** NEST Board Meeting**

**December 15, 2022 Minutes**

**Present**: Cris Riedel, Lynn Schweikart, Katie Knutson, Barbara Aliprantis, Rona Leventhal, ChaChanna Simpson, Chris Donnald, Mike Perry, Denise Page, Jim Brulé

**Meeting Start:** 6:39pm ET

**Call to Order**

**Motion to approve the November 2022 board meeting minutes as amended. (Approved 7-0). Motion by Cris, Seconded by Barbara**

**Consent Agenda**

* Reports were not available to vote on

**President’s Report**

* This was Lynn’s last board meeting. She is going to take a small break and then help with the new initiative. Farewell’s and Thank You’s!

**Executive Director Report**

* Katie reminded everyone to continue to make membership renewal calls. Cris has been especially effective so far in her calls for membership sign ups.
* Katie reported that the two people she reached out to for board positions are most likely a no. Lynn and Katie are still hoping that Elsa will join down the line. Mike Perry attended the board meeting to get some more information, whom Lynn and Linda had reached out to for a while. Denise updated that she will be following up with the people she has reached out to once they have a chance to review the materials Denise and Lynn put together. Barbara reached out to Andrea Kamens who was a no. Her other contact is a ‘maybe’ for getting involved. Rona has not had an opportunity to reach out to her contacts but will reach out to Michael and Bruce.
* Katie asked if people should be moved up the list of target candidates for the board and Denise shared that she thinks it’s best to reach out to all potential candidates at once and the board is left with the ability to politely decline if there are too many candidates that say yes. Denise and Rona made some suggestions on others they thought would be good candidates to reach out to: Tim Jennings and Sue Schmidt. Katie thought Howard Lieberman would be a good option as a retired lawyer.
* Katie brought up about the new storyteller training program initiative and inquired about interest in the pilot program to the board. The board member would look to find people to start a ‘task-force’ to implement this program. Barbara offered to be on the task force but was not interested in taking the reins. Mike asked who the target of the training program would be and Katie said that the idea would be for new members to NEST who were new to Storytelling and wanted a starting point. Mike offered to provide information from his storytelling classes that could be used. Mike also offered to be a part of the task force with Barbara.
* There was a discussion about potential people to reach out to, to be on a task force instead of committing to a board position. Lynn provided that a bit more structure and focus is needed before proceeding. It was suggested that a separate board meeting be had to bring all of the brainstorming from the board retreat to a focus. Jim offered to help hone in on providing focus to creating the committees.
* Katie would like to have a future conversation about picking one form of communication for the board to commit to.
* Methods of accepting payments at STF onsite was brought up. There are different methods of accepting credit cards including laptops and card readers. Katie asked about the possibility of have a specific NEST laptop, phone, iPad, etc so that personal devices are not used. Jim had concerns about an iPad specifically due to device limitations and agreed with a NEST owned device. Jim offered to research devices based on what software NEST would need to run. Katie has started to research the best platform to use for taking payments.

**Program**

* Rona updated that workshop selections are going smoothly and are reaching out to fill out the workshop selections. Andrea and Rona are discussing adding a third intensive. The Olio committee was delayed in starting their selections and are going to provide their answers as soon as possible. There is currently one fringe per workshop session when it has been more in the past, to garner better attendance numbers per session. Katie had an idea to allow people who submit for a fringe to decide whether they want to do a 45min or 90 min slot. This would allow for two people who select 45 min to join together for one slot. Rona is working on the registration page with Andrea and Katie is working on the hotel information.

**Tech**

* Chris updated that the website is starting to be redone and is asking the board to submit any recommendations while we are in the beginning stages. He has been having some issues while looking over the website files and the domains as there is confusing overlap with Lanes and Northeast Storytelling systems. Lanes.org is the primary domain but is an inactive site.

**Old Business**

* None to report

**New Business**

* None to report

Motion to adjourn meeting. Motion by Barbara, seconded by Jim(Approved 7-0)

Next Meeting: 1/19/23 at 6:30pm ET

Meeting Adjourned 7:45pm ET