** NEST Board Meeting**

​**July 19, 2021**

**Present**: Cris Riedel, Lynn Schweikart, Chris Donnald, Jim Brule, Rona Leventhal (Arrived at 4:17), Barbara Aliprantis

**Meeting Start:** 4:06 PM

**Call to Order**

**Motion to approve the June Minutes: Approved (4-0)** Motion by Barbara, Seconded by Cris

**Monthly Reports**

* None to report on

**President’s Report**

**Recap of Annual Meeting**

* There were comments collected from members during the annual meeting about the way NEST has been running the past year. One of the main things people liked and would like to see moving forward is virtual options and events to keep people involved. Jim and Cris talked about the price of having a virtual option at live events and Jim brought up how expensive it would be to stream the whole event and the varying associated costs. It was suggested maybe doing an hour of an event.
* Cris brought up that there was mention of not forgetting the folk-tale tellers versus the memoir style storytellers. Barbara brought up how she was part of an event that paired folk-tale tellers with memoir tellers based on similar themes.

**Administrator/Bookkeeper Hiring**

* Lynn talked about how there have been a number of qualified applicants for the bookkeeper position and have struggled to find qualified applicants for the Administrator position. Lynn talked about using different online resources to try and better promote the position. The different options that have been found have an associated cost and posting to all of them would cost $330. Cris and Rona brought up trying to maybe find local Northeast applicants first for ease with STF. Rona thought that trying Idealist first would be the best option and Cris agreed that there was probably not a need to advertise in all three locations. **Motion to advertise on Idealist: Approved (5-0) Motion by Rona, Seconded by Cris**

**STF 2023/24**

* Lynn asked the Board’s opinion on starting planning for STF 2023/2024. There was a discussion about where to hold future STF’s and where would be best financially/location wise for the membership. The pros and cons were discussed about using a university or college as the location. The pros were the price and the cons were that some locations are not conducive to walking to hotels/restaurants. Rona brought up how she liked having a “home-base” location each year to go to. Jim mentioned that the Pioneer Valley (home to Amherst/Northampton/etc.) would be a great central location for New England. Rona discussed Greenfield Community College as a less expensive site but with limited walking options for hotels/restaurants. She also mentioned Amherst and Mt. Holyoke as options with more options within walking distance. It was agreed upon that U Mass was not a good location. Lynn is going to look into having STF in Portsmouth again.

**STF 2022**

* Rona is continuing to work on deciding on a theme and who will be the keynote speakers/performers. Rona and Lynn will be visiting the site in August to preview it. There was also a discussion about whether to add people from STF 2020 to STF 2022 or to have a smaller virtual event for them.

**Board Help**

* With the Admin position situation still up in the air, there is a need for all of the board to try and pick up the various tasks. Chris and Jim will be helping with tech coordination for STF. Cris will help maintain the budget. Rona is going to need some more help on STF which Lynn and Linda will help with. Barbara is going to work on different membership outreach opportunities including Facebook posts, Thank You Notes to members, etc. ChaChanna is also going to be helping expanding outreach opportunities.

**Deb Gift**

* Lynn brought up coming up with a way to honor Deb. There were different ideas thrown out on how to best do this.

**New Business**

* None to report

**Old Business**

* None to report

Next Meeting: August 25, at 6:30 pm

Meeting Adjourned: **Motion to end the meeting: Approved (5-0)** Motion by Cris, Seconded by Barbara at 5:19 pm