

**Minutes of ESWA Board Meeting
December 6, 2017
Wicomico County Public Library**

Present were Ron Sauder, Pat Valdata, Jim Duffy, Fran Severn, Mindie Burgoyne; with Charlene Marcum, Judy Reveal, and David Healey attending by phone.

President's report—Ron Sauder reviewed some of the highlights of the past year, including the move to Wild Apricot. He stated that Wild Apricot had been useful for tracking membership but that the Wild Apricot website was not really being used as a social hub.

Currently there are 144 active members and 92 lapsed or overdue members. He expressed some concern about the "value proposition" of the \$35 membership fee. What benefits do members receive for this \$35? Pat Valdata suggested that board members could split up the list of lapsed members and contact them about renewing. Ron agree that this was a great suggestion.

BTO update

Ron reported that there have been 49 registrations so far for BTO. He said that last year 180 writers registered, but that the number this year is likely to be 100-150.

ANTHOLOGY UPDATE

For the upcoming anthology, it was agreed that submissions would be emailed rather than using a service such as Submittable. Deadline is Feb. 15 for submissions.

BOARD UPDATE

At this time, Ron noted that a president-elect was still needed for the 2018 board. Judy Reveal encouraged adding some new perspectives to the board with new people.

BYLAW CHANGES

Ron noted that changes to the organization bylaws need to be voted on during the January membership meeting. These changes include an update that Delmarva Review is no longer part of ESWA.

(8pm At this point, David Healey departed the meeting and Jim Duffy took over responsibility for keeping minutes.)

VI. 2018 BYLAWS CHANGES

- Ron Sauder discussed the need for a change to organization bylaws to remove all references to the Delmarva Review and the associated education fund (EEF) now that the organization's relationship with Delmarva Review has ended.

- Judy Reveal suggested that the bylaws also be amended to clarify which types of organizational meetings are open only to members and which are open to the public. After discussion, the consensus was that board and board committee meetings should be open only to members, while educational and other sessions should be open to the public.
- Jim Duffy suggested that the bylaws also be amended to clarify the rules surrounding meeting attendance by board members via telephone, Skype, and other technologies. The consensus was that the organization's approach to allowing such participation should be a liberal one that allows for a variety of different ways to attend and vote.
- Ron Sauder noted that the bylaws also need to be amended to clarify that the number and status of ex-officio members to reflect the change in relationship with Delmarva Review and EEF.

Jim Duffy moved that these changes be approved. Mindie Burgoyne seconded. The motion passed by initial vote of 7-1, with Judy Reveal dissenting. After discussion prompted by a question from Judy, the motion was amended to clarify this approval allows the board president to seek legal advice and help in drafting the changes to the bylaws and that the final language will still need formal approval at a future meeting. Support for that amended motion was unanimous.

VII. PLANS FOR 2018

- Ron Sauder asked Fran Severn to discuss her plans for the organization during her upcoming term as president.
- Fran announced that the January meeting would be held on Second Saturday the 13th at Scossa Restaurant in Easton. In addition to organizational business, the session will feature a presentation on planning and organization by life coach Dennis Lawson.
- Fran summarized the mission of her term as "making ESWA more relevant to members" by building a sense of shared community and fostering productive connections among writers. Fran also noted that there are many more writing/critique groups operating in the region than in years past, so there is a need to focus on establishing a unique value in the organization's sessions.
- Fran discussed specific plans for potential upcoming sessions. Possible writing workshops mentioned included poetry and other genre workshops, such as a plain air writing session and small-group retreats. Educational sessions mentioned included financial record-keeping, freelance writing, and bookstore partnerships.

BOARD PRESIDENT NEXT STEPS

- Ron Sauder summarized the main action steps he will take in the coming weeks as (1) finalizing the roster of new and returning board members; (2) identifying a nominee for president-elect; and (3) working with the organization's lawyer to draft proposed language on amendments to the bylaws.

ADJOURNMENT

Pat Valdata moved that the meeting adjourn. Susan Parker seconded. Motion approved unanimously.