

**Nebraska Center for the Book**  
**Annual Membership Meeting**  
October 21, 2017  
Nebraska History Museum  
131 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, Nebraska

Board Members present: Becky Faber, Pat Leach, Kate Borchman, Mary Ellen Ducey, Molly Fisher, Christine Walsh, Erika Hamilton, Donna Marvin, Rod Wagner and Lois Meyer

Members present: Carol Connor, Patricia Peterson, Laureen Riedesel, David Scharff, Michael La Croix, Tim Anderson, Katie Bean and Gerry Cox

1. President Sherry Houston called the meeting to order at 1:30. Each person introduced themselves to the group.
2. Becky moved that the minutes from the October 29, 2016 annual meeting be approved with correction. Christine seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.
3. Donna Marvin presented her financial report. The current balance is \$7,629.82.

**4. President's Report**

President Sherry Houston reported that Nebraska Center for the Book had a productive 2017. Christie went to the Idea Exchange in May and returned with a report of a very positive experience. In July, University of Nebraska Press held a successful Nebraska Book Festival in Lincoln (with support from the Nebraska Center for the Book). Next year (2018) University of Nebraska Press is planning to hold the Festival in late August at an indoor location. In September, Sherry, Mary Jo Ryan and Devra Dragos attended the National Book Festival in Washington, DC. Sherry reported that it was an excellent Festival, and feels how encouraging it is to see the number of people who participate. In October, several members of the board traveled to Bancroft and held the board-meeting meeting at the Neihardt Center in honor of our 2017 OBON selection, *Black Elk Speaks*. There was a reading/program after our meeting that contributed to a meaningful experience. In closing, Sherry then thanked Mary Ellen Ducey, who is leaving the board because of term limits, for her time and service on the board.

**5. Members' Comments**

Carol commented that she is very glad to hear that Nebraska Center for the Book is doing well. Lurene Riedesel spoke about the Letters About Literature competition. There is a December deadline to submit students' letters to the

national board for consideration. They determine all eligible letters from each state, and then Nebraska judges select the winners from the eligible letters from Nebraska.

## 6. New Business

There has been a suggestion for a one-time Iowa and Nebraska shared One Book for 2019. The NLA-NSLA Iowa joint conference will be held in LaVista. If the NCB board agrees to this arrangement, Becky and the OBON committee will work with the Iowa Center for the Book to mutually select the book. There was good discussion about this possibility among the membership; Carol moved and Mary Ellen seconded her motion for the NCB board to work with intent to share One Book with Iowa for 2019.

Election of new board members: Laurie Yocom and Katie Bean were elected unanimously for three-year terms. Rebecca Faber and Sherry Houston were also re-elected unanimously for three-year terms.

Sherry announced that the next board meeting will be held either in January or February, and will be an on-line/conference call meeting.

7. President Sherry Houston adjourned the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

## What we are Reading

Becky Faber – *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly

Carol Connor – Van Jones' latest book

Patricia Peterson – *Grant* by Ron Chernow

Pat Leach – *Local Wonders* by Ted Kooser

Lauren Riedesel – *Black Elk Speaks* by John Neihardt

David Scharff – *Neverwhere* by Neil Gaiman

Kate Borchman – *What Happened* by Hillary Clinton

Mary Ellen Ducey – *The Summer Before the War* by Helen Simonson

Michael LaCroix – *Black Elk Speaks* by John Niehardt

Tim Anderson – *Quake* by Patrick Carman

Molly Fisher – *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult

Christine Walsh – *Lonesome Dreamer: The Life of John G. Neihardt* by Timothy G. Anderson

Katie Bean – *A Moveable Feast* by Ernest Hemingway

Donna Marvin – *Olive Kittredge* by Elizabeth Strout

Rod Wagner – *The Bones of Paradise* by Jonis Agee

Gerry Cox – *Once We were Brothers* by Ronald H. Balson

Lois Todd-Meyer – *Smarter Faster Better* by Charles Duhigg