

WFOP Board Meeting
Fall Conference, Friday, October 28, 2016

Meeting called to order by Jan Chronister, president at 5:32 p.m.

Question about whether a quorum raised by Lewis Bosworth. Three: Chronister, Hess, Belongie.

Present: Werstein, Farmer, Roberts, Kriesel, Cochran, Kubasta, Bosworth, Hess, Chronister, Lindow, Belongie, and Grant-Welhouse.

I. Old Business

1. Minutes: Kriesel moves to accept minutes, Welhouse seconds. Motion passed. Minutes approved.
2. Treasurer's Report – Submitted by Colleen Frentzel. Wellhouse moves to approve, Bosworth seconds. Summary of all total accounts, \$31,342.28. Motion carries.
3. Membership report. Lindow moves to approve, Werstein seconds. Cochran reports membership up slightly to 483 (from 458 from Fall 2015). Figures includes 60 non-renewals. Discussion about trying to engage student contest winners and student members more. Kubasta mentions one aspect of her interest in a literary magazine is to engage more young people. Asks if we work actively with area colleges. Motion carries.
4. Bylaws change – to add to Article VI a provision allowing elected/board officers (President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer) to make decisions through emails. Chronister informs no action needed. Will be read to membership at general meeting, a second reading. "Rarely in cases of urgency or practical expediency, the president may conduct on-line business with the organization's executive officers, with the understanding that any actions or decisions made during those sessions will be subject to strict review by the Board."
5. Calendar Report – Swanson and Werstein report there have been 40 submissions so far, Swanson is working on template, artist on board. Just not a lot of response, but Werstein expects that will change in days ahead.

II. New Business

1. Chronister reports that Fabu is on board to be the 2019 calendar editor.
2. Treasurer's Report – already approved. See above.
3. Museletter editor report – Bergmann absent. No report
4. Online voting – Bergmann absent but Chronister brings up topic. There is interest in making it possible to vote online via Survey Monkey/Mail Chimp, instead of just at twice annual meetings, where there is a small fraction of total membership. Those members without computers/internet link would be able to vote via postcard-ballot. Lindow says it makes sense to have larger voting pool although results may

- ultimately be the same. Fall 2018 is next election of officers according to Belongie. After considerable discussion, subject is tabled for another meeting.
5. Website report – Welhouse says over 2000 hits. Favorite pages visited are welcome, conferences, member pages. Welhouse’s work acknowledged.
 6. PLC Commission report: Hess reads Zimmerman’s e-mailed report: “As Wisconsin Poet Laureate Kim Blaeser’s two-year term draws to a close with the coming of the new year, I’m really pleased to thank her for all her fine work—writing, reading, speaking, traveling, and advocating for the art of poetry in our state and beyond it—and I am equally grateful to the WFOP’s ongoing support of the Poet Laureate and the Wisconsin Poet Laureate Commission. On behalf of the commission, thank you to every WFOP member for their financial support and their furthering of the arts across our state. This support matters immensely; everyone on the WPLC knows this and is grateful for it. By now all the applications for our 2017-2018 Wisconsin Poet Laureate have been received; the deadline for applications has passed. In the coming weeks the WPLC will be going through every applicant’s poems, accomplishments, and plans in what is sure to be a challenge of selecting only one poet from what is a fine roster of talented hopefuls. I can’t name names but I will venture a prediction: Come January 2017 Wisconsin is going to have another fine voice for poetry and the arts in our state. Stay tuned.” Hess continues reading additional paragraph which is not be read at general membership meeting: “I also want to take a moment here to give a well deserved thank you to WFOP and WPLC member Cathy Coffell, who after many years of hard work, committed work, successful work, will be leaving the WPLC. More than anyone else that I know of, Cathy stepped up and helped keep the Wisconsin Poet Laureate office and program on its feet after Gov. Walker cut off all state funding to them in 2010. Since then she has played a vital role in organizing, promoting, recruiting, and much more for the WPLC. Among the many talented and committed members of the Commission, Cathy deserves special thanks for all she has done over the years. I’m mentioning this not because I think the WFOP officers/members don’t already know this, but because I’d like to propose that at WFOP’s Spring 2017 conference in Milwaukee Cathy be honored by us for all that she’s done over the years. Ronnie Hess mentioned to me the possibility of giving Cathy a \$50 gift certificate to an independent bookstore and I think that that’s a fine idea. Please consider doing this or something like it. Lastly, I’d like every WFOP member to know that I’m always available to answer any questions or concerns about WFOP’s key role in the promotion of poetry near and far. Don’t hesitate to get in touch. Good reading and writing to all of you.”
 7. Calendar Report – Farmer says not as many calendars sold but fewer small bookstores and sales venues. He will try to make calendars available on consignment. Vendors down to 40 where once there had been 100. Hess asks Farmer to send list of current vendors to Board members so that they can suggest other possible venues.
 8. Archivist Report – Bosworth says it’s in the conference packet. He will address it at the general meeting Saturday.
 9. Student Poetry Contest – Coordinator Bosworth says he will also report at the general meeting Saturday. Has copies of poster announcing the contest to show members and have them take away to publicize. Bosworth reports that Werstein subbed for him at

- WCTE – Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English – convention. Werstein suggests the poster be submitted earlier so that it goes in the teachers’ packets ahead of time.
10. High School Outreach – Jeff Anderson absent. No report.
 11. 2017 Spring Conference – Werstein reports plans going well. Dates are April 28-29. Will make a report also on Saturday.
 12. Changes to chapbook contest – Jeannie and Steve Tomasko absent. Chronister says that there is concern surrounding prize money for the chapbook contest being commensurate with the entry fee (and cost of chapbook, which has to be submitted by the poet applicant). Tomaskos have suggested \$200 for first place, \$100 for runner up and \$100 for judge’s fee. Average of 17 submissions per year. Kriesel moves that we follow Steve Tomasko’s recommendation, Belongie seconds, with the new fee structure to take effect with next chapbook contest, 2017. Steve Tomasko has indicated \$7 for members, \$15 for non-members as entry fees. Motion carries.
 13. Woodland Pattern request for January 2017 marathon sponsorship -- \$350 for annual January marathon fundraiser. Discussion about advantages, disadvantages. Belongie calls attention again to Treasurer’s report and e-mailed suggestions of monetary distributions, and moves these recommendations regarding special initiatives be adopted, including \$350 for Woodland Pattern. Second by Farmer. In discussion, Welhouse mentions importance of making sure all our support initiatives include a web link to bring people to our site. Motion fails. Hess moves that Werstein be empowered to work with Woodland Pattern to reach a mutually agreed upon sponsorship, with appropriate appreciation opportunities, cross-promotion. (Friendly amendment by Kriesel and accepted by Hess for a \$200 financial ceiling). Seconded by Lindow. Motion passes.
 14. Lorine Niedecker – Hess speaks to the request from Friends of Lorine Niedecker’s Ann Engelman. FOLN stretched thin and is trying to develop a stronger financial base for more energetic programming. Bosworth moves, seconded by Werstein that WFOP give FOLN \$500, half of the \$1,000 requested. Motion passes.
 15. Wisconsin Arts Day – Chronister says she sees no payback for the usual \$250 fee requested. Hess moves we not support Arts Day, Kriesel seconds. Motion passes.
 16. Poetry Project Zine/Mini-Literary Magazine – Bosworth moves that we allocate \$400 to support the mini-literary magazine. Hess seconds. Werstein asks if this is start-up cost or for the poetry project. Kubasta says existing website WFOP will be used and hopefully encourage/generate more hits and membership. The only cost is for paying for poetry. Werstein asks for how long – Kubasta says one year. Says editors on hand to review; no costs on platform or for mailing since everything is via e-mail. If it goes well, Submittable might be looked at in the future, which then might entail other costs. Proposal, \$5 per poem for participating poets. Quarterly literary magazine. Bosworth states we don’t pay for poems for Museletter or the calendar. Chronister agrees this would be something new. Farmer points out the (free) calendar is payback for those who submit and then get in the calendar. Kubasta explains the reason for this additional perk for poetry, the seriousness associated with it. Kubasta says she will edit first edition but needs more guest editors for future editions. Chronister, Kriesel, Lindow volunteer. Only open to WFOP members. Publication still needs a name. Kubasta will solicit suggestions at general meeting. Motion passes.

17. Fall 2017 conference – Chronister says Holiday Inn only available November 10-11, 2017. Conflicts with other weekends in October. Not an action item. Hotel will be booked.
18. Ed moves adjournment, Kriesel seconds. Motion passes. 7:32 p.m. adjournment.

Respectfully submitted by Ronnie Hess, Secretary