

**PNBA Board of Directors Meeting
January Retreat, Edgefield, Troutdale, OR
Sunday, January 26, 2014**

Board Members present:

Karla Nelson, Time Enough Books, President
Tegan Tigani, Queen Anne Book Co., Vice-President
Jamil Zaidi, Elliott Bay Book Co., Past-President
Leigh Ann Giles, Secretary/Treasurer
Becky Milner - Vintage Books
Courtney Payne - Chronicle Books
Maggie Freitag - Parnassus Books
Susan Richmond - Inklings Bookshop
Jack Wolcott - Grass Roots Books & Music

Staff Present:

Thom Chambliss, Exec. Director
Larry West, Exec. Asst. & Bookkeeper

President's Welcome & Introductions

Karla called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. She welcomed the Board and asked everyone present to introduce themselves and talk a bit about what they were currently reading.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report and Approval of the Minutes

Leigh Ann presented and recapped the bookkeeper's written report to the Board. Larry expanded on some of the details. 2013 was a good year for the Association and 2014 is starting out well, but we won't know how well until we see the response to the Fall Show and the Holiday Catalog.

Becky moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Courtney seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed with no opposition.

Leigh Ann moved to approve the Minutes from the Fall 2013 Board Meeting and the Fall 2013 General Membership Meeting. Becky seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed with no opposition.

Executive Director's Report

Thom summarized his written report to the Board. He said his proposed 2014 budget was pretty straight-forward with no major changes or surprises. He said the Fall Show needs some work. We need to find room for more author events and find a way to get more people to stay for the third day of the Show. The emphasis of the Show has changed over the years. Authors are now a more important part than they used to be.

He said that the Holiday Catalog needs more store participation. Our largest stores are not doing insertions and we really need them to. The Catalog nets us about \$90,000. As the print run declines it becomes more difficult to get publishers to participate in the Catalog. We need to have some of our successful Catalog using stores talk to Powell's, University Book Store, etc. and convince them to insert the Catalog.

We are still losing member bookstores. What is the "tipping point" when we have so few member stores that our programs are no longer viable? The Board needs to address this issue.

Thom said that previous Boards had vetoed the idea of the Association getting involved in publishing, but times have changed. NCIBA is trying a model of producing some "protected content" for their stores. Amazon has a lot of protected content and maybe it is time that independents had some as well. He would like to talk to Seattle 7 and discuss possibilities of some kind of a partnership with them. We should watch the NCIBA program to see if it is successful.

Larry talks a bit about software issues with our website and what he is doing to find more modern software to deal with the problems. We will be updating the Show page and expanding the author information available. We may end up completely revamping the website. It is pretty dated and could use some modernization.

Thom asked the Board about the Spring Board Meeting. Do they want to have it in conjunction with the ABA Forum in Portland? Do they want to do some kind of "event" as well?

Thom would like to revamp the Education Committee so that they would produce events for the Show in exchange for some of their Show expenses being reimbursed.

We need to reform the Awards Committee for this year.

The Literacy Program is no longer working. There is not enough participation from our stores. The Board needs to discuss some new ways to use our Literacy funds.

Thom finished by saying that he feels the Board needs a more robust Executive Director Review process. He shared some of his personal health issues with the Board and said they need to get serious about an Executive Director transitioning process.

Education Committee Report

Karla had no written report. She said we had good educational events at the Fall Show. Librarians were especially pleased with the offerings. She suggests that we get a librarian to volunteer to be on the Education Committee.

Awards Committee Report

Thom recapped the written report from Christine Deavel, the 2014 Committee Chair. Billie Bloebaum will be the Committee Chair for 2015. Michael Coy from Ravenna Third Place has volunteered to be on the Committee. Two other replacements are still needed. The Committee suggested a few minor wording changes to our information about the Awards and suggested we do an Awards educational presentation at the Fall Show.

Literacy Committee Report

There was no new Committee report.

Holiday Catalog Report

Thom recaps Brian's written report to the Board.

Potential Interim Executive Director

Thom presented the list of names of people who have agreed to fill in as Executive Director on a temporary basis, if needed.

Tegan moved to accept the Committee Reports as presented. Courtney seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed with no opposition.

Old Business

Board Nominations

Jamil reported the he, Courtney and Susan will be leaving the Board this year. He said the Executive Committee came up with a list of ten potential candidates. It was narrowed down to three candidates, all of whom have agreed to serve, if elected. They are:

- Colleen Conway, the Penguin Children's rep from Seattle, WA
- Billie Bloebaum from Powell's PDX in Portland, OR
- David Hartz from Book 'N' Brush in Chehalis, WA

Jack moved to accept the slate of candidates as presented. Leigh Ann seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed with no opposition.

Literacy Committee Restructuring

Thom reported that the Literacy Grant program is not working. Not enough stores are taking advantage of it. It may be too complicated or it may be that times have changed and this concept is out of date. The Board needs to come up with something new. Several suggestions were made but the Board decided to discuss the issue in greater detail at tomorrow's session.

Education Committee Restructuring

Thom presented his written proposal and explained the proposal in more detail. He wants the Committee to be responsible for producing educational programs for the Show. In exchange for doing the work, they would have some of their Show expenses reimbursed. He wants each member to make a commitment and be responsible to produce a certain number of events. If they do not produce, they would be removed from the Committee. He told the Board that he would have a final proposal for them to approve at the Spring Meeting. He needs the new Committee working by April.

2014 Spring Meeting Options

Thom reported that the ABA will be holding their Spring Bookseller Forum at McMenamain's Kennedy School on March 26th from 10:30 am to 2:00 pm. He asked the Board if they would like to have a Board Meeting in conjunction with this event, possibly on the 25th from 1:00 - 5:00pm. There was some discussion of the pros and cons and of the possibility of doing an additional bookseller event at the same time. A decision will be made at tomorrow's session.

At 3:50 the Board took a break and then went into Executive Session for the annual Executive Director's Contract Review

Meeting minutes by Larry West.

Approved by Leigh Ann Giles, Secretary / Treasurer

Signed _____ Date _____