

NSN Board Meeting Minutes
August 20, 2024
6:00 p.m. CDT

Call to Order: Chair, Delanna Reed

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 active. Therefore, we need at least 8 board members present to conduct any business)

Melissa Fees, Trudy Hanson, Caleb Hubbard, Angela Lloyd, Margaret Read MacDonald, Barry McWilliams, Gwen Napier, Rishi Nixon, Claire Nolan, Delanna Reed, Lesley Shelly, Lisa Williams. Staff: Bob Johnson, Dot Cleveland.

Meeting called to order at 6 pm CDT by Delanna Reed.

Review and Approval of July 20, 2024 Minutes.

Motion: That the minutes of the July 20, 2024 meeting be approved. Moved by Trudy Hanson. Passed unanimously.

Officer and Committee Reports:

Chair's Report—Presentation to ASST August 5; convening the executive committee.

- Delanna and Michael Carson, president of ISC met with ASST to share their goals for NSN and ISC.
- Last board meeting, an initial ad hoc committee formed to define board positions: Delanna Reed, Trudy Hanson, Dot Cleveland and Margaret MacDonald. Trudy drafted a Leadership Guide and presented it to the Ad Hoc committee for feedback. Final changes were approved by the executive committee.
- Dot Cleveland was appointed as NSN member to the executive committee.

Past Chair Report – Trudy presented the new Leadership Guide. This will be used by all new board members and was found to be a useful tool by current board members as well. It will be posted on the members page of the website.

By-Laws committee report – Margaret Read MacDonald. See attachment. Digital/Technical Specialist position renamed Public Relations Coordinator. This position and that of Publications Manager were defined.

Treasurer's Report—Bob Johnson, See Treasurer's Report on NSN website.

Finance Committee Report/Fundraising Committee Report--Lisa Overholser No report.
 Lisa Williams withdraws from Fundraising Committee.

2024 Ad Hoc Conference Evaluation committee report: Lisa Williams, Margaret Read MacDonald, Delanna Reed, Gwen Napier, and Leslie Shelley.

Conference Evaluation Report: Delanna Reed noted:

- Lisa Williams revised Delanna's evaluation items presented at the July board meeting to create a Google survey. [RDK1]
- Conference, location, workshops, social activities all had good comments.

Registration process 88% satisfied

Payment options 99% satisfied

Dot and Margaret were appreciated. Dot was thanked for answering questions so promptly.

Respondents liked the location. Walking down the hall to shower was a complaint for some.

88% Prefer to be on site with conference.

69% prefer meal package rather than going to restaurants.

The variety of topics was appreciated. Topics were deemed helpful, presenters were knowledgeable.

- Things to change for next year:
More areas where folks could sit and visit.
More time between events.
77% wanted time to socialize.

Also noted: 40.7% of respondents do not belong to a SIG. The board wonders if members among that 40.7% understand the selection of a SIG comes with their membership. Bob & Dot explain the info is on the website and membership registration form.

This led to a discussion of where the \$25 goes if members don't join. It goes to MAL (member at large), an account holding the \$25 per person for those who do not select a SIG. \$2050 is in account as of July 1, 2024. Lisa Williams pointed out that SIGs could use these funds. As a result, SIG chairs will meet prior to the next board meeting on 9/21/24 to discuss how to use this money.

- We had 168 full-time attendees. 27 parttime. 195 total attendees. 113 responded to the evaluation. The 87 virtual attendees were not sent the evaluation form. Heather Forest gave the board a virtual evaluation immediately after the conference.

Other comments:

The information proved very helpful to the conference organizers of this past conference and the 2025 Atlanta organizers. Next year evaluation options may be available during the conference.

2025 NSN Conference—Report from Gwendolyn Napier and Leslie Shelley

- Kennesaw University is working on the contract.
- Plans were changed based on survey. Atlanta will reserve more dorm rooms, rather than using hotels and shuttles. Some dorm rooms could include suites with refrigerators.
- Rishi says financials are looking good for the Atlanta conference.

Unfinished Business

Update on search for new board members: Appoint Leslie Shelley as Director at Large; Search for Publications Manager and PR Director (nominating committee?)

Motion: That the board appoint Lesley Shelley to the NSN board. Moved by Margaret Read MacDonald. Passed unanimously.

Updates from SIGS

Linda Yemoto and Claire Nolan (ECO)

Two full tables of members turned out for the SIG dinner at the conference. Eco Sig events at the conference included popular early morning events, the two filled PowellsWood tours, which gave participants a chance to socialize in a beautiful location. The Eco August monthly swap was well attended. Members viewed a webinar for science writers and discussed. The September swap will be the first anniversary of their monthly swaps. The Eco Sig hopes to do an ECO TELLABRATION in November. The Sig continues to grow in members. Claire will get SIG leaders together to discuss how to use the MAL funds. Might be used as seed money to start new SIGS. An International Tellers SIG could be an idea.

Lisa Williams (SIO)

Lani Peterson did a presentation which drew 27 participants. Presentations or workshops are planned for September, October, and possibly November. SIO will take a break during Dec-Jan and begin programming again in Feb.

Lisa Overholser/Barry McWilliams (PRO) PRO Sig meets week.

Angela Lloyd (YES) YES is hosting a Story Lab with Roger Jenkins, dealing with images and story starters. Tim Lowry will be offering a program 11/19 on Booking and Marketing in Schools. YES was asked by members if they would consider having youth members. Could they sponsor programs for youth to tell? The YES board discussed supporting organizations that are already doing this. The Storytelling in Higher Education SIG folded into YES in 2019. Kevin Cordi is interested in finding a way to encourage university students to tell. YES is working on their by-laws. Angela noted also that the Oracle committee met. They have edited the manual for the Oracle Committee. Mary Hamilton is the new chair. Sara Juba Addison has resigned from the Oracle Committee. They are sorting out what their committee needs to do, as opposed to the NSN staff. Rishi is interested in storytelling in the higher education group. Maybe involve some in next conference.

New Business

- Suggestions for site of 2026 Storytelling Conference. (Remember we need local storytelling groups to help with venue selection and managing the conference.)
- NEST could help with the conference in NE but would have to combine conferences. Minneapolis had been slated to hold the NSN conference before COVID. Delanna will check with them to see if they are still interested.
- Need plan for photography at conference and other NSN/SIG events. Possibly find volunteers assigned to specific programs from which we need photos.

Post photos of Oracle Awards recipients on Facebook, Instagram and the website: These were posted July 15 on Facebook.

Adjournment

Motion: That the meeting be adjourned. Moved by Angela Lloyd. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m. CDT

NSN Board Meetings for 2024 (Central Time Zone)

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

ATTACHMENT 1.

By Laws Committee Report

The By-Laws committee (Linda Marchisio, Bob Johnson and Margaret Read MacDonald) propose the following changes to the by-laws.

Changes to By-Laws suggested by the executive committee, 8/6/24.

Current By-laws:

7.17 Digital/Technical Specialist. The Digital/Technical Specialist shall be appointed by the Chair of the Board.

7.18 Publications Manager. The Publications Manager will oversee all digital or print publications created by the National Storytelling Network and shall be appointed by the Chair of the Board.

Suggested revision:

7.17 Public Relations Coordinator—is appointed by the chair of the board, and oversees the organization's social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram), posting relevant information and photos of storytelling events. This officer is charged with public relations for NSN and promoting NSN events.

7.18 Publications Manager—is appointed by the chair of the board and oversees the work of the Newsletter Committee and coordinates the publication and the design of print and online materials by NSN. Works closely with the NSN Webmaster.