



# NEWSLETTER

February 2019

Volume 23 Issue 5

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## Our Next SOCO Meeting

Our next SOCO meeting will be in February 12 in St. Matthias' Reading Enrich-

## SOCO Meeting Notes for January 26, 2019

\*These are shortened notes from the meeting. Rebecca Coleman and Teri Lott can provide the full notes, if desired.

Meeting was called to order with 11 members present. Teri Lott took the minutes. Minutes from November 10<sup>th</sup> mtg. read and approved. The Treasurer's report read and approved. General fund - \$4761.92, Columbus Storytelling Adventures fund- \$3125.18. Old business - SOCO will host the Ohio Storytelling Network's conference on March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9 - 5 p.m. at the Bexley Library Auditorium. Mark your calendars! Kevin Cordi and Julie McGhee are lining up two presenters for that date. We will also have lunch and a story swap. SOCO/OSN members - \$10 at the door. Non members - \$15 at the door. Lunch will be provided for an additional \$10 per person. Kevin Cordi will MC the story swap. Teri Lott is the main food procurer. It was voted and approved to pay \$200 and provide lunch to each of the presenters.

Fireside Tales- Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at the church at The Ohio Village. Ballots for tellers will be sent out 3/1/19 & due 3/9/19. We have the church from 1- 5:00. Telling will be 2- 4:00. Julie McGhee will be MC, Melody Tolle & Teri Lott greeters and tellers table. Cathy Jo & hubby Steve will provide sound. \*\* We need donations of new and nearly new items to be "raffled" off. \*\*

Newsletter deadline - Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>

Columbus Storytelling Adventures update- Jim Flannagan and Julie McGhee are co-directors. Each teller this summer will be paid \$25 per site visit. We need about 100 more books - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and older interest level. If you have new books you'd like to donate, bring them to the next SOCO mtg. or contact Teri Lott (current keeper of the books). The 39 bilingual/Spanish books we have will be equally divided between the 3 Hispanic Coalition sites.

Columbus Arts Festival - June 7-9<sup>th</sup>. Word is Art stage. SOCO has been invited to provide tellers. Jim Flanagan is our contact person. Rebecca Coleman has emailed interested tellers to him as the deadline was 1/31/19. You can go online and apply to tell on your own, of course.

Columbus Folk Music Society Festival - May 4 & 5<sup>th</sup> at Highbanks Metro Park. Some SOCO members have been contacted by Joanie Calem to tell in the children's tent. Larry Staats reported that the society is interested in having more diverse performers. Contact Diane Boston (info on their website) if interested. We will have some time on the main stage. More info to come.

New business- our new webmaster will be Erin O'Neill, a recent member. We voted to allow Erin to choose the provider she's most comfortable with (currently we use Go Daddy) and funds were approved for the purchase of one year of domain name and hosting.

Board members for next year. Consider running. Voting in Spring. We need a new treasurer.

Program - We skipped the program due to the weather and plans members had. Veronica Fenney-Okafor suggested we discuss at a future mtg. to drop January mtgs. (Today's mtg. was rescheduled twice.)

Terri Lott and Rebecca Coleman

### **Columbus Story Adventures**

**SOCO members:** It is getting to be time for our tellers to prepare to do their summertime thing of enriching Central Ohio's young people with our storytelling skills for literacy-at-risk young people of Central Ohio with our **Columbus Story Adventures programs.**

Please help us by suggesting worthy groups so that we can best utilize our skills reaching a larger group of youngsters by sending us the names and contact information of those groups.

Contact **Julie McGhee at 614-891-6736 or julie\_mcghee@att.net** with your information.

**ASAP** please!

**EDITOR'S NOTE:**

This is and has been our finest contribution to our community. Through CSA we have helped many hundreds of children prevent the summer slump in their education. Any educator will tell you that it takes time in the beginning of the school year to help their students combat the summer duldrums. This program has helped prevent some of this.

CSA encourages students, especially those in the most need of encouragement to keep their literacy levels up during the summer.

**Frank McGarvey**

### **Bizzie shares news of Lyn Ford**

Did any of you see the article featuring Lyn Ford in the Jan. issue of Heart of Ohio Magazine. I saw the mag. in the dentist office eariler this month, but I can't find the mag. anywhere in Mansfield or Ashland.

If one of you should come across it please get me a copy. Let me know I will pay you for it. What a time to let the subscription lapse. Keep warm. Be safe. See you all in better weather.

### **Larry asks for help**

I am going to solicit Tellers for the 2019 Central Ohio Folk Festival soon. I am going to solicit Tellers for the 2019 Central Ohio Folk Festival soon. Diane Boston, the primary person running the festival, wants to know if SOCO is buying an ad again this year & if the names of the 2019 Tellers can be printed in the Ad. So, let me know so I can tell her. Thanks.

**Larry Staats**

### **Changes coming to the SOCO website!**

After many years of managing the SOCO website, I am turning it over to Erin O'Neil. She will be redesigning it for a more modern look and better function on the multitude of platforms now available (so it will look as good on a phone as it does on a pc). The changes will take a little time but should be complete by St Patrick's Day (that's March 17th for you non-Irish!). Many thanks to Erin for taking over this project!

**Cathy Jo Smith**



**BRRRRR!**

## Joyce Geary shares info on the NSN and OSN

Greetings! I'm Joyce Geary, the Ohio Liaison from the North Central Region. As such I'm always looking for information to share with all of you and further afield - information from YOU and others. I could write a book about what's happening now, in the past, and what is coming but I'll just touch on a few things today and encourage you to explore websites and await next month when I'll tell more!

I am a member, as are many of you are, of the National Storytelling Network (NSN) now located in Kansas City, Missouri, at Woodneath Library, 8900 N.E. Flintlock Rd, Kansas City, MO 64157. The website is <https://Storynet.org> and I strongly urge you to get on line and browse for a few minutes...or an hour...or who knows... you may get lost in all there is to read and just have to turn off your computer to get out of the website! You can also call (800-525-4514) or email ([info@storynet.org](mailto:info@storynet.org)) with specific questions or to pay dues or sign up for the NSN Summit in Fremont, CA, with activities from July 24-28, 2019. Pre-conferences start July 24 followed by more on the 25th when there are also opportunities to spend 4 straight hours with one of your favorite tellers and learn what makes him or her your favorite and improve YOUR telling skills. Then, on the evening of July 25, the "official" summit activities of performances, keynote speakers, workshops, Fringe performances and swaps, silent auction and marketplace... start. And if you are between age 18 and 35 you may be able to get a scholarship to help with expenses. Start looking at the NSN website NOW and often as more details start appearing.

Some of you have been members of NSN (as well as Ohio Storytelling Network - OSN & local storytelling groups such as ours in Columbus area known as SOCO or Storytellers of Central Ohio.) Some of you who are also members of SOCO know that your NSN dues are decreased by 10% because SOCO has a group membership. Unfortunately some of you have let your NSN dues expire and I'll be giving you a friendly call trying to entice you to rejoin. I just talked to two of our NSN staff members (very busy but extremely friendly and helpful) and they reaffirmed my comments to some of you that your dues gives you 365 days of membership no matter what day of the year you join. Enjoy the newsletters on line, blogs, Facebook, storytelling Magazine, discounts for meetings....that your dues will help pay for. (Note: a little or large extra gift of money help the small staff breathe easier and give them the ability to do even more creative things.)

As I stated, we in Ohio can also join OSN (formerly OOPS) and attend one day meetings in our 5 regions - Central, Northwest, Northeast, Southwest, & Southeast. We rotate around the state so we take

turns having to drive a little farther. We met in December in Findlay and will meet March 23 in Central Ohio at the Bexley Library on the east side of Columbus, and will meet in Dayton the weekend of June 21-23 for a Friday night gathering, full day program on Saturday, and & Sunday morning sharing. Each regional meeting will have an OSN business meeting, usually two workshops, story swaps or concert, snacks and lunch or other meals together and definitely a time to get to see friends from around the state. More details will be coming as they are firmed up. In Dayton we hope to use some of their rich historical heritage as part of the weekend. We keep the cost to a minimum - mostly for a small registration fee and lunch catered in.

SOCO is now anticipating it's spring public storytelling concert in the Ohio Historical Village church Sunday afternoon April 28 - when all will be warm and blooming including a wide variety of stories! We will have tellers at the Central Ohio Folk Festival the first weekend in May and at the Columbus Arts Festival which is June 7-9. Then it's off to tell stories as part of our CSA, a summer long activity bringing stories and literacy activities as well as gifts of "books to keep" to children in grades K-6 who may not have access to those activities during school summer vacation.

More on these and other events in future Newsletters. I'll be especially eager to share workshops that answer "What is a Storyteller?" and "Is THAT storytelling?!" as workshops and presenters are finally decided. Also ways in which YOU can participate, support, and enjoy the many activities coming up. Please send me information or questions you may have wherever you live and are storytelling or story appreciating.

**Joyce Geary**  
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**Terri Lott contributed something that will brighten our weary days**

## *Where is the Sunshine?*

*Where is the sunshine, the golden sunshine? You make me happy when skies are gray.  
You'll never know, sun, how much I miss you. Please return this very day.*

*As I was walking along the snowdrifts, I dreamed I felt you on my face.  
But when a snowball hit my back, I just shook my head and sighed.*

*Where is the sunshine, the golden sunshine? You make me happy when skies are gray.  
You'll never know, sun, how much I miss you. Please return this very day.*

*I've always loved you, you make me happy. If you will only shine today.  
But if you won't shine until summer, I'll spend my winter all in gray.*

*Where is the sunshine, the golden sunshine? You make me happy when skies are gray.  
You'll never know, sun, how much I miss you. Please return this very day.*

