



## **National Storytelling Network September 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

### **I. Call to Order 6:04 pm EDT 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.

Staff: Dot Cleveland, Robert Johnson. Board members: Caleb Hubbard; Margaret Read MacDonald, Barry McWilliams, Gwendolyn Napier, Rishi Nixon; Lisa Overholser; Delanna Reed; Darlene Richard; Fran Stallings (for ECO); Lisa Williams. Conference Co-chair Trudy Hanson.

### **II. Review and Approval of August 2025 Board Meeting Minutes**

**Motion: That the minutes of the August 2025 meeting be approved.**

**Moved by Gwendolyn Napier. 10 for, 1 abstention.**

### **III. Chair's Report Chair Rishi Nixon**

- The 2025 conference final financial statistics: The profit from the conference was \$36,411.
- 195 attended the conference in person, 55 attended virtually. 35 new members were added. PRO SIG had the most attendees at the conference.
- Survey was sent to conference attendees, 67 responded. 70% heard about conference from newsletter. Overall satisfaction was 99%. 75% VERY satisfied. 99% would recommend it to a friend. We queried whether the conference could be held in May. Equal numbers said it would be easier to attend in May or more difficult to attend in May. Major complaint was that it was too cold in the rooms, especially in the theatre.

Discussions with NEST, Rachel Hedman (Utah), and Storytelling Association of California regarding possible future conferences, 2028 and beyond.

### **IV. Report on Potential Minnesota 2027 Conference Administrator Dot Cleveland reported that Story Arts of Minnesota had submitted a proposal before COVID. It is being updated. A proposal will be submitted to the next board meeting. Loren Neimi is the contact person.**

### **V. Vote on Joining Americans for the Arts**

[Americans for the Arts](#), a 501c3, has an affiliate organization, Americans for the Arts Action Fund, which is a 501c4 and thus is able to take political action. As a 501c3 NSN

cannot do that. It is suggested that NSN take an organizational membership in Americans for the Arts. Several benefits are available to board and staff of member organizations. We are exploring possibilities that might enable NSN members to access certain benefits as well.

**Motion: That we join Americans for the Arts at the \$100 level. Moved by Delanna Reed. Passed unanimously.**

**Motion: That the Strategic Planning Committee explore ways that our members might benefit from the NSN membership in Americans for the Arts. Moved by Caleb Hubbard. 9 for, 2 abstentions. Passed.**

- VI. **Update on Cultural Equity Statement and Teller Vetting** Vice Chair Caleb Hubbard  
This ad-hoc committee is meeting on Sept 25 at 1:00 pm. Sue O'Halloran has joined the committee.

- VII. **Texas 2026 Conference Co-Chairs' Report**  
Co-Chairs Caleb Hubbard and Trudy Hanson  
Application form for proposals is online now.  
Jaye McLaughlin from TSA has joined the planning committee.  
Because they are located in the High Plains of Texas, the regional concert will feature tellers from Oklahoma, New Mexico, and the Texas Panhandle. They will be working also with TEJAS.  
Field trip for ECO may go into the nearby Powder Canyon.

- VIII. **By-laws Committee.** Margaret Read MacDonald  
- Proposed By-laws amendment to exclude chairs of committees without Board-delegated financial powers from conflict of interest statement requirement.

**Motion: That the words "or staff" be added to current by-laws ARTICLE XIV CONFLICT OF INTEREST 14.1 Policy. Line five "chair of a committee or staff". Moved by Barry McWilliams. Passed unanimously.**

**Motion: That we table adding the phrase "financial powers" to ARTICLE XIV CONFLICT OF INTEREST 14.1 Policy. We await establishing a process for executing this article. Moved by Caleb Hubbard. Passed unanimously.**

Dot, Rishi, and Lisa Williams will work on this.

- IX. **Treasurer's Report** Treasurer Bob Johnson  
2025 (as of August). Total income: \$47,566. Total Liabilities and Equity: \$237,356.  
Report available on NSN website.

**X. Environmental Storytelling Special Interest Group (ECO SIG) Report**

Representative Fran Stallings

Monthly Swaps continue. They are offered to ECO SIG members on the second Tuesday or Wednesday of the month on Zoom. Attendance has been steady at about 10-12 participants. Tuesday September 9 Karen Golden gave the delightful workshop, "Nature at Home". She offered suggestions to environmental storytellers on ways to include and nurture the youngest members in our audiences. Her "text" is *The Carrot Seed* by Ruth Krauss. We were amazed how profound the simple board book is and learned why Karen feels that this book is the basis of all her work as a storyteller and an environmentalist. A recording is available if anyone would like it. Just send an email to Claire cbnolou@gmail.com

The next Swap will be on Wednesday October 8 at 8:30 pm EDT.

The Big News is this Sunday, September 21 is SUN DAY. ECO and HSA have teamed up with ThirdAct.org to offer a Storytelling Concert <https://storynet.org/events/>.

Next swap Oct 8.

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

Directors Lisa Overholser and Barry McWilliams

Denise Page workshop is coming up. Oct 8 "Can We Talk?"

Peer consulting program starting. Tuesday monthly meeting.

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

Director Lisa Williams

Oct 7 Artem Mushin-Makedonskiy will be offering webinar. This is part of a series that began in September and continues Nov 4 and Dec 2.

Oct 18 Eva Grayzel will be interviewed by Lauryn Williams. Another webinar planned for Nov 15. Webinars will continue the second Tuesday of each month from January through April.

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

Director Karin Amano (in writing)

Angela Lloyd fundraising concert for scholarship is September 27

Cooper Braun story lab is coming in October.

Recruiting for another YES board member and another YES member to serve on the NSN board.

YES queried their members re the May vs July date for NSN annual conference issue. Half said July best/ half said May best.

Gwendolyn reported that NABS will be able to fund the youth portion of their conference thanks to the gift from NSN.

**XIV. Adjournment 8:08 pm EDT Chair Rishi Nixon**

Next Board Meeting: **Wednesday, October 15, 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



## **National Storytelling Network September 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Agenda**

### **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.

### **II. Review and Approval of August 2025 Board Meeting Minutes**

Secretary Margaret Read MacDonald

### **III. Chair's Report**

Chair Rishi Nixon

- 2025 conference final financial statistics
- 2025 conference final survey statistics
- 2027 conference hosting discussions with Story Arts of Minnesota

### **IV. Report on Potential Minnesota 2027 Conference**

Administrator Dot Cleveland

### **V. Vote on Joining Americans for the Arts**

### **VI. Update on Cultural Equity Statement and Teller Vetting**

Vice Chair Caleb Hubbard

### **VII. Texas 2026 Conference Co-Chairs' Report**

Co-Chairs Caleb Hubbard and Trudy Hanson

### **VIII. Secretary's Report**

Secretary Margaret Read MacDonald

- By-laws amendment to exclude chairs of committees without Board-delegated financial powers from conflict of interest
- Bringing all current Directors up to date on signing conflict of interest form

### **IX. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Bob Johnson

- X. Environmental Storytelling Special Interest Group (ECO SIG) Report**  
Representative Fran Stallings
- XI. Producers & Organizers Special Interest Group (PRO SIG) Report**  
Directors Lisa Overholser and Barry McWilliams
- XII. Storytelling in Organizations Special Interest Group (SIO SIG) Report**  
Director Lisa Williams
- XIII. Youth-Educators-Storytellers Special Interest Group (YES SIG) Report**  
Director Karin Amano (in writing)
- XIV. Adjournment**  
Chair Rishi Nixon

Next Board Meeting: **Wednesday, October 15, 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

#### PROPOSED CHANGE:

ARTICLE XIV CONFLICT OF INTEREST 14.1 Policy. The Corporation shall maintain at all times a policy regarding conflicts of interest. This policy shall be consistent with the requirements of the Internal Revenue Service for the maintenance of the tax-exempt status of the Corporation. Each director and principal officer of the Corporation, as well as each chair of a committee **or staff member** with Board-delegated **financial** powers shall sign, annually, a statement which affirms that such person (1) has received a copy of the conflicts of interest policy, (2) has read and understands the policy, (3) has agreed to comply with the policy, and (4) understands that the corporation is a charitable organization and that in order to maintain its federal tax exemption it must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes. Each chair of a committee with Board delegated **financial** powers will be responsible for informing his/her committee members on an annual basis of the policies, and such informing will be reflected in minutes that will be submitted to the corporate secretary.

#### CURRENT TEXT:

ARTICLE XIV CONFLICT OF INTEREST 14.1 Policy. The Corporation shall maintain at all times a policy regarding conflicts of interest. This policy shall be consistent with the requirements of the Internal Revenue Service for the maintenance of the tax-exempt status of the Corporation. Each director and principal officer of the Corporation, as well as each chair of a committee with Board-delegated powers shall sign, annually, a statement which affirms that such person (1) has received a copy of the conflicts of interest policy, (2) has read and understands the policy, (3) has agreed to comply with the policy, and (4) understands that the corporation is a charitable organization and that in order to maintain its federal tax exemption it must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes. Each chair of a committee with Board delegated powers will be responsible for informing his/her committee members on an annual basis of the policies, and such informing will be reflected in minutes that will be submitted to the corporate secretary.

7:48 AM

09/17/25

Accrual Basis

# National Storytelling Network

## Income and Expenses Compared to Budget

### January through August 2025

	Jan - Aug 25	Budget	\$ Over Budget
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
4000 • Contributed support			
4010 • Indiv/business contribution	5,309	11,661	-6,352
4130 • Gifts in kind - goods	300		
<b>Total 4000 • Contributed support</b>	<b>5,609</b>	<b>11,661</b>	<b>-6,052</b>
5000 • Earned revenues			
5112 • Teller Page Listings-Storynet	2,340	2,700	-360
5150 • Auction Proceeds	1,235	2,144	-909
5160 • Program-related sales other	1,486		
5180 • Conference & Other Program Fees	110,277	90,203	20,074
5210 • Membership dues - individuals	19,070	23,250	-4,180
5220 • Assessments & dues - orgs	2,900	3,200	-300
5310 • Interest-savings/short-term inv	3,267	3,508	-241
5440 • Non-program sales	40	200	-160
5450 • Advertising revenues	6,450	7,500	-1,050
5477 • SMP Fees Earned	50	100	-50
5478 • ETSU Admin Fees	400	200	200
5490 • Miscellaneous revenue	390	0	390
5495 • Resource Room Admin Commission	391	531	-141
<b>Total 5000 • Earned revenues</b>	<b>148,296</b>	<b>133,536</b>	<b>14,760</b>
5800 • Special events			
5820 • Special events - gift revenue	135	0	135
<b>Total 5800 • Special events</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>154,040</b>	<b>145,197</b>	<b>8,843</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>154,040</b>	<b>145,197</b>	<b>8,843</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
7000 • Grant & contract expense			
7019 • All Grants			
7023 • Scholarships for Conference	150		
<b>Total 7019 • All Grants</b>	<b>150</b>		
<b>Total 7000 • Grant &amp; contract expense</b>	<b>150</b>		
7200 • Salaries & related expenses			
7220 • Salaries & wages - other	4,537	7,429	-2,892
7250 • Payroll taxes	347	627	-280
7260 • Payroll Processing Fee	0	100	-100
<b>Total 7200 • Salaries &amp; related expenses</b>	<b>4,884</b>	<b>8,155</b>	<b>-3,271</b>
7500 • Other personnel expenses			
7555 • Other	94		
<b>Total 7500 • Other personnel expenses</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>94</b>
8100 • Non-personnel expenses			
8105 • Computer Equipment & Software	1,341	1,119	222
8110 • Supplies	1,877	1,400	477
8130 • Telephone & telecommunications	292	267	25
8140 • Postage, shipping, delivery	460	200	260
8170 • Printing & copying	4,107	3,500	607
8180 • Books, subscriptions, reference	780	800	-20
<b>Total 8100 • Non-personnel expenses</b>	<b>8,857</b>	<b>7,286</b>	<b>1,571</b>



7:48 AM

09/17/25

Accrual Basis

# National Storytelling Network

## Income and Expenses Compared to Budget

### January through August 2025

	Jan - Aug 25	Budget	\$ Over Budget
<b>8300 • Travel &amp; meetings expenses</b>			
8310 • Travel	503	6,000	-5,497
8320 • Conference, convention, meeting	41,788	40,700	1,088
8322 • Comp Conference Fees	24,745	1,200	23,545
8325 • Honoraria	0	150	-150
8330 • Sound, technology, Zoom etc	2,000	4,297	-2,297
8321 • Presenter payout	4,536	8,274	-3,738
<b>Total 8300 • Travel &amp; meetings expenses</b>	<b>73,572</b>	<b>60,621</b>	<b>12,951</b>
<b>8500 • Misc expenses</b>			
8516 • Marketing Expense	1,200	10,239	-9,039
8520 • Insurance - non-employee	3,245	3,500	-255
8530 • Membership dues - organization	285	300	-15
8547 • Non-NSN Event Sponsorship	3,750	0	3,750
8555 • Program Related Fees	1,571	5,000	-3,429
8560 • Outside computer svcs/Website	4,155	9,811	-5,656
8561 • Website Enhancement	236		
8590 • Other expenses	270	0	270
<b>Total 8500 • Misc expenses</b>	<b>14,712</b>	<b>28,850</b>	<b>-14,138</b>
<b>8600 • Business expenses</b>			
8640 • Bank Fees	3,758	4,139	-381
8670 • Organizational (corp) expenses	446	300	146
<b>Total 8600 • Business expenses</b>	<b>4,204</b>	<b>4,439</b>	<b>-235</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>106,473</b>	<b>109,351</b>	<b>-2,877</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>47,566</b>	<b>35,846</b>	<b>11,720</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>47,566</b>	<b>35,846</b>	<b>11,720</b>

7:49 AM

09/17/25

Accrual Basis

# National Storytelling Network

## Statement of Financial Position

As of August 31, 2025

	Aug 31, 25	Aug 31, 24
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
1018 • US Bank General Account	13,259	44,463
1168 • US Bank Business Savings	151,864	70,457
1169 • Savings	6,599	6,599
1099 • Clearing	-0	0
Total Checking/Savings	171,721	121,519
Accounts Receivable		
1110 • Accounts Receivable	1,015	1,580
Total Accounts Receivable	1,015	1,580
Other Current Assets		
1250 • Undeposited Funds	990	677
1440 • Prepaid Conference Expenses	-225	0
Total Other Current Assets	765	677
Total Current Assets	173,501	123,776
Fixed Assets		
1645 • Machinery & Equipment	3,769	3,769
1760 • Accumulated Depreciation	-3,769	-2,262
Total Fixed Assets	0	1,507
Other Assets		
1800 • Other long-term assets		
1805 • CCU CD	63,855	61,560
Total 1800 • Other long-term assets	63,855	61,560
Total Other Assets	63,855	61,560
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>237,356</b>	<b>186,842</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Credit Cards		
1013 • US Bank Credit Card	168	1,006
Total Credit Cards	168	1,006
Other Current Liabilities		
2110 • Direct Deposit Liabilities	0	-904
2450 • Payroll Taxes Payable		
2452 • FIT Withheld Payable	0	100
2453 • FICA Payable-Employee	86	165
2454 • FICA Payable-Company	86	165
2455 • Medicare Payable-Employee	20	39
2456 • Medicare Payable-Company	20	39
2460 • KC Earnings Tax	0	0
2461 • MO Withholding	8	0
2463 • MN Withheld Tax	-5	215
2450 • Payroll Taxes Payable - Other	-230	0
Total 2450 • Payroll Taxes Payable	-16	722
2520 • Payable for Ray Hicks Legacy Pj	6,599	8,933

7:49 AM

09/17/25

Accrual Basis

# National Storytelling Network

## Statement of Financial Position

As of August 31, 2025

	Aug 31, 25	Aug 31, 24
2570 • Short-term liabilities - other		
2575 • Due to ETSU (In-State Tuition)	772	557
Total 2570 • Short-term liabilities - other	772	557
Total Other Current Liabilities	7,355	9,308
Total Current Liabilities	7,523	10,314
Total Liabilities	7,523	10,314
Equity		
32000 • Unrestricted Net Assets	35,832	21,064
3000 • Net Assets W/O Donor Restrictns		
3050 • Net Assets w/o Board Restrict.	126,280	90,448
3100 • Board Restricted Net Assets		
3102 • Due to SIGs		
3102i • Welcome Seed Funds (SIG)	1,129	0
3102g • Due to ECO (SIG)	3,415	1,712
3102f • Due to KSA (SIG)	0	36
3102c • Due to PRO (SIG)	6,128	5,138
3102d • Due to SIO (SIG)	8,382	6,333
3102e • Due to YES (SIG)	21,012	18,535
3102h • Due to MAL (SIG)	0	2,540
Total 3102 • Due to SIGs	40,066	34,293
Total 3100 • Board Restricted Net Assets	40,066	34,293
Total 3000 • Net Assets W/O Donor Restrictns	166,346	124,742
3300 • Net Assets With Donor Restrictns		
3301 • Use restricted net assets		
4012 • Scholarship Grants	4,644	2,500
3325 • Member Grant Restricted Funds	11,277	5,420
Total 3301 • Use restricted net assets	15,921	7,920
Total 3300 • Net Assets With Donor Restrictns	15,921	7,920
3998 • Current Year Earnings	-35,832	-21,064
3999 • Prior Year Earnings	-0	-0
Net Income	47,566	43,866
Total Equity	229,833	176,528
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	237,356	186,842

## National Storytelling Network

09/17/25

## Profit &amp; Loss

Accrual Basis

January through August 2025

	226-ECO (220-SIGS)	227-MAL (220-SIGS)	222-PRO (220-SIGS)	224-SIO (220-SIGS)	225a-Angela Lloy... (225-YES)	225-YES - Other (225-YES)	Total 225-YES (220-SIGS)	Total 220-SIGS (100-Program Ser...	Total 100-Program...	TOTAL
Ordinary Income/Expense										
Income										
4000 • Contributed support										
4010 • Individ/business contribution	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	50	50	50
Total 4000 • Contributed support	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	50	50	50
5000 • Earned revenues										
5160 • Program-related sales other	0	0	0	0	522	0	522	522	522	522
5180 • Conference & Other Program Fees	0	0	20	0	126	40	166	166	166	166
5210 • Membership dues - individuals	955	1,525	1,163	1,125	0	2,188	2,188	6,955	6,955	6,955
5490 • Miscellaneous revenue	0	0	40	0	0	0	0	40	40	40
Total 5000 • Earned revenues	955	1,525	1,223	1,125	648	2,228	2,876	7,703	7,703	7,703
5800 • Special events										
5820 • Special events - gift revenue	0	0	0	0	135	0	135	135	135	135
Total 5800 • Special events	0	0	0	0	135	0	135	135	135	135
Total Income	955	1,525	1,273	1,125	783	2,228	3,011	7,888	7,888	7,888
Gross Profit	955	1,525	1,273	1,125	783	2,228	3,011	7,888	7,888	7,888
Expense										
7500 • Other personnel expenses										
7555 • Other	0	0	0	0	0	94	94	94	94	94
Total 7500 • Other personnel expenses	0	0	0	0	0	94	94	94	94	94
8100 • Non-personnel expenses										
8140 • Postage, shipping, delivery	0	0	0	0	0	100	100	100	100	100
Total 8100 • Non-personnel expenses	0	0	0	0	0	100	100	100	100	100
8300 • Travel & meetings expenses										
8321 • Presenter payout	175	0	500	495	0	600	600	1,770	1,770	1,770
Total 8300 • Travel & meetings expenses	175	0	500	495	0	600	600	1,770	1,770	1,770
8500 • Misc expenses										
8547 • Non-NSN Event Sponsorship	500	0	500	250	0	500	500	1,750	1,750	1,750
Total 8500 • Misc expenses	500	0	500	250	0	500	500	1,750	1,750	1,750
Total Expense	675	0	1,000	745	0	1,294	1,294	3,714	3,714	3,714
Net Ordinary Income	280	1,525	273	380	783	934	1,717	4,174	4,174	4,174
Net Income	280	1,525	273	380	783	934	1,717	4,174	4,174	4,174