### National Storytelling Network

July Newsletter - Vol. 5, Issue No. 6

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#### I FEATURE

# NSN GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND ORACLE AWARDS CEREMONY TO BE HELD JUL 15

Join us for our Annual Membership Meeting and our Oracle Award Presentations, followed by the Oracle Award Concert on July 15: 1-5pm Eastern time,12pm Central time, 11am Mountain time, 10 am Pacific time. Click <a href="here">here</a> to join.

- https://zoom.us/j/93774655129.
- > 12:45 PM "Doors Open"
- > 1:00 pm -1:30 PM Official welcome and chat
- > 1:30pm 3:00 PM NSN Membership Meeting
- > 3:00 3:15 PM Break
- > 3:15 4:00 PM Oracle Award Ceremony
- > 4:00 4:15 PM Break
- > 4:15 5:00 PM Oracle Award Concert
- > 5:00 PM Official Farewell
- > 5:10 6 PM Optional After Glow social.

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#### | ANNOUNCEMENT

## 2023 ORACLE AWARDEES ANNOUNCED!



Sarah Juba Addison Chair, ORACLE Award Committee

Hello NSN Members and Friends,

We at the National Storytelling Network value our members and their art. Each year, we recognize outstanding individuals and organizations for their contributions to storytelling by presenting them with an ORACLE Award. On behalf of the NSN Board of Directors and the ORACLE Awards Committee, we would like to congratulate this year's award recipients. Appreciation is a fundamental human need, and we recognize their hard work, dedication, and performance excellence in the storytelling community and beyond. This welldeserved recognition confirms that others value their art. We would also like to thank the Award Recipients' Nominees for gathering all supporting materials and submitting the application package to the Committee for review and recommendation. We are fortunate to have such gifted and inspiring members, and it is important to recognize them. Finally, please join me in thanking the ORACLE Award Committee members Angela Lloyd, Cora Newcomb, MaryGay Ducey, Toni Simmons, and Alton Chung for their excellent work. We look forward to seeing you all on Saturday, July 15, 2023, at the NSN membership meeting, followed by the ORACLE Awards Ceremony and performances by the awardees.

Congratulations to the award winners below:

DOLORES HYDOCK
CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

JESSICA PISCITELLI ROBINSON

NSN REGIONAL SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP - MID-ATLANTIC

LORALEE COOLEY

NSN REGIONAL SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP - SOUTHEAST



### DOLORES HYDOCK CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE AWARD



Dolores' one-woman shows and story performances have been featured at conferences, festivals, and special events throughout the United States, including the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee. She has been Teller-in-Residence at Jonesborough's International Storytelling Center, has taught storytelling workshops at East Tennessee State University, Birmingham-Southern College, and

various festivals around the U.S., and has won Resource Awards from Storytelling World Magazine for her twelve CDs of original stories. She has collaborated with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra and the Birmingham Museum of Art to blend stories with music and art, and her Christmas story special airs annually on NPR-affiliate WBHM in Birmingham. Dolores lives in Irondale, Alabama, on the eastern edge of Birmingham. More about Dolores at: <a href="https://www.storypower.org">www.storypower.org</a>

### JESSICA PISCITELLI ROBINSON NSN REGIONAL SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP - MID-ATLANTIC



Jessica Robinson founded Better Said

Than Done in 2011. In addition to performing with Better Said Than Done, and locally in the DC Metro area, Jessica has performed at Exchange Place at the International Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, TN in 2018 and, in 2019, in the Susquehanna Folk Festival's Liar's Contest. In 2020, she appeared on PBS' "Stories from the Stage," and produced the first Women's Storytelling Festival.



Virtually, Jessica has performed for the Queens Theater, Artists Standing Strong Together (ASST), Six Feet Apart Productions, Stories for Healing, First Person Arts Festival, Mostly True Things, The Story Space, Bridgeport Pechakucha, at 2 National Storytelling Network (NSN) Conferences, and the Forest Storytelling Festival. She also shared stories on the Bonkers Brit, Elemental Woman, Full Spirals, Orchid Story, and Funny Parents Podcasts. In2022, Jessica was a featured teller at the Stone Soup Festival, the Washington Folk Festival, and the Allegheny Highlands Story Festival, and in 2023 was a featured storyteller for Florida Storytelling Festival and the Hampton Storytelling Festival. Jessica is a contributing author to the book Roar: True Tales of Women Warriors. Jessica has been leading storytelling workshops since 2011. In addition to Better Said Than Done workshops for individuals, Jessica has led storytelling workshops for The Story Center at MCPL, INOVA Fairfax Hospital, George Washington University School of Business, Story Crossroads, AHRQ, The Brookings Institution, and the World Bank. More about Jessica here.

### LORALEE COOLEY NSN REGIONAL SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP - SOUTHEAST



Loralee Cooley, whose business name is "Storyspinning," began telling stories professionally in 1977 in Arizona. She began to comprehend that a told story can be quite powerful – but having no knowledge of anyone DOING storytelling professionally – she launched her career by using material based on Arizona history and filling in for the Governor's wife for a luncheon.

Subsequently, Loralee's "Storyspinning" has taken her from Arizona to Virginia, South Carolina, Texas and Oklahoma. In Georgia she was instrumental in launching the Southern Order of Storytellers and is credited with inspiring many tellers in that area. She is now based in Albuquerque New Mexico. She's been listed on the artists' rosters of the South Carolina Arts Commission and Texas Council for the Arts.



Her storytelling style strives to bring simple words to life, telling classic tales and modern stories that enchant audiences of all ages. She has told to scouting groups, university students, summer festivals and convention attendees. For more about Loralee see: <a href="https://www.storyspinning.net">www.storyspinning.net</a>

#### ATTEND THE AWARDS CEREMONY ON JULY 15TH!

In addition to programming for the general membership meeting, attendees will have the opportunity to hear the three distinguished ORACLE awardees tell short tales on July 15 at the Oracle Awards Ceremony. Don't forget to tune in here (<a href="https://zoom.us/j/93774655129">https://zoom.us/j/93774655129</a>) at 12 PM Central Time.

In service of storytelling, NSN

#### NOTICE

## TWO WEEKS LEFT TO DONATE TO SUMMER AUCTION FUNDRAISER





Kate Dudding & Marilyn McPhie Auction Co-Chairs

People have started sending in their donation information.

Donations received until now include:

- Coaching sessions from Noa Baum, Priscilla Howe and Doug Lipman
- Jewelry and a tapestry bag from Marilyn McPhie
- A child's sweater from Kate Dudding

Please join them in supporting NSN on the auction website.

https://www.32auctions.com/nsn-s23



The money raised by this auction will help NSN fulfill its mission to advance all forms of storytelling within the community through promotion, advocacy, and education.

Perhaps you have some items which need a new home. During last summer's auction, there were 86 donors, 145 items were donated, and 84 bidders paid a total of \$7,500! We are hoping, with your help, to do better this summer.

Here are types of items which have sold well in the past:

- Art: quilts, wall hangings, paintings
- Clothing
- Food
- · Gift certificates
- Jewelry
- Storytelling accessories: puppets, musical instruments and other story enhancers
- Storytelling books, CDs, DVDs
- Storytelling conference and storytelling festival registrations
- Storytelling services (marketing, recording, coaching, photography, house concerts, etc.)

Minimum value for each donated item: \$35

Items must be new or nearly-new in excellent condition.

PLEASE NOTE: at last year's auction, over two-thirds of the items sold for \$35 – \$60. So if you have four CDs you want to donate, please submit two auction items, each containing two CDs.

If you have an item or service you would like to donate, please do the following no later than July 24th:

#### A) Fill out one **Google form** per auction item

Please note: Unfortunately, you only get one chance to edit the information you enter – that's immediately after you submit this form. So please gather all the pieces of information and then fill in this form with:



#### B) Email kate@katedudding.com

- one to four photos of the auction item. (If it's a service you will provide, perhaps your photo would be appropriate.)
- The logo of your business (if you have one)

### C) Donors will be emailed when their item has been added to the <u>auction</u> website

**IMPORTANT:** Do not mail any items to NSN. At the end of the auction, there will be direct mailing from the donor to the auction winner.

Imagine sitting in your favorite spot and bidding on beautiful hand-crafted items and inspiring storytelling experiences, donated from your storytelling friends across the nation and beyond to help support NSN. On August 14-18, you'll be able to get a jump on your holiday shopping wherever you are as long as you can access the NSN website. Watch for specifics about the auction itself to be posted at here:



#### https://storynet.org/summerauction/

To generate donations and also when the auction runs in August, please spread the word on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, and other social networks. Let your non-storytelling friends, family, and co-workers in on the auction, especially if you spot an item they might be interested in. We look forward to a fun and profitable online event. But first, we need your donations to make it happen!

Donation Deadline: July 24th

GRATEFULLY THANKING YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT,
Kate Dudding and Marilyn McPhie, Auction Co-Chairs

<u>Kate@KateDudding.com</u> <u>mmcphie@gmail.com</u>



#### EDITORIAL

## THE NATIONAL STORYTELLING NETWORK—ALIVE AND WELL



Trudy Hanson President

Depending on the account or culture from which you read, the story of the mythical bird—the phoenix—is a symbol of renewal or resurrection, rising from the ashes of its predecessor. In some ways the legend of the phoenix reflects the evolution of the National Storytelling Network, in the last year. As a brand new NSN Board member in 2022, I attended ZOOM meetings that focused on the future of NSN since we seemed to be nearing a time of financial exigency. But before we return to the recent past, let me summarize how NSN came to be. In 1975, as storytellers gathered in Jonesboro, TN, sitting on hay bales (so the story goes), a membership organization was proposed: The National Association for the Preservation and Perpetuation of Storytelling (NAAPS) came to be. According to the historical account posted on the NSN website some years later: "Then-Executive Director Jimmie Neil Smith had incorporated the Jonesborough TN festival under NAPPS' 501(c)3 to avoid paying taxes on festival income. As a condition of the separation, NSA/NSN and ISC agreed on a 1999 contract which granted NSA 18% of gross festival receipts." Board Secretary Margaret Read MacDonald notes "NSA is in the process of dividing into two entities. This division is necessary because of the different needs of the two halves of this organization. The Storytellling Center in Jonesborough is concerned with bringing visitors to that region. The Storytellling Center has applied for several grants from Tennessee agencies and received them. It has purchased several pieces of property in downtown Jonesborough to use in Center Development. All of those needs tend to take resources away from the membership's own needs." However, in 2010 when ISC declared bankruptcy due to its debts, state courts agreed to void the contract, leaving NSA/NSN in financial straits." At the time of the split, the organization was known as the National Storytelling Association, that would later become the NSN we recognize in 2023.

From 2010 forward, the major income NSN received was through membership dues and conference fees from an annual summer storytelling conference.



In 2022, it became clear that the organization was facing major financial concerns, partly due to the constraints that the COVID pandemic had placed on holding in-person conferences. There were insufficient funds to cover the salaries of paid staff. In the fall of 2022, NSN Bookkeeper Dorothy Cleveland took on the responsibility of monitoring the NSN website, answering questions from members and setting up ZOOM meetings. Today, there is a "virtual office" in Kansas City, MO, since NSN is incorporated as a 501(c)3 organization in the state of Missouri, but the day-to-day business is handled by Dot Cleveland from her home in Minnesota. Another hero of these difficult financial times has been Bob Johnson, NSN Treasurer. (Please note that both of these valuable members are ex-officio members of the NSN Board.) Both Dot and Bob were part of a transition team that guided the process of restructuring NSN.

During the fall of 2022, a plan to restructure NSN was proposed to the board and the general membership. Various online forums were held by then Board Chair Kory May to discover concerns of NSN members. The restructuring plan involved changing the make-up of the NSN Board to reflect leaders of the Storytelling Interest Groups (SIGS) and three additional appointed members (Digital/Technical Specialist, the Publications Manager, and the Volunteer Coordinator while ending the positions of regional directors and state liasons. A 3-year officer rotation was set in place in which a Vice Chair-Elect would oversee committees, a Vice Chair would plan programming, and the Chair would oversee appointed positions and conduct the monthly board meetings. After gaining approval from the NSN Board, the restricting proposal was presented to the general membership who then voted acceptance. The Transition Team mentioned previously, then helped make the transition to the new structure, proposing that Trudy Hanson serve as chair for the remainder of 2023 and that Delanna Reed serve as Vice Chair.

Rishi Nixon who serves as NSN Digital Technical Specialist and Chair of the NSN Finance Committee, provided the following good news about NSN's current financial status in the June 2023 NSN Newsletter:

In the past few months, we have taken a survey of our finances and explored the measures available to us. The most important thing to note is that NSN is NOT bankrupt. The organization has a significant amount in savings – more than enough to progress in our sustainable return to programming and activities. At the close of the fiscal year in 2022, NSN had a total of \$174,288 in assets. \$26,965 of that belongs to the Network's Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and is restricted to their use.



once more.

The organization has a further \$46,513 in hard cash as well as \$58,005 in long-term investments. The remaining \$42,805 is reserved for the J.J. Reneaux mentorship awards and other member grants that NSN awards to community storytellers.

While revenue and cash have fallen significantly over the past few years, especially because of the pandemic, NSN is now better off financially than it was before. This is largely due to the difficult financial transformation we have undergone to become profitable.

Last year, NSN made \$109,614 and continued income growth by cutting personnel costs. This year, NSN has become almost fully volunteer-managed, further cutting a \$50,000 shortfall.

More good news came from the discovery that a substantial number of NSN members had not received reminders about renewing their membership. Through the efforts of Bob Johnson who reported: On March 27 I sent an email to 900 plus expired members. 52 bounced. 28 were in the file twice or more and they were really paid up. From that list, 114 said they would renew. Of those, as of right now, 96 have actually renewed.

And still more good news—NSN Board Secretary and Co-Chair of the 2024 NSN Conference Committee has put in motion the return to an in-person conference July 11-14, 2024 at the Dumas Bay Conference Center, near Seattle. During the past forty-eight years, this storytelling organization has gone from NAAPS to NSA to NSN, and with each change has re-made itself. The strength of any storytelling organization lies in the hearts of the members. Thank you to all who have volunteered your time, talents, efforts and funds so that NSN has risen

#### **BOARD AND COMMITTEE OPENINGS! GET INVOLVED!**

NSN has many hard working board members and committee members. But we can always use more help. We need three more board members! Please step up!

And several committees could use more members. Or feel free to join any committee where you would like to make a contribution. On the next page is a comprehensive roster of NSN's board and committees. If you spot any inaccuracies in the roster below, please contact <a href="mmm@margaretreadmacdonald.com">mmm@margaretreadmacdonald.com</a>.



#### NOTICE

#### **BOARD & COMMITTEE ROSTER**



Margaret Read MacDonald
Secretary, National Storytelling Network

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Executive Committee
  - Chair Trudy Hanson
  - Vice Chair Delanna Reed
  - Vice Chair Elect OPEN
  - Secretary Margaret Read MacDonald
  - Chairperson of Finance Committee and Digital/Technical Specialist –
     Rishi Nixon
  - Volunteer Coordinator OPEN
  - Publications Editor OPEN

#### • SIG Representatives

- Environmental Storytelling Rep Linda Yemoto
- Youth, Educators and Storytellers Rep Angela Lloyd
- Youth, Educators and Storytellers Rep Sara Armstrong
- Producers & Organizations Rep Lisa Overholser
- Producers & Organizations Rep Barry McWilliams

#### • <u>Directors-at-large</u>

- Sara DeBeer
- o Gary Kuntz
- Linda Marchisio
- o Debra Olson-Tolar

#### **ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE**

- Kathy Santopietro Weddel (Chair)
- Kevin Cordi
- Gail Herman

#### **BYLAWS COMMITTEE**

- Margaret Read MacDonald (Chair)
- Bob Johnson
- Linda Marchisio
- OPEN

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE

- Rishi Nixon (Chair)
- Lisa Overholser
- Cora Newcomb
- Bob Johnson
- Ellen Munds

#### **FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE**

- Tim Ereneta
- OPEN
- OPEN

#### **GRANTS COMMITTEE** (giving)

- OPEN
- OPEN
- OPEN



#### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

- Debra Olson-Tolar
- Marilyn McPhie
- OPEN

#### **NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE**

- Margaret Read MacDonald (Managing Editor)
- Rishi Nixon, (Assistant Managing Editor)
- Bob Johnson
- Rita Rigano
- Nick Smith
- Sara Armstrong
- Ashton Cynthia Clarke
- Cassie Selleck

#### **ORACLE AWARD COMMITTEE**

- Sarah Juba Addison (Chair)
- Angela Lloyd
- Alton Chung
- Mary Gay Ducey
- Cora Newcomb
- Toni Simmons

#### **EVENTS COMMITTEE**

- Delanna Reed (Chair)
- Marilyn McPhie
- OPEN

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- Trudy Hanson (Chair)
- Jaye McLaughlin
- OPEN
- OPEN
- OPEN

#### **CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

- Margaret Read MacDonald (Co-Chair)
- Delanna Reed (Co-Chair)
- Trudy Hanson
- · Rishi Nixon
- Bob Johnson
- Dot Cleveland
- Bob Johnson
- Dot Cleveland
- Linda Yemoto (ECO SIG)
- Sara Armstrong (YES SIG)
- Lisa Williams (SIO SIG)
- Barry McWilliams (PRO SIG)
- Lisa Overholser (PRO SIG)
- Eva Abram

### WATCH FOR CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR NSN SEATTLE CONFERENCE.

The proposal form will be available in the August newsletter. Mark your calendar for July 11-14, 2024 and begin planning the workshop, panel, or presentation you would like to propose. Fringe performance applications will also be available in August.

Applications will be open until October.



#### NOTICE

## THE GOOD LIARS CLUB FESTIVAL RIDES AGAIN!



Anne Rutherford & Norm Brecke
Co-Founders, The Good Liars Club

Twenty-four storytellers from across the country are featured in the 2nd Annual Good Liars Club Festival, live on Zoom Saturday August 5th.

Andy Offutt-Irwin, Angela Lloyd, Chetter Galloway, Alton Chung, Ingrid Nixon and Ed Stivender are among the storytellers who will stretch the truth 'til the audience chortles in the six-hour event produced by Anne Rutherford and Norm Brecke.

This second annual online festival features twenty-four tellers in six showcases, starting at 1pm PDT/4pm EDT and running until the last showcase at 6pm PDT/9pm EDT.

Audience members can drop in and out for as many showcases as they please, or stay for the whole festival of fabulation.



6 Showcases \* 24 Tellers \* Full schedule at: www.anne-norm.com/glc-festival-2023 Register at: https://tinyurl.com/godliarsclubfestival2023

Donate to the tellers at: https://tinyurl.com/GLCFest2023Donate

All who donate will be able to watch the festival for two weeks after the event.

Register for one link, and you can come in and out to watch as many showcases as you want. It's free to watch live, and we do encourage donations that are split among all our tellers. Donors will get a link to watch a recording of all the showcases on demand for a month after the event.

See showcase lineups; register <a href="here">here</a>. Donate <a href="here">here</a>. Donors receive a link to watch a recording on demand, active for 10 days.



## THE STORY BEAST MAGAZINE CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

LEARN ABOUT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES





#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Registration forms linked in the title, if available.

#### **MICHIGAN**

#### Revealed: True, Personal Storytelling

The Glendale Room, Glendale, CA Erica Blumfield July 2, 2023 7:00 pm PDT

#### MISSOURI

#### Missouri Liar's Contest

Webster Groves Masonic Temple, Webster Groves, MO. July 8, 2023 8:30-5 pm

#### VIRTUAL

#### Illinois Storytelling, Inc

July 1, 2023 7 – 8:30 pm CDT

#### TGIF Intergenerational Storyfest Virtual

Artists Standing Strong Together (ASST)
Jul 07, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM EDT

#### **Adults ONLY Stories**

Artists Standing Strong Together (ASST)

Jul 08, 9:00 PM - 11:00 PM EDT

#### OARS in the Water

Healing Story Alliance
July 12, 2023 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
CDT

#### Sacred Storytelling

Artists Standing Strong Together (ASST)
Jul 16, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM EDT

### YES Story Lab: Interconnected Tales (Workshop)

July 27, 2023 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm CDT Akhshay Gandhi

#### The Good Liars Club Festival 2023

Aug 5, 2023 Noon AKDT / 1pm PDT / 2pm MDT / 3pm CDT/ 4pm EDT

#### NSN WEBSITE CALENDAR

EVENTS PAGE 15



## MO-TELL PRESENTS THE MISSOURI LIARS CONTEST



EVENTS PAGE 16



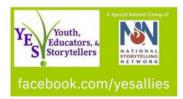
# YES STORY LAB PRESENTS INTERCONNECTED TALES VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

YES STORY LAB SERIES

VIRTUAL WORKSHOP



YES MEMBERS FREE NON YES MEMBERS \$15



#### REGISTER HERE

https://storynet.org/civicrm/ event/info/?reset=1&id=157

Learn something new. Broaden your expertise.

EVENTS PAGE 17



JUL 01, 2023

#### **National Storytelling Network**

#### Monthly Newsletter

#### **NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE**

Margaret Read MacDonald Managing Editor

Rishi Nixon Assistant Managing Editor &

Visual Editor

Rita Rigano Copy Editor

Nick Smith Editor

Sara Armstrong Events Editor

Ashton Cynthia Clarke Events Editor

Cassie Selleck Editor

CONTRIBUTE TO THE NSN NEWSLETTER!

Send an email with your contribution to <a href="mailto:newsletter@storynet.org">newsletter@storynet.org</a> to go out to the NSN community. Stories for the next issue are due on the 25th of the month. If you have written an article, please send a headshot photo of yourself.

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

EDITORS PAGE 18