

2026 NSN Conference Schedule

Date	Time	Title	Presenters
Thursday, July 23	3:00 pm	Opening Mixer: The Buffalo Hunt	
	4:00 pm	President's Welcome: Rishi Nixon	
	4:30 pm	Conversations with the Board	
	5:30 pm	Dinner	
	6:30 pm	Regional Tellers Concert Emcee: Darlene Richard / Nelda Tone	Darlene Richard, Emcee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juba Mae • Fran Stallings • Dee Cee Cornish • Eldrena Douma • Paula Schlegel • Chester Weems
	9:00 pm	Fringe: <i>Windwagon Smith and Sam Peppard the Tall Tale and the Legend Behind It</i>	Ric Vice
		Fringe: <i>Tales of the Narts</i>	Tim Ereneta & Sufian Zhemukhov
		Fringe: <i>Scallywag of the Scrubs: Tales of the Orneriest Cow Wrangler in Florida History</i>	Walt Belcher

Date	Time	Title	Presenters
Friday, July 24	8:00 am	<i>Wake the FUN Up!</i>	Norm Brecke
		<i>Weave Us Together Community Singing plus Dances of Universal Peace (outside)</i>	Carol McCormick
	9:00 am	HSA: <i>Family Treasures</i>	Heather Forest
		SIO: <i>Unlocking Your Hero's Journey</i>	Charlie McCoin
		ECO: <i>Tree Meditation: Connect to your Roots and Reach toward the Sky!</i>	Amanda Lawrence
		<i>These are the Children in Your Neighborhood</i>	Adam Mellema
		YES: <i>Counting, Clapping and Tapping: Fingerplays, Action Songs, and Rhymes for Young Children</i>	Priscilla Howe
		<i>Making Up Stuff! How to Create Original Tales!</i>	Willy Claflin
	10:45 am	Texas: The Musical Dancers	
	11:15 am	Membership Benefit Meeting	
	11:30 am	Lunch	
	12:30 pm	HSA: <i>Mapping Meaning: Visual Storytelling for Healing and Self-Discovery</i>	Stefanie Azua
		PRO: <i>AI Tools for Storytellers</i>	Marilyn McPhie
		YES: <i>To Life, To Life, Your Stories: Interactive Storytelling Techniques</i>	Eva Grayzel
		<i>Engaging the Listener Through Imagery</i>	Dorothy Cleveland and Barbara Schutzgruber
		YES: <i>Stories to Play With: Toys from Trash</i>	Fran Stallings

Date	Time	Title	Presenters
Friday, July 24 (continued)	12:30 pm	Presentation: <i>Zitkala Sa, Native American advocate, musician, author, and my cousin</i>	Lona Bartlett
		<i>Mr. Patches</i> from the Appalachian 20 th Century Series: 1990s	Adam Booth
	2:15 pm	SIO: <i>Crossing Cultures: Korean Storytelling Traditions Inspiring the Future</i>	Alicia Dongjoo Bang
		YES: <i>Up Your Game with Collaborative Storytelling</i>	Stephen Schwartz and Viveca Deanes
		<i>Create Your Historical Alter-Ego</i>	Anne Rutherford
		PRO: <i>Storytelling Tools for Social Change</i>	Loren Niemi
		YES: <i>Words Take Us Lands Away... In the Company of Storytellers</i>	Kathleen Santopietro
		Presentation: <i>The Prince of Pirates and The Witch of Wellfleet</i> (A long-form performance)	Rona Leventhal
		YES Presentation: <i>Voices of Asia: Folktales, Memories & More</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karin Amano • Alton Takiyama Chung • Anne Shimojima • Linda Yemoto
	4:00 pm	Story SLAM	Loren Niemi
	5:30 pm	Dinner	
	6:30 pm	National Teller Showcase Emcee: Michael Brundy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willy Claflin • Laura Simms • Sheila Arnold • Adam Mellema • Pippa White

Date	Time	Title	Presenters
Friday, July 24 (continued)	8:30 pm	Texas Campfire: You Bring the Fire	
	9:00 pm	Fringe: <i>Eavesdropping on the Dead</i>	Paul Strickland
		Fringe: <i>Becoming Ty – Part One</i>	Ty Fance
		Fringe: <i>38 Years of Aikido</i>	Larry Castleberry

Date	Time	Title	Presenters
Saturday, July 25	8:00 am	<i>Wake Up & Sing!</i>	Anne Rutherford
	8:30 – 11:00 am	ECO: Palo Duro Canyon Field Trip	
	9:00 am	YES: <i>Story Walk: Ensemble Storytelling for Transformative Narratives</i>	Kevin Cordi
		Workshop	Laura Simms
		YES: <i>Legends of Science</i>	Tim Livengood
		YES: <i>Re-Upholstering Folktales: Honoring Old Stories, Inspiring New Audiences</i>	Payl Strickland
		Coaching	Sheila Arnold
		Presentation: <i>The Strange Case of Lady Liberty: A Historical Investigation through Storytelling</i>	Barry Stewart Mann and Deborah Strahorn
		<i>Living History: Unifying Stories from World War II</i>	Alton Takiyama Chung and Adam Mellema
	11:00 am	Free Time	
	12:00 pm	HSA and SIG meetings	
	12:30 pm	Lunch	
		Virtual Ticket Gathering	
	1:45 pm	Annual Membership Meeting	
	4:00 pm	YES: <i>Teaching Storytelling to Adults and Teens</i>	Emily Stamets
		<i>Mining the Gold in History Books: Finding Captivating Stories in History</i>	Pipa White
YES: <i>Color It Local: Celebrating the Regional in Storytelling</i>		Donna Ingham	
<i>The Future of NSN: Inspiring Tomorrow!</i>		Jen and Nat Whitman	

Date	Time	Title	Presenters	
Saturday, July 25 (continued)	4:00 pm	YES: <i>GOOF, Geek Out on Folktales</i>	Norman Brecke	
		<i>The Storyteller's Lens: Craft Your Stories, Shape Your Life</i>	Allison Downey	
		YES: <i>The Story Laboratory: Narrative Medicine in the Age of AI</i>	Catherine Moore	
		PRO Panel: <i>Find and Tell the Story of You</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jessica Piscitelli • Robinson • Lynette Ford • Mariam Nadel 	
	5:30 pm	Dinner (also Diamond Dinner)		
	7:00 pm	ORACLE Awards and Concert		
	9:00 pm	Fringe: <i>Ought Not Remember, Mustn't Forget: Hasidic stories from the Baal Shem Tov, to Chelm, the Shoah and beyond</i>		Les Schaffer
		Fringe: <i>The Story of Doc Susie, Colorado's Mountain Doctor</i>		Linda Batlin
		Fringe: <i>The Kenning Place: A Well of Wisdom from the Collective Memory</i>		Denise McCormack

Date	Time	Title	Presenters
Sunday, July 26	8:00 am	<i>Wake Up and Sing</i> (outside)	Jen and Nat Whitman
	9:00 am	The Future Direction of NSN	Hosted by Caleb Hubbard
	10:00 am	Panel of SIG Directors	
	10:45 am	Closing Circle (outside)	
	11:15 am	Box Lunch	