**NEST Agenda February 16, 2020**

​**5:30 -6:30pm**

**In Attendance:** Deborah Roe, Jim Brule, Cris Riedel, Barbara Aliprantis, Lynn Schweikart, Mike Lockett

**CALL TO ORDER: 5:37pm**

Motion made to

Made By: Mike Lockett; Seconded: Cris Riedel

Approved unanimously

**Approval of Last Month’s Minutes**

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS BOARD MEETING

Made By: Lynn Schweikart; Seconded: Mike Lockett

Approved Unanimously

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Reports**

* President’s Report
* Governance Report
* Program Report

MOTION TO APPROVE THE ABOVE REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR THE BOARD MEETING

Made By: Lynn Schweikart

Seconded: Mike Lockett

Approved Unanimously

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Deb discussed STF registration. We are doing okay at about 100. The goal is 150. Deb mentioned that not as many rooms have been booked at the Gideon Putnam as would like. Need to have a count of 65 to meet our quota.

Deb brought up the idea of free membership for first year/ partial year for first time members of NEST. This will hopefully help expand membership and ease the burden for first time STF attendees.

**MOTION: To waive membership for first time members for the first year or partial year starting with the next membership year.**

Motion: Jim Brule

Second: Cris Riedel

Approved Unanimously

There was a discussion of also increasing membership assistance so that financially strapped members requesting assistance would only need to pay $20.

**MOTION: To increase the assistance to $35 from $25 leaving it at $20 for them to pay.**

Motion: Cris

Second: Barbara

Approved Unanimously

Deb mentioned that she would like to change accountants as the current accountant is unresponsive to emails and is located in NJ. Being a Massachusetts based organization, it would be more ideal to have a Massachusetts based accountant. The Board agreed that Deb should research this possibility. Deb will contact MassMouth to see who they use. Barbara will ask Story Space who they use.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

The committee explored streaming but financially it wasn’t reasonable given the cost of the added bandwidth and technician. The finance next meeting will be on March 4.

**STF Board Meeting**

Several board members had conflicts for Thursday. Because the rest of the weekend is so busy, the Board agreed to have a meeting a week prior.

**SCHOLARSHIP REPORT**

Mike reported that since scholarship application numbers were limited, we will grant all scholarships. He has reached out to the recipients via email.

**WVSG**

Jim reported that Collaborative Storytelling will be added to WVSG so now there will be a meeting every week 48 weeks a year. We have over 200 Facebook likes. Jim believes we need a dedicated task force to take over some of the duties from Hope and Jim. They would like to promote this at STF with one way putting an ad in the program book. We need to think carefully about how we want to grow this. Deb will send Zoom credentials to Jim so WVSG can use the NEST account. Also need to think about a possible budget for WVSG.

**NEST EDUCATORS**

Hope is working with a group on training. There are 8-10 educators actively participating. There was some discussion of whether the program should go under NSN’s umbrella. The Board felt this would not be workable for NEST. We need to look at our messaging.

Deb asked if we want to encourage WVSG members to be NEST members as well. Jim suggested that we need to think about how the two intersect.

**NEST GUIDE**

Cris reported that there are about 150 pages left of the 400 page volume. She asked if we wanted to try to get it done before STF. Deb felt that there’s a lot to be between now and STF – program book etc. She suggested that we could have a discount code for STF attendees. Jim felt that not having it done that we should not draw attention to that fact. We will all have more time in April.

**CONNECTIONS**

Jim suggested that we need to consider our relationships. One is MassMouth but Cheryl Hamilton has resigned. We can look at this again in April.

**TASK FORCES**

The following are some of the task forces we would like to create.

* WVSG
* NEST EDUCATORS - $35/student hour is cost of class with a minimum class size
* BENEVITY FUNDS – Mike and Jim will discuss this. Lynn will look into how we can fund projects without calling them grants and losing our own ability to get grants. Deb suggested that they should be used for projects that expand storytelling throughout the Northeast. Possibly could provide$200 a month

**THOUGHTS FOR NEXT MEETING**

We want to announce what’s happening with WVSG and NEST Educators. Jim would like each Board member to think about how we can share the information in an enticing way.

Thoughts:

* Growth has doubled
* Number of countries has expanded to …
* Jim asked Barbara and Cris to look for a couple of stories that we can show off at STF. How else can we promote it at STF? Hope might have suggestions as well.

Added comments from Hope:

If we want to have 4X a month group calendar we need to move the Collaborative group, or the WVSG-west group, to the 4th week., 48????? weeks a year We have actually been meeting without "time off" because all the different cultures have different holidays. Are you suggesting that we take a month off sometime? When?

Thoughts on promoting WVSG at STF

Add a WVSG teller to the Olio via ZOOM (if we have the bandwidth.) It could be a recorded story, but better live.

Perhaps the WVSG could create an advertisement to be shown at STF: 10 WVSG tellers could tell why they are WVSG members, what they have learned, etc.

IF we have the bandwidth to have a live WVSG meeting it is possible to offer the WVSG as a Fringe or a stories galore.

I can prepare reports for NEST Ed and WVSG for the annual meeting.

NEST Educators could/should have a special ribbon on their name tags.

**BROTHER BLUE AWARD**

Mike asked after the status of the Brother Blue Award. Usually the nominations are sent to each of the Board members and then they review and discuss. The Board will make a decision for March 7. Mike will talk to nominators from previous years to see if they want the nomination put forward again.

**FINAL BUSINESS:**

Meeting Adjourned: 6:50pm