

National Storytelling Network Board Minutes

Mar 25, 2023

Attendance:

Dorothy Cleveland	Robert Johnson	Trudy Hanson	Linda Yemoto
Toni Simmons	Delanna Reed	Gary Kuntz	David Manning
Debra Olson-Tolar	Angela Lloyd	Sara DeBeer	Fran Stallings
Margret MacDonald	Barry McWilliams	Lisa Overholser	Kory May
David Novak			

The meeting agenda is attached at the bottom of these minutes.

1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Robert Johnson, Chair of the Transition Committee, at 12:05 pm (CST).

2. Approval of minutes

- The February Minutes were not available so no action was taken on this item.

Robert Johnson reviewed the Income and Expense statement for Jan 1-Mar 24, 2023 that had been sent to the Board members.

3. Transition Team Report:

- The following agenda item motions made up the team report.

4. The Motions suggested by the Transition Team are:

- **a.** A motion to accept the Environmental Storytelling SIG as proposed: This motion was seconded and the motion passed.
- **b.** A motion to adjust the new Board terms to be effective April 1 through December 31, 2023. This motion was seconded and the motion passed.
- **c.** Before this motion was made it was determined that Delanna Reed was listed on the agenda under the wrong year, it should have been under 2024 instead of 2023. A motion to keep the named existing Board members on the NSN Board until their current terms expire. Term ends Dec 2023: Kory May, Gary Kuntz, and Debra Olson-Tolar and Term ends Dec 2024: Delanna Reed, Trudy Hanson, Linda Marchisio, and Sara DeBeer. The motion was seconded and after some discussion where it was determined the motion passed.
- **d.** A motion was made to accept the following SIG representatives as NSN Board members:
 - o PRO SIG – Lisa Overholser
 - o YES SIG – Angela Lloyd
 - o SIO SIG – Sara Armstrong
 - o ECO SIG – Linda Yemoto
- The motion was seconded and after some discussion where it was stated that each SIG could have one additional NSN Board member appointed, thus each SIG could have 2 representatives on the NSN Board, the motion passed.

- **e.** A motion that the NSN Board Chair would also be the President of the corporation and that Robert Johnson will continue to be the corporate Secretary and Treasurer. The motion was seconded and the motion passed.

5. Discussion of the roles required by the Bylaws.

- **a. i.** A motion was made to elect Trudy Hanson as the NSN Board Chair for 2023. The motion was seconded and the motion passed. Her term follows the shorten term rules for 2023 approved under the 4e agenda item above.
- **a. ii.** A motion was made to elect Delanna Reed as the Vice Chair. The motion was seconded and the motion passed.
- **a. iii.** There were no volunteers from the board for the Vice-Chairperson Elect position. Since the bylaws state that this position is to be elected by the membership a call will be made to the membership for volunteers.
- **a. iv.** A motion was made that Margret MacDonald be elected as Secretary of the NSN Board. The motion was seconded and the motion passed.
- **a. v.** There were no volunteers from the board for a Finance Chair.
- **b.** A motion was made to retain the regions' model of financial sharing. The motion was seconded. During the discussion it was decided that this subject should be revisited so a motion was made to table this discussion. This motion was seconded and the motion passed.
- **c.** A motion was made that all SIG monies identified as of March 31, 2023 will remain with each SIG and will not be under the control of NSN. The motion was seconded. After some discussion to clarify that this meant the money showing as belonging to each SIG stays with each SIG the motion passed.
- **d.** A motion was made to require SIG members to also be members of NSN. The motion was seconded. During discussion it was mentioned a policy manual stated that SIG members must also be NSN members but that those rules have not been followed. Several reason why and why not this should happen so a decision was made to communicate this proposal back to the SIGs for their input. A motion was made to table this item, it was seconded, and the motion passed.

At this point Angela Lloyd introduced Zoot Velasco. He is someone who has experience in working with and growing non-profit organizations. He has done extensive research into how to make a non-profit successful. During his brief talk he stressed that it is important that the non-profit have earned income streams. Some items he mentioned that might be applicable for NSN were: Podcasts, YouTube Channel, Concerts, and Conferences. He said the model he used was at first the time, effort, and talent would be donated but as the revenue stream increased over time then it would transition into a revenue sharing model.

The next two items on the agenda: 5.e. and 5.f. were skipped due to time considerations. The 5.e. item lists several possible new SIGs (see the agenda below) and it was mentioned there were others being proposed. The 5.f. item was to see is a new date/time would work better for board members. A pool will be sent out to the board members asking them what day of the week/time works best for them.

Closing and Adjournment

- A motion was made at 2:18 pm (CST) to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and the motion passed.

The next scheduled meeting is on April 22, 2023 (4th Sat of the month) at 12:00 am (CST).

Minutes Submitted by
Gary Kuntz
Mar 26, 2023

National Storytelling Membership Association

Board of Directors - Meeting Agenda

Saturday, March 25, 2023, at 12:00 noon Central, via Zoom

1. Call meeting to order.
2. A motion is needed to approve the minutes of the last Board meeting.
3. Transition Team Report:

a. The purpose of the Transition Team was to generate an implementation plan given the

changes in the Bylaws. The Team was to reach out to the SIGs to address and dialogue about the incorporation of the SIGs in the governance of the corporation. This includes the addition of SIG members to the Board of Directors and the co-mingling of finances. The Team had various emails and two online meetings to discuss these matters. The following motions are the result. These motions are guidelines for the Board to act upon and revise if necessary.

4. The motions suggested by the Transition Team are:

a. A motion is needed to accept the Environmental Storytelling SIG as proposed:

i. **PURPOSE:** We want to help you develop effective environmental stories that suit your listeners and venues. Together we can hone stories that inform about nature, build empathy, and even inspire action. This SIG will work to strengthen your material and enhance your storytelling skills. Stories about plants, animals, natural cycles, etc. will be welcome but we can also share examples of effective projects staving off climate change and eco damage. Let's tell those stories and make a difference! *(This advances eco telling through peer education and encourages eco advocacy.)*

2. A motion is needed to adjust the new Board terms to be effective April 1 through December 31 for the year 2023. The short year is to keep with the Bylaws and the fiscal period of the financial year.
3. A motion is needed for existing Board members named below to remain on the NSN Board until their current terms expire. Note: Monique Chandler (2023) is undecided; Gerald Fierst, Brandon Spars, and Toni Simmons have declined.
 - i. Term ends Dec 2023
 1. Kory May
 2. Gary Kuntz
 3. Delanna Reed
 4. Debra Olson-Tolar

ii. Term ends Dec 2024 1. Trudy Hanson 2. Linda Marchisio 3. Sara DeBeer

iii. There are currently 4 terms expiring in DEC 2023 and 3 terms expiring in DEC 2024. The Board needs an additional 4 terms expiring in DEC 2023; 4 terms expiring in DEC 2024; and 5 terms expiring in DEC 2025 to allow for continuity. The term of service is 3 years. However, during this transition year, terms may be less to provide for staggered terms. Board members may serve for two terms. Former board members are eligible to serve again (ex: if a person serves 3 years, that person must wait 3 years before serving again). Normally the terms are 3 years in length.

1. 2023: Kory May, Delanna Reed, Gary Kuntz, Debra Olson-Tolar plus 4
2. 2024: Trudy Hanson, Linda Marchisio, Sara DeBeer plus 4
3. 2025: plus 5
4. A motion is needed to accept the following SIG representatives as Board members in their respective roles: four as SIG Representatives and four as Appointed.
 - i. PRO SIG – Lisa Overholser plus 1
 - ii. YES SIG – 2
 - iii. SIO SIG – Julianne Ryan and Sara Armstrong
 - iv. ECOSIG-2
5. A motion is needed to appoint the officers of the Corporation.
 - i. President (may be same as Chairperson given the lack of staff during the transition time)
 - ii. Secretary/Treasurer – Robert Johnson

5. Discussion of the roles required by the Bylaws and who will fill those roles. The Transition Team recommends that terms are for one year except where noted. Suggestions made in these motions are subject to change.

a. A motion is needed to fill the following positions of the Executive Committee of the Board:

- i. Chairperson (1-year term) (During the transition, this position is elected by the Board). The Chairperson shall preside over meetings of the Members of the Corporation, the meetings of the Board, and shall serve as the Chairperson of the Executive Committee. The Chairperson appoints the following positions:
 1. Volunteer Coordinator (1-year term)
 2. Digital/Technical Specialist (1-year term)
 3. Publications Manager (1-year term)
- ii. Vice-Chairperson (2-year term) (During the transition, this position is elected by the Board). The Vice-Chairperson serves in the role of Chairperson when the Chairperson is not available. The Vice-Chairperson coordinates all programming

efforts. The programming is a critical income generator and high on the priority

list for setting up events from all avenues.

iii. Vice-Chairperson Elect (3-year term) (**to be elected by the membership**). The

Vice-Chairperson Elect shall focus on managing committee assignments.

1. In the March 31, 2023 E-Newsletter, a request for nominations for the

Vice-Chairperson Elect shall be made. The nominations shall be

presented in a Survey Monkey no later than May 1, 2023.

- iv. Secretary (1-year term) (elected by the Board)
 - v. Chairperson of the Finance Committee (1-year term) (elected by the Board)
2. A motion is needed to retain the regions' model of financial sharing. This means that future SIG income is considered corporation income in the same manner as the regions did not have restricted income. This decision is because SIGs have representation on the Board with a voice as to programming and expenditures. This financial model is effective April 1, 2023. Note: this proposed motion was not fully settled by the Transition Team, and it is hoped once the board is fully formed, the Board will address this item to its fruition. A suggestion for NSN and the SIGs when offering free events to ask for donations to be paid to NSN or the SIG as determined by future discussions.
3. A motion is needed to retain the balances of SIG restricted funds as of March 31, 2023, in place and the monies are to be used at the discretion of the respective SIGs prior to the use of the joint monies of the corporation. Donations from the restricted SIG funds may be accepted for specific purposes within the corporation (ex. update SIG page on the website beyond what is currently supplied).
4. A motion is needed to require SIG members to also be members of the corporation.
5. A motion is needed for the Publication Manager to communicate with the membership

by the i. ii. iii. iv. v. vi. vii. viii. ix.

April 30, 2023, E-Newsletter to create new SIGs such as: Professional Storytelling
Traditional Storytelling (including folk and fairy tales) Personal Narrative

Digital Storytelling
State/Regional Storytelling Associations Sacred Storytelling
Historical Storytelling
Tales of Diversity
Storytelling and Song

f. A motion is needed to set a date and time of the monthly Board meetings to facilitate full participation. The setting of the date may mean during the day on even months and in the evening for uneven month or another arrangement so that all may attend frequently. Meetings are to be recorded for later viewing.

g. A motion is needed to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Transition Team

Subsequent website items:

- The new method of joining or renewing membership will look similar to this:

- ____ \$50 base dues
- ____ \$25ECOSIG
- ____ \$25PROSIG
- ____ \$25 SIO SIG
- ____ \$25 YES SIG
- ____ \$25 At Large Member (no SIG requested at this time)
- Each member will need to select the base dues plus one SIG/At Large Member.

Additional SIGs may be checked as well. This is the easiest and most cost-effective

method of implementation on the website. Student dues will resemble this method.

- It has not been determined as yet if the SIGS have separate income/expense accounting.
 - Automatic renewing memberships will cease as it is not cost-effective to make the existing system work adequately; automatic donation payments will continue.
 - It was recommended by Tadpole as to how the SIGs would like to present themselves on the website, especially if more SIGs come forth.
 - The form to add a SIG is being added to the website to facilitate and encourage more SIGs to be formed.