President’s Message

Being a storyteller, I am going to start out by telling a story. It would seem only appropriate to do so. I am sure all of us remember the events of 9-11. It was one of those days that can't easily be forgotten and it is one of those days we can all remember where we were when it happened. I remember being glued to my television set at work as I and my co-workers watched the events of that tragic day and its aftermath. I remember all kinds of feelings as we learned of the attacks of the two towers, the pentagon and the downing of a fourth plane in Pennsylvania. Then one at a time the two towers collapsed. As I said, I remembered feeling several emotions, but the ones I remembered most were the feelings of wondering when this chaos would end and hoping that sometime soon the chaos would stop, that cooler heads would prevail and that we would return to some semblance of normalcy. And that is what happened. The chaos stopped, cooler heads did prevail and we did return to a state of normalcy, though of course that normalcy came with the knowledge that we were forever changed and that nothing would ever be the same.

On July 9, 2016, the Territory Tellers Board had a meeting at the Territory Museum in Guthrie. The purpose was to wrap up all business for our festival and to review the festival overall. Naturally that review included the things that were successful and things that needed to be improved. Of course, things were discussed in the former, because no festival has ever been perfect, but the items in the things we did right far surpassed the things we needed to improve on and the overall feeling was that the festival was successful. A Festival Steering Committee was appointed to plan for our next festival and the meeting adjourned on a positive note. I met with Territory Tellers President Cynthia Calloway and we left with a feeling of optimism and positivity.

Or so I thought. The next day at home I got the first bombshell. Cynthia Calloway had resigned as President. I was shocked. From the board meeting and from our visit afterwards, I had no idea such a thing was about to happen. She did not list any specific reasons for her decision and she has not said anything to me since, so I personally do not know what brought about this decision. Before I had time to recover from the first bombshell, the second one happened. Andrea Post, our Vice President had also submitted a resignation. In her resignation, she was more specific. She was new to the organization and thought she had a year to learn the ropes before assuming the reins of leadership. She felt she was not ready to take over so soon after being elected. And of course, the question on everyone’s mind was, who will take over now. Both the President and Vice President have resigned. Then came the third bombshell. Our new secretary also resigned.

As with 9-11, panic ensued amongst the members. People were talking of the end of the organization and were already holding symbolic funerals and delivering eulogies for our great but seemingly defunct organization. And those feelings that I had on 9-11 once again rose to my mind. I asked myself the questions “When will this chaos stop?” “Will cooler heads prevail?” “Will we return to a state of normalcy?”

Well, I am happy to say the chaos did stop, cooler heads have prevailed and we are returning to a state of normalcy. The by-laws of Territory Tellers
In Remembrance

Our hearts are saddened in the passing of Susie L. McClure Beasley on Monday, August 8, 2016, after a lengthy battle with health issues. She was there for anyone and everyone she could help to very end. She began her love of library work at Yokota AB, Japan. She continued this work upon arriving in Oklahoma City in 1978 and retired from her position of assistant librarian for the Choctaw Public Library in July, 2016. Susie was involved in many organizations. Luckily for all of us one of those organizations was Territory Tellers. She spun wonderful stories in a variety of genres. Susie told at most of the WayWord storytelling events and presented at some of the Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festivals. She was also one of the members of a special troupe of tellers called History from the Heart, that joined forces for the Centennial, depicting women from Oklahoma’s past.

Susie Beasley dressed for the era in which her story took place in the History from the Heart program presented during Oklahoma’s Centennial.

Te Ata film released

Te Ata will be featured at the second Tulsa American Film Festival Oct. 15 at 3 p.m. The feature-length movie about Te Ata is out! The Chickasaw Nation has done a beautiful job. It’s currently showing in film festivals. Watch the trailer http://www.teatamovie.com

Te Ata was one of the first American professional storytellers, emphasizing her Native American heritage. I got to see her perform at one of the first WinterTales festivals. Lynn Moroney learned “Baby Rattlesnake” from her, and with her permission adapted it into a picture book which has also been used in primary grade reading texts. Te Ata was Lynn’s teacher and mentor.

To reserve tickets for the Tulsa festival, go to tulsaamericanfilmfest.ticketleap.com. The screening of Te Ata is free, but seating will be first come, first serve. For additional festival information, visit www.tulsaamericanfilmfest.com.

— Fran Stallings

Tattler Deadlines

We want to include the information you are interested in! Please have information in by the following dates for inclusion in the Tattler:

October 1, 2016 • January 15, 2017
March 1, 2017 • July 15, 2017
President’s Message

actually covered such an event. It clearly stated that the Parliamentarian would act as temporary president until a new President and Vice President could be found. Kathryn Thurman, our parliamentarian immediately stepped up. She called other parliamentarians and asked about possible solutions and researched our by-laws further to make sure those solutions were in compliance. She then called for a special board meeting and asked three people to step in and fill those positions until the next election. Shaun Perkins calmed the waters by telling everyone via email and other communication what was happening and that things would be fine. On August 13, an emergency meeting of the board was held with Katherine presiding. She explained to us what needed to be done and appointed three people to fill in those positions until the next election. Steve Kardaleff was asked to resume the role of Secretary, Liz Parker was asked to step in as Vice-President and I was asked to step in as President, having been the last one to fill that position before Cynthia. Bonnie Smith and Rosemary Czarski were appointed by Kathryn to fill two vacant at large Director positions. All of us were looking forward to a pleasant retirement, having served on the board for several years and content to sit back and let others take over. However, because of our love for the organization and not wanting to see the festival put to rest, we have vowed to do our best to keep everything up and running and lead to a smooth transition when new leadership is available.

Once the new officers were appointed and approval voted on the board meeting was then adjourned and a second meeting took place, in which I presided. Several immediate items needing resolution were taken care of and a meeting of the Festival Planning Committee was held in which Bonnie Smith agreed to chair.

Our next board meeting will be held at the Sand Springs Museum in Sand Springs from 10 am to 2 pm on October 15th. A light lunch will be provided and Connie and Barbara Fisher have generously agreed to serve as hosts. As always, all members of Territory Tellers are encouraged to attend and if anyone would like to volunteer and serve on any committee to help with the festival, please let me or one of the other board members know.

Now I realize this President’s Message has been a bit gloomy and to be honest is probably the longest piece of writing I have composed since my Master’s Degree thesis. However, I think I can end this on a positive note.

Something else happened amidst all this chaos. The Oklahoma City Arts Council has decided to discontinue the Oklahoma City Storytelling Festival, formerly Winter Tales. As sad as this is, this is also an opportunity for us to step in and become THE Festival for the state of Oklahoma. I think if we approached the sponsors of the OKCSF we could raise the funding to really have a great festival that was always limited to budget. We already have a built in audience and we can reach out to them and increase our audiences like never before. Now is not the time for gloom and doom, a door is opening and the time has come for us to seize the day. Our ship is in the harbor, let’s board it before it sails. But in order for this to work, we need volunteers to help us with fund raising and marketing. If anyone would like to help in these two important aspects, or any other part of the festival, please contact me. My emails are realchapman@yahoo.com and tony.hardman@opsu.edu.

Some of you have heard me tell the story of the eagle raised by chickens. The farmer thought he had hatched a big chicken until a bird expert came by and told him it was an eagle. The expert would try to get the eagle to fly, but each time it looked at the chickens it returned to chicken behavior. Finally, the expert took him into the woods where no chickens could be seen and placed the eagle on a rock and said, “You are an eagle, fly.” When the eagle saw there were no chickens around, he flapped his wings and not only flew, but soared. We have an opportunity to soar now. It is my hope that we do exactly that.

Tony Hardman

At the TEJAS Storytelling Festival this past March, 2016, in Denton, Texas, Valerie Kimble, long time TT member, was recognized with the Marvin Brown Volunteer Award for her efforts with the TEJAS Storytelling Association.
Weems

News, notes and events

The Friends of the Oklahoma Territory Museum Complex, 406 E Oklahoma Ave, Guthrie, OK 73044, are looking for Territory Tellers ghost storytellers for its annual **October Free Halloween event, October 22 from 4-8 p.m.**

Annually, the Museum’s Friends organization invites the public to wear their favorite costumes and join them for refreshments, games, stories and visitations in the Oklahoma Territory Museum.

You can choose a space in the museum dedicated just to the ghost storytellers. [http://www.okterritorialmuseum.org/GALLERIES.html](http://www.okterritorialmuseum.org/GALLERIES.html)

This is a volunteer opportunity. If you are interested, please contact Cynthia Calloway before **October 5**, at 405-401-8770.

Christina Hurd asked to spread the word about a need for volunteer storytellers for **Fall into Art, Saturday, Oct. 8, 11 am-3pm** at Martin Park Nature Center, Oklahoma City.

If you are interested in volunteering, please email or call Christina: 512-705-9530, internmpnc@gmail.com

The **Tejas Storytelling Association is looking for workshop and fringe performance proposals** for its **2017 Festival** in Denton, Texas.

The deadline for proposals is **October 10**. Go to [http://www.tejasstorytelling.com](http://www.tejasstorytelling.com) for more details.

Tiffany Gibson, assistant enterprise editor at NewsOK.com and The Oklahoman, is looking for a Territory Teller members last year to create a few podcasts from their spooky stories to be featured on NewsOK.com. The podcasts were published on our SoundCloud account here: [https://soundcloud.com/newsok/sets/spooky-stories-for-halloween](https://soundcloud.com/newsok/sets/spooky-stories-for-halloween) and embedded in articles on NewsOK.com. If you are interested, please contact her at tgibson@oklahoman.com.

**Fran Stallings** did storytelling programs for adults and for Adults Only at the OK Mozart International Music Festival in Bartlesville. She presented summer library programs in Bartlesville and Pawhuska and a workshop at the Tejas Conference in Waco. In July she represented the South Central states (AR, KS, LA, OK, MO, TX) as NSN’s Regional Director at the annual conference in Kansas City MO, and then at the quarterly board meeting. In August she will tell stories at Yellowstone National Park, and in September will work with UK storyteller Cassandra Wye, has been apprenticing in sky lore with Lynn Moroney.

English storyteller Cassandra Wye got a grant to come to the US and study Native American star lore with our founding mother, Lynn Moroney. After working with Lynn for weeks, Cassandra will be coming to Bartlesville September 24-30 to develop curriculum connections for her work in UK schools.

**Thursday, September 29, at 7 pm**, Cassandra will perform a sampling of the stories for the Bartlesville Astronomical Society, in the upstairs meeting room of the Bartlesville Public Library. Free of course. You're invited!

After her visit in Oklahoma, Cassandra will fly to Houston to follow up Lynn’s work with the Lunar and Planetary Institute. Upon her return to England, she has been asked to develop a comparable project with the British Astronomical Society — with Lynn's blessing!

**Chicken Festival is January 20-22, 2017**

The 2017 River and Prairie Storyweavers Chicken Festival will return to the Ramada Topeka West, Topeka Room.

605 SW Fairlawn Road, Topeka, KS 66606. Call 785-272-8040 before December 23, 2016 to get the “Chicken Festival” room discount of $79 a night with up to 4 people to a room.

Chicken Festival Registration is $25 for RAPS members before January 1, 2017. After January 1, 2017 registration is $35.00 for RAPS members. You can pay your registration on site but RAPS needs a headcount for food and activities.

**Are you planning a Tellabration event?**

Are you planning a Tellabration event in November? If you are, we’d love to know and help get the word out. Please let Tina Saner (twosaners@aol.com) and Shaun Perkins (okiestoryteller@gmail.com) know so it can find it’s way to the next issue of the *Tattler* and on our website!

Way Word Tellers and the Choctaw Library will host a Tellabration on November 15th at 6:30 pm at the Choctaw Library. Featured tellers Liz Parker, Kathryn Thurman and Paulette Geeslin will weave their stories to the enjoyment of all who attend. Light refreshments will be provided.
TT Founding Member Honored By The Chickasaw Nation For Her Service Through Storytelling

Lynn Moroney (a sky storyteller and founding member of Territory Tellers) was one of five inductees into the Chickasaw Nation’s Hall of Fame in a splendid and heart-warming ceremony June 21. Lynn’s daughters and their spouses, a granddaughter, and many friends converged from all over the nation for this well-deserved occasion. The dinner and induction ceremony were held in the Embassy Suites Grand Ballroom in Norman Oklahoma.

Lynn was nominated for this honor by Lorrie Robbins-Carmichael.

Following is an article issued by the Chickasaw Nation about Lynn’s storytelling career that qualified her for this honor.

What astronomers do with science, Ms. Lynn Moroney does with stories. An internationally recognized ‘skyteller,’ Ms. Moroney studied the art of storytelling under the tutelage of well-known Chickasaw storyteller Te Ata.

In many ways, the spirit of Te Ata carries on through Ms. Moroney, as well as those who worked with her in the Chickasaw tradition.

Through the tapestry of storytelling, Ms. Moroney has positively influenced several Chickasaw storytellers who continue to share Chickasaw stories with audiences throughout the world.

She has worked extensively with Chickasaw astronaut John Herrington creating an extensive NASA Outreach project which involves storytelling.

Ms. Moroney served as director of the Kirkpatrick Planetarium, providing regular programs on Native American sky stories and histories.

She founded “Wintertales” an annual, statewide storytelling workshop conducted in Oklahoma City, which was funded in part by the Oklahoma Arts Council. She also created “Territory Tellers,” a storytelling organization who meets, conducts classes, presents and educates. She also volunteered numerous hours while working at the planetarium and Oklahoma City Arts Council.

Ms. Moroney has also published numerous books, CDs and DVDs.

Ms. Moroney continued her leadership role in storytelling and as an ambassador representing the Chickasaw Nation and Oklahoma traveling the country sharing her stories, teaching the importance of keeping culture thriving through stories.

With her assistance, tribes such as the Blackfeet and Crow developed science teaching projects in conjunction with the Lunar and Planetary Institute.

She conducted workshops for NASA Outreach, the Lunar and Planetary Institute, the International Planetarium Society and the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. She’s worked in settings that range from the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. to California Academy of Science in San Francisco. Born in 1935 in Duncan, Oklahoma, Ms. Moroney now resides in Wilmette, Illinois.

Seen here in her traditional dress at the Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame induction ceremony, Lynn Moroney has been a shining star for TT members since it’s beginning.
One of the many highlights of the 2016 Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival was the Saturday morning Ghost Walk. Guthrie native Stacey Frazier started the group at the Apothecary Garden. Weaving the streets of downtown Guthrie with plenty of stops for stories, Stacey delighted with her tales of the paranormal activities reported in the area.

One particular story involved a ghost with a romantic attachment to a piano player. Here Jaye McLaughlin, Ft. Worth TX, took the part of the piano player as Stacey demonstrated the encounter.