

WFOP Fall Business Meeting 11/11/17

Conference called to order at 815 am. by WFOP President Jan Chronister.
Nancy Austin and Andrée Graveley open the program with welcomes, background on the conference speakers – Coleman Barks, Lisa Starr, and thanks to those who helped organize.

Business portion called to order at 825am by Chronister.

1. Recognition of new members attending first conference. The chair accepts the minutes of the spring Board meeting.
2. Recognition of regional VPs. Austin/Graveley; Grant-Welhouse; Roberts; Roberts/Lindow; Serley; Werstein. Their reports are in the packets. Chair accepts their reports.
3. Poet Laureate Commission report – Zimmerman is absent. His report also in the conference packet, accepted by Chair. Chronister reminds audience that WFOP supports PLC, is an annual supporting member.
4. Chronister recognizes membership chair Cochran and her report. Chronister says membership has been going up. Applause for Cochran and Bergmann who keeps membership records updated and produces the Museletter.
5. Calendar Business Manager: Chronister says Farmer has asked to step down. WFOP is looking for business manager who is entitled to 50% of calendar sales, possibility of splitting the job north and south. Applause for Farmer. Copies of new calendar are at back table. \$9. Chronister accepts the business manager's report.
6. Roberts gives 2019 calendar editor report. Submissions from Sept 1-Dec 1. Roberts is accepting mailed entries to convert to e-files. Flyers on the theme(s) are on the table. Chair accepts Roberts' report.
7. Webmaster report – Also in packet. Chronister says webpage is “such a treasure.” Possibility of audio/visual materials. Chair accepts the report.
8. Grant-Welhouse reports for Kubasta on Bramble. Open for submission. Cathy Cofell is the guest editor. No theme. Information on the website. Starting with this edition, available for sale on Amazon. Applause. Must be WFOP member to submit. Chronister says this encouraged one Minnesotan to join WFOP so that she could submit.
9. Archivist: Lewis Bosworth absent. Roberts will accept any archival material to transfer to Bosworth.
10. Student Contest – Chronister says there are applications/information in back of the room. For ages 6-12. Deadline Jan. 13.
11. Kreutz reports Muse Contest applications available in the conference room and on the wfop web. Feb. 1 deadline. Award at spring conference. Clerk for submissions is Jerome Jagielski. Judge is Connie Wanek.
12. Honorary Lifetime Awards – 70 or older and with significant service to WFOP.
*Belongie presents and accepts lifetime award to Mardi Fries (freeze), whose membership dates to 1969. Belongie gives background on her work for WFOP – several offices held in WFOP, twice editor of WFOP Poets Calendar. Reads one of her poems, Hologram for Goose Island Park. * Chronister in turn gives lifetime award to Belongie and thanks him for many years of service to WFOP. Belongie is currently

- the longest serving active WFOP board member, having spent 15 years in executive positions as past president, secretary, executive vice-president (three terms). He co-chaired the fellowship's 50th anniversary celebration/conference in 2000 with Star Powers and chaired the 65th in 2015. In 2007 he co-edited the Wisconsin Poets' Calendar with Josephine Zell. Belongie reads one of his poems, Self-Exam.
13. Update of WFOP activities – Chronister says mini-grants \$100 to Namekagon youth prizes in annual poetry jam for two years; \$100 for summer poetry festival in Green Bay. 460 likes to Facebook page that she administers. Younger, diverse likes/friends.
 14. New Business: A) Spring conference in Oshkosh, Ap. 27-28. Kubasta the conference chair. Headliners: Tiana Clark, Wisconsin Institute of Creative Writing; Heather Derr-Smith. B) WFOP Board approved a by-laws change to make election of officers possible electronically. This applies to fall, 2018, making it possible for people to vote online, including people not attending conferences, since WFOP now has over 500 members. First reading here. Voting in spring. C) Martha Kaplan filling-in for Gillian Nevers, interim chapbook contest coordinator, reports 2018 chapbook prize – Eighth annual for chapbooks of 16-47 pages eligible. D) Board voted to sponsor one hour at Woodland Pattern marathon, January 27, 2018, for \$350. Chronister asks for any other business, additions.
 15. Moment of silence for members who have died. Fred Kreutz asks, given this is Veterans' Day, for a recognition of veterans and their families.
 16. Blanchette moves for adjournment, Keggi seconds. Motion passes. Meeting adjourned.