



# Member Newsletter

Winter/Spring - April 2018  
Volume 14, Issue 1 & 2 Combined

## President's Message – C. Edwin Bryson

“Are You Serious? They say he was not a good teacher. He just told stories.”

That's what my mother said when I told her about the best teacher I had in elementary school. His name was Mr. Pressley, Joe Pressley. And, indeed he was a storyteller. Maybe it was accidental, but he was also a phenomenal educator.

Often people pick from a misinformed list when they define storytelling.

- Appease children.
- A brain break.
- Inspiration.
- Support the important stuff.
- Entertainment.
- Enhance history

You get the idea. Storytelling for some is often not perceived as a serious, professional endeavor. It is superfluous. It's like photography. What is hard about shooting a picture? Anyone can do it. You know better

I hear the word storytelling almost everyday. Novelists, journalists, filmmakers, politicians, preachers, all are storytellers it seems. Those of us who have been doing this as an art form for years now welcome them aboard, but we can also say, “You are late to the party.”

Daniel Pink in his book [A WHOLE NEW MIND](#), has a section on storytelling. In fact, Pink claims

the future belongs to storytellers. As technology disrupts economies and social structures, it is the storyteller who will be able to make sense of it all for the masses.

KSA wants to be a resource for artists and those who enjoy the art of storytelling. We also want to add value to our changing world by assisting our community in interpreting change. Storytellers know how to unlock values stored in dusty ancient stories that inform a contemporary world. Storytellers know how to use language to enlighten, inspire, motivate, and educate. Storytellers know how to preserve communities in an empathetic whole. KSA wants to give meaning to the people in the state of Kentucky.

KSA runs on the energy of volunteers. The KSA board meets four times a year. Board members donate money, time and effort to produce programs like Youth Storytelling Torchbearers, the KSA Annual Conference, this Newsletter, Teller Wanted clearing house, Wandering Storytellers, Mini Grants to help jump start great ideas, a calendar of events and the list grows. Invest in storytelling and the storytelling arts. Volunteer and support KSA. Together we make a serious difference.

Ed Bryson  
KSA President

## **Kentucky Youth Storytelling Program**

Please help KSA spread the word about the Kentucky Youth Storytelling Program.

How? Below is a Call for Entries with all the details.

Please use it:

- Tell at least three of your 7 — 17 year old Kentucky friends.
- Tell the Youth Services staff at your local public library.
- Send word to elementary, middle, and high schools in your area.
- Send it to your local newspaper.
- Tell your area homeschool groups.
- Tell your community centers, 4-H clubs, Boys & Girls Clubs, Religious Youth Groups, and more.

Working together we can make this the best KYS year ever.

With thanks for any help you can provide,  
Your KYS Committee — Gwenda Johnson, Mary Hamilton, Debra Kumar, and Sierra Hatfield [kys@kystory.org](mailto:kys@kystory.org)

## **Call for Entries — Kentucky Youth Storytelling Competition**

From: Kentucky Storytelling Association, Youth Storytelling Program

Co-chairs: Gwenda Johnson 607-207-9769 & Mary Hamilton 502-223-4523.

Young Kentuckians, ages 7 – 17, are eligible to enter the 2018 Kentucky Storytelling Association's (KSA) Youth Storytelling Competition. Through the competition, KSA endeavors

to develop, encourage, and highlight the talent of our young storytellers. We are looking for tellers who are developing and using their presentation and performance skills for the purpose of communicating a story to an audience as opposed to tellers who are using a story to display their performance skills. We welcome all types of stories, so we encourage tellers to select a story they love – whether a story written by the teller, a recounting of a personal experience, family lore, a folktale, a literary tale – truly, we welcome all kinds of stories and celebrate the art of telling them. If you know a young person who loves telling stories, please encourage them to start now – deciding on a story to tell, telling it again and again, and finding someone to record their entry.

Entries, via mailed DVD or an electronic video link, will be accepted from April 1 – June 1, 2018.

Up to five Kentucky Youth Storytelling Torchbearers will be selected. Each will a Kentucky-made plaque, a KSA membership, invitations to tell at various events, and up to \$100 in reimbursements for travel expenses when acting as a Torchbearer.

For details (Entry & Permissions Form, Rules, Judging Rubric, a downloadable KYS promotional flyer, and Storytelling Tips for Tellers and those help them) visit [Kentucky Youth Storytelling](http://www.kystory.org/progs-and-activs/youth-storytelling.shtml) or <http://www.kystory.org/progs-and-activs/youth-storytelling.shtml>. Questions? Contact [kys@kystory.org](mailto:kys@kystory.org) or call Gwenda at 607-207-9769 or Mary at 502-223-4523.

## **2018 Call for Proposals for the Kentucky Storytelling Conference**

In order to fulfill our mission and goals we are seeking all ideas for workshop sessions on any aspect of the art of storytelling.

To see our mission and goals: <http://www.kystory.org/about-KSA/mission-and-goals.shtml>

To see our 2017 Workshops: <http://www.kystory.org/conference/workshops.shtml>

Have an idea? Send it on!

When: Friday and Saturday, November 16, and November 17, 2018

Where: Owensboro, KY

Honorariums & Conference Session Lengths:

- \$300 + a conference registration for a 130-minute session
- \$175 + a conference registration for a 70-minute session
- All workshop sessions take place on Saturday during the day.

Honorariums & Pre-Conference Sessions Lengths:

- \$400 + conference registration for a 3-hour session
- \$600 + conference registration for a 6-hour session
- Pre-conference sessions take place on Friday during the day.

Any expenses, including travel, food, and lodging are your responsibility.

Proposal Deadline: **May 10, 2018**

How to Submit:

- (Preferred) Via email to: [conference2018@kystory.org](mailto:conference2018@kystory.org)
- (If necessary) Via postal mail to: Ray Mendenhall, 101 Locust Grove Lane, Versailles, KY 40383.

You will be notified about workshop selections by **July 1<sup>st</sup>**.

Your proposal needs to include the following information (1-12):

1. Name of Presenter(s) (If more than one presenter, only one honorarium will be paid):

- phone number(s)
- email(s)
- postal address (for primary contact only if more than one presenter)
- website or other online resource (if applicable)

2. Title of Workshop: Written how you would want it on the KSA website and in other publicity materials (maximum 10 words)

3. Brief Workshop Description for print publicity (Maximum 10 words):

4. Workshop Description for the KSA website (Maximum 50 words, and shorter will more likely be read by website visitors!)

5. Workshop Presentation Method: Describe how you plan to conduct your workshop – what percentage of time will be lecture? discussion? active audience participation? Other methods? (maximum 100 words)

6. Workshop Goals: What will participants know or be able to do as a result of your workshop session? (maximum 100 words)

7. Intended Audience:

- Is your workshop appropriate for young storytellers, ages 8-17?
- Do participants need storytelling experience?
- If yes, what level? Beginning, intermediate or advanced?
- Are there specific groups for whom this workshop would be especially appropriate?
- If yes, please list them – for example, teachers, librarians, preachers, business people, therapists.

8. Session Length: If you believe your workshop is appropriate for *different session lengths*, tell us what will be different in your presentation and in what your participants will know or be able to do for each different session length you propose.

9. Short Bio: Written how you would want it to appear on the KSA website (maximum 100 words)

10. We have easels, large pads, and markers in each room for your use. Will you need a projector? What other technology will you bring for your use?

11. How do you want the room set up?

- Classroom (chairs and tables)
- Theater (chairs in rows)
- Open space (chairs only around the edges of the room)

Some rooms are large enough for both theater and open space, but we need to know your needs now, please.

12. References: Please provide contact information for three people who can comment on the quality of your work as a workshop presenter. For each reference include the following:

- Name:
- Phone:
- Email (if available):
- City and State (so we can be aware of time zones & call at an appropriate time)

Proposal Deadline: **May 10, 2018**

How to Submit:

- (Preferred) Via email to [conference2018@kystory.org](mailto:conference2018@kystory.org)
- (If necessary) Via postal mail to:

Ray Mendenhall  
101 Locust Grove Lane  
Versailles, KY 40383

## **A Review of the Cumberland Falls Storytelling Festival**

By Patricia Estep O'Neal

When you attend an event that can't accommodate all the people wishing to participate, you know you have found your niche. That is how it happened when I joined others at a storytelling festival recently at Cumberland Falls State Park.

It was my second time to hear and enjoy a wide range of storytellers headed by Stephen Hollen, born and raised in the hollers' of Clay County, Kentucky. He is the best! Some of the entertainers came from states as far away as Wisconsin and Alabama. They tell true stories, some are supported by fiction, but all are based on everyday life experiences. I laughed 'til I cried! Sometimes the crying came first. I did not want the 3-day festival to end.

The storytellers take you back to your own childhood and remind you of how it used to be. Storytelling is a unique art and comes with much practice. It is very enjoyable and proves that everyone can be a storyteller. I passed along a couple of my own true stories. The event was so uplifting that I decided as a retiree, I wanted to join the Kentucky storytellers.

When the festival ended, people were lining up at the reception desk to make reservations for next year's event. It is something you want to be a part of and maybe share your talent as a

storyteller.



The winners of the Cumberland Falls Storytelling Festival Liars Contest. From left: 1st Place - Judy Baker of Cleveland, TN, 2nd Place - Ed Bryson of Wilmore, KY, and 3rd Place - Brian Nowitzki of Wilmore, KY

## **Paris Storytelling Festival - May 11-13, 2018**

The second annual Paris Storytelling Festival will be held in the beautiful and architecturally appealing city of Paris, Kentucky, surrounded by charming Bluegrass horse farms and historical culture. The festival is geared to the old and the new, bringing together a county steeped in tradition yet open to the youth of tomorrow. Stories, music, history and hospitality will abound as the community comes together to celebrate and share their love of story. Join us!

The featured tellers are Kim Weitkamp, Adam Booth, Bil Lepp, Thomas Freese, and Sheila Arnold Jones.

# Storytelling in the Mountains

May 19, 2018 6:00 p.m.

Harlan County Extension Depot, 110 River Street, Harlan, Kentucky

In cooperation with the Kentucky Storytelling Association



To find out about other storytelling events that will be happening in Kentucky and nearby areas of the surrounding states please visit the Kentucky Storytelling Association [Calendar](#).

## KSA Member Mini-Grant

Do you have a storytelling project in mind – if only you had funding? Perhaps a matching fund mini-grant – up to \$300 — from KSA will help make your dreams reality. Start planning now. Applications will be accepted July 1 —15. Learn more [here](#).

Questions or concerns? contact [grants@kystory.org](mailto:grants@kystory.org)

## KSA Positions Open - Volunteers Needed

The following KSA Board positions are empty because of recent resignations and need to be filled:

**Treasurer**  
**Quadrant 4 Director**  
**At-large 2 Director**

To find out what the duties and responsibilities of these positions please refer to the "[About Board Service](#)" and "[Officer Duties](#)" on the KSA website pages. If you have additional questions please contact Ed Bryson at [President@Kystory.org](mailto:President@Kystory.org).

**2019 Conference Chair(s)**

KSA also need chair(s) for the 2019 Conference. To find out what the duties and responsibilities of this position please refer to [Conference Overview & Responsibilities](#), [Reflections From a 2017 Co-Chair](#), and [Conference Timeline](#).

If you have additional questions about being the chair of a conference please contact either Betsy Fleischer at [2batqueen@gmail.com](mailto:2batqueen@gmail.com) or Mary Hamilton at [Marystory@earthlink.net](mailto:Marystory@earthlink.net).

If you are interested in serving in any of the above positions please contact Ed Bryson at [President@Kystory.org](mailto:President@Kystory.org).

## **Stories Requested - NSN Storytelling Magazine** by Simon Brooks

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, and all those in between!

We would like some new old stories for the forthcoming magazine, but I will delete (unread and un-replied) those which do not fit the guidelines below. We are all busy.

It's that time again! The National Storytelling Network need stories for the Storytelling Magazine. If you live outside the United States of America and are getting this, please pass it on to other tellers who might be interested even if you are not - I would love to include some 'new voices'- even if they have been around for years. Remember - no pay - sorry! Send stories directly to me at [simon@diamondscree.com](mailto:simon@diamondscree.com)!

I am looking for your stories to put in the story POOL of NSN's Storytelling Magazine. These stories can be folk and fairy tales, myths, legends or original (NOT personal or NOT literary) tales AND NEED to fit the criteria below.

The next theme (for the summer issue) is legends and myths. (Deadline April 18th)  
The theme for fall is history. (Deadline July 10th)  
If you want to get working on those now, please do!

If you have any stories which are:

- a. copyright free
  - b. and that you are happy and willing to have other people tell the tales you submit
  - c. and the stories have a word count of between 300 - 800 words
- then please send a WORD.doc to me. If you use Oracle's Open Office, that is fine too!

Stories that do not fit the above simple, four criteria should not be submitted. Stories which do not come in WORD format and come in at over 800 words will not be considered.

By submitting a story, you are giving Janet at NSN permission to edit stories if needed, either because it needs editing, or to shorten it to fit the space the magazine has. Janet is a really good editor and has a light touch!

Any story you send which ends up published, WILL be attributed to YOU! We cannot guarantee your story will be picked for publication, and stories *are* held for the possible inclusion of future publications.

**PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR NAME IS ON THE WORD DOC SO THE STORY, IF PUBLISHED, WILL BE ATTRIBUTED TO YOU.**

Many thanks in advance! GET WRITING!

Send stories directly to me at [simon@diamondscree.com](mailto:simon@diamondscree.com)!

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Ed Bryson, President, 859-489-9417, [President@kystory.org](mailto:President@kystory.org)

Ray Mendenhall, President-elect, [859-940-1735](tel:859-940-1735), [President-elect@kystory.org](mailto:President-elect@kystory.org)

Bob Thompson, Secretary, 502-553-3406, [Secretary@kystory.org](mailto:Secretary@kystory.org)

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## **Newsletter Editor**

Charles Wright, 502-223-4523, [Newsletter@kystory.org](mailto:Newsletter@kystory.org)

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