

NSN Board Meeting Agenda
Dec. 16, 2023
12:00 Noon CST

Call to Order: Chair, Trudy Hanson 10 am meeting called to order.

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)**

Board members present: Sara deBeer; Trudy Hanson; Angela Lloyd; Margaret Read MacDonald; Linda Marchisio; Rishi Nixon; Debra Olson-Tolar; Lisa Overholser; Delanna Reed; Barry Williams; Lisa Williams; Linda Yemoto. Dot Cleveland, staff.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

Motion: That the minutes of the October 21, 2023 meeting be approved. Moved by Linda Marchisio. Passed unanimously.

On the Calendar:

- Dec. 16—In Praise of Kindness (online festival) 10:00 too 11:30 a.m.
- Dec. 27—Oars in the Water, 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 7—Women’s Voices—Healing Stories Concert (HSA Fundraiser), 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 13—All Kinds of Love, featuring Carole Morre and M.J. Kang, 7 to 9 p.m.

Officer and Committee Reports:

- President’s Report about recent correspondence
 - End of Year letter sent on Dec. 6 (Thanks to Dot, Rishi, Lisa Williams, and Delanna for their assistance)
 - Inquiry from Benjamin Leonard Chengula, Founder, LetsView Stories (Tanzania)—referred to YES
 - Inquiry from Bora of Storian about partnership—I replied that NSN does not have a policy of endorsing vendors
 - Inquiry from Stephen Schwartz about a gothic storytelling game he has created—Invited him to register for NSN Conference to get feedback from storytellers about his game
 - Inquiry from Mark Lumpkin about Vice Chair Elect position—explained the role of the office and invited him to submit a brief resume to the Nominating Committee
- Treasurer’s Report—Bob Johnson
- Finance Committee Report—Rishi Nixon (includes explanation of giving levels and incentives for Silver, Gold, and Diamond)

\$500 plus Diamond Level: lunch w. board at conference, profile on website, mention in newsletter, thank you and lanyard.

\$100-\$499 Gold Level: mention in newsletter, name on website, thank you letter and lanyard

\$10-\$99 Silver \$10-99 thank you and lanyard.

Solar Eclipse Glasses fund raiser proposal by Lisa Overholser.

April 8 2024 is a solar eclipse. It will be visible in Texas, Arkansas, St. Louis, Indianapolis, Detroit, Cleveland, Toronto.

Motion: That NSN purchase \$5,000 solar eclipse sun glasses at 60c each and contact storytelling organizations to partner with, who would distribute and sell these NSN branded glasses. Moved by Delanna Reed. 9 for; 3 against. Motion passed.

Motion Amended: Partner organizations will buy outright from NSN. Moved by Trudy Hanson. Passed unanimously.

Lisa Williams. Suggests that board members should be donors. Suggests that by-laws reflect this. Discussion. This might prove a deterrent to board member recruitment. Trudy suggests an ad-hoc committee to examine this.

- Kathryn Tucker Windham Scholarship Committee Update—Linda Marchisio
 - Need Selection Committee Volunteers
 - Applications due Jan 1 (date listed on NSN website); Selection to be announced Jan. 13

Linda Marchisio reported. Only one applicant so far. Deadline changed to January 10. Those selected will be informed by Jan 19. Selection committee to be: Linda Marchisio; Debra Olson-Tolar; Linda Yemoto; Lisa Williams..

2024 NSN Conference Update—Margaret Read MacDonald and Delanna Reed—Registration for conference opens on Jan. 20. All but 2 presenters have returned contracts. Dumas Bay being very helpful. Still working on selection of local hotel and contract with shuttle bus company.

- Updates from SIGS—

Linda Yemoto and Claire Nolan (ECO). Linda Yemoto reported. 1st Green Tellabration was held. Monthly swaps continue with seasonal stories this month. Pre-earth day set of workshops planned to provide stories that can be used in earth day. ECO helping with conference.

Lisa Overholser/Barry McWilliams (PRO): Lisa Overholser reported. PRO selected track items for conference. Finalized budget for 2024. Pro will have 4 or 5 events. 5 pm Central Time on Jan 20 PRO will offer an insurance workshop. Programs will be offered quarterly. A program in April; Conference offerings, fall and winter quarter programs.

Angela Lloyd (YES). Angela Lloyd reported: Held meeting in Dec. Worked on budget for 2024. Four story labs will be offered in 2024. Jan 18 Mary Ann Blue from Tejas is doing a lab

with two of her students, a parent, and a librarian. Developing a new storyteller from four directions. \$1500 aside to support panelists for NSN conference, to be awarded by YES.

Lisa Williams (SIO) Lisa Williams reported: A website page for SIO has been created, up now on NSN website. Website page developed reflecting mission, vision, and core values. Core Values will lead decision making. SIO evaluation form sent to members and received 21 responses .A meeting will be held in January. A Women’s Month quarterly program is planned.

- **Reminder: All SIG budgets are due to Bob by Dec. 31.**

Debra Olson-Tolar will be stepping down from the board Jan 1, 2024.

Unfinished Business

- **Determining which goals we want to set for the coming year, based on the summary of concerns submitted by Board members (see below). Delanna has suggested we begin by prioritizing the categories**

Ad hoc committee formed to determine goals. Members Delanna Reed; Lisa Williams; Sara de Beer. Ad hoc committee will report back in February. Sara will initiate zoom meeting.

Summary of NSN Board Concerns

Concerns About Member Involvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining and increasing membership • Promoting involvement of members in committee service and preparing members to serve as board officers (Includes electing a vice-chair elect
Financial Concerns:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing and applying for arts grants to support NSN programming • Work toward increasing our revenue to the point that we can pay a more reasonable amount for a part-time office employee’s work • Prove good stewards of our funds. Preserve our nest egg and increase it. Do not dip into those funds. • Finding ways to build our financial resources (grants, products, programs)
NSN Structure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retaining some regional structure • Re-engage our regional and state representatives • Continue to refine by-laws to reflect who we are at the moment
Leadership Training
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines on committee and SIG leadership, including charters for each SIG and Committee, a starting kit with documents and operational guidelines • Creating a board matrix, evaluating the knowledge and abilities of our board members and identify any gaps. • Leaning into business and communication understandings of storytelling • A comprehensive SIG leadership orientation led by NSN leaders and/or others, creating a handbook

Building a Cohesive Board
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having a comprehensive board member orientation led by leadership and/or others, resulting in a mentor/go-to person and a handbook • Detailed strategic planning, setting goals and creating action plans for the organization • Developing a diverse board with a range of age groups and backgrounds
Partnering with Other Organizations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building, maintaining, and increasing community involvement • Partnering with other like-minded organizations on joint projects

Marketing NSN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing the NSN brand—creating awareness of who we are and what we do • Developing an impact story that is used by leadership and members to promote NSN, increase membership, garner support • Building NSN reputation back up which with build membership as a by-product • Being open minded to look at new ideas including finding ways to encourage new telling styles (such as digital storytelling) • Reflect on what ISN'T being done by the other storytelling organizations and try to meet those needs.
Annual Conference
Continue to offer annual conferences to bring our community together

- **Forming an Ad Hoc Committee to make recommendations about Tellabration, 2024**
- Ad hoc committee to make recommendations about marketing Tellabration 2024. Ad hoc committee members: Debra Olson-Toller; Sara DeBeer; Barry Williams; Trudy Hanson

New Business:

- **Potential Fundraiser—Selling NSN branded custom eclipse glasses---Lisa Overholser. See above.**
- **Setting meeting dates for 2024—Do we want to keep the alternating schedule of 3rd Saturdays (at noon) and Third Tuesdays (at 6 p.m.). Will be kept the same.**
- **Changing Website to reflect the new giving levels**
- **Other Concerns?**

Assignments:

Lisa Overholser to order 5,000 branded sun-glasses. To contact storytelling and other groups to get orders for glasses. To mail glasses to these groups and collect money. To devise other ways to market the glasses if need be.

MRM to work on changing by-laws to show that we hold elections in July at annual meeting.

Linda Marchisio to change date of conference scholarship deadline. Linda Marchisio; Debra Olson-Tolar; Linda Yemoto; Lisa Williams to select winners.

Delanna Reed; Lisa Williams; Sara de Beer to work on goal setting.

Debra Olson-Toller; Sara DeBeer; Barry Williams; Trudy Hanson to work on Tellabration promotions.

Motion: That the meeting be adjourned. Moved by Lisa Overholser. Passed unanimously.