

New Mexico State Poetry Society Board Meeting Minutes, January 18, 2020

Location: Judy Chicago Art Gallery and Pete's Cafe - Belen, NM

Present: NMSPS board members: Bernadette Perez, President; Dino de Leyba, Vice President; Terri Klein, Treasurer; Cyvil Burks, Secretary; Scott Wiggerman, Albuquerque Chapter chair; Bill Nevins, Poetry and Film Chapter Chair; Megan Baldrige, Children's Poetry (Poets in the Classroom) Project Chair; Jules Nyquist, Events Calendar; Cathy Chilton, guest of Meagan's

Welcome by President Bernadette Perez

Meeting called to order at 3:20 p.m.

Membership report by Terri Klein:

As of this date 145 dues paying members, established chapters consist of: Albuquerque, Rio Grande, Valencia Poets, Santa Fe Poetry Trails and Poetry in Film. Chapters in development: Silver City, Socorro, and Las Cruces. Chapter formation guidelines were reviewed. *The membership chair position is Open and available for your consideration.*

Children's Poetry Project (Poets in the Classroom) report by Megan Baldrige:

Poets engaged fifteen classrooms at Washington Middle School thus far. Plans for April 2020 going strong for the remainder of schools. Teacher and student responses have been positive.

Treasurer's Report by Terri Klein: (see attached)

Speak with the Poet (SWTP) Project report: Terri Klein The NMSPS sponsors this project, chaired by Sylvia Ramos Cruz. Budget is \$250 from NMSPS, plus \$100 from Albuquerque NOW for a total of \$350. All funds are held by NMSPS. A sandwich board was purchased recently, as well as 3 posters and other miscellaneous supply as needed to assist in supporting this event. \$237.78 has been spent so far, leaving \$212.22 remaining in the budget. Terri described the current phase of the project, with poets appearing around Albuquerque to listen to passers-by talk about women and girls important in their lives and then writing poems for the passers-by to take with them. Poets also keep copies of the poems and obtain permission from the people who told the stories to use those poems in an anthology and play to be produced this summer. Megan showed a poster on the event.

Revised By-laws / Constitution report by Terri Klein

Reported on the approval of the NMSPS bylaws by the membership and touched on some of the changes in the bylaws. The three types of memberships were covered.

President's Report: Bernadette Perez

Continues to advocate for youth projects and encourages participation in the NFSPS youth poetry contests for grades 3-6 and 9-12, with no entry fee required.

Vice President Report: Dino de Leyba

Addressed the need to fill open positions in the organization: *Membership Chair* reports on membership and represents the interest of chapters and at-large members, *Youth Chair* oversees all youth projects including Poets in the Classroom project, Juan Tabo library reading, the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NMSPS) poetry contests for youth; and other youth projects as applicable and represents the interest of all members under 21 years of age, *Fundraising/Contest/Publications Chair* oversees all fundraising activities, secures judges for any contest the Society conducts, oversees any publications the Society decides to produce. *Communications Chair* oversees all communication to the membership via website, calendar, newsletter, social media, mailing services, etc.; *Convention Chair*: This position will be replaced by a National Convention Coordinator, and, Officers of the Society shall chair the State Convention.

Chapters Chair Reports

Albuquerque Chapter / Scott Wiggerman reported on the state of the chapter and workshops sponsored by the chapter. Extensive report available on request. Scott shared about the upcoming poetry picnic May 23 at the Open Space Center in Albuquerque and mentioned deadline for Haiku submission due February 17. Scott suggested having a NMSPS membership table at the picnic and to have chapbooks for sale.

Poetry and Film / Bill Nevins spoke on the Santa Fe Poetry & Film Experience, and how it expands and strengthens poets and film community. Bill was approached by the film community to get poets involved with the Santa Fe Film Festival. Bill shared about having monthly meetings. Bill requested funds for honorarium and travel expenses of \$200.00 for Santa Fe Poetry & Film Experience (2-15-2020, 1:00-4:00 p.m.). Dino made a motion and it was seconded by Jules. Motion carried to fund \$200.00. Bill has arranged for board members to be able to attend the Poetry reading and film festival.

Rio Grande Valencia Poets / Kuan Tikkun: Report read by Bernadette Perez, available upon request.

Santa Fe Poetry Trails / Hannah S. Wiseheart (Report read by Terri Klein).

1. Rota of MC s (purpose is both to share leadership duties but also develop confidence in chapter for MCing) for Open Mike Readings is going very well with continued mentoring and 3 new MCs this Spring.

2. We have an historical ban of at least one person whose behavior was considered destructive and hostile (perhaps a mental or other health issue) which I have decided to continue since I have had experience with this person in another group and he has a reputation for this behavior. I would not ask anyone to MC if we could not have this guardrail in place, since none of us who serve need increased stress. I hope the NMSPS Board supports such boundaries. Otherwise, we are a very open and inclusive group.

3. I may have missed any decision about rearranging schedule to allow Santa Fe to host a Board meeting in a month other than August. I brought this to attention before December, I believe, but am not aware if it was discussed and a decision made. Thank you for reminding me of the outcome of the discussion, if any.

Hannah S Wiseheart, Chair, Santa Fe Trails Chapter.

Hannah will not be able to host the NMSPS board meeting in August. Cyvil offered to host the Santa Fe board meeting and will work with Hannah on finding a venue for this meeting. The board will make final decisions on this venue.

Misc Conversation:

- Conversation regarding a new website in process
- Jules suggested Bernadette team up with the state poet Laureate in traveling around the state. Jules shared a hand bill on upcoming works shops at the Poetry Playhouse. Jules suggests the website to include opportunity to self-post events. Jules offered the Poetry playhouse to host a board meeting for NMSPS.
- Megan has met with a librarian that appreciates poetry and is willing to open the library for an all-day poetry event.
- **Cathy** introduced the tiny homes project. Cathy's husband constructed a poetry book fashioned in the shape of a desk with pen and paper for by-passers to write a poem, and books of poetry for taking. Cathy read an example of a poem written by a homeless man. Cathy would like to see poetry embedded in sidewalks and poems written in chalk on the

sidewalk. Cathy spoke of a poetry bomb as a counter to destruction, where poems are dropped from the sky - dropped from balloons as an idea in Oct. Items would require some consideration by the board and of course would need to be cleared by the City.

- Conversation regarding board members visiting Silver City, Las Cruces, and Socorro.

Save the date

Future Board Meeting Time and Location

April 11, 2020 – Juan Tabo Library Youth Readings

April 18, 2020 – NMSPS Board Meeting / 2 - 4 p.m.

Place – Boxcar Restaurant 530 South Guadalupe St Santa Fe

April 25, 2020 – NM State Poetry Society Annual Convention / 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Place - **Center for Spiritual Living** 2801 Louisiana Blvd NE Albuquerque NM

Meeting Adjournment 4:56 PM

Respectfully submitted

Cyvil B. Burks, Sr, 2019-2021 NMSPS Board Secretary