

Since our last board meeting, we have had some excellent success in our organization's goals.

- *To increase awareness of and appreciation for storytelling as an art form in a variety of settings: entertainment venues, educational institutions, health care facilities, community organizations, non-profit organizations and for profit businesses.*

As an organization, we have monthly storytelling at Rebecca's Coffee House in South Park, an annual festival at a North County coastal library in Encinitas, in addition to annual participation in a North County Inland folk festival in Poway and a North County coastal Scottish festival in Vista. Individual members tell stories regularly and offer workshops and classes at preschools, universities, the Rady Children's Hospital, and several libraries. Recent one-time presentations have included storytelling for historical societies, schools (assemblies, workshops and family literacy nights), service organizations, churches of several denominations and local businesses.

- *To provide opportunities for participation in storytelling for all children and adults, from beginners to professionals, through classes, workshops, story swaps, concerts and storytelling festivals.*

We continue to hold a monthly open mic at Barnes & Noble, although it is lightly attended. It offers a place for anyone to tell a story, and also get a critique if desired and learn about storytelling resources. In addition, we always have open mic sessions at our March festival, one for kids and another for adults. These offer an opportunity for several tellers to present on the main stage. We also have open mics for kids and adults at the Sam Hinton Festival. We welcome additional storytellers into our professional group.

- *To encourage the use of storytelling to bring together diverse populations in the community and promote cross-cultural understanding.*

Our programming in different parts of the greater San Diego community is intended to offer storytelling experiences to different local communities – both as audience members and as storytellers. Stories told at our events come from a variety of cultural and geographical areas.

- *To serve as a source of information on the art of storytelling and storytelling events in the San Diego area*

We continue to provide information about storytelling on a regular basis. We send a monthly email to subscribers. Several tellers post regularly on our facebook page (587 likes). Li-Anne has revived our Instagram account and has been posting updates. Li-Anne and Marilyn attend

quarterly AERO meetings, and Li-Anne is part of one of their leadership committees. She taught a class for educators about incorporating storytelling at all levels and in all subjects. It was very well received. Our educational promo piece was included in the ArtsPak, sent from the County Office of Education to all schools in the county.

Some highlights for the quarter:

Our First Wednesday storytelling at Rebecca's continues to work well for us. This quarter we have been joined by two new tellers and a ballad singer, and every month has had from three to six tellers with a small but enthusiastic audience. This has been a good point of connection for us and a good opportunity to try new material.

We intend to do more house concerts and will work on policies and procedures for those.

Linda reported on our grant activities for the Encinitas/Mizel Family Grant. We are planning our programs for the 2018 grant.

Marilyn and Li-Anne attended the National Storytelling Network conference in Kansas City in June. Li-Anne attended the pre-conference sessions of the Healing Story Alliance and the Youth, Educators and Storytellers special interest groups. Marilyn is the Pacific Region Director for NSN.

We continued a long-standing tradition of having a storytelling strand at the Sam Hinton folk Heritage Festival in Poway in June. Eight of our storytellers told stories in several sessions, and we had two open mic sessions. All were well attended.

We also had a successful concert as a kick-off to the Highland Games in Vista in June. Our program included four tellers, plus fiddler Rachel Amov. Marilyn and Li-Anne told stories at the Games that weekend for audiences of children, families and adults. Marilyn contributes Scottish stories to a monthly Highland Games newsletter.

We had worked with Robert Kikuchi-Yngojo to offer a master class in September in conjunction with the local Arts4Learning. We were disappointed when it was cancelled, due to financial arrangements. We will look into future workshop opportunities.

We are planning our November Tellabration. Mindy has already secured the venue, which we liked from last year, and she has made arrangements for some additional free parking. Fred has sent out a call for tellers. Li-Anne will get donated refreshments.

We are beginning plans for the 2018 festival, which will be on St. Patrick's Day and will involve the World Storytelling Day theme of "Wise Fools." Fred has arranged the food truck. We have been looking into people to tell their stories around a theme of surfing. Artist Stacie Birkey Greene will create a large art piece to go with the session of art stories. Folk Heritage is sponsoring an Irish-themed music performance the evening of the festival at the nearby Methodist church, so that festival goers can make an entire day of the festival.