

## BWW Board Meetings

5/17/2018  
6:00-9:00 p.m.  
BWW Space

### **Attendees:**

Partridge Boswell  
Terry Cleveland  
Deena Frankel  
Michael Freed-Thall  
Erin Post  
Rebecca Starks  
Danielle Thierry

#### 1. Approved minutes of the April meeting (lead: Rebecca)

Future minutes: Rebecca will streamline minutes to capture decisions made and who will follow-up and note what is for the following month's agenda.

Danielle will send edited version of April minutes, Rebecca will finalize & upload

#### 2. Review financials (lead: Terry)

Doing well cash-wise- this year 16K, last year 9K cash at this time

#### 3. Fundraising focus

Analysis of current picture (lead: Terry)

Last year: May was influx of fundraising (manuscripts & donations). We should do this now.

This year: a little ahead on sustaining members from last year, but lower on one-time donations (by \$300), and we are behind budget (\$1200). But haven't done Dec or May push. We are down in income by \$4000, based upon the delay noted above in timing of the first fundraising push for the year.

Erin will report on MSR manuscripts and who can take them on.

Reaching annual goal with existing model/resources

Tap individual members discussed. Danielle will reach out to them.

Deena will send the Committee spreadsheet to the strategy group so that we can get the fundraising committee set up, with a mandate to pursue our traditional paths of fundraising while the board figures out the long-term sustainable effort.

Deena is going to share with the group a draft of fundraising brochure before May 31, 2018.

Terry will write a script for workshop leaders: here's what it costs to open doors, have retreats.

Possibility of \$8K campaign for the web platform.

Sustain model we have until we have alternative.

Need administrative person. IT person.

Grant prospects: BCA, VCA, other (haven't heard)

Deena will work on the Arts Council grant for web platform

#### 4. Membership model discussion

Research (from Candelin)—everyone now has and will review

##### Options

Structural model: A group of members advocates the coop model (based on Rochedale principles)- this is a governance model but not a funding model (other than expectation of economic participation- people have a stake); bylaws look different, the board is elected, most fundamental decisions made at annual meeting; autonomy & independence; training & education; concern for the community.

Questions raised about this model: How fixed do we want to be? How do you keep new life coming in?

Do we want a distinction between members + participants?

What defines a member? (e.g. serves as committee member, workshop leader, on board, or at events; participates in more than 3 workshops a year?) What does a member get? (programming besides workshops is open to them, free, or discounted? Able to vote, if we are set up that way?)

Consensus on governance model: All agree board should be elected. Board nominates people, solicits people who are interested, brings this slate to the annual meeting and can take nominations from the floor.

Deena shares Stanford rubric for 10 kinds of sustaining models; ours is clearly the "member-motivator model", similar to churches, relying on individual donations who give because what we do is integral & people draw collective benefit from participation. Questions this raises:

1) will our members feel they are getting a direct benefit?

2) can we involve & manage our members in fundraising activities?;

3) can we stay faithful to core membership, saying no to what doesn't serve them?  
Key: What does it mean to be a member? What privileges do you get? Is it the same for everybody? Or will it be segmented in some way?

Consensus: Keep workshops free.

Possibilities: charge for author workshops, retreats, tie fee to a membership privilege

Consensus: No one excluded based on inability to pay or work.

By June 1 Deena will do a schematic representation of 3 different membership/funding models to propose to the strategic group.

#### 5. Workshop content issue (see Deena's email of 5/13)

Partridge will draft language as a companion piece to "How to respond to work": "What to submit"—to guide people as they select work to submit for workshops

Emphasize the direction to include at the top of work a statement preparing readers for content that some might find troubling or offensive.

When we have a platform, we can have a checklist about the types of material that appear in the work.

Consensus: no censorship based on content. We don't condone censorship but we want people to be mutually respectful and for workshop leaders to be skilled in addressing problematic material.

Problem appears more to be workshop leader training. Proposal: board vetting of workshop leaders, updating of the leader manual and being sure to provide it to new leaders. Address the growing interest in shifting away from strict MFA-style workshop to allowing for writing in workshop, more discussion, etc.

Conclusion (Danielle will email concerned member)

#### 6. Anthology update and naming (lead: Danielle)

Submissions and other progress: 60 submissions, lots poetry, a little more NF than F. Editors have rubrics for scoring F & NF pieces.

Responses to date on naming survey: Selected Writing of the BWW, with each year the team choosing a title. Cold Lake is significantly ahead of the others with 49 respondents.

#### 7. MSR update (lead: Erin)

Apr 20 issue went well, preparing for June 20

Need more readers--put out call, got responses from outside of the community

Do we want long-distance readers?

Vetting: What's your favorite piece we published in the last year and why?  
Decision: see what fiction editors think, open to trying  
Erin will talk to Rebecca about manuscript reviews  
A question about structure—could MSR have a page with a “poem of the month”?  
Board will discuss by email  
Losing art editor; he's looking for replacements to recommend.  
Julia Shipley has agreed to be a mentor. Will receive 2 payments, \$250 into each fiscal year.

8. Programming update (leads: Danielle and Partridge)

Status of Montpelier requests- add \$140 expense for extra workshops through end of year

Sean Prentiss workshop great feedback- 2 more.

Workshops on character development and historical fiction. BCA grant ended. Can pay from Events.

We pay authors via online banking.

Anthology celebration in October. Danielle will contact BCA about Contois-

Another Open Mic? Yes- Partridge will ask Meg about availability

9. [Committee charters](#) (lead: Danielle)

Rebecca will contact Erin and Lauren about Charter for MSR (EIC is chair)

All members: should give Feedback by NEXT THURS. on Programming and Membership & identify chairs for those that aren't obvious. Make some nominations

Fill in: Digital, Fundraising, Retreats

Write the charter for Fundraising: not events!

Possibility for the future: Go Fund Me- for capital campaign-

Deena will initiate our standard fundraising in the Opps & Anns.  
Danielle will ask people for testimonials.

10. Bylaws revision: postponed until we have settled on a membership model

11. Next meeting: June 28 6:30-8:30 at the BWW studio