

Kentucky Storytelling Association Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 1 – Winter issue



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President's column

Past-President Jeff Jones

Sometimes we need to explain ourselves better. For instance, we prepared to go to Mass on Christmas Eve, I told the 7-year old that he could take a toy. One toy. My thinking was that his 7 year old brain, attention span and hind end would stretched to its limits with the long, overly crowded service. A toy would keep him preoccupied and allow us and those around us to be able to enjoy the service. Keeping his 3 year old sister in check would be challenge enough.

We bundled into the car and were headed to church when I asked Levi if he had brought a toy. He said, "Yes. This will be fun."

That's when I turned as saw he had brought a Whoopie cushion.
"You can't take that toy into church", I said.

"But that's not fair! You said I could bring one toy!"

I know, but I should have explained myself better.” Try as I might have, I couldn’t help smiling and occasionally letting escape a little chuckle at the thought of a Whoopie cushion in church. We played with it all the way home in the car and had a gigglefest along the way. I guess it’s true, sometimes we need to explain ourselves better. Happy New Year.

KSA Planning Retreat

The February KSA board meeting will be held Friday **February 8th** in preparation for a special training-- Retreat/Planning-- session as outlined below. We will then reconvene the board meeting Saturday afternoon to take action on plans created during the planning session.

We are very excited that board member Gwenda Johnson has recruited for us an outstanding speaker and facilitator for this event. Please mark the dates on your calendar and consider joining us. The training will help move the vision of KSA forward and there will be personal benefits as always in the fellowship and training. The event is FREE and KSA members are donating refreshments and lunch for the day, but we need you to register in advance to be sure we have supplies for the program and food for the day.

We will send an additional reminder just before registration deadline of February 6th, but please mark your calendars now and save the event if you are interested.

Saturday, February 9, 2013

Kentucky Storytelling Association retreat/planning session.

The session begins at 9:00 a.m. at the Hardin County Extension Office, 201 Peterson Drive, Elizabethtown, KY. You’ll find directions here: <http://ces.ca.uky.edu/hardin/Directions>. All KSA members are welcome to participate in this KSA retreat/planning session. If you plan to participate, please RSVP by February 6th to Gwenda at Quad3@kystory.org so we will have adequate refreshments and supplies for you.

Dr. Lori Garkovich, Community Development Specialist at the University of Kentucky will lead the visioning session. Dr. Larkovich holds a B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She facilitates strategic planning and community visioning processes in communities and civic organizations, assisting local people in defining their future and identifying strategic actions which will move them toward the tomorrow they want for their families, their communities and organizations. She has facilitated strategic planning related to economic development, land use and growth management, tourism development, and general community and organizations. So, come participate and help create KSA’s future.

Kentucky Youth Storytelling

Kentucky Youth Storytelling, a program of the Kentucky Storytelling Association is proud to announce that two young storytellers from Kentucky have been selected to participate in the National Youth Storytelling Showcase in Orem, Utah on February 6-9, 2013 as a part of the Timpanogos Storytelling Midwinter Event. They are **William Carson Latham, III** an 8th grader from Ockerman Middle School in Florence, KY and **David Alexander Benning** a 7th grader from Rosspoint Elementary School in Rosspoint, KY.

The following is a quote from Nannette Watts the National Director, "The selection process is difficult with so many fantastic and wonderful tellers. The judges had a fun time watching the videos and do so enjoy each and every teller. Each teller has gone through much preparation and a lot of effort to get to the point that they can represent their State. Being a State Finalist is a huge accomplishment. There were ten judges from across the nation who were impartial and had a really good eye as audience members, tellers, and story coaches. Their hearts are big and they only wish to help these young tellers. Rest assured, they were selected with great care and they represented a nice spectrum of storytelling in our great nation."

These students competed with students from all over the United States. Only those students that attend this event will be considered National Torchbearers. This is an outstanding feat for these talented young storytellers.

Killing time

Don Ray Smith, KSA member

About a year ago, a glimpse at the local newspaper became a prompt for me to take a story of mine on stage.

The newspaper blurb said WFPL, Louisville's NPR radio station, was getting a new event off the ground. A Moth Hour "Story Slam."

'Story Slams,' were beginning to pop up around the country. They were billed as live storytelling of true stories. Sign up, and if your name is among the 10 picked, you have 5 minutes to tell your story in front of a live audience. In competition. No script, no notes. Also no prize money.

At the time, I was moving in a new creative direction---reworking some of my written stories into performance pieces. Much of my short humor material couldn't be told as "true," but I knew one piece would fit the Moth theme for the month: "Neighborhoods."

I took out my printed piece on growing up in segregated Louisville: "*Wilson Avenue and the Land No Return.*"

That Tuesday night I went to Headliners hall and took aim on delivering an oral version of my story. By sheer luck my name was called, and I told my story, finished it feeling lucky to have most of it come out like I practiced it. Although I didn't win, I was encouraged by a young woman who walked up to me at the intermission and said, "That's exactly the kind of story you'd hear on "The Moth."

I was encouraged by that, so the next morning I sat at my computer, clicked into NPR's website and discovered, hey!---listeners could do a "try-out" of their stories, right from home! I called the NPR number in New York City, and, following a recorded cue, I told my story over the phone.

Over six months went by (By then I'd thought, that Moth business is long gone) and one day I got an e-mail. It was from one of the Moth producers. She loved my "Wilson Avenue"! After a little engineering room tweaking at their studios, my Moth performance was included as a podcast in October on the NPR site. Even better news was to come: It would be archived on NPR, so it would be available for the NPR listener for a good, long while to come.

Sometimes it pays to kill time with the newspaper.

2013 Kentucky Storytelling Conference

Save the date! Mark your calendars for November 1 and 2 for the 2013 Kentucky Storytelling Conference at Greenbo State Resort Park, located in Greenup County in northeast Kentucky just eighteen miles north of I-64 from the Grayson exit.

The Conference has been designated as a 2013 National Storytelling Network Regional Spotlight Event! It was selected as one of only seven 2013 NSN Regional Spotlight Events, and the only one representing the Southeast Region. NSN is KSA's co-sponsor. For information about NSN, go to www.storynet.org.

This designation provides KSA with funding to support a conference thread, "Native American Storytelling in Kentucky – Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow." The Kentucky Native American Heritage Commission, www.heritage.ky.gov/knahc, has agreed to work with KSA in the development of this conference thread.

As in the past, the Conference will still include a Story Slam, open mics, and additional workshops on a variety of topics. A request for workshop proposals will be headed your way soon.

It is never too early to ask for volunteers. Your Conference Committee needs you. If you are interested in helping create the conference, contact Conference Chair, Betsy Fleischer, at conference@kystory.org or leave a message at 859-734-3194. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated.

2012 Conference – Small, but Mighty!

The evaluations are in. You can see them in the dark – they are glowing! Although we might have been small in numbers compared to other years, we were a sincere, laughing, friendly group of people. The variety of workshops and the quality of workshops were excellent. The out of state presenters were extremely complimentary about your conference.

As Conference Chair I would like at this time to thank all those who volunteered their help- brain power, typing power, proofing power, muscle power, smiling power. Without you the conference would not have happened. Thank you all. Betsy Fleischer.

KUDOS to KSA members

KSA member **Cynthia Brandt** of Lawrenceburg recently claimed top honors in two Toastmasters Humorous Speech contests. She won first place both at the area (composed of four clubs) and division (three areas, 13 clubs) levels against competitors from the central Kentucky region. Brandt, a member of Capital City Toastmasters in Frankfort, also represented Bluegrass Division E Toastmasters in the District 40 Humorous Speech Contest in Cincinnati on Nov. 3 where she competed against seven other division winners from Ohio and West Virginia. Toastmasters International is recognized as a world leader in communication and leadership development. The organization has 280,000 member and 13,500 clubs in 116 countries. Brandt is a member of the Capital City Toastmasters club which meets each Monday, except holidays, at noon at the John C. Watts Federal Building at 330 W. Broadway in Frankfort. Meetings are open to the public. For more information, call 502-319-0252.

Congratulations to KSA member **Don Ray Smith** for having a story selected for The Moth website. Don Ray can be heard telling “Wilson Avenue and the Land of No Return” a true story in which he reflects on the segregated neighborhood of his childhood, at <http://themoth.org/posts/storytellers/don-ray-smith>. If you attended the 2011 Kentucky Storytelling Conference you may recall hearing Don Ray tell a version of this story there. The Moth, begun in 1997, is an acclaimed not-for-profit organization dedicated to the art and craft of storytelling. To learn more about The Moth, visit www.themoth.org. You can also attend The Moth performances in Louisville, the last Tuesday of every month at The Moth Louisville Story Slam, Headliners Music Hall, 1386 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY. Learn more about how Don Ray submitted his story to The Moth elsewhere in this KSA Newsletter.

Congratulations to KSA members **Pam Holcomb and Octavia Sexton**. You can hear each of them telling a story on the National Storytelling Network blog. Both Pam and Octavia submitted a story in response to the call for stories to be told in Showcases at the National Storytelling Conference 2012, held in Covington, KY last July. They were

selected to tell at the Conference, and their tellings were recorded there. Now, those stories can be heard on the NSN Blog. Here Pam tell “A Dollar a Minute” a Brer Rabbit tale at <http://blog.storynet.org/a-dollar-a-minute>. Hear Octavia tell a story about her Uncle Ames at <http://blog.storynet.org/uncle-ames>.

Wandering Storytellers

Wandering Storytellers, a KSA storytelling fundraising program for adult audiences, has a new home and a changing format. Wandering Storytellers will now be held at the Farish Theater in the main Lexington Public Library located at 140 East Main Street. Free parking is available in the adjacent Library parking structure (be sure to have your ticket stamped by the library staff).

The hours are slightly modified to 7:00 pm to 8:45 pm since the library closes at 9:00 pm. The date will continue to be the last Monday of each month, except May when the library will be closed for Memorial Day.

The format of Wandering Storytellers will also be changed. We are going to have four story slams in the upcoming year with the first on January 28th and the others in April, July, and October. Story Slams are competitive open mic events with a five –minute time limit. Audience volunteers serve as judges and prizes are awarded.

The remaining months will have a combination of a featured teller and open mic. Featured tellers need to have a repertoire large enough to tell 30 -- 45 minutes of stories appropriate for adult audiences. If you would be interested in being a featured teller for Wandering Storytellers please contact Charles Wright at wanderingtellers@kystory.org. Open mic tellers volunteer at the event and typically tell a single story. Listeners are always welcome to come enjoy and appreciate storytelling for adults.

Since Wandering Storytellers is a fundraising event for Kentucky Storytelling Association, there will continue to be a \$5.00 suggested donation.

Membership Dues Deadline

If you missed our fall conference this year, we missed you. And you missed a wonderful program of workshops and stories. You may also have missed the end of the membership year without renewing for 2013. So I am sending this reminder, the KSA membership year begins on November 1, so if you have failed to renew before now, please visit the website at <http://www.kystory.org/membership/membership-form.shtml> and renew as soon as you can. You may print a form and mail your dues of \$20 for individual \$15 for students or seniors and/or \$40.00 for family membership, or you may quickly and easily, pay online using PayPal.

KSA members in addition to receiving a discount at Conference registration, also receive access to the newsletter, directory service and teller wanted email updates and frequent KSA status updates from your executive board. Keeping your email and contact information current is a vital link in that line of communication, so please update any needed changes when you send in your renewal dues.

Please call or email if I can help in any way. Thank you for your continued support of KSA's mission and goals. Donna Slaton, President-elect & Membership Chair president-elect@kystory.org or membership@kystory.org or 270-871-3719.

Newsletter deadlines

March 1, June 1, September 1, December 1

All KSA members are encouraged to submit information, announcements, news and stories.

Submit to any officer who can forward the information or send directly to Jeff Jones at jeff.jones@hopkins.kyschools.us or newsletter@kystory.org

Upcoming storytelling events

Types of events are designated as follows:

ASL – American Sign Language Interpreted **B** – Broadcasts **C** - Competitions (any storytelling event awarding prizes) **D** - Deadlines to know **F** - Festival **K** - Events offered by the Kentucky Storytelling Association **O** – Open Mic/Story Swaps, where anyone may tell a story **P** – Performance **W** – Workshops, classes, courses, retreats **Y** - Events pertaining to youth storytelling

Please note that some events offer more than one type of activity.

24/7

B - A World of Storytelling Radio - Announcing a worldwide internet radio Station just for storytelling. Find it at <http://www.Live365.com> and search for "A World of Storytelling", or go to <http://www.AslanProductionStudios.com> and listen. You can also download a free radio player to put on your desktop or access the station from your iPhone.

Weekly

B – A Time for Tales, Sundays, - 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Morehead State Public Radio, 90.3 FM. (Morehead, KY), hosted by Carolyn Franzini. Each week the stories relate to a theme... "Work" "School" "Ghost stories", "Lessons Learned" and more. Listen on the web at www.msuradio.com.

January 2013

C, O – Tuesday, January 15, The Moth Louisville Story Slam. Theme: Outgrown. 6:00 Doors open, 8:00 Stories begin. Headliners Music Hall, 1386 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY. Admission: \$8.00. Media Sponsor: WFPL. This venue is 21+ only. <http://themoth.org/events?category=29&month=2013-01>

P – Friday, January 18, An Afternoon and Evening of Humorous Storytelling: Where the River Turns a Thousand Hilarious Tales! Cape Girardeau, MO. Donald Davis and Dolores Hydock will be performing at 2 & 7 p.m. For additional details, please call 1-800-777-0068 or 573-335-1631 or e-mail info@visitcape.com.

P – Saturday, January 19, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Hello Ricky Nelson, Goodbye Heart, told by Barbara McBride Smith, sponsored by Beth Millett. Frank and Katrina Basile Theater, Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, 450 W. Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202. Advance Tickets - Tickets \$20, Door \$25. To buy tickets, call 317-232-1882 or buy online at www.storytellingarts.org

P – Friday, January 25, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. John Dillinger, told by Sally Perkins. This program is part of the *Sharing Hoosier History through Stories* collaboration between the Indiana Historical Society and Storytelling Arts of Indiana. Frank and Katrina Basile Theater, Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, 450 W. Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202. Advance Tickets - Tickets \$20, Door \$25. To buy tickets, call 317-232-1882 or buy online at www.storytellingarts.org

C, K, O, - Monday, January 28, Wandering Storytellers, Story Slam, 7:00 – 8:45 p.m. Location: Farish Theater, Lexington Public Library, 140 East Main Street, Lexington, KY. This fund-raising open-mic, competitive, five-minute time limit, storytelling event for adults supports KSA, and is presented in partnership with the Lexington Public Library. Free parking is available, with ticket validation at the library. [Click here for directions to the parking garage](#) (accessible from Main or from Vine via Hernando Alley.) Admission: \$5 donation suggested. Information: [KSA Wandering Storytellers](#)

February 2013

O – Thursday, February 7, SpeakEasy: true stories, told live. 7:00 p.m. Wild Goose Creative, 2491 Summit Street, Columbus, OH. Storytelling open-mic for adults. Different topic each month. More information: <http://www.speakeasybus.com/>

P - Friday, February 8, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Wintertelling. An evening for adults. Hot chocolate, cozy seats and a concert of our storytellers' favorite stories, sponsored by Adult and Teen Services, Monroe County Public Library. Traditional and personal tales - romantic to ribald! Monroe County Public Library, 303 East Kirkwood Avenue, Bloomington, IN 47408. Free. After hours at the public library -- enter from Kirkwood Avenue beginning at 7 p.m.

K – Friday, February 8, Kentucky Storytelling Association Board Meeting, 6 p.m. Location: Hardin County Extension Office, 201 Peterson Drive, Elizabethtown, KY. You'll find directions here: <http://ces.ca.uky.edu/hardin/Directions> Anyone may attend a KSA Board meeting.

K – Saturday, February 9, Kentucky Storytelling Association retreat/planning session, begins at 9:00 a.m. Location: Hardin County Extension Office, 201 Peterson Drive, Elizabethtown, KY. You'll find directions here: <http://ces.ca.uky.edu/hardin/Directions> All KSA members are welcome to participate in this KSA retreat/planning session. If you plan to participate, please RSVP by February 6th to Gwenda Quad3@kystory.org so we will have adequate refreshments and supplies for you. To learn more about this event and about Dr. Lori Garkovich, who will facilitate this planning retreat, see the article on page 2 of this newsletter.

P – Saturday, February 16, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Maynard Moose Tales, told by Willy Claflin, sponsored by Barnes & Thornburg. Frank and Katrina Basile Theater, Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, 450 W. Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202. Advance Tickets - Tickets \$5 for children ages 5 -- 12, \$10 for adults. To buy tickets, call 317-232-1882 or buy online at www.storytellingarts.org

P – Saturday, February 16, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Mrs. Satan for President, told by Willy Claflin, sponsored by Andrew D Hamaker, CPA, and Tom and Pat Grabill. Frank and Katrina Basile Theater, Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, 450 W. Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202. Advance Tickets - Tickets \$20, Door \$25. To buy tickets, call 317-232-1882 or buy online at www.storytellingarts.org

C, O – Tuesday, February 19, The Moth Louisville Story Slam. Theme: Love Hurts. 6:00 Doors open, 8:00 Stories begin. Headliners Music Hall, 1386 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY. Admission: \$8.00. Media Sponsor: WFPL. This venue is 21+ only. <http://themoth.org/events?category=29&month=2013-02>

K, O, P - Monday, February 25, Wandering Storytellers, Stories for Adults. Featuring: Mary Hamilton telling "Love Stories: More or Less" plus open-mic telling by audience volunteers. 7:00 – 8:45 p.m. Location: Farish Theater, Lexington Public Library, 140 East Main Street, Lexington, KY. This fund-raising event supports KSA, and is presented in partnership with the Lexington Public Library. Free parking is available, with ticket validation at the library. [Click here for directions to the parking garage](#) (accessible from Main or from Vine via Hernando Alley.) Admission: \$5 donation suggested. Information: [KSA Wandering Storytellers](#)

March 2013

O – Thursday, March 7, SpeakEasy: true stories, told live. 7:00 p.m. Wild Goose Creative, 2491 Summit Street, Columbus, OH. Storytelling open-mic for adults. Different topic each month. For more information: <http://www.speakeasybus.com/>

P – Saturday, March 9, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Putting Down New Roots, told by Dolores Hydock, sponsored by Lewis & Kappes, and John and Carol Brown. Frank and Katrina Basile Theater, Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, 450 W. Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202. Advance Tickets - Tickets \$20, Door \$25. To buy tickets, call 317-232-1882 or buy online at www.storytellingarts.org

P – Friday, March 22, Bob Sander tells the story of the Lerner Theater in Elkhart, Indiana in the If These Walls Could Tell Series, In Collaboration with Indiana Landmarks, sponsored by Frank and Katrina Basile. 8 - 9 p.m. followed by a reception. Indiana Landmark Center, 1201 Central Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46202. Advance Tickets/\$10, Door/\$15. To buy tickets, call 317-232-1882 or buy online at www.storytellingarts.org

K, O, P - Monday, March 25, Wandering Storytellers, Stories for Adults. Featuring Pam Holcomb and Bill Watson telling “Mama and Son” a Civil War tale, plus open-mic telling by audience volunteers. 7:00 – 8:45 p.m. Location: Farish Theater, Lexington Public Library, 140 East Main Street, Lexington, KY. This fund-raising event supports KSA, and is presented in partnership with the Lexington Public Library. Free parking is available, with ticket validation at the library. [Click here for directions to the parking garage](#) (accessible from Main or from Vine via Hernando Alley.) Admission: \$5 donation suggested. Information: [KSA Wandering Storytellers](#)

Your KSA Board Members are:

President, Russ Conrad
72 Julie Ann Court, Falmouth, KY 41040-8203
Home: (859) 654-8226 Cell: (859) 462-1567 President@kystory.org

President-elect, Donna Slaton
3014 Pond River Colliers Road, Madisonville, KY 42431-8567
270-871-3719 President-Elect@kystory.org

Secretary, Mary Hamilton
65 Springhill Road, Frankfort, KY 40601-9211
502-223-4523 Secretary@kystory.org

Treasurer, Maryann Zoll
386 Hurt Lane, Lancaster, KY 40444
859-339-8009 Treasurer@kystory.org

Quadrant 1 Board Member, Bob Thompson
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Quadrant 2 Board Member, Millicent Bond
284 Maple Grove Road, Orlando, KY 40460
606-256-5644 Quad2@kystory.org

Quadrant 3 Board Member, Gwenda Huff Johnson
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Quadrant 4 Board Member, Jerry Young
243 Sherman Avenue, Lexington, KY 40502
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At-Large 1 Board Member, Charles Wright
65 Springhill Road, Frankfort, KY 40601-9211
502-223-4523 At-large1@kystory.org

At-Large 2 Board Member, Betsy Fleischer
305 Cole Lane, Harrodsburg, KY 40330-7715
859-612-8275 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, 859-734-3194

Kentucky Youth Storytelling: Gwenda Huff Johnson, kys@kystory.org, 606-207-9769

Wandering Storytellers: Charles Wright, 502-223-4523, wanderingtellers@kystory.org

Website: Mary Hamilton, website@kystory.org, 502-223-4523.

KSA Facebook Page: managed by Charles Wright, 502-223-4523

Newsletter: Jeff Jones, newsletter@kystory.org, 270- 993-6693

Publicity & PR Subcommittee: Steve Lanham, Publicity@kystory.org, 502-319-0252

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

Membership: Donna Slaton, membership@kystory.org, 270-871-3719

Nominating: Charles Wright, nominating@kystory.org, 502-223-4523 (This is the committee to contact if you are interested in Board service.)