

March 2020 regular meeting: 8 attended; 7 stayed for the Board meeting
Russell Strauss presided over the meeting, but yielded the chair to Lori Goetz

Communications Issues

- Ann Carolyn and Frances identified issues with not being able to find peoples addresses and phone numbers
- Addresses/phone numbers were removed from the anthology due to security/safety concerns.
- They asked whether a separate membership booklet can be routed to everyone every year?
- In the interim, Janet will email a membership list of PST-West Tennessee members to anyone who asks.

Student Contest

- Frances needs teachers' emails; she asked whether next year's form can be modified to include that
- Frances also needs email reminder for drinks and cookies for April meeting
- Russell is willing to go to schools to "market" student contest; Janet is willing to go with him
- Elizabeth is willing to speak with her daughter (St. Agnes/St. Dominic)
- Forensic clubs? If the teachers are "saturated" by Common Core, do we need to access the kids through their clubs? If so, where are these clubs?
- Lori is going to talk with Rose/PST-NE

Other Issues

- Russell needs coverage at Eclectic on 4/8
 - Bill will cover
- note that Beecher Smith's wife (Wally) passed away
 - this was already communicated in an email

Festival

- Discussed budget/fees
 - Plan for \$8/food (Ruby and Bill confirmed with current pricing)
 - No one wanted to raise fees
- Discussed venues; Board decided that Lori should call Benjamin Hooks; any weekend in October.
 - Lunch may be catered in (box lunch) or we may go across the parking lot to LaBaguette; we do not need to decide at this time.
- Potential Workshop Leaders:
 - Linda Owen
 - Nathan Brown (concern that he has already done several programs in Arkansas?)
 - Arkansas poets?
 - Patricia Neely Dorset

Marketing

- Lori reviewed our four marketing goals
- Bill will hand out flyers and membership applications
- Ann Carolyn suggested a contest for festival attendees only
- Russell suggested that we need to get on Checking on the Arts; plan for May?
 - advertise Contest, Festival, Student Contest
- Bill asked whether we have a Facebook page
 - Yes, but we are not actively "marketing" on it
 - can JoAn transfer PST Facebook to someone else?
 - if yes, we can then "link" the facebook page to the writers' conference and others

- “try out” a playbill, perhaps do holiday show to get maximum exposure?
 - Look at high schools, are they cheaper?
- Bill suggested that we sponsor teen poetry workshops
 - sponsor for a few days this summer?

Tennessee Voices

- use same publisher
- use Janet’s editor friend to review prior
- need to have proofed copies reviewed
- Patrons’ poems emails sent out now
- Patron poems \$15 + 2 books
- Write up rules for Patron Poems!

Poet Laureate

- Lori suggested that we should rotate selection among chapters
- Board agreed
- we will suggest that the plaque continue to be done at the same place, given cost savings

Speakers

- Board agreed that we should get speakers and pay honorarium (\$50?)
- Potential speakers
 - Caki Wilkinson (Rhodes)
 - no current contacts at U of M?
- Russell will approach Caki Wilkinson