

North Florida Poetry Hub Chapter - Minutes

Location: Jacksonville, Florida, Zoom platform

Date: April 29, 2023

Time: 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Attendees: Ruth Van Alstine, Chris Kastle, Suzanne Austin-Hill, Sharon Scholl, Shutta Crum, Bonnie L. Boucek

Minutes from the January and February meetings were up for approval. The correction from the first line of January minutes was approved and minutes from the February minutes move to accept was made by Chris Kastle and seconded by Suzanne Austin-Hill.

Old Business Reviewed as follows:

Old Business:

1. Facilitator signup sheet ~ we need people to volunteer to be facilitators for Open Forum May Workshops 2023. Chris Kastle volunteered for Open Forum. Please use the Google form at this link to sign up or contact Ruth via email with your dates to volunteer. Thank you https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1JbKWGwztH9y8bVE9pHeNwLZSJia2I0SZ-ETC0DR_p4/edit#gid=1386834576 (or see attachment)
2. **The March 25th “First Coast Poetry Showcase” Review** was gone over. The official attendance to the event was 53. Mary McAllister was our official event counter with a clicker count for each attendee. Thank you for that, Mary.

Sales: Chris Kastle and Shutta Crum spoke about the sales, which went smoothly using the card system this year. They couldn't give a tally of the sales because there wasn't an inventory list. The sales volume in general was lower when compared to last year. The setup of the sales table went very smoothly.

Refreshments: Pat Krause had submitted a report on the refreshments. She had collected donation from Paula Babadi, Suzanne Austin-Hill, Sally Constain and herself for a total of \$125 (thank you to all for that). She went to Costco and purchased refreshments of water, cookies and fruit bars, brought them to the event and set up the table. Shutta Crum brought pastries (thank you Shutta). All were enjoyed by our guests at the event. Thank you Pat and Shutta and to the contributors to the refreshment committee. Shutta and Pat also made sure everything was tidy at the end of the event.

Photography at the showcase: We forgot to get photos of the group and winners of the poetry contests. Next year we want to designate a slot on the agenda for a “photo shoot” time.

The breakdown of the chairs/room was too early at the showcase and next year we want to make sure that doesn't happen again. There wasn't enough time for relaxing, making sure there was time for photos and for our guests to mingle with each other and have time to browse the sales tables.

Showcase volunteers were: Paula Veloso-Babadi, Carolee Bertisch, Sally Constain, Cynthia Butler Jackson, Shani Hall, Chris Kastle, Shutta Crum, Patricia Krause, Mary McAllister, Sharon Scholl and Ruth Van Alstine. Thank you everyone for all your time and hard work.

New Business:

1. **Project Planning Committee** – Ruth asked that those members interested in being on the Project Planning Committee please contact her. We will meet in May at a date to be determined. to discuss projects and programs for the years 2023-24 and into 2025. We will be setting a new calendar. All those who want to participate in this important committee are encouraged to join this committee. Bring your ideas and help us plan for the chapter’s future!
2. **Cheerful Poem Submissions** – Call for Submissions and guidelines will be going out in May.

Action items	Owner(s)	Deadline	Status
The Poet’s Pen	Ruth Van Alstine / Poets who are involved in their Poet’s Pen volumes	None	Ruth Van Alstine working with Suzanne. Contact Ruth
NFPH/FSPA Bookmarks	Ruth Van Alstine/members	On-going	Being distributed and is on-going - contact Ruth for more bookmarks
“Create-Submit-Celebrate”	Enrolled Participants	Enrollment open now for 2023 year.	Active - Contact Ruth to enroll for 2023.
Open Forum/Poetry Hub workshop facilitators	All Members	On-going	Sign up/volunteer to be a workshop facilitator for these workshops.
Project Planning Committee	All Members	April-May	Projects and programs for years 2023-24 into 2025 for Chapter Project Calendar
Cheery Poems for Holiday Cards	All Members	May-early June	Call for submissions forthcoming

Next Chapter meeting May 27th, 2023 at 2 pm.



North Florida Poetry Hub is sponsored by Hope-At-Hand, a local non-profit organization providing art and poetry therapy sessions to vulnerable and at-risk youth populations to facilitate healing and personal growth for children and adolescents in the Northeast Florida area.

