

## May 2023 OWL Board Meeting Minutes

Minute taken by Ronda as Cindy is ill.

### **In attendance**

#### Absent but sent their reports:

- Veda Boyd-Jones
- Cindy McIntyre
- Rochelle Wisoff-Fields

#### Present:

- Ronda Del Boccio
- Duke Pennell
- Larry Wood
- Margarite Stever
- Mary-Lane Kamberg
- Diana West
- Annie Lisenby-Smith

### **Reports:**

- Minutes and treasurer's report were sent prior to the meeting.
- Historian: Not present. No report.
- Youth Writing Contest: Cindy is ill but sent her report. (The contest is completed for this year and winners are posted). She asks –
  - Do the former judges wish to sponsor their categories? Veda/poetry, Larry/fiction, and Russell/holiday (non-fiction)? Or does anyone wish to add a subcategory from fiction that brought the most entries?  
Answer for Larry = yes. Cindy can reach out to Veda and Russell about their categories/sponsorships.
  - Thoughts on gift cards versus money as a prize and the gift breakdown. Last year we started after Labor Day and ended by Thanksgiving break. Does this work for everyone again?
  - Vote Shall we continue the youth writing contest? Diana moved, Mary-Lane 2<sup>nd</sup> – all in favor – motion carries.
  - Vote Offer gift cards instead of checks moving forward? Duke moved, Mary-Lane 2<sup>nd</sup> – all in favor – motion passes
- Photography Contest: Rochelle is in Israel but sent her update: We had 5 entrants.
  - [Mary-Lane suggested Kelly Kirby as a possible photography judge because of her photog experience in the military.](#)
- Adult Writing Contest: Rule/categories up & 1<sup>st</sup> entry received.
- Webmaster: All is in good order
- Membership: 87 members and sticky name labels worked well & were easy to manage.
- Social Media:
  - With people so well-informed, we had a huge rise in conference attendance. This is not only related to SM, but it helped.

- Seeking group moderator for the nonmember FB group.

### **Roles & Responsibilities that OWL Needs:**

- Nominating Committee: Larry (2022 chair) said it's a hard task getting someone to pick possible officers and face rejection.
- Treasurer (Veda must step aside after this year) Mary-Lane said perhaps other board members might shuffle roles.
- Fundraising Chair: Margarite said it's often a complex task. Ronda suggested we select simple fundraisers that don't require a lot of donations/legwork in advance. Possible ideas that worked well in the past:
  - Secret Gifts – Ronda mentioned that we did it with wine and chocolates. People paid \$5/ticket and could select a wrapped wine or chocolate gift. Members donated, so not much advance work or expense.

### **Spring Conference Summary**

- 56 attended, which is almost double.
- People said they had fun at the mixer on Friday. Many people stayed in their new groupings after the activity led by Rose Heaser.
- Excellent feedback about speakers, particularly Annie.
- Good energy and involvement, even after lunch.
- Ronda said someone messaged the FB age at 7:13 AM on Sunday, April 30, asking about dates for the Spring 2024 conference They will be out of the country for the Fall.

### **Looking ahead to Fall Conference:**

- October 27-28 reserved @ Honeysuckle Inn
- 2023 is OWL's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. Ronda feels we should do something cool to celebrate.
- Ideas for speakers:
  - Steve Wiegenstein on \_\_\_\_\_. Larry knows him/will ask.
  - Lisa Wells on humor in writing
  - Topic of marketing – Renee George, but she would be a big-ticket speaker.
  - Brian Cohen – marketing, covers, email lists, and he would likely be a big ticket.
  - Duke suggested that if we have a marketing-focused conference, we should offer it as a separate event with an extra fee to cover the high-priced speakers needed.
  - Ronda requested that any who know speakers reach out to ask about dates and topics and then give the info to Ronda for follow-up.

**The Phifter Files:** Duke asked about them. Ronda said the person with the stuff didn't attend conference and that it should be up to the historian to help coordinate arrangements for the historian files.

### **Spring 2024 Conference:**

Duke moves Ronda call & arrange aprlng dates. 2<sup>nd</sup> Diana – Motion passes.  
Mary-Lane asked Ronda to try for mid-April. OWFI is 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of May.

**Follow-through Notes from Thu., 12 May2023:**

- Cliff Sain offered to help moderate the Ozark writers FB group in an email response to Ronda's request. Thu 5/11 she added as a moderator.
- Ronda contacted the hotel and secured April 12-13, 2024 for the OWL Spring Writing Conference. This gives 3 weeks between OWL and OWFI.
- Larry contacted Steve Wiegenstein and received a reply, which he sent to Ronda. Steve said he could talk about POV, characterization, or Ozarks literature.

Next meeting Wednesday, June 14 at 7 PM, same link as usual.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81726859610?pwd=VUI6VnUreFFvUlpyY05EdGV0UnNZ>

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Meeting ID: 817 2685 9610

Passcode: OWL

One tap mobile

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