

FLORIDA STATE POETS ASSOCIATION
Fall General Membership Meeting Minutes
The Plaza Resort & Spa, Daytona Beach's Grand Resort
Daytona Beach, FL
October 13, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 9:09 a.m.

Roll Call of Officers

President, Mary Ann Westbrook
Vice President, Al Rocheleau
Secretary, Alice Friedman
Treasurer, Robyn Weinbaum, absent

Roll Call of Chapters

Big Bend Poets 0
Live Poets of Daytona Beach 1
New river Poets 7
North Florida Poetry Hub 0
Orlando Area Poets 6
Osceola 2
Poetry for the Love of it 0
Space Coast 2
Sunshine Poets 1
Third dimension Poets of Broward 0
Tomoka Poets 7
Members at Large 2

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last general meeting were approved as presented

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer was absent. The President reported that we have some \$6,000 in our treasury right now. The hotel fees for the current convention are paid. We have made up any deficit we incurred in the past, due, in part, to taking the newsletter electronic.

The fact that we are not printing the newsletter is saving a lot. Our membership \$25 we lose \$1.03 per member for PayPal. Two people paid for the convention with PayPal. As young people come in the cost will rise.

We are also working on a link for people to register on line.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to post the Treasurer's Report on the website.

Audit Report

Because the Treasurer had to leave, there was no Audit done. It will be done.

Old Business

Chip Reader. The Treasurer has a chip reader on her phone so if she's here you can charge purchases on PayPal.

Speakers Bureau. We have sent speakers to Jacksonville, North Florida Poetry Festival, Poetry for the Love of it, Big Bend, and Osceola Chapter. On November 17 New river Poets and guests will have a program. Expenses for speakers are not great but chapters are encouraged to pay an honorarium. Speakers might share audio of winners of the BlackBerry Peach Competition.

Ads for OPAP. A suggestion was made that if we do accept ads, they would be from members. Perhaps we should be looking for sponsorship advertising only.

A motion was made and seconded to direct the incoming President to appoint a committee to oversee accepting ads for the OPAP.

An Amendment was made and seconded to expand it to a Fund-Raising Committee.

The Amendment passed with one opposed. The Motion as Amended passed unanimously.

OPAP. Patricia has retired. If anyone is interested in taking over OPAP, please contact the incoming president. The group gave Pat a standing ovation. The Secretary will write a note on behalf of FSPA thanking her for her wonderful job.

Spring Fling. The Osceola and Greater Orlando Chapters are co-hosting 2019 Spring Fling at the Comfort Suites in Orlando. It will be in May because of April scheduling conflicts. The cost will be \$100 for the meeting room and we can bring in our own food.

Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee, B.J. Alligood, Alice Friedman, chair, and Joe Cavanaugh opened the 12 ballots received. All voted for the ballot as presented. New officers are: Al Rocheleu, President, Mary Marcelle, Vice President, Leslie Halpern, Secretary, and Robyn Weinbaum, Treasurer.

Committee Reports

Cadence. Cadence is on track. One hundred forty copies were ordered. Pre-orders are a little down but perhaps a result of not having the books at the conference the past two years. Counting the books for Janet Watson and the youth winners, I ordered around 40 extras to sell at the conference. We can always get more if we need them.
Gary Broughman

Newsletter. In November 2017, FSPA published its first issue of *Of Poets & Poetry* as an online publication for the vast majority of the membership. Those members without email were sent paper copies. Content still includes reports from the FSPA President and from officers and committee chairs with information pertinent to that particular issue. We also published more

chapter and member-at-large reports than at any time in the past four years. An editorial became a regular feature as did member publication announcements. A new color format was introduced with the January/February 2018 issue to showcase one of the pluses of publishing the newsletter online. In August, we published Volume 45, Issue 4 of *OPAP* which means FSPA completed forty-five years of having a newsletter!

Thanks to everyone who contributed articles and reports in 2017/18 to *OPAP*. You made it a great year for *Of Poets & Poetry*. Patricia Stevenson Gingrich, Editor.

Membership. Total membership 182, Comp. membership 5, Paid membership 177, 72 Members-at-Large and 110 members in 10 Chapters.

Contest. Florida State Poets Association appreciates the generosity of our new and loyal sponsors for your support of our annual contests. We also appreciate the enthusiasm of first time and annual poets who enter our contests. This was an amazing 2018 contest year with a total of 835 entries.

First place winners will be published in *Cadence*, our 2018 anthology. We grow forward! Mary Rogers-Grantham.

Historian. Report by Elaine Person. She stressed the importance of placing *Cadence* in libraries around the state.

Youth Poetry Contest. September 25, 2018

Information has been sent to all Secondary Language Arts Supervisors, All County Superintendents, and interested teachers that I have information. I will be contacting potential judges in the next few weeks. If anyone has contacts that would be interested please provide me with their information or you can provide them with the rules as listed on the website. Thank you. Carolynn J. Scully

Webmaster. FSPA Webpage report. Webmaster: Dina Tanner. Web page is up and running correctly. We average 36 "hits" per day. Any major changes in design and process will be approved by the Board. To post new information, e-mail a WORD document to dinatanner1951@icloud.com. Please check information, spelling and grammar before sending. Dina will not do any hard editing but will give it a final-look before posting and will contact sender if she has changes. Pictures and fliers can be e-mailed as well.

Facebook/Twitter. Mary-Ann Westbrook has been monitoring Facebook. She doesn't tweet.

New Business

Fall Convention. Bob Blemheim, Live Poet Society of Daytona Beach volunteered his chapter to host after consultation with them at the next meeting.

PayPal. Discussed under Treasurer's Report.

Cadence E-Book. Gary Broughman could do it. We could charge \$9.99. It would make money for FSPA. The editors, Gary, Elaine and JC will discuss it.

State Poet Laureate. President has struggled to contact the head of the State Cultural Council which makes the final decision. Our supporter, Sen. Dorothy Hukill died recently but we can continue to work with her office.

Miscellaneous. Joe Cavanaugh gave a brief review of FSPA involvement in the State Poet Laureate efforts.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.
Respectfully Submitted,

Alice R. Friedman
Secretary