**WFOP Board Meeting**

**November 2, 2018**

**Steven’s Point**

**Present:** Carol Pemrich-Hauser, Ronnie Hess, Jan Chronister, Christina Kubasta, Colleen Frentzel, Ed Werstein, (Dennis Collier, Secretary-designate), Kathleen Serley, Fred Kreutz; Sandra Lindow; Erna Kelly; James Roberts; Michael Kriesel; Jeffrey Johannes.

Chronister calls meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Spring 2018 minutes on website. Chronister asks for additions/subtractions to minutes. Sandra Lindow makes motion to accept. Roberts seconds. Minutes approved. Chronister calls for addition to the agenda. Kreutz mentions the Zoo project, public poetry at the Milwaukee Zoo.

**Old Business:**

Chronister apologizes for confusion with the special projects fund, which the Board had already voted on in the spring – a $300 grant for area VP’s for special poetry projects, on a funds available basis. Chronister explains paperwork had to be developed, which Frentzel did and revised following Board input. Chronister has forms and will distribute to regional VPs.

Paper versus online Museletter – mailing cost issue. Chronister believes members should receive paper copies, at no charge. Paper ballots sent and as a result WFOP received some donations. Chronister doesn’t want to coerce people who have been members for a certain time into paying for the print version. 257 receive print Museletters while 261 receive e-Museletters only, up from earlier count of 217.

Re: Jeannie Bergmann’s point about the relationship between weekly e-announcements and posting the calendar of events on the WFOP web page, Kriesel moves that we not merge email with website, in other words maintaining them separately even this means the two aren’t always in sync re: the events listing. Erna seconds. Passes.

Jan brings up possibility of an assistant position for Lewis Bosworth for scanning documents, based in Madison – an informational item. Jan asks that people speak to her after the meeting if there are suggestions. Kriesel suggests Bosworth write a paragraph description by November 5 for inclusion in the Museletter. Suggestion, too, that West High in Madison be approached to help Lewis scan in exchange for service learning credit. Several ideas floated. (Bosworth lives on Madison’s west side.)

**New Business:**

Treasurer Frentzel reports concerning CD switch to another savings institution with better rates (BMO in December 2017). Calendar account has been updated for both first and second quarter. Special project budget will be factored in and reviewed in the course of the year. Lindow asks how many calendars were printed. Pemrich-Hauser replies 1,500. Treasurer’s report approved as printed and accepted by Chair.

Cochrane’s membership report – membership is rising, not going down. Report accepted by Chair.

Bosworth has nothing to add regarding Archives beyond his printed remarks.

Kubasta gives Bramble report – next issue will, for the first time, include non-WFOP members, in an issue edited by the Johanneses. Need to recruit more editors for the issues, especially with anticipated increase in submissions. Calls for more editors, and suggestions. Kriesel volunteers. Kriesel asks where Bramble is advertised – discussion of Duotrope, other vehicles, such as CRWROPPS. Budget neutral, not costing WFOP money. Would be cool to earn some more money to donate to WFOP. Monies received mostly from sales at Spring and Fall conferences. Kubasta working with CreateSpace at Amazon and there is some question about whether to increase price of Bramble. Praise for Grant Welhouse and Kubasta. Chair accepts Bramble report.

Erna Kelly, 2020 co-calendar editor with Karen Loeb, gives calendar report – 80 submissions so far, with 200 expected. Details in the packet. Steve Tomasko has agreed to typeset. General consensus that good art/cover important for sales. Up to Erna and Karen to work out fees for typesetting and graphic art.

WPL Commission report from Mark Zimmermann. Hess, as Chair of WPL Commission, adds a few points about incoming members of the Board; and the process by which WFOP needs to appoint a new WFOP representative to the Board. Suggests Chronister ask for names of people interested at the general meeting and then have the WFOP Executive Committee determine the WFOP’s delegate.

Bosworth gives student contest report – in full swing until January 12, 2019. About 12 students have entered, a good rate for this time of year. Crystal Gibbins and Michael Kriesel are the judges. Bosworth asks Board members to encourage application. Kriesel says a few things about co-judge from Washburn – Kriesel had recruited her, a new person to the process, new WFOP member with potential. Kriesel donating his honorarium back to WFOP but requests that Gibbins be paid $100. Werstein asks that Bosworth send the electronic file of the poetry contest to Jan to send to the Board at large, also to the Web.

WFOP Website issue – wisconsinpoetry domain. WFOP has been holding on to it. Long history – it was actually linked to a speculative poetry site – WFOP was paying the annual fee but Jeannie Bergmann was using it personally. Kriesel says this happened on his own watch and he had not followed up. Chronister says Grant Welhouse is going to register the domain with GoDaddy which will redirect to WFOP. With cost of $14 per year.

Calendar Business Manager’s report – Carol Pemrich-Hauser opens up to the floor for any questions. Multiple printings – not on demand but incrementally. Very few 2019 calendars currently are left. Lindow asks how much the calendars cost and P-H says about $7 a calendar. Lindow offers help with Documation, a printer whose rates may be cheaper. P-H argues that there is no real savings unless several thousand calendars are ordered. P-H says we are ordering fewer calendars, which increases the cost, but it is still more economically viable ordering less rather than more. Chronister says the calendar this year is about 25% larger than last issue making it more expensive to print and mail. Says issue has to be worked out among Kelly and Loeb and P-H. Chronister says timeline will also change with the calendar available in late summer. It isn’t necessary to have in hand in the spring. Chronister says this really is something to be determined by calendar editors and calendar manager. And Kelly says up to Steve Tomasko to determine page limit. Chronister asks how Board feels about calendar being ready in late summer rather than spring. Lindow says she prefers spring/by Memorial Day since she has several summer events where it is possible to sell it. Consensus that there needs to be a timeline and specific instructions/parameters/guidelines – page numbers, numbers of accepted poems, spiral binder versus other format. P-H would like a co-manager. Hess suggests a subcommittee or Kelly getting together with past editors might be helpful. Chronister to make an announcement at general meeting soliciting a co-manager for P-H. Lindow says Kelly and Loeb have already determined their own parameters. Werstein mentions need to consider the cost of mailing in the timeline – it has to be ready by spring or arrange for alternative (and probably costly) distribution. P-H suggests a form sent along with the proofs to find out what submitters would prefer in distribution – as in mailing, pick-up at conference or from regional VP’s.

Werstein’s report – he moves that WFOP allow sponsorship for marathon hour of Woodland Pattern at the January Marathon, at $350. Roberts seconds. Passes. Second point is he talked to Michael Wendt and he has reserved 3pm hour for 10 readers if they get their requests in to Werstein before December 1.

Sandy Lindow reports on plans for Spring/April 26-27 Eau Claire conference. Heid E. Erdrich is keynoter, a Minnesota Book award winner and teacher at the Loft. Costs being split between Chippewa Valley Book Festival and WFOP. $1,000 cost for WFOP plus possibly other charges (hotel). Women’s performance group called Equit. Theme for conference is Confluence, with lines from the poets laureate. Panel, including BJ Hollars and others (Twig, Sky Island Journal) discussing marketing and how to set up a journal.

Ripon College Library – Kubasta has suggested to Ripon’s Librarian that he consider a project of digitizing whatever poetry books are sent to him or what has been contributed. She is happy to follow up. Kriesel adds with a web link to WFOP.

Muse contest judge is David Salner and Kreutz will distribute some materials on him. Author of *John Henry’s Partner Speaks*. Fred has been asked to do an OSHER continuing class/project and he did poets laureate of Wisconsin and the U.S. He floats other ideas about art and horticulture, which brings him to zoos – he wrote to six zoos in Wisconsin where he suggested a traveling show through zoos in WI or installations at each zoo. Milwaukee and Vilas Park zoos have responded positively. Project needs grants funding. He’s hoping to get signs paid for. More discussion. Issue will be ongoing. Kreutz will keep us abreast of the project.

Chronister mentions ideas floating about conference planning – such as whether there should be one conference a year. It’s a tremendous amount of work for the VP’s. Reads from a suggestion from Grant Welhouse with the addition that the rest of the year could involve major regional poetry efforts. Bosworth suggests that we have one conference for two days. Chronister suggests June date when the weather is good. Right now conferences are programmed through fall 2020 so this isn’t going to happen next year but fall 2020 would be a good time to launch an annual conference idea for WFOP’s 75th anniversary conference. Could save money and reach more people. Kriesel suggests putting this on the agenda for the next meeting – including possible conference locations.

Hess motions adjournment; Werstein seconds. Passes. Adjourned, 5:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Ronnie Hess, Secretary.