



National Storytelling Network
October 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
storynet.org/about-nsn/board-meeting-information/

I. Call to Order

Chair Rishi Nixon

Quorum requires a majority of the number of Directors in office—currently **16**—so **9** board members are required to conduct business.

Present: Karin Amano, Caleb Hubbard, Margaret Read MacDonald, Barry McWilliams, Rishi Nixon, Lisa Overholser, Delanna Reed, Emily Stamets, Linda Williams, Linda Yemoto, Staff: Dot Cleveland, Bob Johnson. Member Observer: Robin Kitson (Raleigh, NC). Conference Co-Chair: Trudy Hanson.

II. Review and Approval of September 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Secretary Margaret Read MacDonald

Motion: That the minutes of the September 2025 board meeting be approved. Moved by Delanna Reed. Passed unanimously.

III. Chair's Report

Chair Rishi Nixon.

NSN has turned 50 this month. We have joined Americans for the Arts. Delanna is kicking off an oral history project for NSN. Oracle Awards opens for nominations Nov 10. YES Sunbrella concert to fund the Angela Lloyd Sunbrella Scholarship for K-12 teaching artists who do storytelling as their primary art. \$1,000 award.

IV. Environmental Storytelling Special Interest Group (ECO SIG) Report

Directors Linda Yemoto and Claire Nolan

ECO SIG Report: On Sunday September 21 ECO SIG and HSA along with ThirdAct.org held a four-hour international storytelling concert on Zoom in honor of sustainable energy. The concert featured 25 storytellers, and we had over 70 attendees, many of whom stayed for the entire four-hour event! We are forming a committee of five to evaluate the 2026 NSN conference workshop proposals related to our SIG. So far, we have Claire Nolan and Fran Stallings on the committee. We continue to hold our monthly gatherings. Last one was in honor of Jane Goodall.

V. Producers & Organizers Special Interest Group (PRO SIG) Report

Directors Lisa Overholser and Barry McWilliams

Denise Page, Can We Talk? workshop was rescheduled for Oct 27.

Group to evaluate proposals has been formed. Peer consulting program being launched. Free to consultee, consultant paid \$100. Kate Dudding, listserv manager, is retiring.

VI. Storytelling in Organizations Special Interest Group (SIO SIG) Report

Director Lisa Williams

Gilbert Lake will work with NSN on 2026 conference. Arranging group to evaluate. Alicia Dongong Bang is interested in helping on conference team as SIO SIG rep. Artem Mushin-Makendonskiy is doing webinar series Nov 4 and Dec 2. Oct 18 webinar to be rescheduled. Loren Williams interviewing Eva Grizell. Another webinar series is Jan through April. Lisa needs names of new SIG members from annual conference. Lisa needs someone to take her place as president of SIO next year.

Question was raised. What can we do to encourage MAL members to join SIGS. Or find a way to serve them as their own "SIG".

Motion: That the board form an Ad Hoc Committee to explore ways to serve MAL members. Moved by Caleb Hubbard. Passed unanimously.

Ad Hoc Committee to explore ways to serve MAL members: Caleb Hubbard, Margaret Read MacDonald, Lisa Williams.

VII. Youth-Educators-Storytellers Special Interest Group (YES SIG) Report

Director Karin Amano

\$2,193 collected from Angela Lloyd Concert. \$400 from Angela's auction items.

Story labs continue.

Looking for a YES board member.

VIII. Vote on Cultural Equity Statement

Vice Chair Caleb Hubbard

Motion: That the Cultural Equity Statement be approved. Moved by Caleb Hubbard. Passed unanimously.

The Cultural Equity Statement will appear on the NSN website.

IX. Vote on Content Guidelines for Featured Conference Tellers

Vice Chair Caleb Hubbard

Motion: That the Content Guidelines for Featured Conference Tellers be approved. Moved by Linda Yemoto. Passed unanimously.

X. Texas 2026 Conference Co-Chairs' Report

Co-Chairs Caleb Hubbard and Trudy Hanson

Caleb needs help with social media. An Instagram contact is needed.

Applications for conference presentations end Nov 15. Applicants for conference workshops will be let know by end of Jan. They must respond by Feb 15...

XI. New Members of Member Grants Committee and Strategic Planning Committee

Immediate Past Chair Delanna Reed

Member Grants Committee. Upasna Kakroo, Travis Woven, Sara DeBeer, Robin Kitson, and Delanna Reed (chair).

Strategic Planning Committee:

Needs a SIG board member on the Strategic Planning Committee. Hoping to find a volunteer from general membership who has experience in strategic planning.

Strategic Planning Committee Members: Pat Neese; Drea Douglas, Dr. Nicky Goldman. Needs a board member liaison.

Motion: That the board approve the members of the Member Grants and Strategic Planning Committees. Member Grants Committee: Upasna Kakroo, Travis Woven, Sara DeBeer, Robin Kitson, Delanna Reed (Chair). Strategic Planning Committee: Pat Neese, Drea Douglas, Dr. Nicky Goldman. Moved by Caleb Hubbard. Passed Unanimously.

XII. Member Grants Report

Immediate Past Chair Delanna Reed

Member Grants Committee will also oversee the Kathryn Tucker Windham Award.

XIII. 50th Anniversary Oral History Project Report

Immediate Past Chair Delanna Reed

Will begin with audio only. Documenting history of organization. They will be transcribed. Selected video segments of ten minutes or less will be prepared. The oral histories can be put on NSN website. We are also looking for another place to house them permanently. Work is underway on the protocol and a consent form.

XIV. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Bob Johnson

See on NSN website.

XV. Adjournment 7:10 pm CDT

Chair Rishi Nixon

Next Board Meeting: **Wednesday, November 19, 2025**

6:00 - 8:00 pm Eastern Time
5:00 - 7:00 pm Central Time
4:00 - 6:00 pm Mountain Time
3:00 - 5:00 pm Pacific Time