

Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets Spring 2019 General Membership Business Meeting Minutes
Saturday, April 27, 2019

Welcome & Program Announcements—Sandra Lindow, West Central regional president, welcomed members to the conference and reported that the WFOP was 69 years old, the second oldest state association behind only Massachusetts. The WFOP's first meeting was April 23, 1950, in the Memorial Union at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

Call to Order—The meeting was called to order by President Jan Chronister at 8:26 AM

Introduction of new members and those attending their 1st conference: Karen Geissler of Eau Claire, Susan Huebner of Mukwonago and Tonya McKenna Trabant of Antigo are attending their first conference.

New Door County Poet Laureate Nancy Rafal wants to compile a list of communities with poets laureate, along with the procedures on how they were selected. She hopes having this information will create a network that will facilitate for securing grant opportunities in Wisconsin. Nancy will place an announcement and her email address in a future *Museletter*.

Additions to agenda: none

Minutes: The president approved the minutes from fall membership business meeting.

Approval of officer reports: Officers were recognized and their written reports (distributed in conference packet) were accepted by the president; officers include:

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

Membership Chair: Naomi Cochran

Calendar Manager: Carol Pemrich Hauser

2020 Calendar Editor: Erna Kelley and Karen Loeb

Webmaster: Tori Wellhouse Grant

Bramble editor: Christina Kubasta. Jan announced that Christina and Tori, with the board's support, had decided to reduce the number of issues from four to three per year due to time pressures.

Archivist: Lewis Bosworth

Student Contest: Lewis Bosworth (this report appeared in the most recent *Museletter*)

Poet Laureate Commission Representative: Ed Werstein. Poet laureate Peggy Rozga was recognized, and advised people who contact her and don't hear back to contact her again. Ronnie Hess, chair of the state's Poet Laureate commission, encouraged members who invite the laureate to events to make her work and travel easier by coordinating her appearances with neighboring groups.

Update of WFOP activities: Jan Chronister

1. \$300 grant to the Juneau Park Poetry in the Park Festival, July 20, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
2. Facebook "likes" are now up to 616.
3. Packer Foundation grant of \$4,000 to experiment with the binding on the 2020 calendar and to support regional events celebrating and promoting the calendar

Board Meeting decisions not yet announced (more information available in the 2019 spring board meeting minutes)

1. Vice president budgets were raised to \$300; Jan encouraged people with potential projects to talk to their regional vice president
2. *Bramble* publication can now be listed in *Museletter*
3. WFOP membership will be surveyed on having one instead of two conferences a year, including preferred locations and dates.
4. 75th Anniversary: The WFOP will be 75 in 2025. Michael Belongie asked for volunteers to update the history of the WFOP last updated for the 65th anniversary (Sandra Lindow is reviewing that history and making necessary corrections) and to help plan the 75th annual conference. People interested should contact him. Members will be surveyed about a location for that event (several previous anniversary conferences have been held in Green Lake). The intent is to feature a major poet as the featured speaker (Marge Piercy was featured for the 50th anniversary and Dorianne Laux for the 65th). Michael also urged

members to begin celebrating the WFOP's 70th year, in 2020, and the upcoming 75th anniversary now, for instance on stationery letterheads, email signatures, etc.

New Business

1. Fall conference in Stevens Point October 25-26, 2019: James Roberts reported that contracts for all three speakers have been signed, including: poet Cynthia Marie Hoffmann, Stevens Point magician Robbie Johnson (who will perform prior to the Open Mic Friday night) and Madison-area spoken word poet, musician and producer Quann Logan.

Moment of silence for members who have passed since Fall 2018: William McConnell (Aurora, Colorado)

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 AM

Muse Prize winners: First, Jeri McCormick for "A Miner Decides"; second, Jan Chorister for "Robert Burns Recalled"; third, Gail Sosinsky for "First Meeting with the Psychologist"; honorable mentions, Thomas Erickson for "Epidemic", C.L.Nehmer for "From Behind Glass", and Maryann Hurtt for "Reading to Senta".

Chapbook Contest winners: First, Ronnie Hess for *Canoeing a River with No Name*; second, Gillian Nevers for *The True Story*; first honorable mention, Sharon Foley for *Drunk with Illumination*; second honorable mention, Susan M. Huebner for *Reality Changes with the Willy Nilly Wind*.