

*President's Message*

# “Lord, you know I don't like buttermilk.”

The visiting preacher was a bit taken back at a men's breakfast in a small rural village. He had asked one of the older farmers in attendance to say grace that morning,

But the farmer continued, loudly he proclaimed, “Lord, I hate lard!”

Now, the preacher was worried. He opened one eye and wondered to himself where the farmer was going.

However without missing a beat, the farmer prayed on. “And Lord, I don't care much for raw white flour!”

Just as the preacher was ready to stand and stop everything, the farmer humbly prayed, “But Lord, when you mix 'em all together and bake 'em up, I so love fresh biscuits!”

“So Lord, when things come up we don't like, when we just don't understand what You are sayin' to us, we just need to relax, wait 'til You are done mixin' and probably it will be somethin' even better than biscuits. Amen.”

Our statewide organization, the Oklahoma Territory Tellers has even more ingredients than a batch of biscuits. From the Panhandle to Little Dixie, from the Wichita's to the Winding Stairs, from the plains to the foothills of the Ozarks - we are a diversified topography! The people and their stories of this state are sprinkled through this delicious mixture. Our heritage is blended throughout with a sweet confection of delight. There may be a crunch

of hard times along with the sating batter of grand celebrations.

The recipe for the Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival will once again bring the people together to celebrate our stories. They will be blended together to leave the delicious balance of a tasty treat for all.

Some day everything will make perfect sense. So for now laugh at the confusing bustle of planning, smile through the times of frustration, and keep reminding yourself that everything happens for a reason. All the ingredients for this festival may not be a favorite of yours, it may not even “melt your butter.”

Just like the farmer prayed, when we are done mixin', probably it will be somethin' even better. And I do love biscuits.

*Bonnie Smith*  
President

## **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:**

**March 1, 2018 • July 15, 2018**

**October 1, 2018 • January 15, 2019**

## Executive Board

### President

Bonnie Smith  
*bonniesmith1943@outlook.com*

### Vice-President

Liz Parker  
*elizabethparker862@yahoo.com*

### Secretary

Rosemary Czarski  
*rarczarski@yahoo.com*

### Treasurer

Paulette Geeslin  
*pdgeeslin4701@yahoo.com*

### Board Members

Lorie Carmichael  
*lorie.carmichael@chickasaw.net*

Sheron Rodgers  
*sheronrogers@cox.net*

Teresa Vail  
*san\_bois@fullnet.net*

Roxann Yates  
*roxannperkins@gmail.com*

Chester Weems  
*cjweems@cox.net*

Richard Czarski  
*rarczarski@yahoo.com*

### Liaison Director

Shaun Perkins  
*okiestoryteller@gmail.com*

### Parliamentarian

Kathryn Thurman  
*KMThurman@cox.net*

### Past-President

Tony Hardman  
*tony.hardman@opsu.edu*

### Webmaster

Shaun Perkins  
*okiestoryteller@gmail.com*

### NSN Liaison

Vacant

### Tattler Editor

Tina Saner  
*twosaners@aol.com*

# Winter Retreat-great opportunity to relax and hear a great story

The Winter Retreat is a time to relax, get caught up with storytelling friends, meet new friends, participate in an informative workshop and hear and tell a variety of stories. This year's retreat was certainly a time for all these things.

A total of twenty-five people attended the retreat on Jan 26 and 27 at Lake Murray Lodge. We started off with dinner at the lodge restaurant. There is always lots of conversation and laughter when storytellers get together. Then we gathered in the main lobby in front of the fire place to share stories. We had no featured tellers, but encouraged any and all to share a story. TT members were eager to tell and we heard a variety of story types and telling styles. A potential new member was present with her husband, and I am happy to say that Cindi Blagg officially joined our group on Saturday! Another couple who were staying at the lodge joined us to hear stories. The lodge provided cookies, hot chocolate and hot apple cider for refreshments.

Saturday was a busy day with two table telling sessions, a festival steering committee meeting, a board meeting and a time of informative introductions. We all learned new things about old friends. In the afternoon Chester Weems presented a marvelous workshop about gathering, preserving and sharing family stories. Then Kathryn Thurman facilitated a discussion to extend the ideas that Chester had presented. Before dinner several members shared stories based on a special year in their lives. Some pictures and personal items were included in the stories. After dinner we met once again in the lobby to share stories and once again the lodge provided cookies, hot chocolate and hot apple cider. A big thanks to Sheron Rodgers for working with the lodge to make the arrangements for Territory Tellers.



Participants listen to Chester Weems talk about collecting family stories.



# Take a closer look at the 2018 Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival

## Festival Scheduling

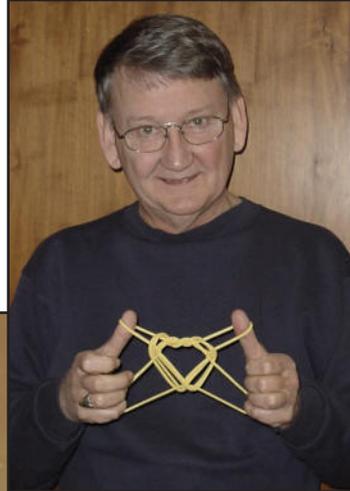
The storytelling festival will be June 1 and 2 in Oklahoma City at the same site as last year's festival, East Lake Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 700 SW 134th Street, Oklahoma City. We will follow the same type of schedule as last year where our goal was to give members many opportunities to tell stories. On Saturday there will be four categories for storytelling opportunities.

The categories are:

- Whoppers, Lies and Tall Tales
- Folk and Fairy Tales
- Personal and Family Stories
- Potpourri (If it doesn't fit another category, tell it here.)

Please limit stories to 10 minutes, so several will have time to tell a story. Remember, the Best of the Best from each category will be chosen to tell at the Saturday evening

*David Titus, right, and Elizabeth Ellis, below, will be presenting additional workshop experiences. The cost for their workshops is in addition to festival registration fees.*



concert.

As soon as the exact festival schedule is finalized, it will be posted on the web page. Webmaster Shaun Perkins will send out an email to let you know when the schedule is available.

## Outstanding Workshops Scheduled for 2018 Storytelling Festival

Elizabeth Ellis has volunteered to be our featured teller at our festival this year. She will have a 45 min. telling slot at the Friday and Saturday night concerts. On Friday, June 1, she will also present a workshop from 2:00 pm until 4:30 pm. The title of the workshop is *Building a Better Story*. If you want quality instruction in storytelling, make sure you take this workshop. The cost of this workshop is \$35.00 and will be an additional cost to the regular registration.

David Titus, one of our own Territory Teller members known as String Man is also presenting a workshop at the festival. His workshop will be Saturday morning, June 2. The title of his workshop is *Spiritual Stories & Concepts with String* and will last 1 hour and 30 min. David has traveled the world telling his string stories. Come learn from the best in how to incorporate strings in your storytelling. David's workshop will cost \$25.00 and will be an additional cost to the regular registration. David has graciously said that he will donate the money earned from his workshop to Territory Tellers.

The weekend schedule and registrations forms will be on-line soon. Plan now to attend the 2018 Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival.

Call now to make your room reservation at the  
**Best Western Greentree Inn & Suites**

1811 N Moore Avenue • Moore OK

Phone 405-912-8882

Reservations 1 800-528-1234

Room rates are 85 plus tax for regular king room  
and 99.99 plus tax for queen suite.

*Block of rooms will be held until May 15th*



*Clockwise from top left: Chester Weems during his presentation; Loralee Cooley, Paulette Geeslin, Letty Watt and Tony Hardman tell stories at the recent retreat.*

**Is your membership current? Send in your renewal today!**

**T**erritory Tellers is a growing network of individual tellers, listeners and local storytelling circles. Get connected by joining our statewide organization! Dues are \$25 for individual and \$40 for family membership per year.

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Web site (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a storyteller? \_\_\_\_\_ a story listener? \_\_\_\_\_

\$25 individual                       \$40 family                       \$40 organizational

Please complete this form and mail it with a check payable to Territory Tellers to:  
Territory Tellers · 6619 S 4382 · Locust Grove OK 74352

## 2018/19 Slate of Officers up for vote at membership meeting June 2

The proposed slate of officers was presented to the board at it's January meeting. This slate of officers will be presented at the General Membership Meeting on June 2nd for the membership to vote on. Those who have agreed to have their names submitted are as follows:

President - Bonnie Smith  
Vice President - Liz Parker  
Secretary - Rosemary Czarski  
Treasurer - Paulette Geeslin  
Past President - Tony Hardman

Board Members:

Richaard Czarski  
Letty Watt  
Barbara Jones  
Lorie Carmichael  
Sheron Rodgers  
David Titus

The General Membership Meeting will be on Saturday afternoon of the Festival. It is hoped that as many of our members as possible attend the Festival and stay for the meeting.

## March Board Meeting in Woodward

Thanks to Chester Weems and his connections in Northwest Oklahoma, our March Board Meeting will be in Woodward on Saturday March 17th.

The night before TT will have the opportunity to present a program at the Plains Indians and Pioneers Museum.

If you are interested in attending the program and/or the board meeting, arrangements have been made with the Northwest Inn, quite close to the Plains Indians and Pioneers Museum. Room rates will be \$69 plus the usual taxes. When you call, be sure to let them know you are part of Territory Tellers and you have been quoted the special \$69 rate by the manager Steve Cole. Their phone number is 800-727-7606. The address to the motel is 3202 1st Street, Woodward. If you'd like to check our their website go to [northwestinnok.com](http://northwestinnok.com).

The exact location of the meeting will be in a meeting room either at the museum or at the hotel. Check our our website, [territorytellers.com](http://territorytellers.com), closer to the meeting date.

## Did you know?

Your membership with Territory Tellers includes a posting on our website that includes your photo and bio? You just need to provide that information to our webmaster, Shawn Perkins, [okiestoryteller@gmail.com](mailto:okiestoryteller@gmail.com), and she will make it happen.

33RD ANNUAL  
TEXAS STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

A TEJAS STORYTELLING  
PRODUCTION

Storytelling  
THE TALK OF THE TOWN

-FEATURING-  
ADAM BOOTH  
BETH HORNER  
LAURA PACKER  
TIM TINGLE

Storytelling Concerts  
Music • Ghost Stories  
Kids' Activities • Story Slam  
Sacred Tales Concert  
Story Swaps • Liars Contest  
Workshops

DENTON CIVIC CENTER | DENTON, TX  
MARCH 8-11, 2018

Registration & More Information: [www.tejasstorytelling.com](http://www.tejasstorytelling.com)  
940.380.9320 | [tσα@tejasstorytelling.com](mailto:tσα@tejasstorytelling.com)

PLAINS ARTS COUNCIL  
DENTON  
TEXAS COMMISSION ON THE ARTS  
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS  
69



6619 S 4382  
Locust Grove OK 74352

Address Correction Requested