

National Storytelling Network Board Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2023

NSN BOARD MEMBERS

Chair, Trudy Hanson

Vice Chair Delanna Reed

Vice-Chair Elect Vacant

Secretary Margaret Read MacDonald

Chairperson of Finance Committee vacant

Member of board at large vacant

Volunteer Coordinator vacant

Digital/Technical Specialist Rishi Nixon

Publications Manager vacant

Eco Sig Rep Linda Yemoto

YES Sig Rep Angela Lloyd

PRO Sig Rep Lisa Overholser

POR Sig Rep Barry McWilliams

Members at Large:

Sara De Beer

Gary Kuntz

Linda Marchisio

Kory May absent

Debra Olson-Tolar absent

Also present: Bob Johnson, Dot Cleveland

Meeting Called to Order at 12 noon Central Time by Trudy Hanson, President.

Determination of Quorum: (According to the By-Laws). 11 members present.

Motion: That minutes of March 25 be approved. Moved by Lisa Overholser. Passed unanimously.

On the Calendar: (Events posted on NSN's Community Calendar)

April 21-23 - Connie Regan Blake's Telling Your Story to the Stage (3 day workshop)

April 22 - 6 to 8 p.m. Connie Regan Blakes' A Slice of Live
April 26 - 11 a.m. Once Upon a Time: Connecting Old Stories to Modern Challenges (ZOOM)
April 27- 9:00 to 9:30 p.m. Risk!'s Live Show in NYC and Online
April 28-29- 1 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Kansas Storytelling Festival
April 29 - Storyfest: Shared Stories, Shared World-one day conference of Story Arts of Minnesota
Apr. 29- 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Stories Speak! A Feast of Native American Tales
Apr. 29 - 8 to 9 p.m. Mother Earth Featuring Heather Forest and Beth Horner
Apr 29 Artists Standing Strong Together 7:30
May 7- 6 to 7:30 p.m. Kind Stories in Concert with Jackson Gillman (ZOOM)
May 21- 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. A Heroine's Journey Workshop with Lani Peterson (ZOOM)

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee report by Bob Johnson:

Financial records at: <https://storynet.org/about-nsn/bylaws/>

Donations and membership are down. In addition to the \$44,000 plus funds in our bank account, we have a \$57,600 CD invested at 4.5% for 18 months.

Our insurance payment is due soon. Bob will investigate other providers to compare rates.

Committee members: Report from Secretary Margaret Read MacDonald about returning committee members. MacDonald contacted all members as of 2021 to see who will remain on committees:

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE Needs to be standing committee.

Kathy Santopietro Weddel(Chair)

Kevin Cordi

Gail Herman

[Jim Brule] READS AND REVIEWS but not on COMMITTEE]

Information is on website explaining details of this committee's work and list of those accredited.

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE (needs three NSN members)

1. Margaret Read MacDonald
2. Bob Johnston
3. Linda Marchisio

FINANCE COMMITTEE

CHAIR (BOARD MEMBER) Rishi Nixon

2nd Board Member Lisa Overholser

Cora Newcomb

Bob Johnston

Ellen Munds

(Howard Lieberman possibly)

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

BOARD MEMBER OPEN

Tim Ereneta

(Howard Lieberman possibly)

GRANTS COMMITTEE (giving grants) Combine with Oracle Award Committee?

NSN member OPEN

NSN member OPEN

NSN member OPEN

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

BOARD MEMBER Debra Olson-Tolar

NSN Member Sara deBeer

NSN Member OPEN

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE needs to be standing committee. .

Margaret Read MacDonald, Managing Editor

Rishi Nixon, Assistant Managing Editor and Lead Visual Editor

Bob Johnston, NSN Treasurer

Rita Rigano, Visual Editor

Nick Smith, Editor

Sara Armstrong, Editor

Ashton Cynthia Clarke, Editor

Cassie Selleck, Editor

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Board Member

NSN Member

NSN Member

NSN Member

NSN Member

ORACLE AWARD COMMITTEE (3 NSN members)

Sarah Addison (Juba) Chair

Angela Lloyd

Alton Chung

Cora Newcomb

Toni Simmons

PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE (Now EVENTS COMMITTEE)

Vice Chair, plus 2 NSN members

Delana Reed CHAIR

Marilyn McPhie

1 NSN member OPEN

MacDonald did not contact members of the committees listed below. Not sure if members wish to stay active or not. Some could be folded into Events Committee?

TELLEBRATION COMMITTEE sub-committee of Events Committee?.

Slam Committee, Fringe Committee should be AD Hoc committees, under EVENTS?

Other AD HOC committees: Next Generation Task Force; Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Task Force.

Motion: That we amend the by-laws. 9.2 add standing committees as follows. Letter K. Newsletter Committee. Moved by Sara de Beer. Passed unanimously.

Motion: To table changing Accreditation Committee from Ad Hoc to Standing Committee pending understanding of committee's function. Moved by Sara de Beer. 8 for, none against, no abstentions. Passed.

Unfinished Business:

Appointment of Board Members:

Motion: That Rishi Nixon be appointed to fill the position of Technical/Digital Assistant. Moved by Lisa Overholser. Passed unanimously.

Committee Appointments: See above for appointments and vacancies remaining.

Finance Committee: The Finance committee shall be composed of at least two Members of the Board of Directors. The Chairperson of the committee shall be the Finance Chair of the Board. The committee shall have such responsibilities as are assigned to it by the Board of Directors.

Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall be composed at least one member of the Board of Directors and 4 NSN members. The committee shall be in charge of developing a list of nominations for the Executive Committee.

The Oracle Awards Committee. The Oracle Awards Committee shall be composed of at least 3 NSN members charged with reviewing nominations and choosing award winners annually.

The Grants Committee. The Grants Committee shall be composed of at least 3 NSN members and is charged with reviewing, awarding grants, and overseeing the Sponsored Member Program.

The By-Laws Committee. The By-Laws Committee shall be composed of at least 3 NSN members and is charged with reviewing the By-Laws annually and recommending amendments to be considered at the annual NSN meeting.

The Fundraising Committee. The Fundraising Committee is composed of one NSN Board member and 2 NSN members and is charged with designing fundraising efforts.

Membership committee. The Membership committee is composed of one NSN Board member and 2 NSN members and is charged with recruiting new members. Several creative ideas have been presented about creating more awareness of NSN, such as a "Benefit of the Month" feature to be included in the NSN newsletter or maybe brief video clips in which members mention how NSN has helped them develop as a storyteller.

Events committee. The Events Committee is composed of one NSN Board member and 2 NSN members and is charged with proposing and planning events sponsored by NSN. (These events are in addition to the Programming coordinated by the Vice Chair of the Board and the SIG Representatives.) For example, the Events Committee might organize a storytelling workshop of interest to the general public or schedule an information session about managing social media outlets.

SIG membership issues:

Clarification: All money in SIG accounts at this time remain the property of those SIGS.

Lisa Overholser reported on survey of her PRO SIG. They would prefer to split monies 50/50.

Linda Yemoto reported on the Eco SIG. They are still in the process of forming their SIG.

Angela Lloyd reported on her YES SIG. They are holding regular coffee hours and programs.

STORYTELLING IN ORGANIZATIONS SIG: Sarah Armstrong reported that they no longer wish to be a SIG. They appear to be disbanding.

Motion: That membership fee for NSN be \$75. That this would include one sig membership. \$25 for each additional sig. Moved by Gary Kuntz. Passed with 8 yes, none against, no abstention. Passed.

Clarification: discounted membership fees for guilds belonging to NSN, who get 10% discount on NSN memberships, will mean \$45 to NSN, \$22.50 to SIG.

Changing name of SIG's proposed by Angela Lloyd. Discussion tabled.

Motion: That we refer the issue of how to involve individuals who are not members of a SIG be referred to the Membership Committee. Moved by Sara de Beers. Passed unanimously

New Business:

Motion: That the phrase “Chair of the Board Development Committee” be struck from Section 9.2 a (1) to reflect the deletion of this committee in the recent restructuring of NSN. Moved by Delana Reed. Passed 8 for, none against, no abstentions. Passed.

- Building new NSN Website (See request below from Dot Cleveland)
I've updated the website as best I can. We had to use Tadpole for some of the issues at a cost of \$1100. Tadpole has suggested creating a user- friendly website be built at an estimated cost of \$5000. This new website would be revised by an end user without the constant need of Tadpole. The volunteer Suzanne Whitby agrees as I do that a fresh website would be the best method of improvement.

Motion: That the NSN Board authorize the building of a new, user-friendly website, which can be maintained by volunteers, at a cost of \$5,000. Moved by Margaret MacDonald. 8 for, none against, no abstentions. Passed.

Clarification: Dot Cleveland is currently maintaining our website as a volunteer. She is paid only for her work as a bookkeeper. She is answering our phones, updating our website, and doing all other work to keep us afloat as a volunteer.

Motion: That the website rebuild be funded from current NSN funds. Moved by Sara De Beer. Passed unanimously.

Motion: That we refer fundraising for website to fundraising Committee. Moved by Angela Lloyd. 8 for. None against, no abstentions. Passed.

NSN Auction: Request approval of the NSN Auction.

Motion: That Marilyn McPhie and Kate Dudding be authorized to organize and oversee an annual auction to raise funds for NSN. Moved by Liza Overholser. Passed unanimously.

Set board meeting schedule for rest of 2023 . Schedule prepared by Dot accepted.
Next meeting Tuesday May 16, 6 pm Central. June: Sat June 17 noon central. Meetings to alternate, Tuesday and Saturday.

Hosting a general NSN conference: Margaret MacDonald will prepare a proposal for a Seattle based conference for summer 2024.

Other goals discussion tabled.

Set Goals for 2023 (Consider the following goals. We may choose to work on only a few of these).

- ❖ Creating a Membership Drive campaign
- ❖ Generating the creation of more SIGS

- ❖ Increasing our social media presence
- ❖ Hosting a training session for the Board with a consultant (could focus on fundraising or growing membership)
- ❖ Improving our communication with membership

Motion: That the meeting be adjourned. Moved by Delanna Reed. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm

Assignments:

- **Bob Johnson will reach out to the current insurance provider and get more information about current coverage.**
- **Bob Johnson volunteered to send an email to those on the volunteer list about committee and board member vacancies.**
- **Lisa Overholser volunteered to send contact information to Bob about insurance provided by Volunteer Lawyers and Accountants for the Arts for Bob to also contact regarding liability insurance.**
- **Refer to the Events Committee the ideas that Angela proposed about hosting a virtual concert of videos and pairing that with the Oracle Awards Ceremony.**
- **Proposed Meeting dates for 2023:**

Tuesday, May 16 at 6 pm

Saturday, June 17 at Noon

Tuesday, July 18 at 6 pm

Saturday, August 19 at Noon

Tuesday, September 19 at 6 pm

Saturday, October 21 at Noon

Tuesday, November 21 at 6 pm

Saturday, December 16 at Noon