** NEST Board Meeting**

​**January 20, 2022 Minutes**

**Present**: Cris Riedel, Lynn Schweikart, Rona Leventhal, Barbara Aliprantis, ChaChanna Simpson, Jim Brule, Linda Ford

**Meeting Start:** 6:30pm

**Call to Order**

**Motion to approve the December Minutes: Approved (7-0)** Motion by Barbara, Seconded by ChaChanna

**Consent Agenda**

* There was an influx of cash through the benevity fund. Lynn brought up that something specific will need to be done with the benevity fund money soon. At last look, there was about $9,000 of money in that account. Rona asked if any of this money could be allocated towards student scholarships for STF. It was decided that this would be a topic of conversation for next years STF.

**President’s Report**

**STF 2022**

* Rona started by discussing how to handle STF in regards to COVID. Lynn brought up if people are going to show up in the face of COVID and that Portsmouth has an indoor mask mandate for groups of more than two people. Lynn mentioned that there is not a vaccination requirement for hotel employees but that they will be masked when dealing with any STF people. Jim talked about the issue of people who can’t be vaccinated and how to handle that in regards to requiring attendees to be vaccinated. The policy for STF is going to be that you have to be masked and vaccinated or else you will be invited to attend the virtual components of the conference. Rona had envisioned that if everyone in attendance is vaccinated, then masks wouldn’t be a requirement. Rona and Barbara wanted a booster requirement as well. Jim countered that maskless performances could be an option, but that masks should still be required. Linda asked that shared mics be cleaned in between performers. Jim and Lynn decided that attendees would be made aware that full vaccine and booster will be required as well as masks, and that if at the time of STF masks are not needed, a change can be made. There was a discussion around workshop presenters being without a mask if they are an appropriate distance away (20 feet). There was also a discussion that while it is not going to be NEST’s job to police the rules, there should be clear guidelines in place ahead of time. Rona brought up how there are going to inherently be plenty of times that attendees will be maskless, such as happy hours and meals.
* Steph talked to NEST insurance agent and found out that NEST has never had event insurance. Lynn brought to the board’s attention that it will be around $400 and that it is something NEST should have.
* Rona discussed the stipulations that should be in place for contracts with performers such as the specifics around travel stipends. It was also brought up which payment methods will be used. The board discussed how to word a COVID clause for the contract with the A/V person. Rona suggested that if the event goes virtual due to COVID, then to have the contract bumped to next year. Jim countered that the contract should be void in that instance since there would still be questions regarding next year and that the good relationship with NEST would be a promise to reach out for next year.
* Rona brought up a question that arose if performer’s partners could attend STF for free. The board agreed that everyone is required to pay for all aspects of the conference that is not a part of the conference. Barbara remarked that it is important not to set a precedent on certain policies while making exceptions for people. Rona brought up that in the future, it should be written in the contract that any guests of performers are expected to pay their way at events.
* There was a discussion around having Steph handle taking credit card donations on site at STF. Cris suggested having a member running the bookstore so that Steph can meet the members. Linda suggested having a small team of volunteers help run the bookstore which ChaChanna agreed to organize.
* The board reviewed the budget that Rona had put together for STF. It was agreed that rooms for the conference organizers will be comped. While looking at the estimated budget, the board discussed what the revenue would look like with different attendance numbers. Lynn suggested pulling the membership to get an idea of the interest level in attending STF so that the board could make a decision around how to proceed with STF.
* Rona let the board know what information is needed to get the webpage up for STF and went over the high level of content that will be on the page. Rona went over the proposed registration form and ChaChanna recommended having the COVID policy clearly placed in the registration form.

**New Business**

* None to report

**Old Business**

* None to report

Next Meeting: TBD

Meeting Adjourned