

NSN Annual Meeting

July 13, 2024

Dumas Bay Centre, Federal Way, Washington

Present: President, Trudy Hansen; Vice-President Delanna Reed; Secretary Margaret Read MacDonald; Angela Lloyd, Linda Yemoto, Claire Nolan, Lisa Williams, Gwen Napier, Barry McWilliams.

Meeting opened at 1:15 pm.

Welcome: Trudy Hanson, NSN Board Chair.

Motion: That the minutes of the 2023 Virtual Annual Meeting be approved. Moved by Cora Newcomb. Passed unanimously.

Introduction of Current NSN Board Members.

Treasurer's Report: Lisa Overholser presented a Financial Report from Treasurer Bob Johnson.

Total NSN assets \$145,272. Report available on NSN website.

This was followed by a lengthy discussion of grant writing possibilities. Tim Livengood has many years of experience in writing grants and could assist if we found a granting institution that matched our needs.

2024 Conference Committee. Margaret Read MacDonald and Delanna Reed.

2025 Conference Committee. Leslie Shelly and Gwen Napier announced the 2025 NSN Annual Meeting will be held in Atlanta July 17-20 at Kennesaw University.

Membership Update: Dot Cleveland. Reminders were sent to those with delinquent dues this year with the result that our membership is growing once more. At present we have 515 individual members and 63 organizational members.

NSN Website Update: Dot Cleveland reported at length on the changes and clean-up operations re our website which she and our webmasters have been working on. It includes a link to purchase the new Storytelling Event Producer's Manual.

Revised Tellabration Guide: Trudy Hanson and Dot Cleveland. The Tellabration manual has been condensed to a quick to understand info sheet and is posted on the NSN website.

Special Interest Group reports:

Environmental Storytelling (ECO): Report by Linda Yemoto and Claire Nolan. They had many events in the conference program. Over 50 members, though only a little more than one year old. Planning for a third virtual Earth Up. Earth Up One and Two are still available on our website store. ECO has monthly swap, anyone welcome.

Storytelling In Organizations (SIO): Report by Dr. Lisa Williams. 71 members, grown from 50. 42% growth. Examination of goals in process. \$6,676.76 in SIO Sig account. SIO had a program in

September 2023, Ted Parkhurst gave presentation in 2024, Artem Mushin-Makedonskiy did a presentation, Jim Brule offered a workshop on the Neuroscience of Storytelling. Lisa represented SIO at the Virginia Storytelling Alliance. At today's meeting she distributed a brochure with info about the SIO Sig.

Producers and Organizers (PRO): Report by Lisa Overholser and Barry McWilliams. They are offering quarterly webinars. They have had webinars on social media and insurance. The SIG meets every 4th Tuesday at 2 pm central, virtually. Their *Storytelling Event Production Guide* is now available on Amazon.com.

Youth, Educators, and Storytellers (YES): Report by Angela Lloyd. YES has \$16,000+ in their account. They offer four virtual storylabs a year. Mary Anne Blue did a Storylab on working with youth, bringing librarians, children and their parents into the conversation. Storylab in April offered a workshop with three professionals on marketing to schools and libraries. More Storylabs are planned with Roger Jenkins from Singapore with Ramya hosting from India. Another marketing Storylab with Tim Lowry is planned for this fall. YES is looking for young people to add to the YES board.

NEW BUSINESS

Reminder that membership in NSN includes one SIG membership.

Information: The NSN Board is working on a number of projects, including formalizing a committee that would distribute funds to honor memory of Ray Hicks and considering strategic planning initiatives that could include hiring a consultant.

- The Kathryn Tucker Windham Scholarship for conference attendance was offered this year with 5 recipients. [These were funded by the 2023 Auction Proceeds].
- Election of Vice Chair Elect Dr. Caleb George Hubbard, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies, Department of Communication Studies, Sam Houston State University. M.A. in Communication from West Texas A & M University; Ph.D. in Communication, University of Oklahoma. Current research focuses on parasocial relationships.

Motion: That Caleb Hubbard be elected Vice Chair Elect of the National Storytelling Network.

Moved by Trudy Hansen representing the Nominating Committee. Passed unanimously.

Questions and answers:

Jo Radner spoke about the J. J. Renaux Mentorship award. Applications are due mid-September.

This grant supports an experienced teller to mentor a new teller.

Announcement was made about the online auction organized by Kate Dudding and Marilyn McPhie. Items can be donated beginning in August.

Rachel Hedman wonders if Member Organizations can have more involvement in NSN.

After a call for new board members, Emily Stamets volunteered to serve on the board as Membership Coordinator.

Milbre Burch spoke in support of a virtual component of every conference.

Jo Radner spoke of Sponsored Member Program by which members may apply for grants using the NSN 501c3. NSN takes 8% of the grant as administrating cost.

Margaret Burke asks for more reaching out to other national storytelling organizations, such as NABS.

Question about why we no longer have Brimstone Grants. Brimstone Grants were a gift from a private donor who gave two \$5,000 grants each year for several years. No longer in existence.

Announcements--Oracle Award Presentations begin at 6:45 p.m. July 13. The presentation of awards and the concert will be live streamed and open to the public.

Passing of the Gavel to incoming NSN Board Chair, Delanna Reed

Motion: That the meeting be adjourned. Moved by audience members. Passed unanimously.

Meeting closed at 3:17.