

Dear KAS Members,

As we begin the 2018 year, I am both encouraged by the past and looking forward to an exciting year of science. The Annual meeting in November 2017 in Murray, KY was quite a success! There were 557 registered attendees, 148 oral presentations, 188 posters and 111 award winners from 19 different institutions. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Jeffrey Bennett, delivered an excellent presentation at the meeting, spoke with the Murray community about global warming, and inspired young students at a local elementary school. We also had a great panel discussion on communicating science to the general public. Kudos to our own Amanda Fuller and Melony Stambaugh, and the Murray State University local organizing team! I also want to thank all of the other members who volunteered as judges and those who helped with various tasks that cropped up at the meeting.

Volunteer opportunities at KAS meetings and as a representative of KAS are a great way to get involved in science education with youth. The Kentucky Junior Academy of Science meets ([https://www.kyscience.org/kentucky\\_junior\\_academy\\_of\\_sci.php](https://www.kyscience.org/kentucky_junior_academy_of_sci.php)) on Saturday, April 28, 2018 at Kentucky State University offers a chance to interact with budding young scientists, so please consider volunteering as a judge this spring. There are numerous science and engineering fairs this coming March that will also be looking for judges and these are mentioned in another part of this newsletter. Please consider volunteering at one of these events as each is an opportunity to inspire the next generation of scientists.

Not interesting in judging, but love to talk science? Not a problem! Kentucky Science Center has several volunteer opportunities. Consider presenting an activity or demonstration relating to engineering during Engineers Week or present activities and demonstrations relating to brains during Brain Days. Each event welcomes student participation, so this is an opportunity to get your undergraduate club members or undergraduate researchers involved. Alternatively, consider joining our Speakers Bureau ([https://www.kyscience.org/speakers\\_bureau.php](https://www.kyscience.org/speakers_bureau.php)) and we can contact you when we have specific requests.

Want to communicate science with your peers? Try one of our own publications ([https://www.kyscience.org/about\\_our\\_publications.php](https://www.kyscience.org/about_our_publications.php))? Our Newsletter (published January, May, and September) is a great way to highlight events and share member accomplishments: editor Crystal Simons accepts items via email [kynewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:kynewsletter@gmail.com). The Journal of the Kentucky Academy of Science ([https://www.kyscience.org/journal\\_of\\_the\\_kentucky\\_academ.php](https://www.kyscience.org/journal_of_the_kentucky_academ.php)) is a peer reviewed journal published twice a year: it accepts both research papers and notes from all subject areas encompassed by KAS.

Finally, consider serving as a KAS officer or a board member. Officers and Board Members are usually elected positions and the time commitment is generally significant (but definitely not burdensome). However, such positions provide opportunities for both personal and professional growth and an opportunity to shape the future of this important organization. So, the next time there is a call for nominations, please consider putting your name in the hat!

All the best,

Jennifer Birriel, KAS President