

PST Board Meeting Minutes  
September 2020

Agenda:

- (1) Festival
- (2) Anthology
- (3) Request for poetry critiquing support?
- (4) PST-West Tennessee survey results
- (5) Other business

Attendees: Lori, Russell, Janet, Bill + Terrence, Diane

(1) Festival

Festival will be October 24, approximately 3 hrs long. Lori will send out timing/details later.

- Do we want to have fees? NO, because we might have technology issues.
- Do we want to actively invite non-members? NO, same reason.
- No fees for an oral contest.
- PST-NE is setting up an oral poetry contest; still coordinating; we will send out additional information later
- Russell inquired if we were planning for a physical festival next year
  - we will need to plan for one, but will be dependent on COVID
  - would need to book at Benjamin Hooks in October for free room
  - discussion of alternate locations; issue is cost

(2) Anthology

- Reviewed PST-NE's recommendations to mitigate costs associated with non-member anthology distribution. Agreed.
- PST-WT will look to reduce anthology costs as follows:
  - ship anthologies to PST-NE per their recommendations
  - Russell will deliver anthologies in the mid-town area (west of Perkins)
  - Bill will deliver anthologies in the south part of town
  - Lori can deliver anthologies out east (Germantown, Collierville, Cordova)
  - Lori's Patron copies will go back to PST
  - Janet will review the address lists and figure out how to divide up deliveries
  - Lori will get Janet larger envelopes, addresses for judges, etc.
- Reviewed and agreed with PST-NE's two additional recommendations for further review of the anthology, with the exception that all chapters should be asked to participate.
  - anthology review taskforce
  - potentially unlinking the anthology from membership dues
- Lori suggested the possibility of shifting to a biennial (once every two years) anthology, given PST's size; group agreed we should consider further
  - reduce overall costs
  - still have Festival annually
  - allow us to plan for cover design contest in alternate year (see below)
  - Janet will call the publisher so that we can estimate costs using a smaller number of anthologies, larger number of pages
  - we also can competitively bid multiple publishers, and see who is the most reasonable

- Cover design contest
  - select 4-6 poems (maybe more), ask for art submittals based on poems
  - 1<sup>st</sup> on front cover, 2<sup>nd</sup> on back cover (color)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> interior, black and white
  - use 50% of proceeds, up to \$100 to first prize winner
  - arrange a showing/reception for art work, also do poetry reading

(3) Request for poetry critiquing support?

- Received request for poetry critiquing support from gentleman writing poetry book about 3-4 weeks ago.
- Board has decided to turn request to general membership.

(4) PST-West Tennessee survey results

- Did not discuss, except in passing.
- Emphasis of results is on adult/student education.
- Emphasis is not on anthology

(5) Other business

- a. Student Contest #8 — only one entrant
  - COVID may have been a factor
  - no electronic submissions, no electronic payment options
  - 16-23 age range too large?
  - break into smaller subdivisions?
- b. Identify opportunities to market NFSPS with local colleges — issue press release?
- c. Student Contest (Frances' Contest)
  - do we want to expand/offer more variety with Student Contest?
  - do we need to offer Frances help with judging/prep?
  - more marketing?
- d. Website Comment
  - we received a website email/comment about our site being used by librarian/educators
  - how do we leverage this further? improve site? spread word?
- e. Grant Opportunities
  - Lori brought Board up to speed regarding grant discussions with PST-NE
  - PST-NE very interested in pursuing grants
  - Russell said that during his time at NFSPS he found that very few people had experience to pursue grants
  - Lori/Bill voiced concerns about additional financial reporting (including IRS) that would be required — we are not accountants; would we need to hire professionals to do this?
  - Significant concern about labor hours to apply for grants; no one at PST-WT has experience with this
  - Lori to report concerns to PST-NE; if they want to explore level of effort and requirements further and report back, let us know. We do not have time or expertise; it would divert from our main mission.

## PST-NE Proposal regarding Tennessee Voices distribution

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From: Poetry Society of Tennessee - Northeast Chapter (poetrysocietytnne@gmail.com)

To: plmegoetz@bellsouth.net

Date: Thursday, September 3, 2020, 04:18 PM CDT

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September 3, 2020

To: Lori Goetz, President, PST

From: Calvin Ross, President, PST-NE and  
Rose Klix, PST-NE Liaison with PST

Subject: PST-NE Proposal regarding Tennessee Voices distribution

In what we view as a fair-minded respect for both PST and PST-NE, we offer this resolution to the immediate problem of the distribution of *Tennessee Voices* this year. We see this proposal as a cooperative, cost-sharing solution:

- To cover the eight-book discrepancy between PST's calculation and ours, we will donate to PST-NE membership five of the extra Patron Poem entry books due to us (to Rose Klix and Calvin Ross). Further, PST-NE will accept PST's cost-saving shipping in one package with PST-NE then responsible for separate book distributions to its membership.
- In exchange for PST-NE covering five of the eight books in question (per above) and handling our book distributions, we respectively ask that PST

cover the printing cost of the three other full member, nonrenewal books. This solution is not a precedent-setting measure, but a necessary fix for this year only.

Finally, we see the problem that has arisen this year as the basis to inform a subsequent, longer term discussion for more effective policy and protocols for the future publication and distribution of *Tennessee Voices*. We look forward to our chapter's participation in that conjoint conversation which we anticipate will be fruitful for both PST and PST-NE. Thank you.

Please forward this memo to PST directors or other members as may be necessary to facilitate discussion.

Sincerely,

Calvin Ross

Rose Klix

cc: Janet Qually, Rose Klix, Matthew Gilbert



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We send emails to prospective, current and past members and others who have opted to receive information about PST-NE.

**Our mailing address is:**

Poetry Society of Tennessee - Northeast Chapter  
PO Box 3772  
Johnson City, TN 37602-3772

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## PST-NE Input for September 5 Board Meeting

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From: Poetry Society of Tennessee - Northeast Chapter (poetrysocietytne@gmail.com)

To: plmegoetz@bellsouth.net

Date: Friday, September 4, 2020, 12:48 PM CDT

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September 4, 2020

To: Lori Goetz, PST President  
Janet Qually, PST Treasurer

From: Calvin Ross, PST-NE President  
Rose Klix, PST-NE Liaison with PST

Re: Suggestions for PST Meeting Agenda(s)

First, thank you, Janet, for inviting us to suggest items for the PST board meeting this Saturday (9/5). For that session, and perhaps upcoming ones, we respectfully recommend:

1. To consider and hopefully accept our 9/3/20 memorandum on a *Tennessee Voices* Proposal;
2. To consider the formation of a conjoint taskforce (perhaps three members from PST; two from PST-NE) commissioned with shepherding the process for

policy and protocol solutions for the publication and distribution of *Tennessee Voices*; and

3. To consider unlinking *Tennessee Voices* from membership fees. Among an array of options could be securing a generous donor or a foundation grant to endow the project.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide these agenda suggestions. Additionally, we're interested in what you may have found, Janet, on pricing for books ordered separately. Here's to the growth and well-being of our organizations.

Sincerely,

Calvin Ross  
Rose Klix



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