**Minutes of the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets Board of Directors Meeting**

**May 2, 2020**

The meeting was called to order by President Jan Chronister at 10 AM. It was conducted via email because of cancellation of the Fellowship’s Spring 2020 Conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to the meeting, written reports were circulated among board members for comment. The reports are posted on the Fellowship’s website, <https://www.wfop.org/>.

**Participants**: Nancy Austin, Michael Belongie, Naomi Cochran, Dennis Collier, Jan Chronister, Christina Kubasta, Sandra Lindow, Nathan Reid, James Roberts, Kathleen Serley, Tori Grant Welhouse, Ed Werstein. In addition, a quorum of board members returned checklists to Jan indicating support for the reports circulated prior to the meeting.

**Regional vice president reports**: **accepted** by the chair.

**Minutes of the Fall 2020 board meeting**: **accepted** by the chair

**Additions to Agenda**: None

**Old Business**: None

**New Business:**

1. **Treasurer’s report**: Colleen Frentzel: **accepted** by the chair

2. **Membership chair** report: Naomi Cochran: **accepted** by the chair

3. **Webmaster report**: Tori Grant Welhouse: **accepted** by the chair, with the date of the report corrected to 2020

4.***Bramble* report**: Christina Kubasta: **accepted** by the chair

5. **Poet Laureate Commission report**: Ed Werstein: **accepted** by the chair. Ed has been chosen as the new treasurer for the PLC

6. **Spring Conference 2020 report**: Ed Werstein: **accepted** by the chair

7. **2021 Calendar Editors report**: Keesia Hyser, Nancy Jesse, Gillian Nevers: **accepted** by the chair

1. **Calendar Business report**: Jan Chronister (interim business manager): **accepted** by the chair. Carol Pemrich Hauser stepped down as calendar business manager at the end of 2019 and Jan has temporarily assumed those duties. Anyone interested in the position can contact Jan at wfoppres@gmail.com.
2. **Archivist report**: Lewis Bosworth: **accepted** by the chair

10. **Student Contest report**: Jan Chronister (interim): **accepted** by the chair, with the correction that Mark Zimmermann judged the contest for grades 9-12. Lewis Bosworth stepped down as contest chair at the 2020 Fall Conference, and Jeff Anderson will take that position.

11. **Muse/Chapbook contests**: Fred Kreutz/Annette Grunseth: **accepted** by the chair

1. **2020 Fall Conference report**: Kathleen Serley/Joan Johannes: **accepted** by the chair. The fall conference will be at the Jefferson Street Inn in Wausau on October 23-24 with the theme, “Your Rising Star: Reaching Your Goals as a Poet.”

13. **Special grant requests**: Jan Chronister: **accepted** by the chair. The board approved a request for $300 to support a collaboration among poets, visual artists and scientists based on a science symposium at Northland College in Bayfield, and an ABC book with art and poems about the Apostle Islands. Originally scheduled for March 30-31, the symposium has been postponed until the fall.

1. **70th and 75th Anniversary Observances**: Michael Belongie: **accepted** by the chair. Other plannng committee members for the 75th anniversary in 2025 are Yvette Flaten, chronicler of WFOP events from 2015-2025, and Cathy Cofell, who led the survey process about the 75th anniversary conference. Michael issued an open invitation to join the committee; if interested, please contact him at: poetpow@gmail.com.
2. **Proposal for a COVID-19 Community & Connection Anthology**: Kathleen Serley: **Motion** by Tori Grant Welhouse, seconded by Michael Belongie, to approve a collaboration between the WFOP, including *Bramble* editors, and Bent Paddle Press to publish an anthology of poems relating to the pandemic. Nathan Reid expressed his thanks to Bent Paddle Press for their role in the anthology. Guidelines are being developed and submissions will be accepted until August 15. The anthology would be released in early Spring 2021.

Ed Werstein raised concerns about the cost of the anthology and anticipated revenues, but withdrew these concerns after Christina Kubasta addressed them. Ed’s initial point was that all 150 copies of the anthology (after free copies were distributed to the contributors) would have to be sold in order for the project to break even. He said the project shouldn’t try to make money, but that it shouldn’t lose money either. Christina said that the cost estimate has been updated using a print-on-demand model from Bookmobile in Minnesota. Costs would be recovered by selling 67 books at $15 or 50 at $20 per copy. In addition, this option would permit printing of more copies if needed. Sales would be made through the usual channels: additional copies to contributors, and at conference and events, but Christina also said new avenues for marketing the anthology could be explored. Finally, Christina suggested that any profits from the project be donated to a nonprofit related to the pandemic.

The proposal was approved by a vote of 12-0 with one abstention.

**The meeting was adjourned** at 7 PM.