



National Storytelling Network
January 2026 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
storynet.org/about-nsn/board-meeting-information/

I. Call to Order 6:06 EST

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, Melissa Fees, Caleb Hubbard, Margaret Read MacDonald, Barry McWilliams, Gwendolyn Napier, Rishi Nixon, Delanna Reed, Darlene Richards, Emily Stamets, Lisa Williams, Linda Yemoto. Staff: Dot Cleveland, Bob Johnson. Guests: Trudy Hansen, Marilyn McPhie.

II. Review and Approval of December 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Motion: That the minutes of the December 2025 Board Meeting be approved.
Moved by Delanna Reed. Passed unanimously.

III. Texas 2026 Conference Co-Chairs' Report

Co-Chairs Caleb Hubbard and Trudy Hanson

A schedule has been built for the conference. 6-7 for each time slot. An Eco field trip to the canyon is arranged for Saturday morning. 5 National and 6 Regional tellers have been selected. Holiday Inn Express is reserved as a hotel option at a discount rate of \$119 per night .. The cast of the outdoor musical Texas! is doing song/dance for the conference opening.

IV. Chair's Report

Chair Rishi Nixon

Marilyn McPhie reported on the Auction: Info is on the NSN website. Donations are due by Feb 9.

A bio and remembrance of Doug Lipman is being put on our website. Remembrances can be added there. We will send the remembrances to Rachel Hedman to archive for her website. Gwen reports that KSU had his artifacts at the NABS conference. 60 boxes of items were donated by Doug before the conference. They were taken by Al Wiseman to the Storytelling Resource Place in Jonesborough.

Oracle Award nominations were extended. They close January 24.

Kathryn Tucker Windham award is open for applications now.

The Fringe Drawing was done and nine were selected.

V. Treasurer's Report See NSN website.

VI. Discussion and Vote on FY2026 Budget

Treasurer Bob Johnson

Motion: That the FY2026 Budget be accepted. Moved by Gwen Napier. Passed unanimously.

VII. Vote on Establishment of Grant Writing Committee

Bylaws Committee Chair Margaret Read MacDonald

Proposed by-law change add:

Grant Writing Committee: The Grant Writing Committee shall be composed of at least three NSN members charged with applying for grants to benefit NSN.

It shall work in coordination with the Fund-Raising Committee.

Motion: That we add this description of Grant Writing Committee to the by-laws. Moved by Delanna Reed. Passed unanimously.

VIII. Discussion on Supporting Dot and Bob. Tabled until next meeting.

Motion: That we table the discussion of supporting Dot and Bob and create a document explaining the Executive Director's duties. Moved by Gwen Napier. Passed unanimously.

Motion: NSN will change Dot's job title to Executive Director and begin the process of creating a job description for Executive Director. Moved by Rishi Nixon. 8 in favor, 2 abstain.

IX. Report on Member-at-Large Engagement

Director Lisa Williams

Working on finding a less misleading name for Member-at-Large. Wondering how to draw in more SIGS since NSN was meant to be built on SIGS.

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

Directors Linda Yemoto and Claire Nolan

Monthly gatherings, often two hours, good attendance. Very sad news. Claire's youngest son passed away. NSN sent flowers and will sponsor planting of a tree in his honor.

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

Directors Lisa Overholser and Barry McWilliams

Two workshops are planned for 2026 Spring on succession planning with Ellen Munds and her successor at Story Arts of Indiana. Fall workshop on basics of organizing a festival. Peer consulting program roll out continues. 2026 Conference, PRO sponsoring \$250 and setting aside \$500 for the Nancy Duncan Scholarship, sending one new or emerging PRO member to conference.

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

Director Lisa Williams

8 proposals were received for the conference, 5 were accepted. 6 SIO members helped as the selection committee, under Jim Brule's leadership. SIO offered six programs from Sept- Dec. From Jan-May, 2026 they will offer 8 programs.

Lisa has found members willing to fill her position when her term ends in July.

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

Director Karin Amano

They had 18-19 proposals to review for the conference. They are working on setting up the Angela Lloyd Sunbrella Award. Kevin Cordi is working on the flyer. This will be announced at the 2026 conference.

Story Lab will be offered in February. They plan to start holding coffee hours or story swaps again. Membership is down slightly from 157 to 134. Renewal reminders may need to be sent.

Rishi: A membership drive is needed.

XIV. Adjournment 8:01 EST

Chair Rishi Nixon



National Storytelling Network
January 2026 Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
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.

II. Review and Approval of December 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Secretary Margaret Read MacDonald

III. Texas 2026 Conference Co-Chairs' Report

Co-Chairs Caleb Hubbard and Trudy Hanson

IV. Chair's Report

Chair Rishi Nixon

V. Treasurer's Report

VI. Discussion and Vote on FY2026 Budget

Treasurer Bob Johnson

VII. Vote on Establishment of Grantwriting Committee

Bylaws Committee Chair Margaret Read MacDonald

VIII. Executive Committee Recommendation: Vote to Recognize Dorothy Cleveland Executive Director

IX. Discussion on Supporting Dot and Bob

Chair Rishi Nixon

X. Discussion on Member-at-Large Engagement

Director Lisa Williams

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

Directors Linda Yemoto and Claire Nolan

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

Directors Lisa Overholser and Barry McWilliams

XIII. Storytelling in Organizations Special Interest Group (SIO SIG) Report
Director Lisa Williams

XIV. Youth-Educators-Storytellers Special Interest Group (YES SIG) Report
Director Karin Amano

XV.Adjournment
Chair Rishi Nixon

	2023	2024	2025	2026 Budget	Increase/(Decrease)
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
4000 · Contributed support					
4010 · Indiv/business contribution	12,174	16,550	11,428	12,000	572
4110 · Donated pro services - GAAP	25,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	-
4130 · Gifts in kind - goods	0	0	300	0	-300
Total 4000 · Contributed support	37,174	21,550	16,728	17,000	272
5000 · Earned revenues					-
5112 · Teller Page Listings-Storynet	3,300	3,540	3,160	3,200	40
5141 · Conference Sponsorships-Nondedu	0	667	0	-	-
5150 · Auction Proceeds	6,381	0	1,235	1,500	265
5160 · Program-related sales other	0	0	1,486	1,500	14
5180 · Conference & Other Program Fees	200	84,088	112,255	115,000	2,745
5210 · Membership dues - individuals	28,912	30,600	26,468	26,000	(468)
5220 · Assessments & dues - orgs	5,335	4,325	4,175	4,000	(175)
5310 · Interest-savings/short-term inv	1,994	4,879	4,502	4,500	(2)
5440 · Non-program sales	165	30	40	-	(40)
5450 · Advertising revenues	300	6,945	6,450	6,500	50
5477 · SMP Fees Earned	0	107	50	50	-
5478 · ETSU Admin Fees	599	200	400	100	(300)
5490 · Miscellaneous revenue	32	2,522	402	500	98
5495 · Resource Room Admin Commission	0	511	391	400	9
Total 5000 · Earned revenues	47,218	138,414	161,014	163,250	2,236
5800 · Special events					-
5820 · Special events - gift revenue	0	3,329	979	1,000	21
Total 5800 · Special events	0	3,329	979	1,000	21
Total Income	84,392	163,293	178,721	181,250	2,529
Gross Profit	84,392	163,293	178,721	181,250	2,529
Expense					-
7000 · Grant & contract expense					-
7019 · All Grants					-

7023 · Scholarships for Conference	0	0	150	-	-150
Total 7019 · All Grants	0	0	150	0	-150
Total 7000 · Grant & contract expense	0	0	150	0	(150)
7200 · Salaries & related expenses					-
7220 · Salaries & wages - other	5,069	11,598	15,000	20,000	5,000
7250 · Payroll taxes	388	849	1,148	1,531	383
7200 · Salaries & related expenses - Other	11	0	0	0	0
Total 7200 · Salaries & related expenses	5,468	12,447	16,148	21,531	5,383
7500 · Other personnel expenses					-
7510 · Fundraising fees	0	0	0	-	-
7541 · Professional Fees Donated	25,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	-
7555 · Other	0	0	94	0	-94
Total 7500 · Other personnel expenses	25,000	5,000	5,094	5,000	(94)
8100 · Non-personnel expenses					-
8105 · Computer Equipment & Software	396	2,149	2,902	3,000	98
8110 · Supplies	0	1,344	1,934	2,000	66
8130 · Telephone & telecommunications	141	399	474	500	26
8140 · Postage, shipping, delivery	492	185	518	500	(18)
8160 · Equip rental & maintenance	1,393	2,696	0	-	-
8170 · Printing & copying	432	3,346	4,107	4,000	(107)
8180 · Books, subscriptions, reference	735	757	780	750	(30)
8190 · In-house publications	0	1,015	0	-	-
8195 · Hicks Expenses	0	4,628	0	0	0
Total 8100 · Non-personnel expenses	3,589	16,519	10,715	10,750	35
8300 · Travel & meetings expenses					-
8310 · Travel	0	5,688	503	1,000	497
8320 · Conference, convention, meeting	0	38,430	41,788	42,000	212
8322 · Comp Conference Fees	0	1,155	24,745	25,000	255
8325 · Honoraria	0	150	0	-	-
8330 · Sound, technology, Zoom etc	0	4,260	2,275	2,500	225
8321 · Presenter payout	1,175	5,345	6,036	6,000	-36
Total 8300 · Travel & meetings expenses	1,175	55,028	75,347	76,500	1,153

8400 · Depreciation & amortization exp					-
8450 · Depreciation & amortization	754	1,507	0	0	0
Total 8400 · Depreciation & amortization exp	754	1,507	0	0	-
8500 · Misc expenses					-
8510 · Interest expense - general	5	0	0	-	-
8516 · Marketing Expense	787	739	1,200	5,000	3,800
8520 · Insurance - non-employee	3,131	3,328	5,502	5,500	(2)
8530 · Membership dues - organization	0	285	585	600	15
8547 · Non-NSN Event Sponsorship	0	1,969	3,750	3,500	(250)
8555 · Program Related Fees	0	4,705	2,071	2,500	429
8560 · Outside computer svcs/Website	11,839	11,142	1,558	2,000	442
8561 · Website Enhancement	0	0	4,860	5,000	140
8590 · Other expenses	168	3,478	270	300	30
Total 8500 · Misc expenses	15,930	25,646	19,796	24,400	4,604
8600 · Business expenses					-
8610 · Bad debt expense	0	131	0	-	-
8640 · Bank Fees	2,483	4,897	4,398	4,500	102
8670 · Organizational (corp) expenses	371	535	446	500	54
Total 8600 · Business expenses	2,854	5,563	4,844	5,000	156
Total Expense	54,770	121,710	132,094	143,181	11,087
Net Ordinary Income	29,622	41,583	46,627	38,069	(8,558)
Other Income/Expense					-
Other Expense					-
9950 · Transfer to Restricted Funds	8,558	5,754	7,493	8,000	507
Total Other Expense	8,558	5,754	7,493	8,000	507
Net Other Income	-8,558	-5,754	-7,493	-8,000	-507
	21,064	35,829	39,134	30,069	-9,065

National Storytelling Network

Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2025

	Dec 31, 25	Dec 31, 24
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
1018 · US Bank General Account	6,510	7,873
1168 · US Bank Business Savings	160,128	110,163
1169 · Savings		
1077 · Ray Hicks Legacy Project	6,599	6,599
Total 1169 · Savings	6,599	6,599
Total Checking/Savings	173,237	124,635
Accounts Receivable		
1110 · Accounts Receivable	750	990
Total Accounts Receivable	750	990
Other Current Assets		
1250 · Undeposited Funds	400	290
1440 · Prepaid Conference Expenses	200	225
1450 · Prepaid expenses		
1452 · Prepaid Insurance	0	2,166
Total 1450 · Prepaid expenses	0	2,166
Total Other Current Assets	600	2,681
Total Current Assets	174,587	128,306
Fixed Assets		
1645 · Machinery & Equipment	3,769	3,769
1760 · Accumulated Depreciation	-3,769	-3,769
Total Fixed Assets	0	0
Other Assets		
1800 · Other long-term assets		
1805 · CCU CD	65,279	62,469
Total 1800 · Other long-term assets	65,279	62,469
Total Other Assets	65,279	62,469
TOTAL ASSETS	239,866	190,775
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Credit Cards		
1013 · US Bank Credit Card	801	225
Total Credit Cards	801	225
Other Current Liabilities		
2450 · Payroll Taxes Payable		
2452 · FIT Withheld Payable	962	373
2453 · FICA Payable-Employee	601	384
2454 · FICA Payable-Company	601	384
2455 · Medicare Payable-Employee	140	90
2456 · Medicare Payable-Company	140	90
2460 · KC Earnings Tax	0	0
2461 · MO Withholding	8	8
2463 · MN Withheld Tax	417	356
2450 · Payroll Taxes Payable - Other	-230	0
Total 2450 · Payroll Taxes Payable	2,638	1,684

National Storytelling Network

Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2025

	Dec 31, 25	Dec 31, 24
2520 · Payable for Ray Hicks Legacy Pj	6,599	6,599
Total Other Current Liabilities	9,237	8,283
Total Current Liabilities	10,038	8,508
Total Liabilities	10,038	8,508
Equity		
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	35,832	0
3000 · Net Assets W/O Donor Restrictns		
3050 · Net Assets w/o Board Restrict.	126,280	126,280
3100 · Board Restricted Net Assets		
3102 · Due to SIGs		
3102i · Welcome Seed Funds (SIG)	1,129	1,129
3102g · Due to ECO (SIG)	3,415	3,415
3102c · Due to PRO (SIG)	6,128	6,128
3102d · Due to SIO (SIG)	8,382	8,382
3102e · Due to YES (SIG)	21,012	21,012
Total 3102 · Due to SIGs	40,066	40,066
Total 3100 · Board Restricted Net Assets	40,066	40,066
Total 3000 · Net Assets W/O Donor Restrictns	166,346	166,346
3300 · Net Assets With Donor Restrictns		
3301 · Use restricted net assets		
4012 · Scholarship Grants	4,644	4,644
3325 · Member Grant Restricted Funds	11,277	11,277
Total 3301 · Use restricted net assets	15,921	15,921
Total 3300 · Net Assets With Donor Restrictns	15,921	15,921
3998 · Current Year Earnings	-35,832	-35,832
3999 · Prior Year Earnings	-0	-0
Net Income	47,562	35,832
Total Equity	229,829	182,267
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	239,866	190,775

National Storytelling Network

Income and Expense Compared to Budget

January through December 2025

	Jan - Dec 25	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
4000 · Contributed support			
4010 · Indiv/business contribution	11,428	16,005	-4,578
4110 · Donated pro services - GAAP	0	5,000	-5,000
4130 · Gifts in kind - goods	300		
Total 4000 · Contributed support	11,728	21,005	-9,278
5000 · Earned revenues			
5112 · Teller Page Listings-Storynet	3,160	3,500	-340
5150 · Auction Proceeds	1,235	0	1,235
5160 · Program-related sales other	1,486		
5180 · Conference & Other Program Fees	112,255	90,470	21,785
5210 · Membership dues - individuals	26,468	30,425	-3,958
5220 · Assessments & dues - orgs	4,175	4,500	-325
5310 · Interest-savings/short-term inv	5,215	5,000	215
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	402	0	402
5495 · Resource Room Admin Commission	391	500	-109
Total 5000 · Earned revenues	161,725	142,395	19,330
5800 · Special events			
5820 · Special events - gift revenue	979	0	979
Total 5800 · Special events	979	0	979
Total Income	174,432	163,400	11,032
Gross Profit	174,432	163,400	11,032
Expense			
7000 · Grant & contract expense			
7019 · All Grants			
7023 · Scholarships for Conference	150		
Total 7019 · All Grants	150		
Total 7000 · Grant & contract expense	150		
7200 · Salaries & related expenses			
7220 · Salaries & wages - other	15,000	15,000	0
7250 · Payroll taxes	1,148	1,148	-1
7260 · Payroll Processing Fee	0	150	-150
Total 7200 · Salaries & related expenses	16,148	16,298	-151
7500 · Other personnel expenses			
7541 · Professional Fees Donated	0	5,000	-5,000
7555 · Other	94		
Total 7500 · Other personnel expenses	94	5,000	-4,906
8100 · Non-personnel expenses			
8105 · Computer Equipment & Software	2,902	1,500	1,402
8110 · Supplies	1,934	1,400	534
8130 · Telephone & telecommunications	474	400	74
8140 · Postage, shipping, delivery	518	200	318
8170 · Printing & copying	4,107	3,500	607
8180 · Books, subscriptions, reference	780	800	-20
8196 · Contributions SIGS to NSN	0	2,000	-2,000
Total 8100 · Non-personnel expenses	10,716	9,800	916

National Storytelling Network

Income and Expense Compared to Budget

January through December 2025

	Jan - Dec 25	Budget	\$ Over Budget
8300 · Travel & meetings expenses			
8310 · Travel	503	6,000	-5,497
8320 · Conference, convention, meeting	41,563	40,700	863
8322 · Comp Conference Fees	24,745	1,200	23,545
8325 · Honoraria	0	150	-150
8330 · Sound, technology, Zoom etc	2,275	5,000	-2,725
8321 · Presenter payout	6,036	10,020	-3,984
Total 8300 · Travel & meetings expenses	75,122	63,070	12,052
8400 · Depreciation & amortization exp			
8450 · Depreciation & amortization	0	754	-754
Total 8400 · Depreciation & amortization exp	0	754	-754
8500 · Misc expenses			
8516 · Marketing Expense	1,200	10,239	-9,039
8520 · Insurance - non-employee	5,502	3,500	2,002
8530 · Membership dues - organization	585	300	285
8547 · Non-NSN Event Sponsorship	3,750	2,000	1,750
8555 · Program Related Fees	2,071	5,000	-2,929
8560 · Outside computer svcs/Website	1,558	13,000	-11,442
8561 · Website Enhancement	4,860		
8590 · Other expenses	270	0	270
Total 8500 · Misc expenses	19,796	34,039	-14,243
8600 · Business expenses			
8640 · Bank Fees	4,398	5,000	-602
8670 · Organizational (corp) expenses	446	300	146
Total 8600 · Business expenses	4,845	5,300	-455
Total Expense	126,870	134,261	-7,391
Net Ordinary Income	47,562	29,139	18,423
Net Income	47,562	29,139	18,423

National Storytelling Network Profit & Loss

January through December 2025

	226-ECO (220-SIGS)	227-MAL (220-SIGS)	222-PRO (220-SIGS)	224-SIO (220-SIGS)	225a-Angel... (225-YES)	225-YES - O... (225-YES)	Total 225-Y... (220-SIGS)	Total 220-SI... (100-Progra...	Total 100-P...	TOTAL
Ordinary Income/Expense										
Income										
4000 · Contributed support										
4010 · Indiv/business contribution	0	0	50	5	0	0	0	55	55	55
Total 4000 · Contributed support	0	0	50	5	0	0	0	55	55	55
5000 · Earned revenues										
5112 · Teller Page Listings-Storynet	0	0	0	-120	0	0	0	-120	-120	-120
5160 · Program-related sales other	0	0	0	0	522	0	522	522	522	522
5180 · Conference & Other Program Fees	350	0	140	0	1,314	360	1,674	2,164	2,164	2,164
5210 · Membership dues - individuals	1,280	1,925	1,463	1,475	0	3,088	3,088	9,230	9,230	9,230
5490 · Miscellaneous revenue	0	0	52	0	0	0	0	52	52	52
Total 5000 · Earned revenues	1,630	1,925	1,654	1,355	1,836	3,448	5,284	11,848	11,848	11,848
5800 · Special events										
5820 · Special events - gift revenue	0	0	0	0	979	0	979	979	979	979
Total 5800 · Special events	0	0	0	0	979	0	979	979	979	979
Total Income	1,630	1,925	1,704	1,360	2,815	3,448	6,263	12,882	12,882	12,882
Gross Profit	1,630	1,925	1,704	1,360	2,815	3,448	6,263	12,882	12,882	12,882
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										
8330 · Sound, technology, Zoom etc	50	0	0	0	0	225	225	275	275	275
8321 · Presenter payout	175	0	950	695	0	1,350	1,350	3,170	3,170	3,170
Total 8300 · Travel & meetings expenses	225	0	950	695	0	1,575	1,575	3,445	3,445	3,445
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	725	0	1,450	945	0	2,269	2,269	5,389	5,389	5,389
Net Ordinary Income	905	1,925	254	415	2,815	1,179	3,994	7,493	7,493	7,493
Net Income	905	1,925	254	415	2,815	1,179	3,994	7,493	7,493	7,493