

Kentucky Storytelling Association Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 3 – Summer issue



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President's column

According to Wikipedia, storytelling is the conveying of events in words, images and sounds, often by improvisation or embellishment. If you simply type in the word, storytelling, into an Internet search engine, you will see there are over 38,400,000 websites or documents related to storytelling. I dare say you can find information on every aspect of storytelling from “how to”, the “art of”, conferences, festivals, performers, books, videos and many other approaches. This is the essence of information overload!

Even with all of this “information” available, I think the best storytellers are those who rely on themselves as storytellers. Who are they? They develop and use their own style instead of trying to be the next Donald Davis (who is great, by the way). They tell the kind of stories they love to tell and the ones that fit their personality the best. They tell their own stories; stories about their family, personal experiences, their culture, their upbringing and so forth. They also have the spirit of a storyteller in them and they share it. They welcome newcomers. They share their advice and experience. They offer kind and useful critique. They root for other storytellers and want to see them be successful. They learn from others and constantly try to get better.

Everyone can be a great storyteller. All it takes is the first step down the path. If you want to be immersed with storytelling and be around storytellers with the spirit I mentioned, be sure to come to the annual KSA conference, held this year at Blue Licks Battlefield State Resort Park on October 19th and 20th. It will be enjoyable experience and an opportunity to soak up the spirit. Keep tellin’.

Annual Conference Needs You!!

Blue Licks Battlefield State Resort Park - north of Lexington.

This topic is for you. Yes, you. Whether you are a teller or an appreciator, your conference needs you to volunteer to help. Otherwise, the conference cannot happen. Imagine yourself in a boat, a reallllly big boat. Everyone has an oar. Is your oar in the water? It can be! Just volunteer to do one thing and help the boat travel.

Aaahhhh. Can't you smell the water, the lush landscape, hear the sounds of wildlife all around?? The stories, the laughter, the cheers, the collective gasp? It's lovely. The oar positions available are many, whether you want a seat near the front, in the back, or in the middle of the boat, your choice. Please choose an oar and let the Conference Chair know by contacting Betsy Fleischer at betsycat2@yahoo.com or leave a message at 859-734-3194.

OARS AVAILABLE:

1. **Road sign setter and retriever** - set on Friday, retrieve on Sunday
2. **Work the registration table Friday night for 45 minutes** need 2 people, or a 90 minute shift on Saturday morning 8-9:30 - need 2 people
3. **Emcee the Friday Night Concert**
4. **Late Night Story Slam on Friday** - need 3 judges (you get number cards to hold up), 1 timer, 1 name writer who must know simple math, 1 announcer who picks number
5. On Saturday morning **run the Silent Bingo Game** - 1 person
6. Be the **Emcee for the Day on Saturday** - easy, you get a script
7. **Door Prize Chair** - procurement and distribution
8. **Story Store Manager** - must be good with money figures (fill out a form), be a smiler, recruit helpers
9. **Story Store Helpers** - need 4, do a 15 minute shift during a break, or do a check-in shift in the morn, or do a check-out shift in the eve
10. **Workshop monitors** - need 1/workshop, help presenter if need be, keep time for presenter, have attendees fill out evaluations
11. **Emcee for Saturday night concert**
12. **Breakdown Crew** - need 4 people
13. **Post card distributor needed NOW!!!**

There you have it folks. Choose an oar and let the Chair know. There is some serious fun downriver, so see you in the boat!

Betsy Fleischer

Kentucky Storytelling Association

P.O.Box 4148

Frankfort, KY 40604-4148

<http://www.kystory.org>

Getting the word out about KSA

How can you help others learn about the Kentucky Storytelling Association and the Kentucky Storytelling Conference?

Request some KSA information cards and KSA conference post cards. Contact any member of the KSA Board (contact information listed on the KSA website www.kystory.org) or email info@kystory.org to request that cards be mailed to you. Other KSA members have. Here are some examples:

- **Bill Bowling** requested cards to share with story loving friends near his home.
- **Garry McCandless** distributed cards to the participants at Tale Talk, a Louisville-based group that gathers monthly to tell stories.
- **Mary Hamilton** has been giving them out as bookmarks when she signs her book. She also requested placement on information racks in two public libraries and one historic home she visited, and the request was granted.
- **Paschal Baute** has distributed them to members of Lexington Spellbinders.
- **Jerry Young** took some to Toastmasters meetings.
- **Octavia Sexton** even offered her book free to anyone taking a storytelling class she taught if they joined KSA, and she provided information cards so they could join immediately!

Think about where you go. Watch for information racks. When you see one, ask yourself if KSA information might be a good fit for the type of information there. Think about events you attend or coordinate. Are participants likely to be interested in storytelling? If so, please request materials so you can provide them at the event. In this newsletter you can see what the cards look like – their quality is fine, so you'll be proud to hand them out. And should you discover you have suggestions for improving them, be sure to let any Board member know, so your suggestions can be passed along. Examples are below:



**The Kentucky Storytelling Association
is a non-profit 501(c)(3)
membership organization
whose mission is to develop
on-going support and appreciation
for the art of storytelling in Kentucky.**

What Does KSA Do?

Kentucky Storytelling Conference

- Workshops
- Storytelling Concerts
- Open Mic Storytelling
- Story Slam Competition, & More
- Fully accessible and ASL interpreted

Kentucky Youth Storytelling Showcase

Event Calendar at www.kystory.org
Public storytelling in Kentucky & adjoining states.

Find a Storyteller at www.kystory.org.

Join Today -- Membership Form on back.

**KSA, PO Box 4148,
Frankfort, KY 40604-4148
Learn more: www.kystory.org**

Whether you love to hear stories or tell stories, you'll want to be here!

2012 Kentucky Storytelling Conference

Friday, October 19, 7:30 p.m. -- 11:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 20, 8:30 a.m. -- 10:00 p.m.

Blue Licks Battlefield State Resort Park
(near Carlisle on US 68 -- 40 miles north of Lexington)



Storytelling Concerts * Workshops * Open Mic Telling
Story Slam * Door Prizes * Networking * Fun & More

Kentucky Public
Librarians
Earn 10.75
Contact Hours



Pre-register by
October 10th
to save \$\$
or pay on site



Kentucky Youth Storytellers at the State Fair

The Kentucky Youth Storytelling Showcase Torchbearers have been invited to participate in the Kentucky State Fair Performing Arts Showcase. This will be on Saturday, August 18, 2012 at 3 p.m. We are delighted once again to show the rest of Kentucky what wonderful youth storytellers we have. Those invited to participate are: Chandler Emmons Smith, Michaela Simpson, David Benning, Jacob Craiger, Carson Krudel, and Samantha McMillian. Each of these students will have 10 minutes to showcase. Please come and support these outstanding Kentucky Youth Storytellers.

Wandering Storytellers – A great time

On July 27th Wandering Storytellers held a Story Slam at Tuska House in Lexington, Kentucky. Six storytellers entered the Story Slam which was judged by three members of the audience who did not have a connection to the tellers. After all the tellers had had a chance to tell an up to five minute story it was determined

that the first and second place was tied between Madge Lynn and Billy Goldsmith, and third and fourth place was tied between Bob Gresham and Paschal Baute. In the second round, where the tellers were limited to four minutes, Billy Goldsmith won first place and Madge Lynn came in second. Bob and Paschal again tied. In the third round Bob and Paschal were limited to three minutes and again tied. The fourth round was limited to two minutes and again Bob and Paschal tied. A member of the audience made the suggestion that they both be awarded third prize and the rest of the audience endorsed this decision. Billy Goldsmith won \$50.00, Madge Lynn won \$20.00, and Bob Gresham and Paschal each won \$10.00. The evening was finished off with some open-mic telling.

Great job, Octavia!!!!

Our KSA Board Member Octavia Sexton has recently brought in five, yes, five new members!!

How? At a Berea LearnShop she conducted, she offered free copies of her book for anyone who joined KSA. She collected five checks from folks and mailed them in along with the new KSA info cards.

Those folks will be receiving their welcome letters as soon as the post office can deliver them.

Hopefully, we will also see them all at the Conference in October.

Just thought I'd pass along a "good job, Octavia!" and good news, KSA message.

On the Web

Here's a link to the video, "*How To Tell A Story: Quick-Learn Storytelling Techniques!*" by Sean Buvala, an Arizona-based storyteller and founder of storyteller.net

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mOA8mUfIH-Q&feature=player_embedded

Fringe Performance Opportunity

**NSN Conference – August 1 – 4, 2013
Richmond, Virginia**

**The Fringe @ the NSN is back for its 7th Season!
Explore the limits of storytelling at the National Storytelling Conference.**

Want to present 55 minutes of your most compelling, riskiest, experimental or work in progress storytelling? How about a mini-fringe event with you and a friend in a pair of shorter performances? Just think of the possibilities: 55 minutes of folktales, autobiography, performance art, stand-up, puppetry, dance or your favorite long form story!

What is the Fringe? The NSN Conference Fringe follows the Fringe Festival model giving artists freedom to create and audiences "the ability to decide for themselves the truly great productions from the good, the bad and the gloriously disastrous." In keeping with the Fringe principle of an un-juried selection process, Fringe performers for the 2013 National Storytelling Network Conference will be selected by public lottery.

Growing networks of performance venues all over the world have adopted this model and many storytellers are taking advantage of these venues to reach new audiences. The Conference Fringe encourages more storytellers to participate in American and Canadian Fringe Festivals by providing the opportunity for you to experience many aspects of a typical Fringe Festival including the selection process and performance framework.

Deadline: October 31, 2012

NSN Fringe Lottery and Eligibility Information at:

<http://www.storynet.org/conference/fringe.html>

Or contact Barbara Schutzgruber at barb@weavestory.com

UPCOMING STORYTELLING EVENTS OF INTEREST

For more events visit the KSA website calendar@kystory.org

August 2012

August 11, 12 - Three Rivers Storytelling Festival is sponsored by Northland Public Library (a medium sized library just outside of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania). It is two days of storytelling on the second weekend in August each year. ALL of the concerts on Friday and Saturday (August 10-11), including special concerts on Friday for daycares and groups, are now **FREE** to anyone who wants to attend. This year's featured tellers are Linda Fang, Michael Reno Harrell, Andy Offut Irwin, and Bob Reiser. We invite you to come, sit back, and enjoy.

August 11 – Kentucky Storytelling Association Board Meeting. For specific location and time details, contact Gwenda Johnson, quad3@kystory.org

August 23-25 – Christian Storytelling Festival 2012. Featuring KSA's own Pam Holcomb and Don "Buck P" Creacy along with John Walsh, Mike Lockett, Don Falkos and many others. Conference, workshops and storytelling. Providence Academy 2788 Carroll Creek Rd, Johnson City, TN. Visit www.christianstoryteller.com for ticket prices and schedules

Monday, August 27 - Wandering Storytellers, featuring Pam Holcomb from Harlan County and Bill Watson from Owen County, who together will present "Mama and Son – A Civil War Story". As always, there will also be time for open mic storytelling, so come to listen and/or to tell. 7:00 p.m. Tuska House, 147 Old Park Avenue (corner of Old Park and Central), Lexington, KY - - This event raises funds to support Kentucky Storytelling Association programs and projects. Admission: \$5 donation suggested. Information: [KSA Wandering Storytellers](#)

September 2012

September 2 & 3 -Fox Valley Music and Storytelling Festival. 40 miles west of Chicago in Geneva IL 8 stages 11 am – 6 pm. Visit www.foxvalleyfolk.com for more information

September 7 & 8 – Bristol Hills Storytelling Festival featuring Jim May and Kim Weitkamp. Elkhart County Historical Museum. Bristol, IN. Visit www.bristolhills.net for more information

September 24 - Wandering Storytellers, featured tellers, plus time for open mic storytelling, so come to listen and/or to tell.7:00 p.m. Tuska House, 147 Old Park Avenue (corner of Old Park and Central), Lexington, KY - - This event raises funds to support Kentucky Storytelling Association programs and projects. Admission: \$5 donation suggested. Information: [KSA Wandering Storytellers](#)

September 28 -29 – Cave Run Storytelling Festival, featuring Len Cabral, Gay Ducey, Kala Jojo, Kevin Kling, Bil Lepp, Rafe Martin, and Clare Murphy. Twin Knobs Campground, 5195 KY HWY 801 SOUTH, Morehead KY 40351. For more information www.caverunstoryfest.org

October 2012

October 5 – 7 – National Storytelling Festival, Jonesborough, TN. This is the biggie!!!! Learn more at www.storytellingcenter.net

October 8-11 - Hoosier Storytelling Festival featuring Charlotte Blake Alston, Brenda Wang Aoki, Beth Horner, Kevin Kling and Gene Tragaban. Indianapolis, IN. Visit www.storytellingarts.com for more information

October 19-20 - Kentucky Storytelling Conference at Blue Licks State Resort Park, Carlisle, KY. The Conference includes workshops, performances, a story slam contest, open mic opportunities, and more. To reserve your park lodge room, call (800) 443-7008 and ask for a room on hold for the Kentucky Storytelling Conference. More information at [KY Storytelling Conference](#)

Sunday, October 21 – Kentucky Storytelling Association Board Meeting, Blue Licks Battlefield State Resort Park, Carlisle, KY. For specific meeting location and time details, contact Russ Conrad, president-elect@kystory.org

Monday, October 29 - Wandering Storytellers, featuring Octavia Sexton who loves telling scary tales, plus time for open mic storytelling, so come to listen and/or to tell. 7:00 p.m. Tuska House, 147 Old Park Avenue (corner of Old Park and Central), Lexington, KY - - This event raises funds to support Kentucky Storytelling Association programs and projects. Admission: \$5 donation suggested. Information: [KSA Wandering Storytellers](#)

November 2012

Monday, November 26 - Wandering Storytellers, featured tellers, plus time for open mic storytelling, so come to listen and/or to tell. 7:00 p.m. Tuska House, 147 Old Park Avenue (corner of Old Park and Central), Lexington, KY - - This event raises funds to support Kentucky Storytelling Association programs and projects. Admission Free; \$5 donation suggested. For more information, visit [KSA Wandering Storytellers](#)

Do you know of an open-to-the-public storytelling event happening in Kentucky or the adjoining states — Missouri, Illinois, West Virginia, Virginia, Indiana, or Tennessee?

Send event details to calendar@kystory.org or mail to: KSA, P O Box 4148, Frankfort, KY 40604-4148. Events are posted on the KSA Website Event Calendar at www.kystory.org. Selected events are also printed in the KSA newsletter

Your KSA Board Members are:

President, Jeff Jones

612 Maple Avenue, Owensboro, KY 42301
270-993-6693
President@kystory.org

President-elect, Russ Conrad

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Day: 859-654-3358 Cell: 859-462-1567 Night: 859-654-8226
President-Elect@kystory.org

Secretary, Mary Hamilton

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Quadrant 3 Board Member, Gwenda Johnson

P.O. Box 709, Sandy Hook, KY 41171
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Quadrant 4 Board Member, Maryann Zoll

386 Hurt Lane, Lancaster, KY 40444
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At-Large 1 Board Member, Charles Wright

65 Springhill Road, Frankfort, KY 40601-9211
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At-Large 2 Board Member, Octavia Sexton

874 Big Cave Road, Orlando, KY 40460
Home: 606-256-9796 Cell: 606-308-4203
At-large2@kystory.org

KSA has no paid employees, so all work is done by Board Members and Committee Members and *additional volunteers*. Want to help? Volunteer to work with a committee. Learn more about any KSA Committee by contacting the Committee Chair below:

Conference:

Betsy Fleischer, conference@kystory.org
or 859-734-3194

Kentucky Youth Storytelling Showcase:

Pam Holcomb, kyss@kystory.org
or 606-573-4367

Wandering Storytellers:

Charles Wright, 502-223-4523 or
wanderingtellers@kystory.org

Website & KSA Facebook Page:

Laura Seaman, website@kystory.org
or 270-543-8127

Fundraising:

Octavia Sexton, fundraising@kystory.org
606-308-4203

Membership:

Russ Conrad, membership@kystory.org
859-654-3358

Nominating:

Donna Slaton, nominating@kystory.org
270-871-3719 (This is the committee to contact
if you are interested in Board service.)