

Spring WFOP Board Meeting: Oshkosh, Friday, April 27, 2018

Present: Chronister, Belongie; Frentzel; Kreutz; Grant-Welhouse; Werstein; Roberts; Pemrich Hauser; Kubasta; Hess.

4:07 p.m. Chronister calls meeting to order.

Chronister reviews Roberts Rules of Orders. No formal votes needed with certain reports, such as minutes. Chair has to ask only (according to RRO) whether there are any additions, corrections, or questions, seeing none, report accepted. Minutes are on the WFOP website. Chair calls for approval. If no corrections minutes approved as read. No corrections. Chair asks if there are any additions to the agenda.

Old Business:

Chair says Board had unanimously agreed to raise the stipend of contest judges from \$100 to \$200, except in the Kay Saunders new poet category because there aren't that many entries. Michael Farmer was paid \$500 to cover his moving expenses. (He had never asked for any payments as calendar business manager in the past.) Life membership was granted to Marcie Leitzke of Shawano, a senior, now in a nursing home in Shawano, who believes she had paid for this at one time; Museletter editor contract has been approved via email board vote. Contract included clarification of some duties plus a cost-of-living increase to maintain membership data.

New Business:

1. Treasurer's Report: Third quarter report is in conference packet. Frentzel also sent new fiscal (Fourth quarter) report as of 3/31/18. There is about a \$2,000 profit from last year; \$20,000 in the CD; and monies Calendar Business Manager has in her account. Chair accepts Treasurer's Report.
2. Question surrounding a request for special funding to regional VPs, up to the amount of \$300 beyond the \$200 VPs already entitled to. Chair says it has to be set up as a process. Frentzel says if everyone asked for \$300 every year it would obviously cut into the WFOP's budget. Kubasta asks about mini-grant, which is \$100, and suggests revisiting the mini grant, adding other criteria. Frentzel says there hasn't been a great demand for mini grants. Discussion of the possibility of a cap. Belongie suggests 1 \$300 grant every three years. Or a cap on the annual total. Belongie moves that Frentzel be responsible for drawing up a separate budget for VP special project funds. Hess seconds. In essence a separate fund. Vote, unanimous.
3. Cochran absent. Chair accepts membership chair's report. There was an increase in new membership at the fall 2017 conference but non-renewals thereafter. Current membership is 476. Non-renewals, 93 since 1/1/2018; new since October 1, 2017, 44.
4. Webmaster report – Grant Welhouse says web traffic continues to grow. Frentzel asks is there is a way to not skip over a field, as in Museletter email versus US mail. Discussion shifts to Museletter expenses. Belongie moves that print of Museletter should cost each member opting for a print version \$5, except those who have a lifetime membership. Frentzel seconds. Pemrich-Hauser says she understands our kindness on this point, our reluctance to levy monies for the printed newsletter, but if it's not a money maker then

we need to be responsible fiscally. Kreutz says tabling might be the way to go until we have additional input. Kubasta moves to table, Chronister seconds. Passed, motion tabled. Motion will be taken up in the fall Board meeting. Hess raises question concerning possibility of entering events strictly on line and not sending out a weekly events email. This would avoid inconsistencies that have arisen. Discussion tabled to be taken up also at fall meeting with a report from Grant Welhouse concerning whether and how this would be possible. Kubasta says she's never received the events email. Kreutz doesn't remember getting one either. Grant Welhouse says we would need to train membership about how to send information to the appropriate person. Regarding fall conference, Poet Laureate of Tucson, T.C. Tolbert, will be the featured speaker in Stevens Point, Holiday Inn, November 2,3, 2018.

5. Bramble report – Kubasta says she has not taken a position on the current submission policy or the recent suggestions to change it. She just wants people to be happy with the criteria. There is a survey in the conference folder. We will also send out another e-survey. Two options: Option #1, to continue with current policy of WFOP members only (including non-residents); Option #2, to open submissions to all WI poets, in addition to WFOP members. Bramble is budget neutral or budget positive.
6. Poet Laureate report. In the folder.
7. Calendar: Carol Pemrich Hauser is introduced – calendar business report. Chronister says 2019 calendar is beautiful. Hauser says in future she would like to make the calendar available in September (April is too soon she says) with possibility for people to pre-order. This would be a way to avoid unnecessary printing, i.e. having a lot left. She would also like to find a designer who knows how to use CreateSpace and find a different binding besides spiral binding. We also can't afford to keep giving copies away. This is a fundraiser, not a giveaway, she says. Chronister advises she has met with the 2020 editors. Says she believes Hauser, as Business Manager, should have freedom to do her job. Belongie agrees, adding the Board puts its trust in her to do a good job. Hauser not taking a salary for handling the calendars. If there are questions, Hauser asks that feedback be given directly to her.
8. Archivist Report – report in folder. Bosworth absent.
9. PL program donation -- \$500; Friends of Lorine Niedecker donation, \$500. Belongie moves we continue this policy. Werstein seconds. Passes. Hess abstains.
10. Informational Item – bylaws change to allow members to vote on line will be given second and final reading at general business meeting on Saturday.
11. Officer elections – Belongie says there has never been more than one candidate for one office; we should try to recruit new people but also be supportive of those who are continuing to serve. Officers up every three years. Chronister and Frentzel will continue. Hess and Belongie will unless others come forward.
12. Same as above on the printed agenda.
13. Green Bay Packer Foundation grant – Chronister says current cycle calls for arts and culture. Grant Welhouse suggested Chronister write a grant proposal. Chronister suggests using the grant proposal for promotion of the calendar. There is a student contest that will be part of the calendar. Minimum grant amount is \$3,000. Next calendar theme is Travel. Chronister is responsible for writing the grant.

14. Untitled Town Book and Author Festival was April 19-22. Welhouse asks WFOP to donate \$250 to the 2019 festival. Grant Welhouse was there representing WFOP, with table and WFOP session, which were free. Hess moves funds, Frentzel seconds. Passes.
15. Hess moves adjournment, Frentzel seconds. Passes. Adjournment at 5:43p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ronnie Hess, Secretary.