

## **NMSPS Board Meeting Minutes: January 5, 2019**

The first New Mexico State Poetry Society's board meeting of the year was held on January 5, 2019. In attendance were Bernadette Perez, Terri Klein, Iris Gersh, Ginny Gaskill, Shirley Blackwell, and via phone, Andi Penner.

After sharing our positive poetic occurrences, the meeting started at 10:30am

Chapter report from Santa Fe Chapter's president Debbi Brody: (via email)

Hi everyone, I have a couple santa fe volunteers who wish to help Ginny with the convention. Let me know when you are ready to receive their names and numbers.

Thanks,  
Debbi

My report: Starting a second open mike aimed at young folks downtown Santa Fe on the third Monday each month, a different young host and featured reader each month co-sponsored by the city's cultural division and our chapter. Will be doing a workshop next week on two ancient forms and a doing another workshop in Colorado next month on the blackout poem. Judging the state Poetry-Out-Loud finals in March as always. We continue to have an average of 30 readers at each first Monday, always some new faces. It was the new younger faces that put the bee in the bonnet re; youth emcee open mike.

Terri Klein will do a "Presenting your Poetry" at ABQ Chapter meeting 1/12/2019.

Shirley suggested people should submit audio and written file for the NFSPS and could present at Convention (3/15 deadline). Contest info will be sent to members.

Membership report sent from Jules Nyquist shows a list of names of 63 adults, one student, one youth. Mia Herrera is a new youth member.

Membership Drive before National Convention would include Road Trips to Las Cruces, Roswell, etc. It's important to check out university campus locations where readings could be held in these locations. It was decided that the delegates to these locations should go earlier than later. Andi suggested that we sponsor a poetry reading and host an open mic in the evening in the southern parts of the state. Shirley said we could invite poets from Deming. Some board members have contacts and could begin the process of reaching out to other areas of NM. In turn, these new chapters could join in the National Conference. We do not need a committee, it was decided, to start this.

Terri discussed Anniversary membership, how there is a need to change the constitution and put a procedure in place.

A discussion of Life Membership and how it was used in the past depending on member's length of time in the society and their age. We have accepted them but would consider narrowing down the membership categories.

Terri handed out Treasurer's report (attached).

It would be possible to have the Juan Tabo Library be a site for a reading in April and subsequent years.

Valeri Martinez has offered the National Hispanic Cultural Center library as a meeting place for our board and small groups.

The PITC orientation at Alvarado is on a Friday in January. There will be an Albuquerque presentation of poetry from Alvarado Elementary at the Albuquerque Museum.

In regards to the issue of monies from Reginald Chavez Elementary not refunded to our Society, Shirley read aloud the letter that was drafted by Bonnie Rucobo. The next day Terri was to send the notarized letter certified, return receipt requested to Mrs. Huerta and a copy to the Superintendent of Albuquerque Public Schools.

Bookworks has offered us to set up our members' books, and would offer us a Poetry Day, perhaps in October, to coincide with a new date for Poetry Day.

Andi suggested a Youth Chapter that could be affiliated to a certain public library or libraries, and sponsored by NMSPS. Erna Fergusson library has several youth-centric activities, for example. We all agreed we'd like more active involvement from youth.

National Convention report, in Santa Fe, NM (June 23 through June 26<sup>th</sup>) presented by Ginny Gaskill, Chair

Presenters thus far: Valerie Martinez; Jessica Helen Lopez; Debbi Brody; Stuart Warren; Manny Gonzalez, Jules Nyquist, and Sylvia Ramos.

Preliminary agenda passed out (attached)

Some features will be "cyphering" (street corner poetry) and presenters will be offered membership. "Cowboy poetry" is being considered. We are still looking for Entertainers. Steve Sanders who runs Red Dog film, will set us time slots.

Andi suggested a Power Point that would run constantly the list of winners of the National awards. Ginnie will talk to someone about that.

Shirley will run Bookstore.

All 50 contests are now on Submittable.

There will be a Silent Auction.

Andi offered to help Ginnie with a communications plan.

Unfinished business: Membership process and revision of Constitution, and Election of the Nominating committee for the elected board, that serves two years. This will not happen until after the Convention in June.

Saturday March 16<sup>th</sup> is the date proposed for the next meeting. Location to be determined.

Meeting adjourned 12:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Iris Gersh, Vice President, New Mexico State Poetry Society