**NEST Board Meeting**

**August 20, 2020**

**Present:** Jim Brule, Cris Riedel, Deb Roe, Linda Schuyler Ford, Lynn Schweikart, Chris Donnald, Rona Leventhal, Mike Lockett, Barbara Aliprantis, Gail Herman (arrived at 3:40)

**Meeting Start:** 3:09PM

**Call to Order**

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

**Motion to Approve Board Reports: Approved (6)** Motion by Jim, Seconded by Barbara

**Executive Director Report:** Dues are due at the end of August. Deb discussed the option of allowing current members who need financial assistance due to COVID to retain their membership this year without payment. The question was brought up about how to determine need and it was decided that this will be based off the honor system. Mike volunteered to contact members who have not yet paid their dues. Motion to provide financial assistance to members impacted by pandemic: Approved (6) Motion by Rona, Seconded by Cris. Note that this is different than the upcoming initiative to offer a free one-year membership to people that want to join NEST and have never been a member before.

Discussion regarding email from Sheila Arnold. ASST is a group looking to help artists and storytellers. They are looking to provide a centralized calendar system for storytellers. Sheila is a founder of ASST and approached NEST about using NEST’s calendar to showcase their events. ASST is willing to provide compensation for this service. They are mostly focused on US events. Discussion about using this as an opportunity to subsidize the creation and implementation of a more robust calendar system for NEST. Deb brought up that perhaps this request is better suited to NSN. Lynn brought up about how this will help our members and that it is in line with our mission. Deb and Jim talked about the reciprocal benefit of both groups being exposed to each other’s events. Rona had the idea of potentially having two separate calendars; one for members and one for non-NEST events. Deb mentioned that NEST could start with just online events to see how the transition goes. Jim would like to keep the lines of communication open and find out specifically what ASST would like to see if it is something NEST is capable of helping with and making sure it is beneficial to everyone.

Deb talked about the children’s FLY performance last week and how there is a desire to have NEST continue to support this program. It is a benefit to NEST members as well as it allows them to become mentors to the children. There would be a need to train leaders who would like to fill this role. Lynn talked about creating a manual and/or training session with other mentors and coaches to teach them how to run that program. Rona asked about how this would be different than residencies that members currently do through schools. Deb and Lynn explained how it is a broader audience; more than just schools and allows an ongoing relationship in the communities. Gail talked about her firsthand experience with this kind of system working and being able to cultivate a lasting relationship.

**President’s Report:**

**November Tellabration:** Lynn discussed how the beginner’s workshop will be extended from one hour to two. Barbara was concerned about the use of the name ‘Tellabration’ as this was initially used to indicate only a single performance with the storyteller donating their time. The Board discussed a possible name change for the event which is scheduled for Friday, November 13 to Sunday, November 15. Rona and Cris felt the workshop should occur earlier in the weekend perhaps on Saturday. Rona talked about the difficulty in deciding which performers to choose and where to slot them. Whether it is an application process or selection by panel. Mike volunteered to help with the kid’s concert. Rona and Deb think that making sure there is an equal number of new and returning performers to both attract new people and provide a platform for new performers while taking diversity of presenters and content into account. Discussion over the price charged for the event. The price is going to be kept low to try and attract more participants since outreach is the goal rather than making money for the organization on this particular event. Discussion over who potential task force members/producers/etc.

**Outreach Report:** Linda talked about the potential opportunities for outreach on social media. Linda is using Twitter and talked about using Pinterest and creating a NE Storytelling community board. Linda is also in the process of reinvigorating the blog. Linda asked about creating a weekly blog digest or adding it to the weekly event broadcast. Jim brought up that a good social media project has a small attainable group to reach during outreach. Deb talked about how one-minute video blogs might be better for reaching people as reading longer pieces can be put off for later and then forgotten about.

**New Business:** None to report

**Old Business:** None to go over

Next Meeting: September 17 at 3:00PM

Meeting Adjourned: 5:03pm