

MINUTES
SLO NIGHTWRITERS BOARD MEETING

Meeting Date: Sunday, February 5, 2017

Time: 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Place: conference room

United Church of Christ

11245 Los Osos Valley Road

San Luis Obispo CA

Dennis Young, President

Contact: Cell: 805-540-1271

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dennis Young, Carol Schmidt, Janice Konstantinidis, Patricia Gimer, Susan Tuttle, Jim Arrons

MEMBERS ABSENT: Martha Raymond, Joanne Feeney, Meagan Friberg

GUESTS: none

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 1:07

PREVIOUS MINUTES PRESENTED: minutes approved

ACTIONS OR EVENTS OCCURRING SINCE THE LAST BOARD MEETING NEEDING TO BE ADDED TO THE RECORD:

There was a meeting between representatives of NightWriters and Sisters in Crime that resulted in a joint letter being drafted to be sent to a representative of the Central Coast Writer Conference. The letter is below:

“February 4, 2017

Dear Ms. Bayus:

Since we offer a writing home for many local writers, the boards of Sisters in Crime and SLO NightWriters would like to offer their support for the annual Central Coast Writers Conference. Although we are unaware of the dates for 2017, we are sure plans are underway.

Both organizations have a history of supporting the conference, financially, through member attendance at the Conference and the Book and Author Festival, supporting the Lillian Dean Contest and Award process and the after conference social, and as volunteers. We are proud to play these important roles in providing a significant opportunity for writers, both local and not, to improve their writing skills and to interact with fellow authors, editors, publishers and writing experts.

We would like to offer our continuing support, but would also appreciate an opportunity to offer our knowledge of the needs of local writers and our personal experience and expertise.

MINUTES

SLO NIGHTWRITERS BOARD MEETING

We would suggest that, in our continuing roles, we have been instrumental in promoting the event. We further suggest that we would be in a better position to do that if we were a part of the planning process and on a fast-track for advance information concerning the conference so that we could best fulfill that role.

We are aware of the considerable expertise you and your committee share, but please remember that our two organizations have a constant connection to local writers through our regular meetings and ongoing activities. First-hand, we have our finger on the pulse of what local writers need and want.

Regarding attendees from without this area, we bow to your expertise and research. We understand that you and Community Programs at Cuesta are anxious to grow the conference and to appeal to writers from outside the area. We would suggest that attendance from a strong local base of writers is critical to that goal. Our experience has been that the bulk of the volunteers supporting the conference is local. To make best use of this base, we believe they can offer support during the planning process, as well. We would appreciate being kept informed of the plans for the upcoming conference. We'd also like an opportunity to meet with you to discuss how we as organizations made up of local writers can best support your efforts."

Regarding payment of an honorarium to speakers it was suggested that some consistent language and amount be developed regarding the offer. The current budget should also be considered. Charging members to attend meetings with special speakers was brought up. This has not been done in the past.

The treasurer indicated that the protocol has been that the treasurer comes to the general meeting with the checkbook. The volunteer who has out of pocket expenses brings the receipts so that they are reimbursed at the time. When this has not happened attempts are made to rectify as soon as possible.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Stepping down: Dennis Young; Candidate: Janice Konstantinidis):
Last president's message from Dennis Young will come out in the next newsletter.

VICE PRESIDENT: (Candidate: Martha Raymond)
It has been suggested that changing the board meeting time be explored.

SECRETARY'S REPORT (Stepping down: Carol Schmidt; Candidate: Jim Arrons):
Carol Schmidt is stepping down.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Susan Tuttle): None currently available.

SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR/PUBLICITY/PROMOTION REPORT (Joanne Feeney): None currently available.

MINUTES

SLO NIGHTWRITERS BOARD MEETING

MEMBERSHIP REPORT (Acting: Janice Konstantinidis):

The membership is now at 186. Three new members joined in the last 30 days.

Some of the loss of members is a result of people being archived due to being lapsed and with no email or address to contact them. None of these members have been active for two or three years. I thought it was safe to archive them in the interest of an accurate membership count.

I will be trying very hard to grow our membership in the coming months. I think a contest would help a lot.

I've finally finished my project of contacting where possible, the members whose emails were out of date. I was glad to be able to find eight. They are now paid up.

Dennis Young offered to sponsor the membership for Judith Bernstein.

Ways were explored to encourage members to submit their bios for the website.

NEWSLETTER REPORT (Susan Tuttle & Elizabeth Roderick):

No submissions are coming in from members. Ideas were shared on how to encourage members to submit.

Dennis Young offered to take over writing the "Spot Light" column on members for the newsletter.

PHOTOGRAPHY REPORT (Dennis Young):

Photographs were provided. The photographer will no longer attend board meeting but will continue to take pictures.

PROGRAMS REPORT (Janice Konstantinidis):

The programs are almost full for this year's calendar. I have several people in mind for the remaining months. Paul Fahey has been invited to speak. He is well known and loved by us. Paul has had such great success with his book about Equality.

I think it's particularly interesting how he found a small press in Australia. I am sure our members would like to hear from Paul.

Martha and Susan wrote to me last month with ideas about the restructuring of the programs. I am always open to new ideas, however I think we need to look at some of these suggestions with an eye to timing as the structure of our meetings can be hard to get right.

We also need to respect the wishes of each speaker. They may not want to structure their talk around themes we suggest – to name a few points.

Overall I think we would be better off moving very carefully and slowly at this point.

It was suggested that the director of the Central Coast Writers Conference be the speaker for the August meeting.

A notice will be sent out to members encouraging them to attend the next general meeting so they are able to vote in the election of officers.

WEBMASTER REPORT (Janice Konstantinidis):

There is nothing new to report this month.

I would like to have some photos of our new board members whenever possible for the website please. I understand Dennis usually offers to take photos for members if they would like him to do so.

MINUTES

SLO NIGHTWRITERS BOARD MEETING

The suggestion was made to fold the Membership and Webmaster positions into one.
Carol made a motion
Janice seconded
Motion passed

TOLOSA PRESS/Simply Clear Marketing & Media (Meagan Friberg):

Story stats for December 2016/January 2017

2 stories were published in Simply Clear in December

1 story was published in Simply Clear in January

4 stories will be sent to Simply Clear for publication consideration next week

- As mentioned previously, Tolosa Press has undergone several positive and exciting changes, one being that the three papers that our NW stories will continue being published in – SLO City News, Bays News, and Coast News – will no longer be referred to as being published in Tolosa Press. Simply Clear Marketing & Media (SMCC) is a SLO advertising and marketing firm with three divisions: print, event and digital.
- I need to get the new logo from SCMM, redesign the flyer and info for website, and find out if there are any additional changes that we may need to know in regards to how/when our NW stories will be published. I am hoping to meet with the executive editor, Theresa, in the next week or two.

CRITIQUE GROUP/WORKSHOP/CLINIC COORDINATOR REPORT (Appointee: Patricia Gimer):

It was pointed out that NW has not held a workshop in over a year. When they were held members were charged \$35 and non-members were charged \$45.

OLD BUSINESS:

Writing contest. Report on SUBMITTABLE.COM was given,

It was agreed to offer a contest. Janice will be contest director and gather a team to support her. SUBMITTABLE.COM will most likely be used. A detailed discussion on the writing contest was tabled until after the elections are held.

NEW BUSINESS:

MEETING ADJOURNED: 2:50