



## President's Message

If you need a cake baked, call me. If you need a garment sewed, call me. If you need someone to decorate for an event, call me. Yes, call me so that I can give you a name and phone number to contact someone who can do these things. Please don't think of me as lazy or unskilled. I like to think of myself as a channel, yes, a channel of blessings. Each one of us may not be able to do everything, but we can do a little or we know someone who can. As we think about plans for the celebration of our 20th Festival, let's put our heads together and find people who have the ability to make this a memorable event.

The Festival Committee is being formed and we will need volunteers to serve during the Festival. We need volunteers for the registration table, and the silent auction.



Teresa Vail, President

## Executive Board

### President

Teresa Vail

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### Vice-President

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### Tattler Editor

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## New Board Members Needed

Two Board Members term limits have expired and will be leaving the Board. We need two members to step up and fill these positions. Jim Caldwell, Vice-President ([yourtaichicoach@gmail.com](mailto:yourtaichicoach@gmail.com)), and Teresa Vail, President ([san\\_bois@yahoo.com](mailto:san_bois@yahoo.com)), need a response before March 7th. The board has two face-face meetings and four via zoom. This is an opportunity to serve the organization in continuing the goal of promoting storytelling. This is also a great place to provide input and suggestions on ways to better the organization. Teresa says that she "looks forward to your response!"

According to the By-Laws of Territory Tellers, board meetings will be held in July, October, January, March, and May. Any member is welcome to attend board meetings, make suggestions, and ask questions. However, only board members can vote. All board meetings with time and location will be posted on the webpage. [www.territorytellers.com](http://www.territorytellers.com). Meetings are usually held via Zoom, but occasionally are held in person like the January meeting at the winter retreat.

## News and Notes on Members

The Tallgrass Tellers are regrouping. **Fran Stallings, Diane Fallis**, and **Nancy Matthews** started with a *Tellabration* event at the Tom Mix Museum in November. On February 13th they will present "Lucky in Love" (an evening of love stories) at Crossing 2nd in Bartlesville Oklahoma at 7pm.

## What are your ideas for SOOSF?

Teresa Vail has appointed a festival committee and plans have started for the 2026 festival. There is plenty to do for anyone that is interested in helping. From the planning stages, schedule building, right up to emceeing a session, all hands are welcome! Please let her know what skills you have that you would like to share.

### Let's get the word out!

Donna Courtney has graciously agreed to roll up her sleeves and begin working on our social media presence. If you have some ideas or suggestions, please funnel that information to her. She can be reached by email at [Achickasaw@aol.com](mailto:Achickasaw@aol.com).



**TEXAS** STORYTELLING  
FESTIVAL MARCH 12-15 • 2026  
DENTON CIVIC CENTER • DENTON, TEXAS



Lyn Ford



Liz Weir



Joel ben Izzy



Alton Takiyama-  
Chung

**Early registration ends March 6th, so head over to**

<https://festival.tejasstorytelling.com/tickets/>

**A complete schedule of events can be found at:**

<https://festival.tejasstorytelling.com/schedule/>

# Territory Tellers Treasurer's Report

Activity from October 1 – December 31, 2025

**Beginning Bank Balance**..... \$ 8,597.41

## Income

Donation .....\$ 3,000.00

Total Income Balance & income ..... \$ 11,597.41

## Expenses

Total Expenses .....\$ 0.00

Income Less Expenses Bank Balance ..... \$ 11,597.41

**PayPal Balance** ..... \$ 327.97

Beginning balance.....\$ 284.25

Membership (Coffman(F), McManamy (S)).....\$ 65.00

New Pay Pal Balance.....\$ 327.97

## Income

Membership (Hudson (S), Rossbach (S),

Stephens (F)) .....\$ 90.00

Total balance & income .....\$ 287.52

## Expenses

Domain rent.....\$ 19.00

Fees .....\$ 2.28

Total Expenses.....\$ 21.28

Income less expenses .....\$ 327.97

End Balance.....\$ 327.97

**Total Assets** ..... \$ 11,925.38\

*Submitted by Rosemary Czarski, Treasurer*

# Mourning the loss of a unique and wonderful voice

Fran Stallings announced the passing of her long-time friend and colleague to the Territory Tellers community this way, “I’m sad to pass along the news that our founding mother, Lynn Moroney, has passed on to the greatest storytelling festival of all time. Her daughters were with her. Thanks to all who contributed anecdotes and fond memories to the collection we sent to Lynn last summer. She especially enjoyed Chester’s photos, and her family loved our stories.”

There were plans to celebrate Lynn’s big life at the Winter Retreat. Unfortunately for us, the weather was not cooperative and that event was canceled. This summer at our Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival there will be time for us to share our stories of Lynn and shed tears of both laughter and sadness.

Following is the obituary that her daughters wrote of their mother.

## **Shirley “Lynn” Moroney** **October 28, 1935 — January 11, 2026**

Shirley “Lynn” Pierce was born October 28, 1935, in Duncan, Oklahoma, to Roscoe and Fay Pierce, who named their only child after Shirley Temple. October 28 is the feast day of St. Jude, who she looked to (patron saint of hopeless causes) her entire life. Lynn was raised in Hollywood, California, where she rubbed elbows with stars, tussled with nuns, and ran around with the kids in her predominantly Jewish neighborhood. Hollywood honed Lynn’s ability to talk to anybody, anywhere, and about anything. Dancing lessons turned into a single film opportunity: one tiny dance sequence in the cinematic marvel, *Carnival in Costa Rica*

(eliminated, alas, from the DVD reissue).

When she was twelve, a move back to Oklahoma brought her to Mt. Saint Mary’s boarding school for girls, where she learned to get dressed and undressed underneath her nightgown, facilitating her ability and preference to never, ever be naked. Boarding school provided welcome structure. Upon graduation she attended the University of Oklahoma for one year as a music major, but left and soon married Tony Moroney. She and Tony had two daughters, Irish twins Siobhan and Tracy. Lynn was nominally a stay-at-home mother during the 1960s, but was anything but: she helped found two Montessori schools, hosted a local television show for children who could not attend Sunday school, taught pre-Cana courses at St. Patrick’s church. To quit smoking, she taught herself to play the guitar in 1965 and in the next few years joined other musicians for some informal folk and Irish music gigs around town.

When she sought paid employment in 1970, she got hired by the Oklahoma City Planetarium to write scripts for planetarium shows and deliver them. Despite no college degree or any background in science, she became director of the planetarium in only two years. In 1975, learning that the assistant director earned a higher salary (“because he had a family to support”), she left for the Oklahoma City Arts Council, where she directed education programs for nearly 15 years.

While at the planetarium she began to question why we taught the celestial myths of the Greeks and Romans when Oklahoma had such a rich trove of native star stories. Her scripts began to reflect those sky tales, and in later years, she began telling them outside the



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# Mourning the loss...

planetarium. In 1989, she left the Oklahoma City Arts Council to become a full-time storyteller, specializing in native sky lore. At the same time, she formally enrolled as a citizen of the Chickasaw nation, which embraced her and her stories. World famous Chickasaw storyteller Te Ata passed to Lynn some of her stories, most notably the story of baby rattlesnake. Lynn performed a repertory of sky lore at schools, libraries, festivals, via cassettes and CDs, and even through her four books, the most famous of which is *Baby Rattlesnake*, still in print in both English and Spanish. Another book, *Elinda Who Danced In the Sky*, is source material for a children’s musical. Lynn founded a storytelling festival in Oklahoma City, Wintertales, and co-founded Territory Tellers, a story-telling organization. She earned more recognition than can be recounted here, but she was especially proud of the John Henry Faulk Award for outstanding contributions to the art of storytelling and her 2016 induction into the Chickasaw Hall of Fame.

Lynn’s sky stories uniquely blended native lore and astronomical science. She worked with NASA, the Lunar and Planetary Institute, and the Astronomical Society of the Pacific to develop educational materials blending science and storytelling. She told stories at the Smithsonian and the National Museum of the American Indian. Partnership with the state of Montana and some of their native tribes generated school curricula.

She bequeathed to her daughters many important rules of living: overhead lighting is never flattering, animal prints are not to be worn, and ankle bracelets are “public school.” Her pozole is comfort food, and like her mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, she stood by Crisco for frying foods. Being the daughter of a beauty-queen, social butterfly had some challenges but we learned to “dip and swoop,” a social skill that has served us well. Her attention to myth and stories connected to her ability to celebrate events and lives well-lived.

She and Tony divorced; he died in 2008. Her sons-in-law, Francis Greene and Rian Thomas, never heard a word of criticism, and grandchildren, Melody and Adam, received nothing but besotted devotion. Lynn outlived many friends but left many behind; they will remember her laugh, her ability to find humor and joy everywhere. Her death, on January 11, 2026, occurred on Tracy’s 65th birthday, the start of the two-week period when Tracy and Siobhan are both 65. We find that a nice symmetry to Lynn’s life.

**Tattler Deadlines**  
We want to include the information you are interested in! Please have information in by the following dates for inclusion:  
January 1 • March 1  
July 1 • October 1

## Is your membership current? Send in your renewal today!

**T**erritory Tellers is a growing network of individual tellers, listeners and local storytelling circles. Get connected by joining our statewide organization! Dues are \$25 for individual and \$40 for family membership per year.

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Web site (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a storyteller? \_\_\_\_\_ a story listener? \_\_\_\_\_

\$25 individual                       \$40 family                       \$40 organizational

Please complete this form and mail it with a check payable to Territory Tellers to:  
Territory Tellers • 6619 S 4382 • Locust Grove OK 74352