** NEST Board Meeting**

January 21, 2021

**Present**: Cris Riedel, Deb Roe, Lynn Schweikart, Chris Donnald, Barbara Aliprantis, Jim Brule, Linda Ford, Rona Leventhal

**Meeting Start:** 3:06PM

**Call to Order**

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

**Executive Director’s Report**

* Membership & Outreach
  + Social Justice Committee
    - Deb created a survey and is waiting to hear back from the collaborator. Jim has been looking into books that provide a foundation for Social Justice for storytellers but found they are too expensive. He didn’t hear back from others on the committee.
* Administration
  + - Deb continues to look for appropriate insurance for the FLY! program
    - Deb said that she has looked into having a financial audit completed for the organization. It must be completed by a CPA and usually ranges in cost from $3,000-10,000. Lynn asked about the purpose of this and Deb said that some insurers require this before they will insure the organization and also some granting foundations.
* Programs
  + FLY!
    - Deb attended a Mass Humanities webinar for their Digital Capacity grant to determine if the FLY! program might be a good candidate for this. The grant provides up to $5000 for a 1:1 match. There was a discussion about setting up the guild for the storytellers so that the organization is covered in the event of an issue. The deadline is February 7.
  + Environmental Action
    - There was a discussion about the possibility of coordinating NSN and/or ASST on their environmental programs. Deb met with ASST and Sheila suggested the possibility of NEST creating an action checklist to be used as a follow up to each session of their series. Lynn thought that unless there was a direct tie to storytelling, that NEST’s resources would be better spent on other topics.

**President’s Report**

* + STF 2021
    - The STF 2021 committee decided that it is not advisable to attempt to replicate STF online but that instead NEST should do a different, smaller program. She threw out the idea of having a week long retreat with different tracks that people could attend. The different tracks would have each a different theme. Rona said that she thinks the name should stay the same even though people expect this year’s conference to be different. Jim and Deb thought that changing the name changes the expectation since the event is going to be different. Linda thought that the workshops that have been put off from last year should get first bid. Deb said that multiple workshops cannot be run simultaneously since it would require multiple Zoom accounts which gets expensive quickly. Jim brought up the idea of having a free workshop for presenters to hone their skills as a presenter in a virtual setting. Deb and Linda talked about picking a time frame and working from there. There was a discussion about the format for the event; whether it should be a more concentrated weekend event or spread out throughout a week with a couple of hours each day.

* + STF 2022
    - Rona has agreed to lead the development of STF 2022.
  + NEST Fest 2021
    - Lynn asked if anyone would be willing to lead NEST Fest 2021 and to let her know if anyone is interested in that.

**Fundraising**

* Chris brought up the idea of having a fundraising event or set of events. Two of the ideas that were talked about was a trivia/bingo night where people buy tickets/bingo cards. As well as some sort of contest where people vote with their money such as a photo/art contest based on a topic/topics.

**Strategic Planning Discussion**

* Set for next meeting

**New Business**

* None to report

**Old Business**

* None to report

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

Next Meeting: February 18 at 3:00 PM

Meeting Adjourned: 4:40 pm