WFOP Fall 2018, November 3, 2018

General Meeting

Stevens Point

Chronister opens the meeting at 8:25 am. Asks any new members or first time conferees to stand. Welcomes them.

We’ve streamlined business meetings, Chronister says. Minutes are posted on line from past conferences and this conference’s meetings will be posted in a week or two. Regional VP’s asked to stand. Officer reports are in the packets. Treasurer’s report – Frentzel stands. Includes first quarter report; Chronister points out that WFOP’s fiscal year starts in April. Second quarter reports are available. Chair accepts Treasurer’s report. Membership report reviewed – 518 members, the highest it has ever been, Chronister says. She explains trend toward mailed Museletter versus e-mailed version. Chronister accepts membership report. Calendar Business Manager Carol Pemrich-Hauser who thanks Fabu for her work as editor of the 2019 calendar. Reminds people of submission for 2020 calendar, and announces she is looking for a co-manager, with some small compensation to be determined by the Board. Questions from the floor: Phyllis Wax questions statement in calendar (on the Web page?) that it is the largest fundraising effort of the WFOP. Wax points out this is not accurate. Chronister says the language will be reworked, good point. Intent over the year, Wax says, was to promote poetry. Nancy Rafal adds “best p.r.” Chronister introduces Erna Kelly, next calendar co-editor, who points out calendar deadline and other information on submissions in the packet. Theme is “Going Places.” Election report for Michael Belongie (not at the conference). Electronic ballots sent to entire membership – 489 ballots were emailed. 129 were returned. Not a high voter turn-out. Thirty one ballots were mailed by mail and 18 were returned, with 40$ total by way of contribution as well as communications – a better rate of participation. The slate of officers was approved for the next three years. New officers introduced – Michael Kriesel (VP) and Dennis Collier (Secretary) as well as current president and treasurer remaining. Hess commended for past service. Poet Laureate Commission report. Chronister says Mark Zimmermann stepping down as WFOP representative and anyone interested in taking Mark’s position – which is ultimately appointed by WFOP’s Executive Board – should get in touch with her. Kubasta gives Bramble report. Future issues are open to Wisconsin residents who aren’t necessarily members of WFOP. Winter issue taking submissions now. Explains Bramble has rotating editors and encourages people to contact her or Tori Grant Welhouse if interested in being an editor in the future. Archivist report is in packet. Student Poetry Contest packet. Deadline is Jan. 12 so Chronister encourages people to contact teachers. Tomasko suggests putting the file on the Website. Bosworth also looking for an archival assistant to meet with him and scan documents. Job descriptions for both the assistant and Carol P-H’s co-manager will be drafted by Monday to include in events calendar (and online?)

Center for Visual Arts in Wausau had joint project with WFOP and a nice book published as a result. WFOP supported this with a $300 grant. WFOP Board has voted to make $300 available for special projects beyond the usual mini-grants. Chronister says work with your regional VP’s who will have guidelines and applications.

Over 500 likes on WFOP Facebook page. A good outreach tool says Chronister, and a good sign that new people are finding interest in the page and WFOP.

Recipients of lifetime honorarium, presented to members over the age of 70 and who have made significant contributions to WFOP and poetry. Voted by the Board at large. Recipients are Michael Farmer, now living in NE (2005-2017 calendar manager) and Loretta Strehlow, from Cedarburg. She is 86, was VP from 1984 to 86 and president from 86 to 88, and when calendar became an annual publication of WFOP. Worked with Lenore Coberley to find an outreach tool in the face of diminishing membership, down then to about 100. Recognition of both by audience applause.

Board approved $350 to support Woodland Pattern Poetry Marathon. WFOP will have sponsorship for the 3-4 p.m. hour on last Saturday in January. If you want to be one of the WFOP member poets reading you need to talk to Werstein before December 1. Chronister says good exposure for WFOP.

Muse Contest report from Fred Kreutz. New judge is David Salner. Kreutz hands out samples of his work and printed interview. Salner’s Midwestern connections. Deadline is Feb. 1 and winner announced at Spring conference. Kreutz says decent prize. Last year over 100 entries. Report from Judy Kolosso on annual chapbook prize report, with deadline of Feb. 1. Chronister reminds that it is difficult work and thanks those who have volunteered to be administrators of the contest prizes. Applause.

Posters to take to libraries are available.

No evaluations in the folder but they will be distributed during the day. Feedback important on conference – sessions, speakers and hotel/food.

Moment of silence in memory of recently deceased members. For first time in recent memory, their names are called.

Business meeting of WFOP concluded at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ronnie Hess, Secretary.