** NEST Board Meeting**

**May 26, 2022 Minutes**

**Present**: Cris Riedel, Lynn Schweikart, Rona Leventhal, ChaChanna Simpson, Barbara Aliprantis, Chris Donnald, Mike Perry (Left at 7:23pm), Linda Marchisio (Left at 7:25pm)

**Meeting Start:** 6:44pm

**Call to Order**

**Postponed - ~~Motion to approve the minutes of the April board meeting (Approved -0). Motion by, Seconded by~~**

**Consent Agenda**

* Nothing to discuss on submitted reports

**President’s report**

* Two of the main topics discussed at the last board meeting were the budget and the search for the Admin/ED. Kemetia updated Lynn that she was unable to accept the position for ED for NEST due to the amount of hours offered. However, she had suggested being interested in joining the NEST board. Rona addressed the section of the president’s report that suggested raising the amount of hours for the position and the response from Lynn was that the issue is finding the amount needed in the budget. Lynn brought up the budget for next year for everyone to see. As it stood, the budget was only a few hundred dollars in the red. The income for STF was bumped up a bit from what was brought in in 2022 since it is supposed to be an in person conference. Lynn and Rona recommended increasing ticket prices by $10 for 2023. ChaChanna suggested raising the ticket cost by $50. The budget reflected an estimate of 40 virtual attendees at $80 ticket for any of the hybrid components. Lynn had brought up the idea of subsidizing the cost of parking for attendees which currently is $10/day.
* There was a target of $800 for new donations which Cris had volunteered to make sure is achieved. There was a target of $1500 for STF and NEST Fest sponsorships. For the previous year, $1800 was committed but only $900 was collected. Cris volunteered to help follow up on collecting these. No grants had been applied for. Lynn set a target of $11,000 for membership dues and that non-renewals should be targeted. Barbara suggested calling non renewals to remind them and volunteered to help with that. Cris agreed that the calling method is effective. A target of $1500 was set for STF program ads in 2023. Total revenue is anticipated to be $60,400.
* There is currently a budget of $150 for advertising in NSN and the board agreed to target ETSU to advertise at NEST/STF. The annual computer software costs is $1634 between NEON and Quickbooks. There is a potential to save money on credit card fees which was $1200 less than the previous year. NEST is part of the Puppeteers of America to help reduce insurance costs, combined with NSN fees is $250/yr. $600 was budgeted for NEST Fest, and the Sparks program will be dropped. Lynn and Cris discussed dropping the FLY! program from the budget and using allocated benevity funds if there are any costs associated with this. Mike showed interest in running/helping run the FLY! program. The internet and web services cost was $750. Total insurance costs were budgeted for $1450. There was $800 budgeted for printing fees for STF and Programs. Total professional services was budget at $9000. Total scholarship, Grant, and Membership assistance costs were budgeted at $1850. There was a discussion around continuing to fund the different scholarships unless approached again. Cris brought up that these costs may not belong in the budget because they are not funded by money that comes from the organization and have no tangible cost. It was decided that the costs associated with scholarships will be taken out of the budget. Total STF costs were budgeted for $23,285 and total ED costs were budgeted for $15,000. The final budget is $1,471 in the black after taking out the costs of the scholarships.
* There was an idea to search for a retiree for the ED position that would have the flexibility that the position demands. The position was previously advertised to the members, on the website, and on non-profit job boards. There was a discussion about the amount of hours the position requires vs the amount of money that organization can afford. There was a discussion about how to categorize the hours for the ED, whether it should be a constant set of hours or flexible. It was agreed to leave the ED position as is.

**Program committee**

* Andrea Kamens is going to be Rona’s co planner for STF 2023. The theme is going to be “Dare to Create”. Rona is going to reach out to potential Keynote and Sunday performers. There will be a conflict with the Women’s Storytelling Conference in 2023.

**Outreach**

* ChaChanna updated the board on the mentorship program. A newsletter will be sent out about orientation. Barbara and ChaChanna will provide everyone with an overview and will be sending out signups afterwards. An email is going to be sent out to the NEON member list about signing up for the program.

**Old Business**

* None to report

**New Business**

* None to report

Next Meeting: 6/23/22 at 6:30 pm

Meeting Adjourned 8:15pm