

NSN Board Meeting Minutes  
Jan. 20, 2024  
12:00 Noon CST

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

**Present: Sara deBeer, Trudy Hanson, Angela Lloyd, Margaret Read MacDonald, Linda Marchisio, Barry McWilliams, Gwendolyn Napier, Rishi Nixon, Claire Nolan, Lisa Overholser, Delanna Reed, Lisa Williams.**

**Staff: Dot Cleveland, Robert Johnson.**

**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. **(12 Board Members are currently listed on the NSN website. Therefore, we need at least 7 board members present to conduct any business)**

**Welcome to Gwendolyn Napier! The NSN Board has voted to add Gwen as an at-large member of the board.**

**Review and Approval of Minutes:**

- **Motion: That the minutes of the Dec. 16, 2023 board meeting be approved as amended. Moved by Lisa Overholser. Passed unanimously.**

**On the Calendar:**

- ✧ Jan. 20--Risk and Exposure: A Virtual Insurance Workshop for Storytellers, 5 p.m. (PRO SIG--cost is \$10 for non-PRO members)
- ✧ Jan. 24 Oars in the Water, 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- ✧ Jan. 25 SIO General Meeting, 12:00 p.m.
- ✧ Jan. 25 Risk! Live in NYC & Online, 8:30-10:30 p.m.
- ✧ Jan. 25-28--Florida Storytelling Festival
- ✧ Jan. 31--Registration opens for NSN 2024 Summer Conference
- ✧ Feb. 3--Whoops: Stories about Mistakes, 6 to 7:30 p.m., \$15.00
- ✧ Feb. 4--Kind Stories in concert, 6 p.m.
- ✧ Feb 4 Kuumba Storytellers of Georgia Live Concert, 3-5 pm kuumbastorytellers.org
- ✧ Feb. 10--Versions of Childhood, 7 p.m.
- ✧ Feb. 15--Narrative's Leadership Storytelling Virtual Series, 11 a.m.
- ✧ Feb 22nd--The Confluence of Storytelling and Publishing with Ted Parkhurst 4 p.m. EST (SIO SIG--cost is \$10 for Non-SIO members)
- ✧

**Board will be sent minutes when finished. Any corrections need to be sent to MRM within 48 hours.**

## Officer and Committee Reports:

- President's Report about recent correspondence
  - Gary Kuntz has indicated that he will not continue as an At-Large NSN Board member.  
Trudy will write a thank you letter to Gary and Debra for their NSN Board service to be included in February Newsletter

- Ray Hicks Fund update--From Connie Reagan-Blake:

*The fund has handled many different expenses over the years, including building an addition onto the homeplace with an indoor toilet so that Rosa could continue living there in the last decade of her life! It's primary function now is to keep alive the legacy of Ray Hicks. One expense is the fees and upkeep for the [www.RayHicks.com](http://www.RayHicks.com) website. I have also used it for maintenance on the Hicks cemetery where almost all the Hicks are buried including Ray and Rosa. You might have noticed two checks made out to me recently. The national festival resource tent sells his items at the festival each year. And 100% of those monies go back into the fund. I was late getting an order in for a new supply of Ray's CDs and his book, so I had to put those expenses on my visa. Then I wrote two checks to repay myself. I think I clearly made note of that on the checks themselves.*

*As you can tell, not much is withdrawn from it. I have had different ideas about ways to use it and would be glad to share that with you. I know that I have too much on my plate right now to take on a new project, but if NSN was interested in spearheading ways to encourage people to tell traditional stories and keep those traditions and the memory of Ray alive, that would be great.*

The board is exploring ways to honor Ray's work using these funds. Universities in Tennessee and North Carolina are being investigated to see if they have archives of storytelling materials.

- We have the inventory of items in the storage unit in Kansas City. Bob has suggested that someone who lives nearby could review those items under Dot and Bob's guidance. There are some items that might be useful for the upcoming conference. Action: Lisa Overholser will pick up computers and bring them to the conference. Bob can help with wiping their data. Computers to be used during the conference or sold at auction.

Gary K or someone from Kansas City area will go through materials while on zoom call with Dot and Bob and discard. Hope is to reduce materials by half or all.

Proposal from production company wanting to help publicize conference. Rejected as too expensive and something we can do ourselves.

- Treasurer's Report—Bob Johnson  
**Motion: That the board accept the budget for 2024 as amended. Moved by Claire Nolan. Passed unanimously.**
- Finance Committee Report—Rishi Nixon  
Finance Committee and Fundraising Committee to be separate in future.
- Fundraiser Update (Solar Eclipse glasses)--Lisa Overholser. Customized solar eclipse glasses have been ordered. Will be sold for \$2 to other organizations. They can sell for

any amount they wish. Lisa and Tim Ereneta are contacting storytelling organizations that might want to participate.

- Kathryn Tucker Windham Scholarship Committee Update—Linda Marchisio. The conference scholarship winners are: Charlot Lucien, Savannah Bennett, James Trujillo, Lilian Nantucket Shoj, Darlene AKA Nelda Tone. Linda is waiting for confirmation that these recipients accept their award. Twenty applications were received.
- 2024 NSN Conference Update—Margaret Read MacDonald and Delanna Reed—Registration for conference opens on Jan. 31, changed from Jan. 20 due to web provider's needs. Shuttle buses have been contracted. Hotel conference rates arranged. Program schedule is up on our website.
- **Updates from SIGS—**
- ECO: Claire Nolan and Linda Yemoto. Eco now has 50 members. They do a monthly swap. Feb 24<sup>th</sup> EST at 1pm, Judith Black will offer a workshop on crafting eco stories. March 12 the swap will include Green Songs and Games, led by Carrie Sue Ayar. An Earth Day Concert zoom will take place in March. Stories shared are to be those suggested for telling in upcoming Earth Day events. Recordings and texts will be available for \$5. Noted that ECO has its own Zoom account (NSN gets 5, so 4 SIGS get one).
- SIO: Lisa Williams. Membership: SIO has 58 members, 9 new members as of January 2024. Discussion board: is up and running. Needs to be tweaked to show conversation history. Website: Planning stages of Storyteller Directory. A survey was sent to members in December 2023, received 21 responses. We will meet quarterly and have ongoing programs throughout the year  
Upcoming Programs.  
Feb 22nd Ted Parkhurst will discuss the Confluence of Storytelling and Publishing.  
March working on a presentation for women's month  
April date TBD: Stories of Purpose: How stories help discover the purpose of an organization  
May 15 -17: International Conference.  
May date TBD: Jim Brule will facilitate a workshop on the neuroscience of effective presentations - using storytelling to enhance learning.  
August date TBD: How purposeful storytelling and story work can foster the culture of deep development in an organization.

PRO: Lisa Overholser/Barry McWilliams

Jan 20 Risk and Exposure: A Virtual Insurance Workshop for Storytellers.

PRO will have four or five quarterly events.

The Production Guide is being updated and will be available soon.

YES: Angela Lloyd. Story Lab had 17 participants. Mary Ann Blue presented with student tellers, their families and librarian.

YES plans to do quarterly meetings.

Kevin Cordi's incarceration panel for conference asked for YES to support \$700 for travel to each of two panel members.

- Leadership Change Update--Rishi Nixon has indicated he is interested in serving as the Vice Chair-Elect. The Executive Committee is supportive of this change. According to the Bylaws, we will need to hold a virtual election allowing the general membership to vote. If elected, Rishi would advance to the position of Vice Chair (term as Vice Chair - Elect would last until July, 2024) and at our July general membership meeting, we would need to also have a candidate to present for the new Vice Chair-Elect whose term would begin after the conference.

**Action: An email vote will be sent to membership to hopefully elect Rishi to our Vice Chair-Elect position.**

The Ad Hoc committee (Lisa Williams, Delanna Reed and Sara DeBeer) are working on prioritizing our list of goals and will report at the Feb. NSN Board Meeting

By laws got dropped from the website. Dot will put it back up. MRM will send the latest version to Dot.

Question raised: How many members do we currently have. 561 members.

Sara suggests putting NSN website on your Facebook, other social media, disseminate website so folks know about NSN.

Revitalizing Tellabration Ad Hoc Committee (Barry, Delanna and Trudy) need to update the Tellabration Proclamation and make recommendations about raising awareness of Tellabration (Not as a fundraiser, but as public awareness). The Tellabration packet on the website needs updating. Suggestion that Land Acknowledgment be added to packet.

We need a public relations campaign to remind folks that Tellabration is a copyrighted product of NSN. Though NSN no longer asks for a portion of the proceeds, several guilds do still send us a gift from their Tellabration.

Film clips from Tellabration producers could be good promo.

The article about the history of Tellabration that MRM and Sara de Beer wrote for the newsletter should be put on the NSN website.

Dot keeps a listing of all Tellabration sites. She puts them on the website and in the newsletter.

Oracle Awards: Deadline for Oracle Awards is March 11. Submit online at website. Leadership Awards are not tied to regions now. Can be nominated by anyone for any area.

**New Business:**

- Response to End-of-Year Donation requests. Will be discussed in February.
- Other Concerns?
- Angela: Dance caller and band for National Conference changed since Susan Michaels retired. Bruce Reid and Bonnie Zahnow and caller Amy Carroll will be our performers.

The Digital Specialist position will be open once Rishi moves into Vice-Chair Elect.

**Assignments:**

Lisa Overholser will pick up two computers from Kansas City, transport to Conference and get wiped.

Dot and Bob will arrange to go over materials stored in Kansas City via zoom with Gary Kuntz or other Kansas City area teller.

Trudy will contact Connie and universities in N. Carolina and Tennessee re archiving Ray Hicks materials.

MRM will send most current by-laws to Dot. Dot will post on website.

Dot and Trudy will create an email vote to send to membership re election of Rishi to Vice-Chair Elect position. Board members who wish to do so will send letters of recommendation to Dot to include.

Trudy will write letters to Gary and Debra thanking them for board work.

Linda Marchisio will announce conference scholarship winners once all have accepted the scholarship.

Lisa Williams, Sara deBeer, Delanna Reed will prepare report on NSN board goal prioritization for Feb meeting.

Dot will put an article about history of Tellabration up on Tellabration page on website.

Ad hoc Committee on revitalizing Tellabration will meet next month. (Trudy, Delanna, and Barry)

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

**Meeting adjourned at 2:05.**

**NSN Board Meetings for 2024 (All times are Central Time Zone.)**

- Saturday, January 20 at 12:00 noon
- Tuesday, February 20 at 6:00 pm
- Saturday, March 16 at 12:00 noon
- Tuesday, April 16 at 6:00 pm
- Saturday, May 18 at 12:00 noon
- Tuesday, June 18 at 6:00 pm
- Saturday, July 20 at 12:00 noon (weekend after conference)
- Tuesday, August 20 at 6:00 pm
- Saturday September 21 at 12:00 noon
- Tuesday, October 15 at 6:00 pm
- Tuesday, November 19 at 6:00 pm
- Saturday, December 21 at 12:00 noon