

Minutes: WFOP Spring Conference  
General Meeting  
4/29/2017

President Jan Chronister calls general business meeting to order at 8:34am.

Chronister says regional vice presidents' reports are in the packet and won't be given orally. Chronister introduces Andrée Graveley and Nancy Austin, new vice presidents for Northwest Wisconsin and who are November conference organizers. Chronister acknowledges Tori Grant-Welhouse (Northeast); Ed Werstein (East); Christina Kubasta (Central Fox Valley); absent, James Roberts (South) and Sandra Lindow (West). Also, Kathleen Serley (Mid-Central region) who was absent.

Chronister calls Ronnie Hess to give WFOP-WPL report in Mark Zimmerman's absence, Zimmerman being the WFOP representative on the WPL but called away this morning. Hess states WFOP is solid, appreciated partner by the WPL. No changes in relationship. All is well.

Chronister introduces Michael Farmer to give report on the calendar. 2018 calendar is out, 15<sup>th</sup> that MF has been involved with. Designed as a fundraiser originally; despite problems regarding economy and other things (indie bookstores disappearing), the calendar operates at a profit – with \$3,000 last year. Richard Swanson and Ed Werstein add that doing the 2018 was “fun.” Ed acknowledges help of Steve Tomasko. Werstein thanks Eddee Daniels for his art/graphics contributions to the calendar. Fabu is introduced, the editor of 2019 calendar. Fabu alerts people to flyer/announcement in their packet and submissions information. The theme is “Celebrating Wisconsin People.” She wants to get to the heart of Wisconsin's people. Says there will be others working with her, reading the poems: Timothy Yu, Wendy Vardaman, Roberta Hill, Oscar Mireles. Website is already up. Submissions open beginning September 1, 2017.

Report from Tori Grant Welhouse on WFOP webpage. Traffic is growing. New members – GW says an added benefit is a members' page, which people can have constructed for them. Another is Bramble, WFOP's new poetry magazine. Also, GW likes blogging items, announcements and responses to news items; encourages more participation.

Treasurer's Report – is in the packet. Chronister says things are looking fine.

Chronister says minutes of last November's meeting are on the website and the Board meeting minutes will be on the web shortly.

Blanchette moves acceptance of regional vps's reports, Hess seconds. Motion passes.

Chronister introduces Christina Kubasta for report on Bramble. Discussion at last night's Board meeting referenced. We are moving to an integrated web and print platform. Samples of print Bramble are available at the conference. \$5.00 each. Moving forward, there will be web and print, with contributors' copies free. Print copies can be ordered on line. Kubasta gives background on the magazine. Next issue, Summer, will be guest edited by Chronister, with the theme of “Hanging On,” with submissions open probably in May. Space for about 20 poems. A

wonderful way to highlight WFOP's poets, to represent WI poets. Kubasta says the hope is that Bramble will generate revenue. We can print on demand. (Print-on-Demand is used to keep overhead low and generate revenue.)

Lewis Bosworth, Archivist, acknowledged. His report also added to the packet.

Chronister updates – two mini grants were given. One was to offset May 21<sup>st</sup> Poetry Day. And Kubasta got a mini grant to print poems from a broadside competition. WFOP received an \$1800+ grant from the Wisconsin Humanities Council for the spring 2017 conference and to make Mark Doty's appearance possible. Help from other funders/supporters of the conference made the Council grant possible.

Chronister asks whether people at the conference know she had been putting poetry calls on the WFOP Facebook page during National Poetry Month (April). Says if you have not liked WFOP's Facebook page, please do so now. Nearly 400 likes. (But there may be confusion over two WFOP FB pages, one the "official" site, the other an open discussion site.)

Chronister reminds (chapbooks etc.) vendors to fill out WI Dept. of Revenue disclosure forms.

Chronister also mentions concern among members that voting of officers is done by only those at the conference. Board wants to have a committee to study how the voting could take place more inclusively, so that all members vote on the officers. E-mail Jan privately or come to see her at the conference if interested in being on the committee.

Graveley and Austin report on upcoming November conference. They show mockups of posters. Announce that Rumi translator Coleman Barks will be keynoter and also do two breakout sessions. Former Rhode Island poet laureate Lisa Starr will be another speaker. Hope is also to bring the Dances of Universal Peace to the conference. (Not yet arranged.) Conference is November 10-11. They ask if anyone here knows members of Sufi community in Madison to help get them in touch with Graveley and Austin.

Moment of silence.

Unfinished business – seeing none, Chronister calls for a motion to adjourn. Karla Huston moves to adjourn; Kreutz seconds. Business meeting adjourns at 910a. Respectfully submitted by Ronnie Hess.