

Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets
Fall 2019 General Membership Business Meeting Minutes

Saturday, October 26, 2019

Welcome & Program Announcements: James Roberts, South Central VP, welcomed attendees to the conference and outlined the program

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Executive Vice-President Michael Kriesel at 9:10 AM

Introduction of new members and those attending their 1st conference: Katie Chicquette Adams, Appleton; Caleb Dobbratz, Appleton; Paulette Laufer, Sturgeon Bay

Minutes of the Spring 2019 meeting and treasurer's report were approved

Approval of officer reports: Officers were recognized and their written reports were distributed in the conference packet; they include:

Regional VPs: Christina Kubasta and Cathryn Cofell (Central - Fox Valley); Ed Werstein (East - Milwaukee); Kathleen Serley (Mid-Central); Tori Grant Welhouse (Northeast); James Roberts (South Central); Nancy Austin (Northwest); West Central (Sandra Lindow)

Membership Chair: Naomi Cochran

Calendar Manager: Carol Pemrich Hauser said she is stepping down at the end of the year and she invited persons interested in taking over the position to talk to her about the responsibilities and to express their interest via email to President Jan Chronister

2021 Calendar Editor: Gillian Nevers, Nancy Jesse, Keesia Hyser: Gillian and Nancy reported that the theme for the 2021 calendar is Home and submissions will be accepted from November 2, 2019, to January 31, 2020. Guidelines appear on the WFOP website, along with a prose poem by Bruce Dethlefsen to help inspire submitters. Helen R. Klebesadel's cover art for the calendar, *Where are the Bees VI*, is also on the website. Gillian thanked Tori Grant Welhouse for putting these items on the website and making changes when needed. The 2021 calendar will be printed later than in past years and printed copies should be available by September 2020.

Webmaster: Tori Grant Welhouse reminded members they are welcome to have a page on the website and should email her if they wish to create one. Members are also welcome to post poetry news from their communities.

Bramble editor: Christina Kubasta reported that the Fall 2019 issue would be printed soon and that broadsides of it were available at the conference.

Archivist: Lewis Bosworth had a display of photos from past conferences.

Student Contest: Lewis Bosworth said that the judge for the coming year would be Mark Zimmerman and Crystal Gibbins.

75th Anniversary: Michael Belongie encouraged people to provide input on the type of event they wished to see for the WFOP's 75th anniversary in 2025, especially if they planned to attend. He also said that the WFOP's history would be updated for the conference.

Poet Laureate Commission Representative: Ed Werstein said the commission will hold a fundraising effort in the near future and he encouraged WFOP members to respond generously. Ed is also working on a committee that will prepare a broadside for the poet laureate. The commission is also looking for ways to have a poetry presence at the Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee in 2020 and invited members to share ideas with him. Ronnie Hess,

also a member of the commission, said that current laureate Margaret (Peggy) Rozga been traveling throughout the state to carry the message of poetry to Wisconsinites. Her theme is Opening Doors. Peggy is also preparing a manuscript for a chapbook with poems of past laureates. Ronnie added that the support of the WFOP and its members was extremely important to the laureate and the commission.

Update of WFOP activities — Michael Kriesel

1. A \$300 grant was provided to Chippewa Valley Writers to help fund Margaret Rozga's reading and workshop in Menomonie Oct. 11-12.
2. The grant from Packer Foundation was used to support publication of perfect-bound 2020 calendars, and events and readings in Appleton, Drummond, Eau Claire, Madison, Milwaukee, Menomonie, Minocqua, Sheboygan and Wausau.
3. Woodland Pattern Marathon: Ed Werstein reported that the WFOP would again sponsor an hour at the book store's annual poetry reading, to be held on Saturday, January 25. People interested in reading during this time slot should contact him.

Board Meeting decisions not yet announced: the 2019 fall board meeting minutes will be posted on the website

New Business

1. Spring 2020 Conference: Ed Werstein announced that the Spring 2020 conference will be held May 1-2 at the Blue Harbor in Sheboygan. Melissa Tuckey, a poet and activist in water ecology and eco-justice, will be the main speaker.
2. The new chapbook contest coordinator is Annette Grunseth, who said information about the contest was provided on a flyer available at the conference and on the website. Submissions are already being accepted and the deadline for entries is February 1, 2020. Judy Kolosso was thanked for her service as previous contest coordinator.
4. Poets Tree of Peace: June Paul welcomed submissions of Poems of Peace— global, local, social or personal—through March 30, 2020. Her goal is 1,000 poems, which she hopes to post on a Poets' Tree of Peace at a future conference. She said that WFOP president Jan Chronister offered her help in getting the poems published. June said a workshop would be held soon in Portage to help poets work on peace poems and she hoped to get schools involved. The WFOP is supporting this project and submission guidelines are available from June (junegpaul@gmail.com).
5. Muse Contest: Fred Kreutz reported that the submission period was December 1, 2019, to January 31, 2020. The judge will be Lisa Starr, former Rhode Island poet laureate and a speaker at the WFOP's Fall 2017 conference. Information about the contest and the judge are available on the website, and will be coming out in other publications.

Presentation of Honorary Lifetime Member Awards were presented to Lewis Bosworth and Bruce Dethlefsen

Moment of silence for members who have passed since Spring 2019: Laurel Devitt (Madison), Joey Wojtusik (Three Lakes), Richard Roe (Middleton)

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 AM.