

WFOP -- Board Meeting  
Spring, Milwaukee Ap. 28, 2017

Jan Chronister calls meeting to order at 5:02.

Present: Fred Kreutz, Ed Werstein, Mark Zimmerman, Colleen Frentzel, Lewis Bosworth, Tori Grant-Welhouse, Ronnie Hess, Christina Kubasta, Michael Farmer, Nancy Austin, Andrée Graveley, Fabu (incoming calendar editor), Naomi Cochran, Richard Swanson.

Kubasta moves to approve past minutes. Hess seconds. Motion passes.  
No additions to the agenda.

#### Old Business:

1. Ed Werstein gives report on calendar. Thanks Steve Tomasko for help given. Werstein gives praise to calendar artist/photographer Eddee Daniel. 1750 calendars printed.
2. Brief discussion on whether to have an online poll of opinions on the calendar regarding other options, formats than the current one. Bosworth is concerned about spending extra monies. Werstein adds we should also consider opening up voting on officers to e-ballot or online mechanism. Hess moves that a sub-committee be established by the Board to study the issue of electronic voting of officers and by-laws changes, and to report its findings with recommendations to the Board by the November 2017 conference. Kubasta seconds. Motion passes.
3. Revival of calendar committee item on agenda transferred to point 9 under New Business.

#### New Business:

1. Membership Report: Cochran reports on membership: 448 total members, 64 non-renewals, 6 deceased, 50 new since October. 294 getting print Museletter and 154 e-only Museletter. Cochran hopes to see the e-number increase. Chronister adds that if members have not renewed, their member page be hidden on the WFOP member pages. Discussion of whether when new members sign up or renew online there should be a button where they automatically sign up for an e-Museletter. G-Welhouse and Frentzel discuss web page and how to facilitate online registration.

By affirmation, Chronister accepts the membership report.

2. Treasurer's Report: Frentzel reports that WFOP doing well; no decrease in revenues. Expenses are similar to expectations. Done well with the Spring conference in keeping it big and exciting but within bounds. CD matures toward end of November. Frentzel will report at next Board meeting on recommendations. Bosworth moves acceptance of report. Seconded by Werstein. Motion is approved.
3. Webmaster Report: Most popular web pages are conference and member pages. Frentzel raises question about how to honor deceased members; whether it would be possible to add material to the web pages about members who have died. Grant-Welhouse says there already is an In-Memoriam on certain member pages. Chronister says it's more an issue for the web person than the Board as a whole.
4. Bramble Report: Kubasta has provided a printed and e-mailed report on first two issues. Print issues for sale at the conference. Winter 60 plus and 50 plus for spring entries. Kriesel edited the spring; Kubasta the winter. Some outside solicitation concerning submissions, essays. Kubasta begins several recommendations in her report: recommends

we open Bramble to all Wisconsin poets (about 50%) as well as WFOP members (about 50%). Effort to be collaborative and inclusive, although originally Bramble was for WFOP members only. Kreutz asks if there would be a strategy for letting all poets know. Kubasta says yes. Bosworth says this is still a young effort and that Kubasta won't know how things fall out in terms of balance of quality. Chronister worries changing things (including non-members) might be seen as a betrayal of members and the originally stated idea for Bramble. Werstein says having a completely open process could become unwieldy, with hundreds of entries. Chronister suggests we keep things as is until the year's pilot is over. Decision not to take action on the recommendation. But commendations from the Board on the print issue of Bramble. \$5 special conference price for print issues of Winter and Spring issues. demonstrating interest in print issues. Kubasta adds that half of the people had waived getting paid for inclusion. And commendations to Grant-Welhouse for her web/graphics assistance. Continuing through this year, submissions will remain as originally proposed; Bramble will move to integrated web/print platform; contributor's copy will replace \$5 honorarium; Website will feature "buy" button for print copies (regular price \$6) to generate revenue for Bramble & WFOP.

5. Fall Conference Report: Austin and Graveley, new northwest VPs. Contracts signed for Coleman Barks, well-known Rumi translator; and Lisa Starr, past Rhode Island poet laureate for fall conference. Theme: "Poetry and Mysticism: When the Phoenix is Fire." Organizers also hope to for participation of Dances of Universal Peace, from Madison.
6. Poet Laureate Commission Report: Mark Zimmerman says we have a new WI poet laureate; nothing has been said about any change in our relationship to WFOP. We carry on as years past. Zimmerman says WFOP is one of PLC's staunchest, most reliable partners. Hess adds that the annual stipend for the PL has been increased to \$2,500 and increased donations to the PL program have been seen with new fundraising efforts.
7. Calendar Business Report: Michael Farmer gives a review of difficulties in past years associated with keeping the calendar fiscally sound. But stresses it has continued to make money and this year netted \$3,000. Not doing so badly after all says Frentzel.
8. Archivist Report: Bosworth says no copies of his report are in the conference folders and Bosworth is on the agenda. Chronister says she make 100 copies for the Saturday meeting. It will be added to conference bill, says Frentzel.
9. 2019 Calendar Report: Fabu, the 2019 calendar editor reports that the theme is Celebrating Wisconsin People. Has invited several other editors to accept submissions with her – Timothy Yu, Wendy Vardaman, Roberta Hill and Oscar Mireles. Kreutz and Chronister mention Richard Swanson's emailed suggestion that \$600 be available to the editor for payment of artists/graphic and technical support. Grant-Welhouse moves that calendar editors receive \$600 per year for graphic/layout/design/and other artistic and production needs, to be determined by the editor. Kubasta seconds. Motion carries.
10. Lower fee for email only membership tabled.
11. High School Outreach Coordinator Jeff Anderson absent.

#### Other Business:

Muse Prize – needs a new judge for the contest, according to Kreutz. Needs names forwarded to him, preferably of people from out of state.

Hess moves adjournment. Chronister seconds. Motion approves. Adjournment at 628pm.

Respectfully submitted by Ronnie Hess.