** NEST Board Meeting**

May 20, 2021

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

**Meeting Start:** 3:34 PM

**Call to Order**

**Motion to Approve the March Minutes:** **Approved (6-0)** Motion by Cris, Seconded by Barbara

**Consent Agenda: Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda: Approved (6-0)** Motion by Barbara, Seconded by Jim

* **Governance Report**
* **Program Report**
* **Communications Report**

**Executive Director’s Report**

* Administration:
  + Membership
    - According to the NEST database membership is at 299 which is the highest it has ever been. In part, this has been due to NEST’s expanding presence on the national storytelling scene and also due to the free membership offer in 2020. Deb recommended that the Board consider running another free membership promotion for new members in the future.
    - All memberships expire August 31. The notice for renewal goes out automatically for members to renew unless members have selected automatic renewal for their membership. For those who have automatic renewal, it will renew on September 1.
  + Finances
    - Not taking into consideration ED time, the Sparks program just about broke even. NEST also gained some new memberships as a result of holding the program.
  + Insurance
    - Deb submitted the application two weeks ago and is waiting to hear back from the insurer.
* Program:
  + Sparks 2021
    - Twice as many people registered than attended. The attendance numbers for each event are in the ED report. Deb has only heard positive feedback about the event. All of the performers have been paid except for one. People were eager to receive the videos.
  + FLY
    - Nothing new to report at this time
  + Social Justice
    - Deb updated that the Social Justice Committee has decided on a mission statement and has also drafted some objectives. The group will need to find someone to chair each meeting.
  + NEST Guide
    - The NEST guide has been updated with the logo and copyright information but it is being tweaked. Mark and Deb will need to work on creating a style sheet and/or template for future articles.
  + STF 2022
    - Deb has been in touch with the coordinator for the event and has been looking into tech options to run a hybrid event for STF 2022. The tech person is going to meet with Deb to come up with a cost to run tech for the event. Rona mentioned that for advertising purpose, we should refer to the conference as in-person event with remote aspects rather than calling it a hybrid event. Lynn brought up that she and whoever else is working on STF 2022 will need a task list before Deb leaves for making sure everything needed for STF 2022 is accomplished.

**Committee/Task Reports**

* **President’s Report**
  + Executive Director
    - Lynn thanked Deb and recognized all of the hard work and time she has given the organization. Lynn asked Chris if he would continue to stay on with NEST and he agreed. Jim mentioned that the organization is in a good position to move forward.
    - Lynn wants to reestablish a committee to search for the next administrator/executive director. There is an opportunity to explore what direction to take the organization in. Lynn said that instead of searching for an executive director, that perhaps the search should be for an admin and the board and committee members will pick up some of the responsibilities. Rona brought up the concern that someone brought in as an admin might not be able to evolve into the role of executive director if that is the end-goal ahead of time.
    - Deb brought up how the organization will probably need a bookkeeper. Jim talked about hiring someone to work in the interim for bookkeeping/admin tasks. Rona thinks that an executive director should be hired from the start so that they have as much time as possible before STF 2022.
    - Lynn and Rona talked about board member positions in regards to bringing in a younger person and potentially having people on the board who are not storytellers. They brought up trying to diversify the board a bit.
    - There was a brief discussion about where specifically to look/post for the open role/s
  + Annual Meeting
    - Deb is going to give her final executive report.
    - Cris brought up that she believes 2022 will be 40 years of STF and could be a possible theme
    - Lynn had a draft agenda that the Board reviewed and discussed.
    - There was a discussion about an “In Memoria” section of the annual meeting and what would be involved with that and who would run it.
    - Barbara will present the Brother Blue award.
    - A poll is going to be launched during the meeting for members to vote/decide on in the moment on the three most important things for NEST moving forward.

**New Business**

* None to report

**Old Business**

* None to report

The board went into executive session to discuss Brother Blue

**Motion to Adjourn: Approved (6-0)** Motion by Cris, Seconded by Linda

Next Meeting: June 14 at 4:00 PM

Meeting Adjourned: 4:50 pm