

## **New Mexico State Poetry Society Board Meeting Minutes, April 24, 2021**

Location: Zoom

### **Meeting called to order by President Bernadette Perez at 1017 AM.**

#### **NMSPS board members present**

President: Bernadette Perez

Vice President: Dino de Leyba

Treasure: Terri Klein

Secretary: Cyvil Burks, Sr.

Kuan Tikkun, Rio Grande Valencia Chapter Chair

Scott Wiggerman, Albuquerque Chapter Chair

Basia Miller, Santa Fe Chapter Chair

Bill Nevins, Multimedia & Songwriting

Elizabeth McPherson, incoming Membership Chair

President-elect Zachary Kluckman

Treasurer-elect Helen Knoll

#### **NMSPS board members absent**

Fil Peach, Chancellor

Elsie Stuart, River Poets Chapter Chair

**Minutes of January 21, 2021 Board Meeting approved.** (Moved by Basia Miller, seconded by Dino de Leyba.)

Opening poem given by Cyvil Burks, Sr.

Vice President's report - Dino de Leyba. New website is very good. Please visit. Many good ideas came out of hosting NFSPS Convention 2019. Some got implemented. Congratulations and thank you to all chapter chairs for contributing to the success of the Society.

Treasurer's Report (Terri Klein)

(screen share budget report—copy attached)

Our total income is exceeding our total expenses by \$218. We were budgeted to be in deficit of \$2,500 (using accumulated savings to fund expenses). The reason that our results are better than expected is that our membership dues have far exceeded budget, partly due to two life memberships and some people extending membership, partly due to the decision to make Convention free to members but not free to the public, and partly due to the efforts of Chapter Chairs getting people to join and renew. Many of our budgeted expenses (and some of our budgeted revenue) have not materialized because of COVID restrictions on in-person gatherings. On April 8 the Board voted to pay Convention presenters and to reduce the non-member admission to \$10. The Board also voted to increase Website consultant's hours (9

additional hours) because we are not finished with Membership Database installation. Most of our other expenses for the year have occurred.

Chat question: is new membership info available by Chapter?

Terri: No. I have figures for membership by chapter as of 4/10 (elections). We are in process of putting membership data into database on website, so that it will be easier to analyze in future.

Dino reminded the meeting attendees not to use NMSPS financial information for non-Society purposes.

Membership Report - (Terri Klein)

Membership as of 4/10 (elections) 136 (some are comps)

Albuquerque - 71

At Large - 10

Multimedia & Songwriting - 16

Rio Grande Valencia - 7

River Poets - 6

The Santa Fe Poetry Trails - 25

Forming (Voices of Cottonwoods) - 1

Since 4/10, 8 new members and 1 renewal (paid) plus 7 comps (Convention presenters)

Old membership reports (for comparison) - Note: our membership of 131 as of 4/10 is the highest it has been since Sept 2019 (just after hosting National Convention. Since attendance at National Convention requires membership in a state poetry society, and since we were hosting in Santa Fe, many members joined—and then lapsed the next year. This pattern also applied after we hosted the 2013 National Convention.)

Oct. 2020 - Membership was 75 last year, not meeting the target of 150. Missing the target was due in part to a fall-off from a year in which we hosted at the NFSPS National Convention (which brought in a lot of members which we had trouble retaining) and in part to the delay in sending out reminders (because of COVID and intense work on new website). This year's membership target is 100, which we feel is more realistic.

Sept. 2019—just after national convention—NMSPS membership is currently 159, up from 96 members as of April, 2018. A new membership chair is being sought to manage membership.

### **Chapter reports:**

Kuan Tikkun, Rio Grande Valencia Chapter Chair report: next week we are planning an ekphrastic poetry “road trip” to Santa Fe (Canyon Road). Next month's meeting writing ideas: Cinco de Mayo/freedom, mothers, Veterans (Memorial Day). We are meeting May 5, 6:00 p.m.

Basia Miller, Santa Fe Chapter Chair report: open mike on the first Monday of every month. We are all set for the next meeting. We have been meeting via Zoom all year, 15-20 people. We know we have a stipend from the Society and we will be discussing how to use it.

Bill Nevins, Multimedia & Songwriting Chair report: the past year of COVID lockdown has ironically been a year of growth for us. Last in-person event was well-attended Santa Fe Film Festival poetry reading (February 2020). Transition to Zoom was fairly smooth. Many new members. Successful, supportive outreach to other Chapters and outside groups (Mindwell, Jules Poetry Playhouse, Irish American Society, Cultivating Voices—Facebook group), PoetryTree (India), etc. Highlights of the year: Jules Nyquist book launch, Irish Poets Salon, Larry Kirwan, and Peter Murphy. Poetry in translation initiatives underway. Many programs in the planning stages. May 19 environmental program is our next event. All are welcome to our meetings and events.

River Poets Chapter Chair report (given by Azima Lila Forest in Elise Stuart's absence): our poets did not take to Zoom meeting format. We had one in-person event in October, during a period of allowed outdoor dining. We just had our second in-person event (April)—social distancing, masks on between sips of coffee, and are hoping we are back to our usual format: once a month meeting at Tranquil Buzz coffeehouse, writing to a prompt. (Some of us may want to have a second meeting each month.)

Scott Wiggerman, Albuquerque Chapter Chair report: Bill Nevins, Multimedia & Songwriting Chair report: all our meetings have been Zoom. We have focused on spending as little money as possible, so I have been conducting most of our workshops—instead of our usual guest poet workshops. (Gary Worth Moody gave one workshop, at no charge.) Sept. & Oct.: Ekphrastic poetry workshops; Nov.: reading of poems created in Sept. & Oct. workshops; Dec.: 9 members with new books read from them; Jan.: Gary Worth Moody “Apocaphotic” poetry workshop (looking at the negative of ways of producing lines); Feb.: reading and discussion of Tony Hoagland’s “20 Poems that Could Save America”; Mar. approaches to rhyme—people really liked that one, which was surprising; April & May: “Hello, Goodbye” two workshops on opening lines (April) and closing lines (May).

President’s report: Thank you to the Board for attendance at meetings—many this past month! Thanks for helping spread poetry throughout New Mexico and beyond and for helping me and for the friendships I have made along the way.

Dino: Thank you, Bernadette, for your big heart, for your devotion, hard work, and tenacity, from all of us.

Shirley Blackwell: praise to the Board for all the work that it has done to get the Society on a good business and digital framework. Thanks to Chapter chairs for all the programs presented and work done. Society has become very inclusive, which was one of my goals when I was president many years ago. National thinks very highly of us. Our hosting of National Convention was a tremendous success. People on the national level are still talking about it. We are poised to become a bigger part of future National Conventions, both as presenters and as attendees. Thank you to everyone.

Election report:

Note: when I read the statement below at the meeting, I said there were 131 members in good standing as of midnight, 4/10/21. That didn't agree with the membership report. I don't know where the discrepancy crept in, but the membership report is correct—136 members in good standing. I have amended the election report accordingly.

The NMSPS 2021 Officers Election concluded at midnight, April 10, 2021. 59 valid ballots were cast out of a total of 136 members in good standing, or 43% of members in good standing. Since that is well above the 25% of members in good standing required for a valid election, the election is declared to be valid.

The results are as follows:

President, Zachary Kluckman, with 41 votes out of 59.

Vice President, Marcial Delgado, with 58 votes out of 59.

Treasurer, Helen Knoll, with 58 votes out of 59.

Secretary, vacant. Tanaya Winder was unanimously elected, but has withdrawn her nomination.

Congratulations to the 2021-2023 NMSPS Officers!

The new Officers will take office at the Annual Meeting on April 24, 2021, and shall be invested with all appropriate authorities no later than June 1.

President Zachary Kluckman, with the approval of the Board of Directors, will appoint someone to fill the vacant Secretary position as soon as possible after he takes office.

Bernadette welcomed the new officers and mentioned that there will be a Zoom meeting between old and new officers to transfer information and answer questions approximately sometime next week.

President Zachary Kluckman said that he and the rest of the new officers are excited to begin.

New Business: Terri Klein mentioned that she will be website manager going forward and will need information for the website to be sent to [info@nmpoetry.com](mailto:info@nmpoetry.com).

Meeting closed by Bernadette @ 1120 hrs.

**Respectfully submitted**

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