

NSN Board Meeting Minutes  
July 18, 2023  
6:00 p.m. CDT

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

Present: Trudy Hanson, Delanna Reed, Margaret Read MacDonald, Rishi Nixon. Sara DeBeer, Angela Lloyd, Barry McWilliams, Debra Olsen-Tolar, Lisa Overholser, Lisa Williams, Linda Yemoto. Fran Stallings as ECO rep until Linda could join. Staff: Dot Cleveland, Bob Johnson.  
Absent: Gary Kuntz., Linda Marchisio.

Meeting opened at 6:03 by President Trudy Hansen

**Motion: That the minutes of the June 17, 2023 meeting be approved. Moved by Delanna Reed. Passed unanimously.**

**On the Calendar:**

- July 24—Submission deadline for NSN Auction items
- July 27—YES Story Lab, Interconnected tales, 7 to 8:30 p.m.
- Aug. 14-18—NSN Online Auction
- Aug. 26—Michigan Bright Water Storytelling Festival, 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Aug. 31—ASST You and I, Couples Tandem Telling, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

**Officer and Committee Reports:**

- Assessment of Storage Items List—Dot Cleveland and Bob Johnson

Still working on it. Paying \$200 a month for storage.

- Finance Committee Report—Rishi Nixon

Grant and Fundraising committees taken in as part of Finance Committee for the time being until more member committee members can be recruited.

Treasurer, Bob Johnson reports:

NSN is healthy. Still in the black. See financial data on the NSN website.

- Nominating Committee Report—Trudy Hanson We are trying to find someone to be Vice Chair Elect. Everyone asked is already committed to local storytelling organizational work. Search continues.
- 2024 NSN Conference Update—Margaret Read MacDonald and Delanna Reed

Conference committee consists of: CO-Chairs: Delanna Reed and Margaret Read MacDonald. Lisa Williams, SIO SIG; Linda Yemoto ECO SIG; Sara Armstrong YES SIG; Lisa Overholser PRO SIG; Barry McWilliams PRO SIG/ and Seattle Storyteller's

Guild; Eva Abrahm Seattle Storyteller Guild; Rishi Nixon Finance Committee; Dot Cleveland, Staff.

NSN Auction Update—30 items had been donated as of July 15. More needed. Deadline July 24.

Updates from SIGS—Linda Yemoto, Lisa Williams, Lisa Overholser/Barry McWilliams, Angela Lloyd

Linda Yemoto: ECO They are contacting potential members to get more members paid up. They need to recruit an executive board. They are hoping to do a pre-earth day event with public domain tales folks could use for Earth Day. They will be providing a green stream for the NSN 2024 conference.

Lisa Williams SIO According to the records she was given the SIG has 23 members now. Not sure how many are active. No contact info for 11. (But Rishi had a larger number on his paid lis...44 paid up members). Lisa will work on updating the roster of members. Lisa had many questions, most of which Dot was able to answer re access to web, use of mail chimp, access to zoom, and already available documentation re committee.

All SIGS had similar concerns. Dot explained that access to putting things on the website needs to be done by one individual to avoid website confusions. Also we have limited access during the upgrade taking place now. Any SIG needing to post items can send them to Dot.

Lisa Overholser PRO A program on How to Build a Board will be offered Sept 18<sup>th</sup>. In January a program re Insurance Issues will be planned. This SIG meets monthly. A Producer's Guide is coming out soon in digital format for a nominal fee.

PRO wants to put Jeff Gere's recent virtual program up on Youtube. NSN is currently using both Youtube and Vimeo to post.

Angela Lloyd YES SIG will not meet during summer, due to many members moving. Angela is trying to locate the YES by-laws. [EDITORIAL COMMENT: Type "Yes by-laws" in search window on NSN website]

More SIG discussion followed. SIG's used to have their own websites. These were consolidated into the NSN website to save money and add consistency.

It was suggested that we need a list of things SIGS need to do to become a SIG.

There seems some confusion about where and what we have saved online. Sara Beth Nelson once put together a Google drive. We have unlisted Youtube materials up. Bob Johnson has access to a plethora of old files on his P drive.

Bob suggested that the SIGS might want to contribute some amount toward the website rebuild, since it benefits their parts of the website.

Dot suggests we need to have SIGS all using one template to post their info.

Both YES and PRO have Facebook pages.

### **Unfinished Business**

- Host for 2025 Summer Conference—Trudy has contacted the Southern Order of Storytellers. President Gwendolyn Napier replied that they are interested in hosting and would like to know specific tasks they would be given.
- Vice Chair Elect Position—Trudy contacted at least 10 NSN members recommended for this position. So far, all declined. Maybe we should consider a currently serving board member for this position?

No response from board members.

- Evaluation of General Membership Meeting and the Oracle Awards Presentation/Concert—55 people were logged on for the general membership meeting; 53 people were logged on for the Oracle Awards. Thanks to Delanna, Angela, and Rishi for the Oracle Awards presentation and meeting!

### **New Business:**

- **Coordination of SIG programs**—Lisa Overholser has recommended that we allow time during board meetings for SIGS to announce programs and coordinate events.

The protocol followed today seemed useful. Lisa mentioned that a SIG handbook is needed. Template for adding events to webpage will be created.

- **Possible Fundraiser**—The suggestion was made during the general membership meeting that we needed to collect members' accounts of their experiences in NSN. The Tejas Storytelling Association is doing something similar. They have requested that their members send tributes to storytellers to be included in an anthology. They have priced the book at \$21.95 per copy. They have set prices for the tribute pages at \$225 to a half page and \$450 for 2 half -pages. Requested materials are being sent to Ted Parkhurst who I am assuming is publishing the book.

The suggestion was made that we do a StoryCorps type production about the history of NSN. 2025 would be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we might work toward making something available then. It was suggested that a room be set aside at the 2024 conference for members to record their experiences with NSN.

- **Lifetime Membership**—Should we ask the Membership Committee or the Finance Committee to look into pricing of Lifetime Membership and make recommendations for any changes needed?

Current fee is \$1100. Issue sent to Membership and Finance Committee for evaluation.

- **Next Generation Task Force**—Rishi has suggested we need some sort of formalized entity that could address the concerns and needs of our younger members. Would it be best as an ad hoc committee? A task force? A discussion group?

Rishi explained that the new discussion group would be a collection of NSN members, preferably with experience in a youth-facing role (i.e., librarian, teacher, or professor) that would be interested in working on initiatives to engage a new generation into storytelling and into NSN. These members would start out a preliminary discussion group, with a deadline, to brainstorm a report recommending youth engagement initiatives and projects. This report would be submitted to the board, and if determined to be feasible, a committee would be created with the charter to initiate said recommendations.

He also suggested that members could be contacted from YES SIG because of their existing experience in this area.

- **Motion: That we add Discussion Group to the NSN organizational structure in the by-laws. Moved by Margaret Read MacDonald. Motion passed.**

The By laws committee is tasked with developing develop language to describe a Discussion Group.

Bob has info on forming a discussion group on his P drive.

**Offering Stipends to attend the 2024 Conference**—using money designated for grants. Can we do this? Tabled. Considering how to fund.

Unclear whether the grant money in our budget can be used for this as it is designated for certain use. Interest in doing this, especially as a grant for first time conference attendees. Finance committee and Conference Committee will follow up.

**Motion: That the policy of not allowing a board member to perform at an NSN conference be waived in the case of Angela Lloyd for the 2024 Seattle Conference. Moved by Margaret Read MacDonald. 6 for, 2 abstained. Motion passed.**

**Motion: That the number of members needed to form a SIG be changed from 20 to 15. Moved by Margaret Read MacDonald. Motion passed unanimously.**

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

**Meeting adjourned at 8:10 Central time.**

**Assignments:**

Nominating Committee: Find a candidate for Vice Chair Elect

By laws committee: Firm up language for Discussion Group

Present language for change of SIG number from 20-15 for next board meeting.

Finance Committee: Consider best fee for Lifetime members.

Evaluate possibilities for giving grant for conference expenses.

Conference Committee: Finalize budget for 2024 conference.

Rishi: Pursue Next Generation iteration.

Bob: Search P Drive for Discussion Group info and send to Board.

Everyone: Donate items to auction!

**Dates of NSN Board Meetings:**

Saturday, August 19 at Noon

Tuesday, September 19 at 6 pm

Saturday, October 21 at Noon

Tuesday, November 21 at 6 pm

Saturday, December 16 at Noon