** NEST Board Meeting**

**October 20, 2022 Minutes**

**Present**: Cris Riedel, Lynn Schweikart, ChaChanna Simpson, Katie Knutson, Barbara Aliprantis, Denise Page (Had to leave 40 minutes into the meeting)

**Meeting Start:** 6:35pm

**Call to Order**

**Motion to approve the September 2022 board meeting minutes. (Approved 5-0). Motion by Cris, Seconded by ChaChanna**

* Chris was unable to attend due to technical issues. Jim and Rona were also unable to join the meeting. Lynn updated those present that Linda will be taking a hiatus for a few months from the board position due to conflicts with work.

**Consent Agenda**

* Motion to accept submitted board reports (Approved 5-0)

**President’s Report**

* Lynn let the board know that Linda agreed to help with board development and reaching out to people with her network. Linda will be reevaluating her situation in February.
* Cris submitted a WVSG report and Lynn brought up the point if the benefit of WVSG is being leveraged enough with the membership. Cris sends out the call for storytellers to both the WVSG and NEST listservs and brought up the question of how to expand outreach to both NEST Members who do not attend as well as outside of NEST. ChaChanna asked if it was something only open to NEST members and Cris said it was open to everyone. Lynn asked if it was something that should be made available only to NEST members. Cris thought that it might limit availability to international members. Katie had the idea of asking WVSG participants to consider a donation to NEST instead of a full NEST membership. Something similar that NSN did. Barbara is an organizer for Story Space Online and suggested that Cris send something to Ralph Chadis to promote WVSG at Story Space. Lynn asked ChaChanna about promoting WVSG on the NEST social media. Katie said that she could make any initial posts on social media and then ChaChanna could help with the follow up.
* Lynn also brought up that Chris had submitted a report with a couple of different website statistics that could lead to more helpful information when Lynn and ChaChanna look at redoing the website.

**Executive Director Report**

* Katie updated that there are currently 129 active members for NEST. There are also 6 lifetime members and 3 organizational members. Katie sent an email to any previous members who are not current members and got 6 people to renew their membership from that. Katie also said that there was feedback from people to mail out a reminder so she developed something to be mailed out. Cris noted that VistaPrint will handle all of the work if a postcard is sent out for this purpose for a reasonable price. Barbara noted that older people might prefer getting the postcard in the mail to renew their membership. Katie suggested tying in the membership renewal and invitation to STF in the postcard. Cris offered to make her membership donation the cost of sending out the postcards. Katie noted that Canva has a bit better quality but that the cost was a bit more as well. ChaChanna added that she had designed something on Canva but then had it printed on VistaPrint.
* She also noted how there was an option for a free membership for students for the first year. But on NEON, the rate was $15 for students. She suggested that as long as they had a student ID, to set the rate at $15-$20. Motion to create a student membership rate at Free for the First Year, and ($15 ammended to $25) for (three amended to any years with a valid Student ID) Motion by Cris, Seconded by Barbara (Approved 5-0). Cris and ChaChanna noted that $25 would increase the perceived value of the organization membership. Denise raised the question of increasing the rate in today’s economy being a challenge for some people. Katie noted that $25 is still more than half off from the cost of a regular membership.
* Katie requested anyone who has not, to complete their board assessment and that half of the board had completed it so far.
* Katie also requested that people list their dietary restrictions for the board retreat. As well as setting start and end times for Friday and Saturday of the board retreat. Cris will be Zooming into the retreat and Linda will not be attending. Katie suggested starting at 5:00pm on Friday and ending at 7:00pm on Saturday. Friday would be a time to do a little bit of business, socialize, and grab dinner together. Lynn thought that 7:00 was a bit late to end on Saturday. ChaChanna asked about the location and Barbara updated that it will be held in Natick, MA. Barbara is going to treat to breakfast on Saturday. Katie and Barbara are going to have a discussion about logistics for the retreat. It was agreed to do 5:00 on Friday to 5:00 on Saturday with some wiggle room on the end time for Saturday depending on the flow of the day. Barbara mentioned that in the past there was an opportunity for NEST members to show up and ChaChanna emphasized that this should be an opportunity to get work done. Denise suggested that if there were a social hour or dinner on Friday night, to extended an invitation to local members.
* Katie asked about interest in board members writing thank you notes to members who donate beyond the cost of their membership. Katie offered to do it but extended the invitation to the board to help which Barbara and Lynn agreed to do.
* Katie requested that each of the board members renew their memberships and donate an additional $1 to NEST. She also requested that everyone mark Giving Tuesday on their calendar as well as sharing STF 2023 information on any social media that the board uses.
* There was an update that Webster Bank has been difficult to deal with and that Steph finally sent the checkbook to Steph. Katie also asked about moving all communication to Slack so that double messages for people using both would stop.
* Katie’s husband works for a web design company and ran some reports on the NEST website that provided some information about optimizing the website and provided the information to the folder in her report.

**Program**

* There was a discussion about sharing some parts of STF virtually. Lynn brought up that the cost and effort to manage more events in a hybrid environment is prohibitive. Katie mentioned that streaming Fringes could cause some issues due to the fact that there could be the potential for adult topics. Cris asked if anything will be recorded and then provided later. Katie thought that only performances that are already being streamed would be recorded.

**Finance**

* Nothing Reported

**Outreach**

* Barbara and ChaChanna are going to make a push for the mentorship program at STF. ChaChanna mentioned looking forward to discussing some of the best things that make NEST, NEST at the board retreat.
* Lynn and Katie had talked about sending out a survey to the membership to see what they like about NEST instead of trying to brainstorm on their behalf. Cris noted they were not all that successful in the past but that another effort couldn’t hurt. Katie is going to send out a Google Forms so that the responses are all accessible since SurveyMonkey charges to export the collected data.

**Old Business**

* None to report

**New Business**

* None to report

Motion to adjourn meeting. Motion by Cris, seconded by ChaChanna (Approved 4-0)

Next Meeting: 11/17/22 at 6:30pm

Meeting Adjourned 7:40pm