

Dear FAST members,

Welcome back to a new school year! I'm pleased to announce that *FAST* will host the National Science Teachers Association's **NSTA Area Conference on Science Education** in Fort Lauderdale, Florida this November 12-14, 2009.



As president of *FAST* and chairman of the *NSTA Area Conference Planning Committee*, I encourage you to attend this exciting conference. This journal will preview some of the field trips, workshops and presentations coming to Fort Lauderdale and the special savings and incentives for our members. Follow these three steps to register and renew your memberships.

First, all current *FAST* members can register through September 25, 2009, at the “*early bird*” rate of \$135. This is a savings of \$74 offered to *NSTA* and/or *FAST* members. You can register online at www.nsta.org/fortlauderdale by clicking the bullet for *FAST* members and typing *FAST* in the box provided. If you wish to mail or fax your registration, download the registration form from the website listed above and fax or mail your form to National Science Teachers Association, Conference Dept., P.O. Box 90214, Washington, DC 20090-0214, Fax 703-243-3924.

Second, be on the lookout for the “*NSTA Conference Preview*” that will be mailed at the end of August to all *FAST* members from *NSTA*. It will explain the workshops and events being offered at the conference in detail.

Three, at the conference, make sure to renew your *FAST* membership for \$20. This is your last chance to renew before the dues increase in January 2010. Or, join *NSTA* for \$74 and we'll renew your *FAST* membership FREE.

The Area Conference theme is “*Diving into the Next Generation of Science*” and it will focus on three strands of professional development.

1. **Enhancing Science Teaching and Learning with Instructional Technology**
2. **Teaching Ecosystems, Climate and Climate Change**
3. **Keys for Student Success, Curriculum Integration and Student Inclusion**

More than 300 concurrent sessions are planned for K-12 teachers, science coaches, curriculum leaders, and administrators to build your skills, refresh your content knowledge, and restart your batteries. And don't forget the *Exhibitors Hall* with new products and teaching tools to fill your tote bags. So register early to “*Dive into the Next Generation of Science,*” and join *FAST* and *NSTA* this November in Fort Lauderdale.