**NEST Board Meeting**

**October 15, 2020**

**Present:** Cris Riedel, Deb Roe, Linda Schuyler Ford, Lynn Schweikart, Chris Donnald, Rona Leventhal, Mike Lockett, Barbara Aliprantis, Jim Brule

**Meeting Start:** 3:09PM

**Call to Order**

**Motion to Approve Minutes: Approved (7)** Motion by Cris, Seconded by Barbara

**Consent Agenda:**

**Motion to Approve Consent Agenda Board Reports: Approved (7)** Motion by Cris, Seconded by Mike

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

* Administration
  + Finances
    - Deb discussed how the finance committee was unable to meet prior to the meeting but will be able to meet before the November meeting. She reported how the organization is fortunately in a better spot financially than normally this time of year.
  + Taxes
    - Deb reported that a new accountant was found for the organization and the taxes were submitted. The new accountant is familiar with non-profits and is 70% cheaper than the previous accountant.
  + Insurance
    - Deb talked about how a more inclusive insurance option is needed as a lot of things are moving to a virtual format, especially when kids are involved. She has been looking for options that will provide the appropriate coverage that NEST needs. She has yet to find an option at this time but is continuing to search. Lynn suggested looking into the American Library Association. Rona said that she could put Deb into contact with privately owned libraries to see what their insurance options look like.
* Membership
  + Deb brought up that a lot of new members were brought on in 2020 due to the free membership initiative this year. She mentioned that a new member sent an email praising the organization, the services and the NEST community. It was brought up how that the memberships of over members had expired and not been renewed. Board members committed to contacting various members to check on them. The names and emails of members who have not renewed by October 25 will be sent to Jo for removal from the listserv.
* Program
  + NEST Fest
    - Deb discussed how the main holdup right now is waiting for the tech side of the event planning and waiting to hear back on proposals for the amount and finding people who can handle running the whole event. Rona asked about what the tech guy would be responsible for and Deb explained all the finer points of running the event virtually and the pre-event work they would do.
    - Deb talked about wrapping up sponsorships. Linda has reached out to several brewing companies, those that have responded so far have declined the offer. She has since learned about a new brewing company in Hartford, CT that has been experimenting with storytelling groups and will reach out to them.
    - Deb discussed the format of each session for the NEST Fest: welcome by Board member, brief NEST video, sponsor, followed by introduction of the emcee and then the program. Jim said that sponsors will either give the board member something quick to read or a prepared 30 second video. There was a quick discussion about which board member will open each section of the event.
* Web updates
  + Book page
    - Chris talked about the status of the book page and submission numbers.
  + Expanded events listing
    - There was a meeting with ASST and NEST will revisit with them in January after keeping track of numbers of ASST members who are using NEST’s calendar.
* NEST Guide
  + There was a brief discussion about next steps with the NEST Guide and it was agreed that the guide would be published on Amazon as this is the easiest and most expedient route.
* Board Training
  + Deb talked with a tech member who will be willing to train people for a fee on how to run these virtual events. She wants herself and Chris to be trained for NEST Fest and opened the opportunity for board members as well. Rona, Cris and Linda were interested as well.

**COMMITTEE/TASK REPORTS**

(NOTE: AS THESE REPORTS WERE NOT RECEIVED IN TIME TO BE CONSIDERED FOR CONSENT AGENDA, THEY WERE DISCUSSED AS PART OF MEETING.)

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

* Program Report
  + STF 2021
    - Lorraine and Karen do not wish to chair the event.
    - The Board decided that they would not try to find other chairs for

STF 2021 but complete the tasks themselves as much of it is already planned

* + STF 2022
    - Lynn discussed that the people she reached out to were unable to do the event. Deb said that there was someone she reached out to another member but has not heard back.
* Governance Report
  + Board Terms for Barbara and Mike are expiring, and Lynn will need to meet with them about renegotiating their terms.
  + Lynn said that the Succession Planning/Strategic plan will be held instead of the December meeting.

**Outreach Communication**:

Linda said that she set up a new Facebook page to reach a larger audience, especially teachers. This would help promote NEST storytellers and has taken time to help connect everyone involved with the new outreach program. She is waiting to hear back about content for the blog from certain members. Linda discussed how she would like to morph the Facebook page into a community rather than just a place for people to post their events. Would like to see more content and community building posts on the page. Linda also talked about how she is growing the social media team and about the various tasks people she has reached out to are willing to do.

**New Business:** None to report

**Motion to Adjourn: Approved (6)** Motion by Cris, Seconded by Barbara

Next Meeting: November 19 at 3:00 PM

Meeting Adjourned: 4:32pm