

Northlands Storytelling Network
Board of Directors Meeting
August 18, 2006
Minutes

Friday 8/18/06 - Tinley Park, Illinois - Called to Order 6:35 pm

By President Kevin Strauss

Present were Board members Dick Strader, Jenifer Strauss, Gwyn Calvetti, Judy Sima, Greg Weiss, Don Falkos, Hardy Garrison, Kevin Strauss, Steve Marriott, Katie Knutson, Colleen Shaskin, Tina Rohde, Yvonne Healy and Business Manager, Karen Wolscheid.

- Checkin with all present.
- Conference 2006 - Review of statistics:
 - Statistics:
 - While expenses are slightly higher, income is higher. Resulting \$1,100 ahead of budget.
 - Attendance increased slightly.
 - Conclusion: We're doing very well at creating a good conference, satisfying membership, being fiscally responsible, and generating funds to seed the future and fund grants.
- Conference 2007 ideas:
 - Graduate Credit offering was successful and will continue with same member as coordinator.
 - CEUs: Decision will be made by Conference Committee. Issue is complicated due to differences between state requirements.
 - Fringe: Much discussion about offering opportunities for non-juried, lottery-based material.
Motion 1: Northlands will create time in conference schedule for non-juried material and advise membership.
Approved.
Action: Conference Committee will work out the logistics and inform Board.
- New Voices:
 - New Voices (tellers age 18-35): Discussion of Northlands ongoing efforts since 2002 to fund and support young adults.
 - Northlands Board discussed information given by directors are active in the NSN New Voices group.
 - Much discussion ensued on how best to support and encourage this demographic.
Motion 2: One slot per concert for Friday, Saturday, Sunday allotted to age 18-35 for 1 year provided the quality is of equal or greater to the other submissions.
Approved.
Action: Conference Committee will work out details with Concerts & Calls.

Motion 3: Adjourn at 11:00 pm

Approved

Action: 8:00 am Conference Committee meeting. 9:00 am Board re-convenes.

- Adjourn 11:00 pm Friday-

- SATURDAY - Re-Convene 9:08 am -

by Conference Chair, Greg Weiss. Conference Chair traditionally manages the workshop selection/conference planning section of Board meeting.

- Conference Committee met earlier and reports that Conference Committee identified areas for action and the people who will be asked to handle certain responsibilities and initiatives.
- Conference Committee adjusted schedule to provide 3 workshops on Sunday morning plus 2 swaps (Sacred & Profane).
- New Sunday Schedule
 - 9-10:30 workshops & swaps
 - 11-12:15 concert. Sunday MC will let those who need to leave go & keep everyone else present.
 - 12:30-1:00 closing
 - Recognize that concert change will reduce public attendance but increase Northlands attendance.
- Board agreed to dedicate Friday to 3-hour workshops only due to lack of acceptable 6 hour workshops.

- Friday Intensives Selected

3 hour Friday Pre-Conference Workshops: 3 in morning, 4 in afternoon

Strauss, Jenifer - Beginning Storytelling

Jacobson – Getting it right. (Business of Storytelling)

Miller, David Joe – Making \$50K (Business of Storytelling)

Johnson, Leanne – Creating Music (Skills)

Martin, Richard – Sophisticated Tastes: Folktales for Adults (Skills)

Strauss, Kevin – Publishing (Business of Storytelling)

Chace, Karen – Storytelling Club (Education)

- Scheduling: Discussed scheduling the 7 Friday offerings with 3 in the morning and 4 in the afternoon. Include an Education workshop in the morning; and the Beginning workshop in the afternoon.

Friday Schedule: (conference committee can tweak the schedule as needed)

AM

Get it Right – grants

Publishing – K. Strauss

Story Club – Education

PM

Make \$50 K - Miller

Music - Johnson

Beginning – J. Strauss

Sophisticated Tales - Martin

- Handouts: Board discussed asking presenters to give permission for Handouts to be posted online for a limited time. This enables attendees to benefit from the workshops they chose to bypass.

- Call for Proposals: The additional information Northlands requests greatly improves the quality of submitted proposals. But it does not legibly fit current 2 page format. Some proposals used fonts which were too small, others forced margins and line spacing.

Motion 4:: Northlands will change the Call for Proposals to increase to 3 pages maximum
Approved.

Action: Business Manager will make change in next Call for Proposals in 2007 for 2008.

Motion 5: Sunday Board meeting to be rescheduled from morning to after the Closing, e.g. 1:00-3:00 pm. This allows Board to attend and support morning events; and also gives Board time to assist Resource Room Manager with resource room teardown.

Approved.

Action: Board will make arrangements to attend Board meeting and delay leaving until 3:00 pm.

Motion 6: Board will approve the Friday slate as stated.

Approved.

Action: Conference committee and Business Manager will notify presenters.

Motion 7: Table the review of Beginner workshop proposal until later.

Approved.

Action: Review delayed till later.

Motion 8: consider Friday Intensive presenters for presentation of different workshop during conference proper (Saturday & Sunday).

Approved.

Action: Board considers weekend workshop proposals from accepted Friday Intensive presenters.

Motion 9: Untable review of Beginner workshop proposal.

Approved.

Action: Board reviews and accepts Beginner workshop.

Motion 10: Reschedule Sunday concert to 11:00-12:15, add 3 workshops on Sunday morning concurrent with 2 swaps.

Approved.

Action: Conference Committee will work out details of schedule.

Motion 11: Same presenter may present in more than one Saturday/Sunday conference workshop.

Denied.

Action: None needed.

Motion 12: Given the large number of 3 hour proposals, Board will consider including 3 hour presentation during weekend conference.

Approved.

Action: Board considers 3 hour Friday proposals for weekend workshops.

Conference Workshops Selected (Saturday-Sunday)

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1) Wollsheid – Design Tips | (Business of) |
| 2) Gorham – Humor | (Skills/Fun) |
| 3) Levin – Tall Tales | (Skills/Fun) |
| 4) Gilman – Difference | (Healing) |
| 5) Black – Audition Tapes | (Business of) |
| 6) Hoks – History | (Education) |
| 7) Umber – Curriculum & Storytelling | (Education) |
| 8) Garrett – High School Storytelling | (Education) |
| 9) Coffie – Bar Stories | (Showcase/) |
| 10) Martin – Flesh on Bones | (Beginner) |
| 11) Norelle – African-American boys & college students | (Showcase/Healing) |
| 12) Ruehlman – Building Thematic Programs | (Skills) Change Title |
| 13) Heuer – Healing (Celebrating) | (Healing) |
| 14) Falkos – Abraham | (Showcase/ Faith) |
| 15) Farran – Who Do you Think I Am | (Showcase/Healing) |
| 16) Speller – Physical 3 hour | (Fun! Skills) |

ALTERNATES

- Halford – Seasonal Celtic Stories (Healing/Jungian)
- Slayton – Props (Beginner/Preschool)

Motion 13: Schedule 3 hour improvisation into afternoon sessions.
Approved

Action: Conference committee will schedule it so.

Motion 14: Accept the above-listed slate of workshops.
Approved

Action: Conference committee and Karen will notify presenters.

- Adjourn for dinner. Re-Convene 8:25 pm. -

Motion 15: Accept conference theme “Well-worn paths & roads less traveled”.
Approved

Action: Business Manager and Conference Committee will incorporate theme into conference materials.

• Concerts

○ Young Adults

Conference Committee realized that there was a logical fallacy in Motion passed to have slots for Young Adults in each concert if they scored equally or greater scores.

Choose to have concert tellers juried on equal basis regardless of age. With caveat that Board members actively solicit concert submissions by people under 35 year olds. Northlands will not issue an age-specific call. All applicants will be

held to the same standards. When soliciting applicants, we'll remind them that we have scholarships for ages 18-35. Clarification: Funds are set aside for 18-35 as most needy since children under 18 have parents who fund them.

Motion 16: rescind the motion from Friday night that "One slot per concert for Friday, Saturday, Sunday be allotted to age 18-35 for 1 year provided the quality is of equal or greater to the other submissions.

Approved

Action: Concert slots will be filled without consideration of age.

o Member Feedback

Board extensively discussed member opinions about concerts. Positive responses made up 71%. Minority critical evaluations were discussed to see if there were improvements we might make.

Board re-affirms its support of decisions of Concert Chair, Emcees and selection process.

Motion 17: Board will continue the existing selection process as is.

Approved.

Action: Audition and selection process will remain the same.

o Other Concerns

Conference Committee will make recommendations in November Board meeting regarding:

- defining Family concert to aid story selection and outreach to Madison public
- schedule of concerts
- defining Finale concert
- possible re-design of concert application to allow both teller and reviewer to suggest which audience for the story
- changing submission date from current Jan. 15.

Motion 18: adjourn until 9:00 am Sunday.

Approved.

Action:

- Adjourn 10:30 pm Saturday-

- SUNDAY - Re-Convene 9:08 am -

• Sponsorship Proposal

Board considered a proposal to accept Wos Studio as a sponsor at Northlands Conference 2007.

Motion 19: Northlands engage the services of Wos Studios for 2007 conference.

Denied.

Action: Board further discussed the idea of sponsorship, our obligations to membership, and need for more information.

Motion 20: Investigation Wos Studio proposal will continue as an email discussion and come to a conclusive decision by September 30.

Approved.

Action: Designated Board member will contact Wos Studio to obtain information and present it to Board via email for vote by September 30.

- Definition of Storytelling

Board briefly discussed the need for a workable definition of storytelling.

Motion 21: Board will pursue a definition of storytelling via email discussion.

Approved.

Action: President will manage an email discussion about definitions of storytelling for decision at November meeting.

- Email Voting

Motion 22: Email voting policy will amended that email subject line for votes will state “VOTE REQUIRED” in capital letters.”

Approved.

Action: Addition will be so added to policy and put into effect by Board.

- Grant Review

Motion 23: Northlands respectfully declines Story City application since their timeline prohibits fulfillment of our grant requirements to include us in their publicity.

Approved.

Action: Business Manager notifies Story City of rejection and encourages them to apply earlier next year.

- Meeting Dates:

- November 10-12 in western Michigan.
- January 12-14 in LaCrosse, Wisconsin
- April 26-29, 2007 in Madison at Conference
- Future dates will be determined at November meeting.

Board meeting concluded at 10:10 am Sunday, August 20, 2006.

- Additional Business:

An email vote was called and conducted after August meeting.

Motion 24: email on 8/22/06. Board approves minutes of April 2006 Board meeting at conference.

Approved 8/27/06

Action: Approval recorded in Secretary’s August 2006 minutes.