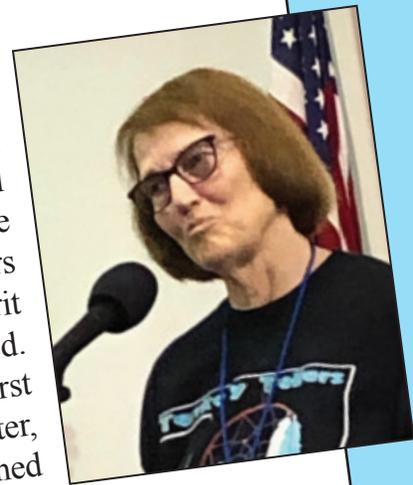


President's Message

The past few days I have been thinking about the changes that the coronavirus has made in our lives: stocking up on toilet paper, practicing self-quarantine, wearing masks, practicing social distancing, and avoiding large gatherings. We have had to accept changes within the Territory Tellers world, also. For the first time since 2007, the Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival was canceled. We held our first Zoom board meeting and our first Zoom general membership meeting. Our newsletter, the *Territorial Tattler*, is currently being published electronically. Yes, we have had to make some adjustments, but I believe we can keep stories alive if we work together and try new ideas. The National Storytelling Network proved to us that a national conference can be produced electronically. We don't have to be in the same room to connect with a storyteller. During the national conference, it was exciting to sit in my living room and listen to storytellers from around the world. Your board will be exploring new ways for Territory Tellers to share stories. Please, be willing to try new ideas with us. **LET'S KEEP STORIES ALIVE!**

Your current president,
Liz Parker



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An NSN Report

A few things about happenings with the National Storytelling Network (NSN). A reminder that Territory Tellers belongs as an organization plus we have a few TT members who are also NSN members. Comments below include those edited from a report to State Liaisons by Fran Stallings, National Storytelling Network regional Director for the South Central States, which includes Oklahoma.

- State Liaison reports nationwide glowed with praise for Connected (virtual conf/festival)! It was definitely a ground-breaking international event, with over 600 folks registered worldwide.
- Since the NSN board elected to give 75% of revenue to the storytellers (who had been put out of work because of Covid-19) after Zoom expenses, only about \$10,000 was left for NSN. This means there is still a significant amount to raise before the end of the year. Not impossible, but help is needed from storytellers everywhere.
- The on-line auction generated about \$5,000 for operations. There is a proposal to do another auction before the holiday season. Included in the action were items offered by David Titus, Fran Stallings and Chester Weems.
- A focus will now be put on improving the NSN website (check out storynet.org). Remember, you don't have to be a member to get the digital newsletter. Go to the website and sign up, free.



I would encourage you to consider joining NSN. It would help with the crumbling foundation of the major organization supporting storytelling on an international level. With the discount as a member of TT, the annual fee is \$67.50. Will you see an immediate benefit? Probably not, but look to the future for all of us in this shared interest, and hopefully the benefits will flow.

- Chester Weems, State Liaison

Tattler Deadlines

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

October 1 • January 15 • March 1 • July 15

Change of By-laws

Two changes to our By-laws were adopted by vote of the membership at the General Meeting in June.

The first brings this section in line with the section that says that the Vice-President shall chair the Nominating Committee:

1. Nominating Committee
 - a. Members are appointed by the Vice-President.
 - b. The Committee's charge is -
 - i. To find members willing to serve as officers and board of directors members for the coming year.
 - ii. To present a slate of Officers and Board member candidates for election by the membership at the Annual meeting at the March Board meeting.
 - iii. When the Board accepts the slate, the Committee is discharged.

The second change clarifies the ability to have meetings electronically:

Article VII Meetings

Section 1 TT may have four (4) different types of meetings during any single year:

The purpose of the Annual meeting is to have the Officers and Directors-at-large report to the Members on the organization's current financial status and its progress and accomplishments of the past

year. Furthermore, votes are cast by the Membership on motions of major changes, e.g., election of officers and directors-at-large, and bylaws changes. The Annual meeting is in June of each year at a place and time designated by the Board.

Board meetings decide policy and procedure issues. Currently the Board meets five (5) times per year: July, October, January, March, and May at times and places designated by the Board.

Special meetings decide issues requiring urgent action and/or unusual expense at a time and place designated by the Board. Special meetings may be called for Board action or a vote of the entire Membership. Special meetings require seven (7) days prior notice.

Committee meetings are at a time and place designated by the Committee's Chair.

Any meeting, including the general meeting, may be held electronically including but not limited to Zoom, Messaging or Chat, Phone Call and texting and/or any newly developed technology that proves practical, if and when a physical gathering is unable to take place. In the event of such meeting, all votes shall be taken by roll call by the leader of the meeting with a second person observing in case a question of vote is called.

2020 General Membership Meeting

The first electronic general membership was a success. Eighteen members came together on Zoom on June 27 and took care of business for Territory Tellers. I want to give a big "thank-you" to Tony Hardman for setting up and running the Zoom meeting.

Minutes from 2019 were approved and the budget for 2020-21 was discussed and accepted. The slate of officers presented to the membership was also approved.

The Winter Retreat was discussed and it was decided to make preliminary plans for the retreat which is usually held in January at one of the lodges. If the pandemic situation is better, we will have an on-site retreat. If not, we will cancel the retreat or be brave enough to try an electronic program.

The new board met on July 25 to discuss the retreat

and other issues. We will keep members informed of preliminary plans about the retreat. - Liz Parker

Is your TT membership current?

If you have not already done so, I would like to encourage you to renew your Territory Tellers membership. This is the most important way we raise money to carry on our activities. There is a membership form in the newsletter. Just fill out the form, add your check and mail it the address listed. We need all of you to keep storytelling alive. --Liz Parker

Board Meetings conducted on Zoom

All Territory Tellers board meetings are now being conducted on-line using Zoom. The board wants to remind members that you are welcome to join them for any meeting. Territory Tellers by-laws state that any member may attend a board meeting and even offer ideas during discussions on agenda items. However, visiting members are not allowed to vote.

You are encouraged to join in on the next scheduled board meeting on Saturday, October 24, 2020. Tony Hardman is hosting our Zoom meetings and will be sending out log on information prior to the next board meeting.

Following are a few tips for Zoom participants as compiled by Chester Weems, our resident photographer.

- If you use a laptop put it on a box on your desk. You would like the camera to be about eye level. Looking up your nose is not the best view. A camera on a desktop monitor is usually about the right height.
- If you attach a camera, put it in the middle top

of your screen. That way it looks like you are looking at the other participants, not off to the side.

- If possible put a light behind and above your screen. It does not have to be large, just putting a small amount of light on your face will do. Those automatic cameras are remarkably good, just give them a little help.
- An open window behind you can wash you out if the lighting on your face is not strong enough. Close the shade.
- If two people are sharing the camera, back up a little. Otherwise we get the edge of both faces and a bunch of nothing in between.
- If you close the blind do so with the front edge up. The shade is not as pretty but it blocks the backlight better. (An old Audio Visual trick)

(These tips are coming from an old AV guy, photographer, and once in another life actually ran a small educational TV studio. - Chester Weems

Status of the Territorial Tattler

The corona virus has changed many aspects of our lives. This is true for Territory Tellers. We are still not sure what is going to happen over the next few months, and we want to make sure the organization does nothing to put any members in danger. For many years Connie and Barbara Fisher have picked up our newsletter from the printer, bought stamps, prepared our newsletters for mailing, and taken them to the post office to mail to all members. We do not want to take a chance of the Fishers being exposed to the virus. For the time being you will be receiving your *Territorial Tattler* newsletter electronically. For those few members who do not have an email, Tina will print copies from her home printer and mail them the newsletter. We want to keep you informed about Territory Tellers activities, and for now, we think an electronic newsletter is the best choice. Please, if you have any storytelling news, send it to Tina at twosaners@aol.com. Your news will be included in the next newsletter.



A storyteller can be any age! In a recently unearthed photo by Chester Weems, a young Colin Saner told a story while at an event in Norman about a family canoe trip. Full disclosure, Colin is the son of TT editor Tina Saner.

Want a free Storytelling Newsletter from NSN?

Even if you are not a member of the National Storytelling Network you can get, via email, their newsletter.

Go to www.storynet.org. On the lower left front page you will see the signup process. All they need is your name and email address and you will start receiving the newsletter. It is actually FREE! Of course the National Storytelling Network hopes that eventually you might see a personal benefit and join. Check it out. There is nothing to lose. — *Chester Weems*

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, and she will make it happen.

Do you have something to share?

The *Territorial Tattler* is one way that we can share noteworthy items from the storytelling world. My personal reach into that world is relatively small. That's why as editor I solicit stories, news and reviews from our members to include in each issue.

Have you found a way to share stories lately? Can you share what you did and what successes you had? Are there things to watch out for? I've heard that several are trying out Zoom as a storytelling venue. I'm sure that others would love to hear what you have learned.

Read a good storytelling resource book or article? You can write up a review and that can be added to our next issue. We aren't being asked by publishers for reviews any longer, but that doesn't mean we can't share with each other what we've been reading, or rereading, lately.

October 1st is the next deadline for materials. What can you share for the rest of us to learn about?

Tina Saner, editor

Is your membership current? Send in your renewal today!

Territory 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