** NEST Board Meeting**

December 17, 2020

**Present**: Cris Riedel, Deb Roe, Lynn Schweikart, Chris Donnald, Barbara Aliprantis, Jim Brule, Linda Ford, Rona Leventhal, Mick Lockett (Arrived at 3:19)

**Meeting Start:** 3:09PM

**Call to Order**

**Motion to Approve the November Minutes:** **Approved (5)** Motion by Cris, Seconded by Barbara

**Executive Director’s Report**

* Administration
  + Deb talked about how financially NEST is in a position to finish the year better off than last year. She also talked about the search for insurance which is increasingly important with the introduction of youth programs. It is important to the protection of the organization.
* Membership
  + Deb talked about how membership numbers are up since October, largely in part to NEST Fest. There have been members joining not from around the Northeast.
* Program
  + STF 2021
    - Deb sent out a report to the board ahead of the meeting. It mentioned performers who would perform in person and/or virtually and planning around what format STF 2021 will be in. Lynn mentioned how the timing of the rollout of the vaccine could affect whether STF will be all online or hybrid. Deb is going to present information to the coordinator and hotels about dealing with the uncertainties of the current climate with planning the event. Rona brought up how she is unsure whether people will be willing that time of year to attend another virtual program. Deb threw out to the board to start thinking of ideas on how to make an online conference a unique offering that people would want to attend.
  + FLY
    - Deb said she talked to Andrea Lovett and Nicolette Nordin Heavey about a timeline for the FLY! program. Nicolette and Andrea are looking at doing a February program, a summer program, and a September program and training a minimum of two mentors with each session. They are trying to connect Boys and Girls Clubs in the greater Boston area as well as the Citizens Schools. While these programs to train youth in storytelling move forward, NEST will also work on trying to establish a FLY! guild by September of 2021. NEST is interested in working with other organizations such as ASST on this.
  + NESTFEST
    - Chris is editing the recordings of the NEST Fest Panels and so far we have posted two.
  + Social Justice Committee
    - Jim volunteered to co-chair the social justice committee. Rona and Barbara would also like to be on the committee. Jim wants to have some structure to the committee before reaching out to members. He would also like to extend participation of the committee beyond NEST. There was a discussion around which people to potentially reach out to about being on the committee.

**Committee/Task Reports**

* **President’s Report**
  + Board Members
    - Lynn mentioned how Barbara is going to re-up her board membership. **Motion to Approve the reelection of Barbara Aliprantis to the Board: Approved (5)** Motion by Mike, Seconded by Jim. Cris is going to stay on as a board member. And Mike Lockett will be stepping down from the board when his term finishes this month.
  + NEST Guide
    - Deb, Lynn and Cris met with Jo Radner. The decision was made not to formally publish the guide to expenses, time issues, and the need to update many of the articles. Instead, the guide will be published as an evolving set of articles aimed at helping storytellers advance their craft. The first articles are expected to be posted in January.
  + STF 2021
    - There was a discussion about making sure that whatever format is used, that STF 2021 is not skipped as it is the biggest moneymaker for the organization. Deb mentioned how NEST Fest was a success in its goal of outreach and bringing people to the table, but was not financially profitable for NEST. There was a talk about dealing with the hotel and the costs associated with that. Jim recommended coming up with a worst-case scenario plan to determine what income will be needed if NEST is unable to cancel the contract for 2021. Rona threw out the idea of calling it as an international festival as a way to differentiate from other events. Lynn brought up forming a small committee to help brainstorm ideas for STF 2021. Linda offered to chair this committee and Rona is also interested in being a part of this.
  + Newsletter
    - Lynn mentioned that there needs to be a discussion of the Museletter. Rona said that she thinks the newsletter is a lot of work for volunteers and that the only way to get people to consistently do it is a stipend of some sort. Deb brought up maybe having a video newsletter of short, minute long clips of people talking about different topics. Linda brought up the difficulties she has with getting people to write blogs or record video clips for the site. There was discussion of having a guest editor for each edition who is an expert in the a certain topic and this person would be responsible for securing the articles/videos.
  + NEST Fest 2021
    - Lynn brought up if there is going to be a NEST Fest 2021. Deb said she thought it was a big success and that it needs to be its own event and not a copy of STF. Rona and Cris mentioned how there were certain workshops that work better in person but that the panels work especially well in a Zoom format.

**New Business**

* None to report

**Old Business**

* None to report

**Motion to Adjourn: Approved (5)** Motion by Cris, Seconded by Barbara

Next Meeting: January 21 at 2:00 PM

Meeting Adjourned: 4:44 pm