

**Nebraska Center for the Book**  
**November 6, 2005**  
**Minutes**

The NCB Board met following the NCB annual meeting in which the Jane Pope Geske Award was presented to the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial. Betty Kort, Executive Director of the Memorial, spoke about its history, mission and activities. Outgoing members of the NCB Board were recognized and new members elected.

Board members present: David Bristow, Shelly Clark, Jeanetta Drueke (secretary), Molly Fisher, Erika Hamilton, Mel Krutz (president), Jane Smith, Stephen Sylvester, Rod Wagner

Guests: Michael Dumanis (Nebraska Wesleyan University), Brenda Ealey (Southeast Library System), Jim Schaffer (Nebraska Wesleyan University and director 2005 book festival)

Old and Ongoing Business

1. Financial report (Rod – for Jerry Kromberg)  
The detailed financial report was postponed. Rod Wagner reported on behalf of Jerry Kromberg. There is little change from the August meeting aside from monies related to the festival.
2. Proposal for by-law change in fiscal reporting (Rod)  
The Board supported changes to the bylaws allowing for email permissions to be granted for payments.
3. Report on 2005 Nebraska Book Festival (Jim Schaffer and Shelly Clark)  
Three hundred people attended the keynote speech by Ted Kooser. It was very well received—a magic moment for the speaker and audience. Festival costs were lower than expected. The Board supported using unspent funds to pay speakers when allowed by the funding source. Jim Schaffer presented a detailed written report of the successful event.
4. Report on Permanent Festival Committee (Shelly)  
The Permanent Festival Committee was an ad hoc one, designed to be a short term planning committee. Its charge is complete. The standing Nebraska Book Festival Committee is now the operative one.
5. Festival director selection recommendation (Rod)  
The search committee for a Director of the Nebraska Book Festival made a recommendation to the Board. The Board approved the choice and an offer will be made.
6. Recommendation for three year festival site. (Shelly)  
The Board proposed that Nebraska Wesleyan University be the site of the festival for the next three years. Jim Schaffer will take the proposal to the president of NWU.
7. AFCON report (Mel Krutz)  
The AFCON annual academic freedom award was given to Samuel Walker, a UNO professor denied emeritus status, after an outstanding teaching career. AFCON's support aided his re-instatement. AFCON also met with Michael Baker,

a history teacher at Lincoln East, and supported his right to choose his teaching strategy.

#### New Business

1. One Book One Nebraska 2006

Brenda Ealey, Southeast Library System Administrator, asked the NCB to support Alex Kava's *One False Move* as the 2006 choice. Kava is a native of Omaha. The mystery concerns a murder in southeast Nebraska. The Board agreed to act as a partner in the program. *Crazy Horse* by Mari Sandoz will be the choice for 2007.

2. Letters About Literature 2006

The information about this year's contest has been distributed. The current coordinator for the program is seeking a replacement.

3. Meeting dates

Meeting dates for 2006 are February 4 (with February 11 as a snow day), May 7, August 5 and November 5.

4. Officers

The NCB Board currently has one opening and does not yet have a president-elect.