

**Northlands Storytelling Network
Board of Directors Meeting:
January 11-13, 2008**

Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake, WI
Called to order 6:50pm by President Greg Weiss

Board of Directors Present:

President - Greg Weiss	Vice President - Marilyn Kinsella
President Elect – Gwyn Calvetti	Secretary – Yvonne Healy
Past President – Kevin Strauss	

State Representatives:

Janet Jones – WI, Dick Strader – MI, Ben Rosenfield – IL, Bev Heintz - IA

Appointed Directors:

Judy Sima, Steve Marriott

Minnesota Fringe 2008

Kevin moved that we approve \$400 for Fringe entry fee, and that we approve \$400 for the payment of producer. Judy seconds.

Discussion: None further. Motion carried.

Grant requests:

1. National Storytelling Conference sponsorship of workshop presenters (payment for fees).

Ben moves that we not discuss this grant, and create a sponsorship instead for the amount of grant request. Kevin seconds. Greg moves that we add the stipulation that the same requirements apply as with a grant request, for \$1000. Kevin seconds the amended motion.

Discussion: Centered on what kind of precedent we've set if we approve this. Suggestion made that the sponsorship of each workshop be announced orally at beginning of workshop.

Motion carries.

Ben moves that we deny this grant. Seconded by Bev.

2. Bill Gurnan: The Story Collector

Yvonne has visited the website. Copyright stays with the storyteller. Stories must be personal true story. Interesting concept.
Concern expressed that he is asking to receive money to maintain an ad-free site, and he is placing the grant money into his income rather than expenses, which is not an acceptable condition of our granting procedure.

Kevin moves that we do not approve this grant request. Bev seconds. Motion carries.

By-law and policy updates:

Description of board commitments has not been written. Ben signing on to this task as convener.

Committee---Steve Marriott, Ben Rosenfeld (convener) and Karen Wollscheid.

Board is charged to create job descriptions for each position. Take notes and bring them to the April meeting to assist committee in completing this by-law/policy task.

Future meeting dates and tentative locations:

August 15-16-17 Illinois
November 14-15-16 Eastern Iowa--LeClair
January 9-10-11, 2009 Green Lake WI
April 23-24-25-26, 2009

Nominating Committee—Kevin reporting.

Darlene Neumann—Secretary
Marcia Guitierrez-Treasurer

Recommend appointment of those people by the board.

Kevin moves that we appoint Marcia Guitierrez as treasurer for 2008-09. Judy seconds. Motion passes.

Ben moves that we appoint Darlene Neumann as secretary. Dick seconds. Motion carries.

Michigan and Minnesota will need new state representatives. One Michigan member has stepped forward. State gatherings will elect new representatives in April.

Board restructuring:

Very detailed discussion regarding current Executive Board positions.

Current positions:

Vice President: Concerts

President-Elect: Conference

President: Board meeting convener
Past President: Nominating committee

At the present time, a person agreeing to serve on the Executive Board is making a four year commitment. Finding members who are willing to make such a long-term commitment has been a challenge, providing the impetus for this agenda item and the intense discussion that followed. Many different possibilities were put forth, and the pros and cons of each were debated around the Board.

Summary of discussion: Wanting to separate conference chair with presidential chair. Two year commitment in each track. “Apprenticeship” could be board members or Northlands members who follow and aid, possibly stepping into the conference chairpersons’s job. Conference chair has a committee, and this can look different from one year to the next. Board appoints the chair, the chair chooses the committee.

Kevin moves that we create conference coordinator and assistant coordinator Board positions, eliminating the positions of vice president and president-elect, *with concurrent amendment of bylaws to reflect these changes.* (as opposed to the current four year executive track). Second by Judy.

Discussion: Discussion centered around need to amend bylaws to reflect any board structure changes, the timeline for implementation of any new board structure and assorted logistical concerns.
Steve asks that motion be amended to include amendment of the bylaws as needed.

Greg calls the question. Motion carries.

Ben moves that the executive board, which has a succession, consists of a vice president/president elect, and president, secretary and treasurer, with concurrent amendment of bylaws to reflect these changes. Janet seconds.

Discussion: Concern expressed that we clarify new roles and jobs required by the changes in our board. Should there be an optional position of past president?

Ben calls the question. Motion carries.

Judy moves that a person must serve for two years on the board before becoming eligible to be vice-president. Steve seconds.

Discussion: Suggestion made to allow the option to accept a real firecracker who comes on the board after only one year. Motion carries.

Discussion regarding the position of “past president.”
Agreement: institutional memory

Judy moves that we create a position of director emeritus. This person must have served as president. Bev seconds.

Bev gave an example of individuals who have never been president who have a wealth of institutional memory. Suggestion made to change the motion to have four years' directorship.

Judy amended her motion to state that we create a position of director emeritus. This person must have served at least four consecutive years as a director on the board, offered first to outgoing president, with duties to include chair of long range planning and nominating committees, changing the bylaws accordingly. Bev seconds.

Motion carries.

Judy moves that we appoint Greg as director emeritus. Yvonne seconds.

Discussion: Clarification that this is for 08-09.

Motion carries.

Changes to treasurer's position/duties:

Work group consisting of Ben Rosenfeld and Karen Wollscheid spent time during break looking at details regarding treasurer's position and presented their recommendations to the board.

Ben moved that board accept changes to treasurer's job description in bylaws regarding relationship to all transactions and reporting. Judy seconds.

Motion carries.

New Executive Committee

As of the April 2008 Board Meeting, this will be the Executive Committee:

President-Gwyn Calvetti

Vice President/Conference Coordinator-Marilyn Kinsella

Secretary- Darlene Neumann

Treasurer-Marcia Guitierrez

With Greg serving as Director Emeritus. Marilyn and Gwyn will complete their terms of office as they originally understood them, with the changes in structure taking effect upon the completion of their current terms of office.

Long Range Plan

Kevin led discussion, with each board member setting priorities for the many interesting long range goals generated by the members of the Long Range Planning Committee.

Yvonne moves to approve the first goal of providing members with in-depth training. Steve seconds.

Discussion: Much of the initial discussion centered around the notion of whether these goals match our mission statement. Question is raised as to whether we need to make motions at this point. Once discussion is complete, we can move the entire package.

Yvonne withdraws her initial motion for now.

Goal 3 of building rainy day fund, Ben suggests be changed to “strengthen Northlands financial viability.”

Judy moved that we accept the four long term goals as amended. Janet seconds. Motion carried.

Discussion: Yvonne asks if the results of the member surveys were taken into account in the planning of these long term goals.

Long range planning committee will look at chosen goals and develop steps/procedures to try and reach goals. Report back to board.

Leanne Johnson Memorial Scholarship

Dick, Ben and Bev put together a rough draft of the application

Revisions: Anonymous Donor pays conference fee, Northlands pays half of the housing and meals. They would become a member at \$40, which comes back to us.

Consensus agreement that we offer the registration fee only, as Donor intended. Karen W. suggests we could waive the membership fee for one year.

Karen suggests that we change the verbiage to “recipients will be invited to breakfast with the board.” Yvonne would like to see a written letter to be required sharing the highs and lows.

Kevin moves that we approve this memorial scholarship with the amended changes. Judy seconds. Motion carries.

New Voice Scholarship

Judy brought forth the idea of New Voices Scholarships again. 18-30 year olds.

Discussion regarding role of recipients.

Ushers for concerts. Other tasks as assigned.

Kevin moves that we offer up to four New Voices scholarships, with them serving as ushers at our concerts. Judy seconds.

Discussion: Application deadline is March 1. If they are same gender, they share a room.
Motion passes.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Gwyn Calvetti, acting on behalf of Secretary Yvonne Healy, whose arm is in a cast.