**NEST BOARD Meeting**

**May 22, 2020**

**Present:** Jim Brule, Barbara Aliprantis, Cris Riedel, Deb Roe, Mike, Lynn, Chris Donnald

**Meeting Start:** 3:00PM

**Call to Order**

**Motion to Approve the Minutes: Approved (5)**

**Motion to Approve Consent Agenda:** Approved (5)

**Executive Director Report:** Continuing to get a few members every month. Deb put out a message to the Connecticut Libraries and got a four free memberships for a year through that.

**Annual Meeting:** Jim would like to make June Board Meeting the annual meeting. Meeting needs to be done by June. Have a section such as “Bring Your Ideas for Nest”. Potentially first portion of the meeting. **Need Annual Reports by** **Monday June 1.**

**Budget:**

* Second Zoom license needed for more than one host. Cost is $180.
* Advertising budget $500
* Benevity Funds
* Income for next year will be on track while still cancelling STF
* Budget will be sent out to become part of the Annual Repot

**Sharing the Fire**: People are inquiring if it is still going to happen. Deb has yet to hear from the hotel. Jim brought up cancelling this year and saying that “We Will Be Back Next Year” like other conferences. Deb will need to contact hotel to sort out the details regarding cancellations. Board concerned with all of the uncertainty surrounding the current climate. Jim brought up the idea of reaching out to membership to develop a virtual substitution that can happen at some other point in time; potentially in the fall. Michael proposing to see how virtual NSN conference goes. Board motioned to cancel STF and come up with a virtual fall alternative. Approved (5).

**Benevity:** Deb has two concerns. It is not clear that it is a “NEST Project”.
Secondly, there is a set time period and does not show any sustainability. Does not want to give them money (~$2000) to hold an event that lasts a couple months and then disappears. Jim would want to see how this will accommodate growth and sustenance rather than a short-term solution. Congratulate on a great proposal and respond with some clarifications and fine tunings. Michael curious about their contingencies for any delays regarding COVID-19. Lynn to set up a meeting with them; Deb to sit in.

**Online Storytelling/NEST Ed:** Current member, Hope, in charge of these program will need to step away. Deb curious about the viability of the program. Ads do not seem to be producing results. Need access to people, before programs can be effectively marketed. Would need more money to effectively promote this. With so many things going online because of COVID, money is most likely better spent elsewhere. Deb suggests to maybe create How-To videos about how to get started. Cris says that there are enough other sources out there and maybe not the best use of time. Program was to support tellers vs make money for nest, and there is probably better ways to support members than to continue with this program. Gail brought up that if members want this program to continue, then they can possibly pay to help keep this program. Jim and Deb recommend to offer support rather than develop and maintain an additional group. Questions regarding what to do with members who are in the pipeline. Deb recommends including NEST educators in fall STF replacement. Motion to stop support for NEST Ed. Approved (5).

**Profile and Video Uploads:** Chris spoke to the process of creating profiles for members and the process of uploading videos to the page. Cris recommends adding videos to the front page and changing out featured videos to make them more easily visible and accessible. Jim recommends creating a slider for them.

**WVSG:** Growing quickly. Cris says that multiple people are requesting to join the Facebook page every day. Next open slot is in July.

**New Business:** Gail speaks to the storytelling conference and festival coming up. Website developers have been holding up the process. Zoom will be used instead of Big Marker. North East is having their performance on Fri May 31. Pay what you can. Jim recommends that page be taken down until it is completed.

**Meeting went to executive session.**

Next Meeting: June 20 at 2:30 PM; Annual Meeting at 3:30 PM

Meeting Adjourned: 4:20pm