “green” and natural location to soothe the mind, rejuvenate the body, and mend the spirit.
- The Keynote speaker, Dr. William “Drew” Andrews from the Kentucky Geological Survey was entertaining and educational, enlightening us about the region’s historical geology. Drew also led a wonderful hike through Breaks Interstate Park on Saturday after the official end of the conference.
- Total attendees – 45
 - First-time attendees – 20
 - Graduate students presenting – 21
- We allowed graduate students a break in registration: they did not have to pay the \$10 fee for MA-ASTE membership.
- Five Presentation Sessions: Consisting of 22 paper presentations and 4 poster sessions.
- Business Meeting:

- **Finances: broke even.**
- **Suggestions for future conferences:**
 - **It was discussed and generally agreed upon that regional conferences are testing grounds for the national conferences and need to be “friendly” to new researchers, especially graduate students.**
 - **Panel Discussions: possibly geared to new researchers and grad students**
 - **True Round Tables: especially for grad students to ask questions and share thoughts and ideas.**
 - **Formalize Poster Sessions: Have presenters give a five minute talk on premise of poster and allow short time for questions. Then if anyone wants further discussion they can have “Break-out sessions” or one-on-one.**
 - **Request handouts of power point presentations or Outlines of paper presentations so audience has a format for taking notes; contact information; etc. (Most already do this.)**
 - **Paper sets so like-minded papers can be presented together in a more condensed format. Less time used for introductions or changeovers.**
 - **Have a Check Box on the Conference Proposal Form: *If you have too many sessions, I give you permission to make mine a poster session.***
- **If graduate students need assistance; try to get it through the parent institution.**
- **Use dues to pay for social time; perhaps to pay a musician(s) like 2004 at Roan Mountain.**