

APRIL 01, 2023

National Storytelling Network

April Newsletter - Vol. 5, Issue No. 3

EDITORS' LETTER

Margaret Read MacDonald
Managing Editor

Rishi Nixon
Assistant Managing Editor

Dear Storytellers,

Lots of useful info in this month's newsletter. Read about NSN's reorganization efforts as reported by our Treasurer, Bob Johnson. Lots of ways for all of us to become involved in keeping NSN afloat. And be sure to pay your annual dues, if you haven't already.

Find info here about the newest NSN Sig, Environmental Storytelling. And click the link to read the gorgeous new issue of the Story Beast. Remember to get any items for our calendar to us by the 25th of next month. We are so excited to tell you that NSN is alive and well and moving into the future!

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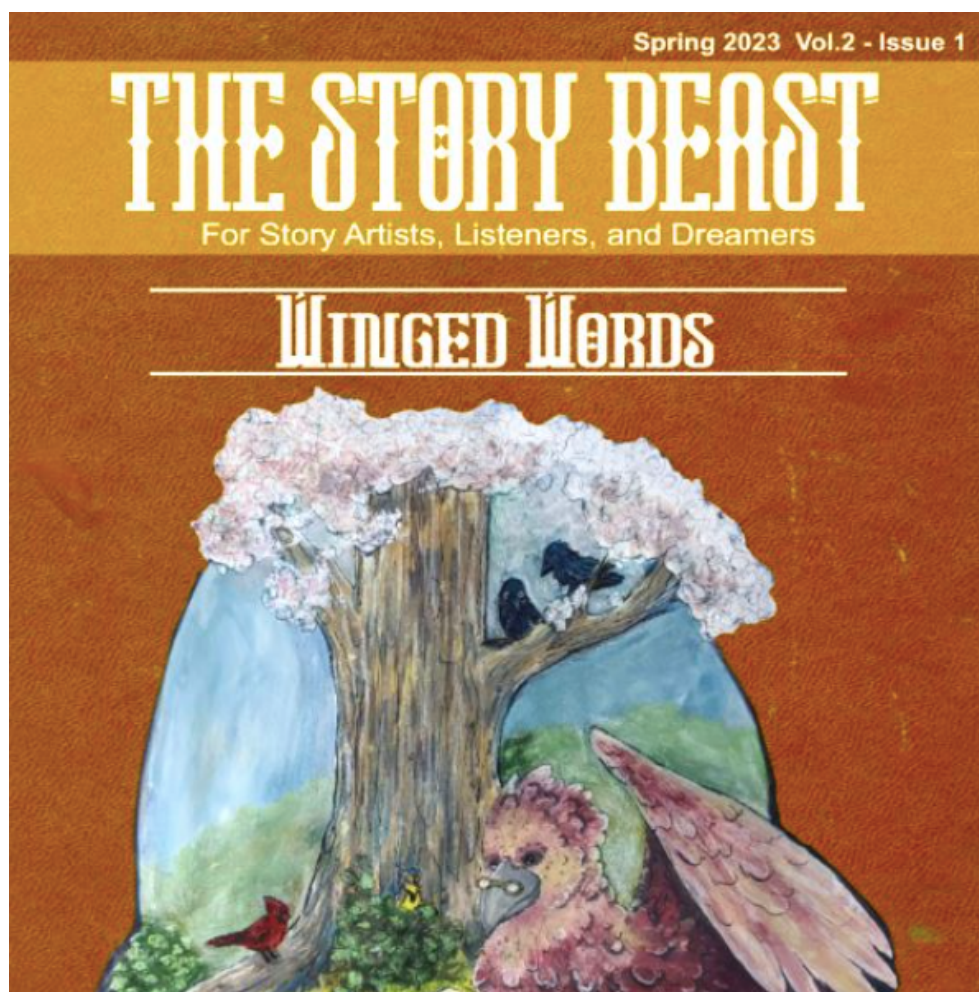
VOL. 5, ISSUE 3
APR 2023

| PROMOTIONAL

SPRING 2023 ISSUE OF THE STORY BEAST RELEASED!

The Story Beast
National Storytelling Network Magazine

The 7th issue (or technically Volume 2, Issue 1) entitled "Winged Words" for The Story Beast e-publication is out! See The Story Beast archive [here](#).



| FEATURED

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| EDITORIAL

NATIONAL STORYTELLING NETWORK ELECTS NEW BOARD TO OVERSEE TRANSITION

Bob Johnson

Treasurer, National Storytelling Network

As you may have heard, NSN is undergoing a transition from being regional to being focused to SIGs (Special Interest Groups). This will mean that much programming will originate in the SIGs and the NSN core organization will focus on coordination and the overall administrative operation of our mission. The final actions of NSN's board as a regional organization were to meet on March 25 and accomplish the following.

The National Storytelling Network formed a new SIG, Environmental Storytelling, led by Fran Stalling and Linda Yemoto. The board re-elected seven board members who chose to continue to serve to the new board: Kory May, Gary Kuntz, Delanna Reed, Debra Olson-Tolar, Trudy Hanson, Linda Marchisio and Sara DeBeer.

Each SIG elected representatives to the board. Producers & Organizers (PRO SIG) elected Lisa Overholser. Youth Educators & Storytellers (YES SIG) elected Angela Lloyd. Storytelling in Organizations (SIO SIG) elected Sara Armstrong and Environmental Storytelling (ECO SIG) elected Linda Yemoto.

The new board elected its officers for the next year, serving a term from Apr 1, 2023 to Dec 31, 2023. Trudy Hanson will be Chair of the Network, Delanna Reed will be Vice-Chair and will succeed Ms. Hanson as Chair next year. The Vice Chair-elect, whose term as Chair will begin two years after their election, will be nominated from the membership and elected by all members. Finally, Margaret Read MacDonald was elected Secretary.

For more information about the Feb 25th Board Meeting, visit the minutes [here](#).

»

» Also discussed was the financial model going forward since in the past the SIGs operated as mostly independent organizations with their own funding. The handling of the SIG funds already earned was discussed too. These issues were tabled until the SIG boards can individually discuss their ideas. The board heard comments from nonprofit consultant [Zoot Velasco](#), who has been very successful in fundraising for similar organizations. The board gleaned several ideas from him and will be investigating taking his advice on a number of them.

As you might recall, NSN membership will now come with the benefit of membership in the SIG of one's choice. Once the website is changed to implement this, registering for NSN membership will cost \$50 with membership in additional SIGs costing \$25 each. For those of you who feel that none of the existing four SIGs address your interests in storytelling, we encourage you to do what Fran and Linda did – put the word out that you would like to start a new group. The current bylaws call for a proposal to the board and interest from at least 20 members. If you can't recruit 20 members, you can form a discussion group while you grow. The transition team would like to expand the number of groups to meet the needs of diverse NSN member interests. You can post on the Storytell list on our Facebook page or we can send out mailings for you. The next board meeting will be on April 22 via Zoom. As always, you are welcome to join. The link will be posted on the website under events. And if you're not an NSN member, check us out. Anyone interested in storytelling should find plenty of interest. And if you're interested in helping us, look for opportunities to volunteer in the coming days. We are quite confident that you will see a "rebirth" of NSN among the rumors of its demise. We are working hard to fix broken things and to implement the new. And... we are always looking for feedback.

You can contact any board member (email through the [website](#) once we get it updated) or Dot Cleveland, dot@storynet.org or Bob Johnson, bob@storynet.org.

| ANNOUNCEMENT

BOARD APPROVES PROPOSAL FOR NEW SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP: ENVIRONMENTAL STORYTELLING

Fran Stallings

ECO SIG Organizer, National Storytelling Network

At the March board meeting, NSN approved a proposal for a new Special Interest Group. This SIG will advance environmental storytelling through peer education, and will encourage eco advocacy. Eventually it hopes to create an event or workshop and possibly a publication. It already has its own listserve, ecotellers@groups.io and Facebook page.

ECO SIG Statement

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, et cetera, will be welcome. We can also share examples of effective projects staving off climate change and ecological damage. Let's tell those stories and make a difference!

If you would like to join this sig, email fran.stallings@icloud.com.

FORM A SIG TO MEET YOUR NEEDS!

Want to form a SIG for your own special interests? Contact dot@storynet.org for instructions on applying for SIG status.

| NOTICE

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR NEW BOARD POSITIONS AND COMMITTEES



Trudy Hanson
Chairwoman of the National Storytelling Network

The NSN Transition Team has helped put together the foundation for our newly reconstructed NSN Board. There are three appointed positions that we need to fill. A brief description of each is provided below. If you have a particular expertise or interest and would like to serve, please send a brief summary of your experience to hansontrudy@outlook.com. Each of these board positions would serve for a term of one year. (Because of term limitations in the first year of our restructured board, that actually means a term from April 1 to Dec. 31, 2023).

Digital/Technical Specialist – This appointed board member would assist with digital/technical duties for the organization. This may include, but is not limited to: assisting with Zoom meetings, Zoom conferences, web-page updates.

Publications Manager – The Publications Manager will oversee all digital or print publications created by the National Storytelling Network. This may include, but is not limited to, producing a regular member newsletter.

Volunteer Coordinator – The Volunteer Coordinator will work with NSN volunteers to manage organizational initiatives. For example, the Volunteer Coordinator could assist with assigning volunteers to help with both online or in-person conferences.

Under our restructured organization, we have the following committees which need to be appointed. If you have a particular expertise or interest in serving on one of these committees, please also send a brief summary of your experience. The terms of committee members will be staggered, meaning that if a committee has three members, then one of those will serve for a one year term; one of those will serve for a two year term, and one of those will serve for a three year term. »

- **» 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 of at least one member of the Board of Directors and four NSN members. The committee shall be in charge of developing a list of nominations for the Executive Committee.
- **Oracle Awards Committee** – The Oracle Awards Committee shall be composed of at least three NSN members charged with reviewing nominations and choosing award winners annually.
- **Grants Committee** – The Grants Committee shall be composed of at least three NSN members and is charged with reviewing, awarding grants, and overseeing the Sponsored Member Program.
- **By-Laws Committee** – The By-Laws Committee shall be composed of at least three NSN members and is charged with reviewing the By-Laws annually and recommending amendments to be considered at the annual NSN meeting.
- **Fundraising Committee** – The Fundraising Committee is composed of one NSN Board member and two NSN members and is charged with designing fundraising efforts.
- **Membership Committee** – The Membership Committee is composed of one NSN Board member and two 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 perhaps 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 two 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.

The work of these committees will be overseen by the person elected as the Vice-Chair Elect. The Vice-Chair Elect and the Chair of the NSN Board will confer about board meeting agendas and notify committees when reports are scheduled to be given.



| LETTER

LETTER OF THANKS TO NSN REGIONAL DIRECTORS

National Storytelling Network Transition Team

Dear NSN Regional Directors,

As the NSN Transition Team, we want to offer our gratitude to you for your service as a National Storytelling Network Regional Representative Board member. Each of you has brought your expertise and vision to helping NSN continue its long legacy, as well as providing a vision for what is to come next. Your service during trying times makes us recall the lyrics of the song “We All Have Songs” by Julie Shannon:

We sing the songs
We tell the stories.
We sing of good times
And times when things go wrong
So that life—
The heartache and the glory—
May long be remembered
In our stories and our songs.
The heartbeat of life
Is in our stories and our songs.

Thank you, for being the “*heartbeat of our story*,” for creating a vision of what can be and what NSN can become. The newly restructured board will begin its term of service on April 1. We invite you to keep singing those songs and telling those stories as NSN begins a new era.

Sincerely,

Dot Cleveland, Bob Johnson, Trudy Hanson,
Lisa Overholser, Delanna Reed, Suzanne Whitby

| LETTER

LETTER OF THANKS TO NSN STATE LIAISONS

National Storytelling Network Transition Team

Lewis Carroll once wrote that a story was a “love gift” that we give one another. As a State Liaison, you have helped share the gift of story. Members of the NSN Transition Team extend our thanks to each of you for representing and spreading the message of the National Storytelling Network as a state liaison. Your willingness to serve and help communicate the importance of storytelling is invaluable. We want to express our deep gratitude for your service.

We also would like to encourage you to join us as the National Storytelling Network begins a new journey, providing storytellers all over the world with a sense of connection. To keep NSN moving forward, we are inviting you to consider becoming part of a proposed new Special Interest Group, State and Regional Associations. This special interest group could highlight what is unique in storytelling that occurs within a state or region. According to the newly approved Bylaws, interest groups need only meet a threshold of 20 NSN members to be formally recognized. Once established each Special Interest Group (SIG) also sends one representative to be a member of the National Storytelling Network Board. Through that representation, the voices of state and regional organizations can continue to be heard and celebrated.

Thank you, again, for sharing the power of story.

Dot Cleveland, Bob Johnson, Trudy Hanson
Lisa Overholser, Delanna Reed, Suzanne Whitby

| LETTER

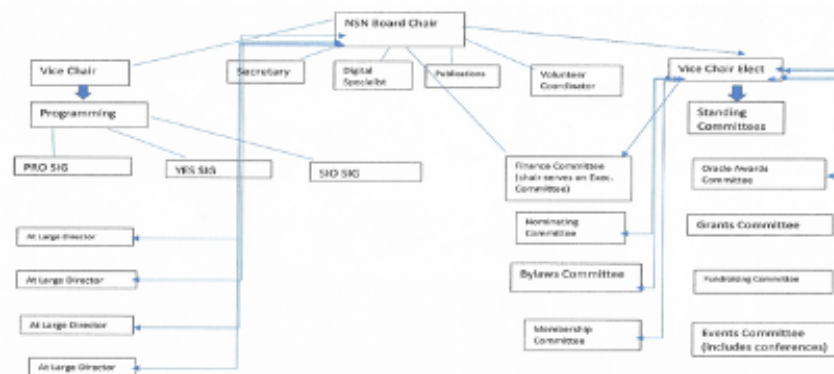
LETTER OF APPRECIATION TO NSN GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

National Storytelling Network Transition Team

The NSN Transition Team thanks each member of the National Storytelling Network for their support of the restructuring of NSN. As stated on the NSN website, our vision is to create:

A world in which all people value the power of storytelling and its ability to connect, inspire, and instill respect within our hearts and communities.

We invite you to join us in creating that vision with the restructuring of the National Storytelling Network. As approved by the membership in February, the NSN board has transitioned from representation through geographical regions to a structure that is driven by storytelling interest groups.



We appreciate all of the suggestions and comments that have been taken into consideration in the restructuring and look forward to serving the membership and creating storytelling connections among tellers, no matter their geographical location. One of the comments that we received during the deliberation was the desire to return to the former name National Association for the Preservation and Perpetuation of Storytelling. While we are not returning to that name, we do recognize the importance of what NAPPS stood for – both preserving and perpetuating the love of story. »

» One way to help us accomplish the preservation and perpetuation of storytelling is forming new storytelling interest groups. The following interest groups have been suggested in conversations we have had with members:

- Traditional Storytelling (including folk and fairy tales)
- Personal Narrative
- Digital Storytelling
- Epic Tales
- State/Regional Storytelling Associations
- Sacred Storytelling
- Historical Storytelling
- Tales of Diversity
- Storytelling and Song
- Professional Storytellers

According to our newly approved Bylaws, the threshold for creating a Special Interest Group has been lowered to 20 members. Also, as approved by the former board, NSN membership includes membership in ONE special interest group, at no additional cost. Members can also opt to join more than one SIG for an additional charge of \$25.

Additionally, the restructuring created clearly stated responsibilities for the Executive Leadership Committee. The NSN Board Chair has overall oversight for at-large directors, committees and SIGS. The NSN Vice Chair is charged with coordinating programing for the association with the assistance of SIG leaders. The Vice Chair Elect is responsible for directing the work of all standing committees. New appointed positions include that of Digital/Technical Specialist, Publications Manager and Volunteer Coordinator.

We welcome all members to join us in creating a world where all people value the power of storytelling in its many forms and genres. Taking liberties with song lyrics (of Hal David and Burt Bacharach) what the world needs now is stories—story in all its simplicity and complexity—that speaks to our hearts and communities.

Trudy Hanson
Chairwoman,
National Storytelling Network

UPCOMING EVENTS

Registration forms linked in the title,
if available.

VIRTUAL

[Kind Stories in Concert](#)

Healing Story Alliance
April 2, 2023, 7 pm EST

[Personal Stories n3d](#)

Kumba Storytellers of Georgia
April 8, 2023, 11-1pm PDT

[Off the Rails Open Mic Story Slam](#)

Six Feet Apart Productions
April 11, 2023, 6pm PDT

[Second Annual Liar's Swapfest](#)

Seattle Storytellers Guild
May 19, 2023, 7pm PST

IN-PERSON

Alabama:

[Shoals Storytelling Festival](#)

Shoals, Alabama
May 18-20, 2023

California:

[Sacramento Valley Storytelling Festival](#)

Sacramento, California
Sacramento Storytellers Guild
May 20, 2023

[Bay Area Storytelling Festival](#)

Orinda, California
Storytelling Association of California
& Six Feet Apart Productions
May 9, 2023, 9:30 am PDT

Indiana:

[Talk of the Town: "The Hitchhiking Years" told by Don White](#)

Eugene & Marilyn Glick Historical
Center, Indianapolis and VIRTUAL
April 15, 2023, 7 pm EDT

[Mother Earth, Featuring Heather Forest and Beth Horner](#)

Eugene & Marilyn Glick Historical
Center, Indianapolis and VIRTUAL
Storytelling Arts of Indiana
April 29, 2023, 7pm EDT

Kansas:

[Kansas Storytelling Festival](#)

Downs, Kansas
April 28 - 29, 2023

Maryland:

[In the Voice of Our Ancestors Workshop Retreat](#)

Oakland, Maryland
Ilene Evans & Roots to Sky
Sanctuary
May 4 - 7, 2023

UPCOMING EVENTS

Registration forms linked in the title, if available.

IN-PERSON

Minnesota:

[Storyfest 2023: Shared Stories, Shared World](#)

Bloomington Center for the Arts,
Bloomington, Minnesota
Story Arts of Minnesota
April 29, 2023, 9:30 am - 9 pm CDT

[Playing with Story Workshop](#)
[\(contact Margaret Read MacDonald for more info\)](#)

Des Moines, Washington
Margaret Read MacDonald & Seattle
Storytellers Guild
May 13, 2023

NSN CALENDAR

North Carolina:

[In Person: From Another Time: Celebrating the Legacy of Ray Hicks](#)

with Connie Reagan-Blake
Black Mountain Center for the Arts,
Black Mountain, North Carolina
April 22, 2023, 7 pm – 8:30 pm EDT

[Taking Your Stories to the Stage \(in-person\): Three-Day Intensive Workshop](#)

with Connie Reagan-Blake
Asheville, North Carolina
October 20-22, 2023

Washington State:

[Earth Tales](#)

Virtual
Margaret Read MacDonald & Tom
Rawson
Apr 21, 2023

REMEMBERING MAMA ANDREA FAIN

Visit the National Association of Black Storytellers' [commemoration of Andrea Fain](#), a noted storyteller and prominent member of NABS. From her bio on Illinois Storytelling:

Fain spent over 32 years in the Chicago Public School system working with children and teenagers, and serving as a liaison between parents, students, and social agencies. She was a former co-leader and facilitator for Communications 37, a Chicago-based after school program teaching techniques or oral presentation of stories to high school apprentices.

Her original poem, "I Stand In Awe of Storytellers" is published in "Sayin' Something' Stories" from the National Association of Black Storytellers.

She will be sincerely missed in the storytelling community by all who knew her and heard her tell.



ANDREA FAIN (1944 - 2023)

PUBLIC SECTOR FOLKLORIST SEEKS INFO EXCHANGE

Chrissy Widmayer

Program Co-Director of Community Powered, Wisconsin Humanities

Jen Rubin of Wisconsin Humanities is looking for folks who run storytelling projects to share about their experiences and their project's goals and priorities.

Jen is the producer for Love Wisconsin, a digital storytelling project that started about ten years ago with the goal of connecting Wisconsinites through storytelling across the rural/urban and political divide, specifically through social media. Jen is considering what more Love Wisconsin can do outside of maintaining their unique Facebook community, and would like to hear what other storytelling projects are doing. To inquire, contact: Chrissy Widmayer at chrissy.widmayer@wisconsinhumanities.org.

MORE FROM THE NSN COMMUNITY

STORYTELLING BY AND FOR ADULTS Zoom Series

Previous tellers at <https://storytellinginstitute.org/2Jan2023.html#a>

To apply to tell contact Eric Miller at eric@storytellinginstitute.org.

STORYTELLING AT THE ELM, Milbury, MA Seeks Tellers

Contact Jim Perry at b4jimperry@verizon.net.



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National Storytelling Network

Monthly Newsletter

NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

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CONTRIBUTE TO THE NSN NEWSLETTER!

Send an email with your contribution or article to newsletter@storynet.org to go out to the NSN community. Stories for the next issue are due on the 25th of the month.

*content subject to editing, no guarantee of
inclusion in final issue*