

**Society of American Travel Writers  
Western Chapter**

**Business Meeting  
May 11, 2015, 7:00 a.m.  
Hilton Promenade, Branson, Missouri**

Proceedings:

- Meeting called to order at 7:45 a.m. by Chair Christine Loomis
  
- Chapter Meeting, Branson (Christine Loomis)
  - Branson paying for most of meeting and declined registration fee.
  - Captains to receive confirmation from Tamra Jane Corbin for shows. No tipping necessary.
  - Meeting hashtag: #SATWBranson. Need social media measurements for future sites. Lynn Berry to provide social media stats after this meeting.
  
- Christine Loomis announced that Active Norman Hill passed away on May 4. Please sign condolence card circulating for his wife Maralyn.
  
- Chapter Board Meeting (Christine Loomis)
  - Historical records not in good shape.
  - Will be holding membership vote to revise Bylaws. Currently two conflicting statements about Associates ability to vote on Bylaws. May need to hold an early vote about who can vote and another one after national elections for overall changes to Bylaws.
  - Board had good discussion to move forward efficiently.
  
- Chapter Finances (Erik Elvejord)
  - Congratulations to Gordon Thorne whose efforts have increased equity to \$70,136.45.
  - Due to transition of new management company, account numbers not complete. Current operating account shows \$14,175. Estimating \$5,000 Branson meeting expenses.
  - Will be contacting management company about how much the Chapter must keep in national account so we can move the rest to do more for the Chapter.

- Chapter Sites (Marlene Greer)
  - Site not yet selected for 2016.
  - Declined proposal from Bend, OR due to high costs.
  - Expecting bid from Big Sky Montana.
  - Working on two destinations that have not yet committed to submit a proposal: Santa Fe, NM and budget cruise around Cuba.
  - Possible option for Alaska winter meeting in May 2017.
  - Huge challenges to secure meetings. Main reason is that sites do not have the budget or staff. Second challenge is the Chapter's inability to provide previous meeting data including story clips and social media results.
  - Contact Marlene with suggestions for meeting sites.
  
- Frank Riley Award (Christine Loomis)
  - Defunct award that acknowledged best story from a past meeting destination. Destination selected winner and announced two years after the meeting with prize being a return trip from the host. Since award ceased, meeting clips have plummeted resulting in nothing to show potential meeting hosts.
  - Everyone needs to send out tweets from destination for the benefit of future meetings.
  - Carole Terwilliger Meyers may be next keeper of clips. Wait for confirmation before sending clips from Palm Springs, Mammoth Lakes and future meetings.
  - Millie Alexander stated that the Award was started when she was Chapter Chair. It was to showcase the best spirit of the destination.
  - John Poimiroo shared that Frank Riley was a very well-known travel writer and past travel editor of Los Angeles Magazine. If we choose to rename the awards, remember that the name can make it more special.
  - Jim Gebbie was unable to confirm that the destination category #10 in the Chapter Writing Awards was added to replace the Frank Riley Award.
  - Yvette Cardozo raised the question of whether reinstating the Frank Riley Award would eliminate the destination category #10 from the Chapter Writing Awards. Christine stated that it would be discussed.
  - Stan Wawer made a motion to reinstate the Frank Riley Award. Seconded by Nancy Daniels. Motion carried.
  - Laurie Armstrong questioned whether the vote was valid due to lack of members present. Elliott Gillies confirmed that it was.

- Catherine Barry, coordinator of the Bay Area/North group BANG, announced that the next BANG meeting is in Santa Barbara, November 15-16. All Chapter members invited.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:16 a.m.

*Minutes submitted by Secretary Lori Michimoto, May 14, 2015*

*Approved by Chair Christine Loomis, July 29, 2015*