

NSN Board Meeting Agenda  
Sept. 19, 2023  
6:00 p.m. CDT

**Call to Order: Chair, Trudy Hanson**

**Welcome to Claire Nolan, ECO Representative!**

**Present: Chair, Trudy Hanson; Vice-Chair, Delanna Reed; Secretary, Margaret Read MacDonald; Finance, Rishi Nixon; Sara de Beer, Angela Lloyd, Claire Nolan, Lisa Overholser, Debra Olson-Tolar, Barry Williams, Lisa Williams, Linda Yemoto. Staff: Bob Johnson, Dot Cleveland. Absent: Linda Marchisio, Gary Kuntz.**

**Determination of Quorum: (According to the By-Laws)**

8.5 Quorum. At all meetings of the Board of Directors, a majority of the number of Directors then in office shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. **(14 Board Members are currently listed on the NSN website. Therefore, we need at least 8 board members present to conduct any business)**

**Review and Approval of Minutes:**

- **Motion: That the minutes of the August 19, 2023 meeting be approved. Moved by Delanna Reed. Passed unanimously.**

**On the Calendar:**

- Sept. 18—Build Your Storytelling Board, featuring Jennifer Williams, Ellen Munds, Denise Page, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
- Sept. 23—Co-Working and Parallel Play for Storytellers, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Sept. 27—HAS Oars in the Water, 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 28 RISK! Live Show in New York at Caveat, 9:30 p.m., In person-\$18-23; Livestream, \$15
- Oct. 1—Deadline for Conference Proposals, 12:00 Midnight, CDT
- Oct. 1—How to Tell a Scary Story, 1 to 3:30 p.m.
- Oct 1—HSA Kind Stories in Concert, 6:00 p.m.
- Oct. 4—Co-Working and Parallel Play, 7 to 8:30 p.m.
- Oct. 5—Introduction to Storytelling for Non Profits, 3:00 p.m.
- Oct. 6-8—National Storytelling Festival
- Oct. 8—Sex and Death: The Folktale Edition, Part 2, 2 to 3:30 p.m.
- Oct. 13—Burnt into Memory: How Brownfield Face the Fire by Jo Radner, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

**Officer and Committee Reports:**

- Treasurer's Report—Bob Johnson See attached.
- Finance Committee Report—Rishi Nixon  
The Fundraising Committee, consisting of Tim Ereneta (fundraiser for UC Berkeley), Ruth Stotter, and Lisa Williams, will be a separate committee from the Finance Committee beginning in January, 2024.

2024 NSN Conference Update)—Margaret Read MacDonald and Delanna Reed  
We have 23 proposals so far. SIGS may choose to solicit more proposals if not enough have been submitted by October 1. Lisa Williams has the rubric ready and it was decided that all SIGS and the General proposal evaluators should all use this rubric. The Board will meet during breakfast on Sunday of the conference.

#### SIG UPDATES:

Claire Nolan: ECO SIG has 39 members. They are planning a monthly Story Swap. At their Sept 12<sup>th</sup> swap, 3 told and feedback was given. The next swap will be a Halloween theme in October. The SIG is forming a committee to evaluate proposals. Their board still is being formed. In 2024 they will do a workshop in advance of Earth Day to help tellers prepare for their own Earth Day programs.

Lisa Williams: SIO SIG. Karen Chace did a presentation on Sep 6 about how to develop a winning proposal. 20 took part. They have received very few SIO proposals so far and are searching for others to submit proposals. They want to update their website info.

Lisa Overholser PRO SIG. They have around 50 members. The recent Build Your Board webinar was excellent. It was recorded and can be viewed later. A workshop will be scheduled for January about insurance. The SIG meets monthly. They are planning something related to their new Production Guide for the conference. They plan a meet and greet for the 2024 conference. They are working on by-laws.

The question was raised: Do SIGS need by-laws? ECO is modeling their by-laws on the YES by-laws. It was suggested that all SIGS might use one model for their by-laws.

Barry Williams: During the Build Your Board workshop Jennifer Williams spoke about leadership for boards. Ellen Munds told about her board. Board members do not need to be storytellers. Where do you find board members? Denise Page discussed mentoring and more. The workshop may be made available to view on our website for a small fee.

Angela Lloyd: YES SIG. Their board recently met. They are hoping to do a pre-conference on July 11.

- Update from Dot about Website concerns and communication with Kamishibai discussion Group.  
Kamishibai is no longer a Sig but might want to be a discussion group.

Website work is mostly completed.

#### Unfinished Business

- **Recommendation from Ad Hoc Committee regarding existing policy about NSN Board member participation in national conferences. (Please see attached policy.)—Margaret, Linda M. and Delanna**

**Motion: That the National Storytelling Network Conflict of Interest Policy be approved, with the removal of Article 9, items 3 and 5 and Article 10, items 1 and 2. And with the removal of references to committee members, other than chair, from Article 6. Moved by Margaret Read MacDonald. Passed unanimously.**

This removes the clause prohibiting board members from offering workshops or performing at NSN events. They would still need to be selected via the same proposal route as all members. This also removes the requirement that all committee members sign a conflict of interest statement. Board members and committee chairs still need to do so.

**Lifetime Membership Update—are we ready to set a fee?**

Motion: That Lifetime memberships be retired, all current Lifetime memberships to retain membership status. Moved by Rishi Nixon. Motion withdrawn.

**Bob Johnson showed the SIG Budget information for this year.** The monies received for this year were not reflected in the annual budget shared earlier.

- **Follow-Up on communication with Dave Bush—Trudy Hanson (Trudy contacted Dave and invited him to contact Lisa Overholser)**

**New Business:**

- **Ideas for Revitalizing Participation in Tellabration events.**  
Tellabration is trademarked by NSN. It was originated by JG Pinkerton as a fundraiser for NAAPS. Very few Tellabtrations contribute to NSN now.  
Tabled. To be discussed in 2024.
- **Discussion about sponsoring an Open Mic night for people older than 18 that caters to GEN Z tabled.**

**Assignments: Bob will send SIG budget info to all SIGS.**

**Rishi's Finance Committee will finalize the dues structure to go on our website. Lifetime membership to stay, but be raised. Donation levels to be added. This to be done before October meeting.**

**SIGS will get together to agree on shared by-law template.**

**Adjournment: Motion: That the meeting be adjourned. Moved by Sara de Beer. Passed unanimously.**

**Meeting adjourned at 6:12.**

**Dates of NSN Board Meetings:**

Saturday, October 21 at Noon

Tuesday, November 21 at 6 pm  
Saturday, December 16 at Noon