

**September 19, 2024, NEST Board Meeting**

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM ET

In Attendance:

ChaChanna Simpson, Board President

Katie Knutson, NEST Executive Director

Jim Brule, Vice President

Cris Riedel, Treasurer

Jezrie Marcano-Courtney, Secretary

Mike Isko, Director, Development Committee Chair

Denise Page, Director, Social Justice Committee Chair

**BOARD MINUTES**

**Motion:** That the Board of Directors approve the minutes of the August 2024 Board Meeting.

**Motion approved.**

**SHARING THE FIRE**

Katie Knutson gave the report: The Sharing the Fire Committee is looking for support in three areas:

* Fundraising for the 2025 conference
* Volunteer Coordinator
* Assistance in publicizing the conference’s new home of Glens Falls. Finally, the committee is pleased with the number of applications received for workshops, including intensives and submissions for Olio. Applications for Fringe are live.

**DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

The annual appeal letter is being drafted, using helpful resources to bolster efforts to work toward sustainable support.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

* Membership renewals are coming in daily and will probably continue for a while.
* Financial reports have been received from Merritt Bookkeeping.
* Work continues with the Development Committee to find sustainable funding sources.
  + A pre-inquiry letter has been sent to The Mellon Foundation.
* Three candidates have been interviewed for the vacant accountant and bookkeeper positions.
* One candidate is applying to fill the NEST Board of Directors Treasurer position. The Board is also looking for a minimum of four new members.
* The NEST Storytelling Task Force is working on getting virtual classes on the website.

**OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

Nothing new to report.

**WVSG**

Nothing new to report.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

The nominating committee met with and interviewed Denise Santisteban for a Director position on The Board. Denise comes to The Board with experience working with nonprofits, as well as experience producing and hosting events.

**MOTION:** The Board officially invites Denise Santisteban to join the NEST Board of Directors, for a term beginning January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2027.

**Motion approved.**

NEST is officially a partner of The Westport Library’s StoryFest Conference, including the organization’s logo on the library website, and mentions on StoryFest materials. The President has also been featured as a performer at the Storytelling Session on the evening of Saturday, September 21st.

The President also reports the monthly storytelling open mic hosted at The Westport Library continues to do well. At the last open mic, there were 20 attendees and five storytellers told stories about peace as part of the Speak Peace Concert Series. Also, there is an opportunity to create informational material to be kept at The Westport Library marketing NEST, and Sharing the Fire 2025.

**FINANCE REPORT**

Nothing new to report.

**OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS**

**MOTION:** The Board officially approves the fiscal year 2024-25 budget.

**Motion approved.**

**NEXT MEETING**

Next scheduled Board of Directors meeting: Thursday, October 17, 2024 @ 6:30 PM ET

**MEETING ADJOURN**

NEST Board of Directors monthly meeting moved to an executive session at 7:51 PM ET