**NEST Board Meeting**

**September 17, 2020**

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

**Meeting Start:** 3:05PM

**Call to Order**

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

**Consent Agenda:**

**Motion to Approve Consent Agenda Board Reports: Approved (6)** Motion by Cris, Seconded by Rona

**Executive Director Report:**

**FLY Program:** Deb discussed the success of the pilot program and the creation of a promo video for the program which was then presented. The pilot program ran for six weeks with two sessions a week.The FLY Committee determined that this needed to be an ongoing project for promoting storytelling for kids. NEST would provide the initial funding for training groups and mentors. The combined groups would then make up a Worldwide FLY Virtual Guild to continue to provide an avenue for children storytellers. The mentor must meet a variety of requirements, having experience both with storytelling and working with children. They must also be comfortable with virtual interfaces once the guild takes off, as well as have training in racial and social equity. Linda volunteered to be a part of the process. Deb brought up the pricing structure. One possibility is to pay the mentors at a higher rate, and then pay the trainee’s a stipend since they will be getting training. Linda had suggested that if some parents can pay if they are able. Rona suggested having a “Donations accepted to support the FLY Program’s continuation” option. Quick discussion regarding the audio of the promotional video.

**Motion to Approve continuing support for FLY! Program:** **Approved (6)** Motion by Linda, Seconded by Barbara

**NEST Fest Update:** Deb mentioned how the lineup and schedule is almost completely set for NEST Fest. People are reaching out looking to be a part of this program. One of the last pieces that is being looked into is finding a technical producer for the event. Looking into a third-party option versus a current NEST member to run the technical aspects of the event. Deb brought up an idea about having performers submit a video of their performance in the case of connection issues. A discussion of what contingency plans need to be in place for each performer and what they need to agree to ahead of time. There was a discussion around looking for sponsors for the event and asking minimums for each portion of the event. Linda asked to be made aware of potential sponsors to coordinate with her social media outreach efforts. Mike brought up getting links and promotional material available so that it can start being sent out to people and posted online. He also mentioned that he is noticing a real effort to diversify the performances.

**Outreach Report:**

Linda talked about building up a media bank to use for the various social media sites. It is harder to get good material regarding this during these particular times, and that it will be easier once there are more live performances again. She is reaching out and following smaller groups of interest to try and build up followers. Twitter has seen a 20% increase in followers. She discussed the difference between the public Facebook page and the private one for members, and the use for each of them. Linda is in the process of gathering blog posts for the site and discussed the amount of posts that are currently available. She also asked for board members to submit blogs, and information on how to post blogs onto the website. Either Linda or Chris will add the blogs to the site on a schedule to be determined soon.

**Old Business:**

**Member Book Page:** Chris discussed the new Member Book page and showed the latest version of the page. There was a discussion around the current categories and adding and modifying categories. A Stories for Children and Other category will be added and Collections will be added to Traditional Tales. Chris will update the page, submission form, and reach out to members who submitted books already.

**NEST Storytelling Guide:** There was a brief discussion ofpublishing option for the NEST Storytelling Guide. Board members will send information to Deb if they have any related to publishing.

**New Business:** None to report

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

Next Meeting: October 15 at 3:00 PM

Meeting Adjourned: 5:03pm