

## **New Mexico State Poetry Society Board Meeting Minutes, September 21, 2019**

Location: Center for Spiritual Living - Albuquerque

**Meeting called to order by President Bernadette Perez at 10:09 a.m.**

**Moment of silence to acknowledge those recently deceased:**

Phyllis

Susan

**NMSPS liaison to NMSPS, Shirley Blackwell** gave a report on the four board members to be voted on for 2019-2021, they include:

President: Bernadette Perez

Vice President: Dino de Leyba

Treasure: Terri Klein

Secretary: Cyvil Burks

Chancellor: Phil Peach

Most ballots were completed on-line and ten written ballots received at this meeting. Results of the voting will be announced later in the meeting.

**Financial Report:** Terri Klein: reported on financial status of NMSPS. Terri credited the national poetry conviction held in Santa Fe as a big contributor to the infusion of cash. Up to date financials to be provided at next meeting on October 19.

**Membership Report:** Terri Klein: report on membership for the state - 159 members. April 2019 - 96 members. A new membership chair is being sought to manage membership.

**NMSPS Constitution Report:** Terri Klein: reported on the rework of the NMSPS constitution. The revised bylaws were made available at this meeting and can be found on the NMSPS website. Members have thirty from Oct 1<sup>st</sup> to review, then vote on the new bylaws. A six-page document is available that describes what the changes are and why the seated board would like to see these changes implemented. Some of the items are changes in membership categories to better facilitate record keeping. The makeup of the Board will change to four officers and six directors. If director positions are not filled, someone from the board will fill that position. Robert's rules of order will be used.

**Vice President Report:** Iris Gersh: reports on the national convention, membership and the 2019 Poet in the Garden event that engaged high school students. Four students read poetry. Manuel González was one of the guests at this high school event. Iris hopes to have another event in May of 2020. Iris also reported the NMSPS newsletter will be made available soon.

**Special Event Report:** Sylvia Ramos: co-producing a 2020 event that centers around women winning the right to vote, women's suffrage. There will be events in each of the four quadrants of Albuquerque where a poet in a public space will talk with persons passing by.

From that exchange, the poet writes a poem that the person can take with them. The poem written is to center around girls and women. Projected time frame is January through June. The written poems will be collected into a book with the thought of developing a play from the writings. All NMSPS chapters are welcome to take part in this event in their own setting. Additional information will be forthcoming. Sponsors are beings sought for this event

**National Poetry Day:** Iris Gersh: report on National Poetry Day, Oct 15, 2019.

Shirley Blackwell: reported on research on the USA not having a National Poetry Day. Shirley has purposed to the National Society of State Poetry Societies, a National Poetry day be considered by the Society. The congressional Senate passed the adoption of the date, but the congressional House did not. Oct is reportedly National Mule Day. Lol. Shirley has been in contact with Congress Woman Deb Haaland and Senator Martin Heinrich. There is hope for a bill on the House side to be instituted on October 15. Efforts are being made to contact each State's poet society to have them contact their congress persons on the matter of a national Poetry day. Website for information on national poetry day: [@poetry.day.month.com](https://poetry.day.month.com). to see what other states have done. Sylvia reports her attempting to reach out to Joy Harjo on the establishment of a National Poetry Day. Shirley is also working to contact Joy Harjo.

Mark Fleisher: brought up the idea of taking a poet to lunch.

**Poet in the Classroom:** Bonnie Rucobo gave a report on the NMSPS's Poet in the Classroom Project. Thirty poets taught in partnership with ABQ Museum. The program involved family as well as the kids. Additional information will be provided at the Oct 21<sup>st</sup> board meeting. Twenty poets participated in taking poetry into three grade schools during poetry month in April. A sign-up sheet for 2020 will be made available to all poets in the State of New Mexico. Bonnie Rucobo steps down as chair for this activity.

**Poet Picnic:** Poetry picnic had over 300 attendees

**Albuquerque Chapter:** Scott Wiggerman: reports on events – reference attached report

Rio Grande Valencia: KW: reports on events - Rio Grande Valencia that meets the first Wednesday of the month. Nov.6, from 6-8 poetry night at the Tome Gallery, 2930 NM-47, Los Lunas, NM 87031. Members of the chapter are taking a road trip to Silver City in support of a poet cowboy. See attached report

**Santa Fe Chapter Report:** Debbie Brody of Santa Fe chapter is stepping down. Hannah Whiteheart is the new chapter chair. The Santa Fe chapter meets the first Monday of the month. Reference attached report.

Bernadette Perez presented chapter reports for those chairpersons not in attendance.

**NFSPS Convention 2019 Santa Fe:** Bernadette Perez: gave a report on the national poetry convection and the positive feedback on the convection, great workshops, pleased with the

revenue received from the convection. The convention booklet received positive reviews. The NMSPS was the host for this venue.

**NMSPS 2019 President Awards and Recognition:** presented by NMSPS President Bernadette Perez:

- Shirley Blackwell – for 10 years of trusted service as board liaison - National Federation of State Poetry Societies - stepping down
- Dino de Leyba – outstanding service to the board - stepping down from position as Secretary of the Board 2017-2019
- Terri Klein, outstanding service to the board – 2017-2019
- Iris Gersh - outstanding service to the board - stepping down from position as Vice President of the board 2017-2019
- Debbie Gutierrez – outstanding service to the board as website manager -stepping down, board is seeking replacement

**NMSPS Annual Meeting and Election of Officers:** All ballot nominees: Approved as 2019-2022 board members, as of the date of these minutes.

Shirley Blackwell gave thanks to President: Bernadette Perez and some back ground and history on Bernadette's journey as a poet. Shirley's report on the voting: from 42 electronic ballots and 10 paper ballots form the day, no write in were noted in the count. All positions on the ballot are duly elected

**Future Board meeting dates:** Oct. 19, 2-5 PM, Jan 2020, April 2020, state convention, Aug 2020.

**President adjourns meeting at 12:15, for lunch and open mike.**