

President's Message

Success: How is it measured?

Years ago I organized an Easter Egg Hunt for our little community. Of course some of the adults had critical remarks about it. After the hunt and everyone was leaving, I asked one of the little boys if he had fun. His answer was "Yes". So I didn't really care what the adults said. It was a success.

When I worked with Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), one of my duties was to organize the annual Fat Tuesday Cajun Dinner. After it was over, I told another volunteer that I didn't feel like anyone was having fun at the dinner. She told me that I was so busy taking care of everything that I didn't notice that people were enjoying the event. It was a success.

I have forced my family to do things for me, take me places that I knew they didn't want to, but they did. They were miserable, but I had fun. So it was a success for me.

Whatever the evaluations show, I feel like the 20th Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival was a success. You may have been too busy to notice that those who planned to attend enjoyed themselves, and well, I was entertained. So I think it was a success.

Teresa Vail/President



Executive Board

President

Teresa Vail

san_bois@yahoo.com

Vice-President

Jim Caldwell

yourtaichicoach@gmail.com

Secretary

Donna Le

Dkle45@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Rosemary Czarski

rarczarski@gmail.com

Board Members

Valerie Kimble

kimblevalerie@yahoo.com

Barbara Jones

bwjbook@yahoo.com

Alice Nathan

arnathan53@yahoo.com

Donna "Dancing Star" Courtney

achickasaw@aol.com

Nancy Lenhart Matthews

nancymattews1023@gmail.com

Richard Czarski

rdczarski@gmail.com

Liaison Director

Shaun Perkins

okiestoryteller@gmail.com

Parliamentarian

Tony Hardman

tony.hardman@opsu.edu

Past-President

Liz Parker

elizabethparker862@yahoo.com

Webmaster

Shaun Perkins

okiestoryteller@gmail.com

Social Media

Donna "Dancing Star" Courtney

achickasaw@aol.com

Tattler Editor

Tina Saner

twosaners@aol.com

Need to check on membership status?

Several people have asked how to know when their membership is due for renewal. Shaun Perkins, our webmaster, has added your renewal date to the membership list. So go to www.territorytellers.com find your name on the membership list and the renewal date follows your name. Send your \$25 individual renewal to the TT address or \$40 if you are enrolling as a family membership. There is a handy membership form at the back of the Tattler that you can use when you want to mail in a new or renewing membership.

Board Meetings

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. Emails also go out to the general membership with the meeting date, time and Zoom link. Meetings are usually held via Zoom, but occasionally are held in person like the January meeting at the winter retreat.

Do you have something to share?

The *Territorial Tattler* is one way that we can share noteworthy items from the storytelling world. My personal reach into that world is relatively small. That's why as editor I solicit stories, news and reviews from our members to include in each issue.

Have you been telling lately? Met up with a voice of tellers somewhere interesting? We'd all like to know about it.

Are you hosting a Tellabration™ this fall? Send that information and the Tattler can help spread the word.

Read a good storytelling resource book or article? You can write up a review and that can be added to our next issue. We aren't being asked by publishers for reviews any longer, but that doesn't mean we can't share with each other what we've been reading, or rereading, lately.

Deadlines for materials are listed below. What can you share for the rest of us to learn about?

Tattler Deadlines

We want to include the information you are interested in! Please have information in by the following dates for inclusion:

October 1 • January 1 • March 1 • July 1

TT Represented at the NSN Conference

Three of our own members were presenters at the National Storytelling Network "Prairie Voices" Conference July 23-26 in Canyon Texas. The Regional concert of six tellers included **Eldrena Douma**, **Fran Stallings** and **Chester Weems**. This is the closest the national

conference has been to us since Territory Tellers hosted in OKC in 2005 and one in Kansas City.

Chester Weems also received an NSN Oracle award for Service. Previous Territory Tellers Oracle winners include Rosemary Czarski and Fran Stallings.

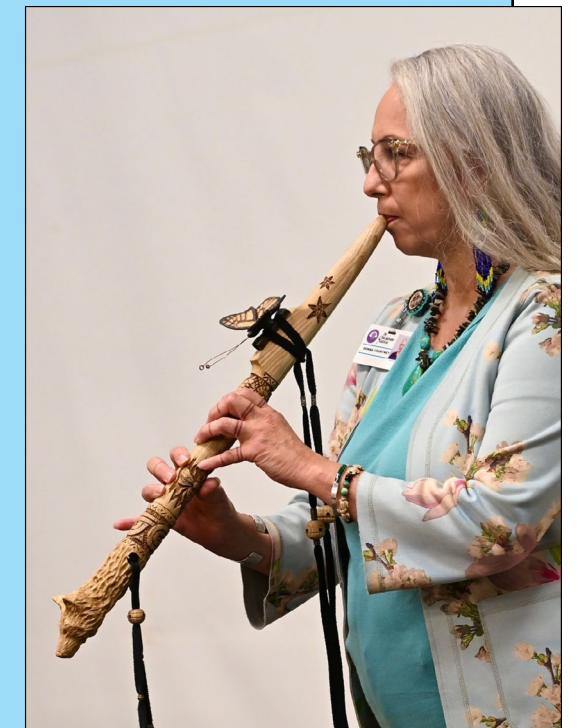


TT and Social Media

Donna Courtney, left, has been brainstorming ways to bring more attention to Territory Tellers and storytelling in Oklahoma. She has been seeing a shift from Facebook posts to platforms with reels like Instagram.

During the July General Meeting a robust discussion included using copyright free reels of our members storytelling to add to the social media accounts. If you have one you would be willing to have posted, send the information to Donna for her to use. Or if you would like to work with Donna to record a story or two that she can break down into shorter social medial reels, she will coordinate a meeting time with you.

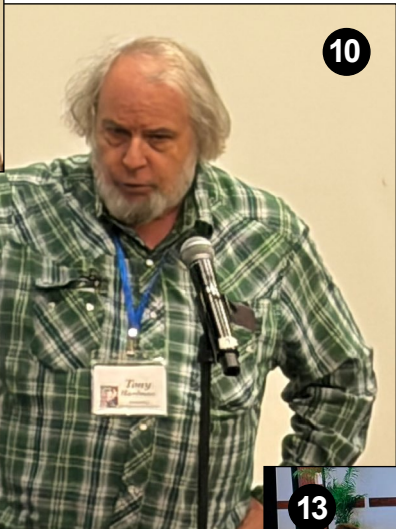
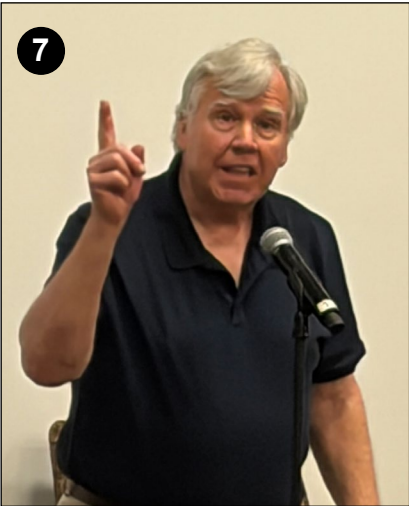
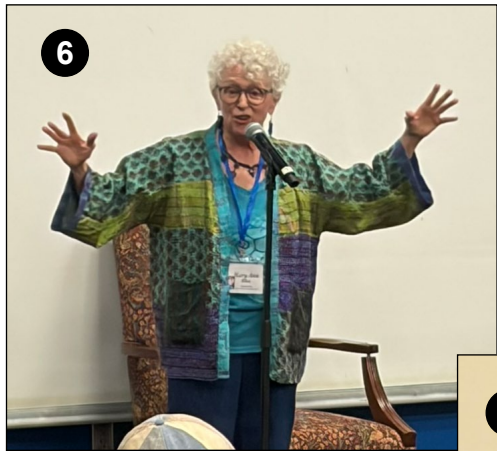
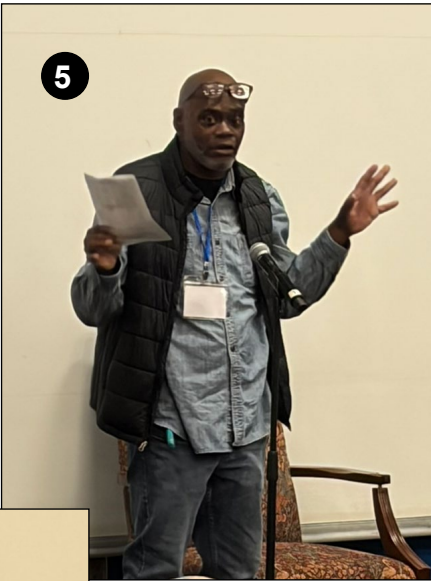
"Everyone can help boost our social medial presence by following the TT Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063760974305>), click to share any posts," Donna reminded all of us at the meeting.



20 Years and Counting...

The 2026 Spirit of Oklahoma Festival was exciting! Because the theme was reminiscence, I thought it might be a little sad. Boy, was I wrong!

There were storytellers there from three states: OK, TX, and NM! (Although we missed our friends from Missouri.) There were Territory Tellers who we don't often see. There were several first timers—first time to the festival, not first time to performing. There were TT members who swapped their usual organizational jobs for telling. There were cute T-shirts and a huge Silent Auction. There was a large percentage of professional storytellers. There were some very special performances by our own very talented members. There was Elizabeth Ellis.



All in all, it was a celebration. After all it was our 20th festival, so we should celebrate.
Thanks and special recognition to Teresa Vail, Tony Hardman, Rosemary Czarski, and Donna Le for great work behind the scenes.

Valerie Kimble

- 1. Valerie Kimble, emcee Saturday evening
- 2. Nancy Matthews and Sky Shivers chat between sessions.
- 3. Donna Le, Saturday afternoon concert
- 4. Gladys Morales, Saturday afternoon concert
- 5. Jimmy Caldwell, emcee Saturday
- 6. Mary Ann Blue, Saturday morning concert
- 7. Tim Couch, Saturday morning concert
- 8. Fran Stallings, Saturday evening concert
- 9. Eldrena Douma, Saturday evening concert
- 10. Tony Hardman, Saturday night concert
- 11. Rosemary Czarski, Saturday afternoon concert
- 12. Chester Weems, Saturday night concert
- 13. Elizabeth Beaman and Richard Czarski catching up
- 14. Elizabeth Ellis, featured teller

News and Notes on Members

Fran Stallings did ten summer library programs this year. "Dinosaurs Among Us" (dinosaurs, reptiles, birds) must be a popular topic! It was fun visiting libraries all over the state. In some small towns, the library serves as the cultural center/museum/community hall. Books are still important but just part of what they offer. Bless their efforts! The all-ages audience gathered in Warner, Haskell, Ponca City, Shattuck, Hollis and Bartlesville in June and in Talala in July.

Fran presented a virtual workshop for TSA's on-line summer conference June 12th.

At the NSN annual conference in Canyon TX (West TX A&M University), Chester Weems and Fran told stories in the opening concert of regional tellers Thursday evening. Then she did a workshop Friday, and Saturday evening presented the ORACLE Regional Service & Leadership award to Chester: much deserved!

Chester Weems sent this: "In sharing info by email early this summer about the upcoming NSN conference in Canyon, TX this July, I missed listing our Missouri cousin, and TT member, **Ric Vice**. Ric Vice, a TT member in MO, is a storyteller and professional musician and will be doing a Fringe session. Ric plays Bass guitar and stand-up Bass (you know that big standup 6' fiddle

looking thing). Sort of impressive.

At the National Conference in North Texas. Territory Tellers were represented with Fran, Eldrena and me as regional tellers. If you have not seen Palo Duro Canyon it is worth a nice side trip. Add a stop at the "Big Texan" steakhouse in Amarillo for a tourist stop, with steak."

It appears that Chester can be found wherever a good story can be heard... or told. He traveled to Missouri and won first place in written category at Missouri Storytelling's Liars Contest in Joplin MO. Elizabeth Ellis and Alice Nathan both wanted to make sure all the TT members got to see the photo of him taken there. He is forever taking photos of us, so it is only fair.

Chester received the National Storytelling Network Regional Service and Leadership ORACLE Award at the ORACLE Award Ceremony on Saturday, July 25, 2026 at the National Storytelling Network Conference. We all know how invaluable Chester has been to our organization, and now he has been recognized nationally for his many talents and leadership skills.

Elizabeth Ellis was the featured teller at our festival this summer. Then she traveled to the MO-
continued on page 7

Tony Hardman was a recent presenter in the Tejas Storytelling Association Masterclass Series. Tony talked about using literary stories, and other written documents, as part of your storytelling. Topics included the differences between telling a story and oral interpretation, how to be mindful of intellectual rights with strategies for giving proper attribution and still enhancing your storytelling. Tony has done several of the Masterclass programs. Since Territory Tellers is considered a guild of the Tejas Storytelling Association TT members are welcome to join the monthly Thursday evening classes. They are well worth your time to improve your telling.

In the photo Tony is in discussion with Ken Oguss, storyteller from Indiana, who you may recall did a workshop for us about a year ago.



TELL Liars Contest in Joplin, doing a story Friday night and a workshop Saturday morning on Courage. TT has been fortunate that she had been a member of our organization for many years and has supported us in many ways.

Jeanette Harjo is planning a storytelling event at the Old Angus Barn at her home headquarters of Seminole Wind Ranch in late October. "Everything Cowboy or Country". It will be filled with personal stories and Horse Tales. Be watching for more details as they become available.

Jeanette is also setting up a Tellabration for this fall. The exact date and tellers are still being lined out, so watch for information later this fall.

Marilyn Hudson is planning a Tellabration for Saturday, November 14th at 3 pm at the Stroud Public Library. Add that date to your calendar too so you don't miss it!



We were fortunate to have two of the original organizers of the Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival, Jeanette Harjo, left, and Bonnie Smith, front row center, in attendance. They shared remembrances of those early years on Friday night of this year's 20th anniversary festival. Tim Couch and Valerie Kimble, back row, and Bonnie's daughter, far right front row, listen on as they continued reminiscing after the session was over.

At the beginning of Saturday night's program, Fran Stallings and Tony Hardman recognized additional TT members who could not join us and their contribution to storytelling in Oklahoma.



For the second year in a row, artist Dwane Taylor has donated a "Whiskey Painting" to the Territory Tellers silent auction. Here he is holding the watercolor he donated. Dwane is one of two WPA in Oklahoma. Donna Le was the winning bidder of this original painting.

ROADS OF KINDNESS

"Tellabration!™ Is an international celebration of storytelling. Come join the fun as we share tales of kindness on the journey of life.

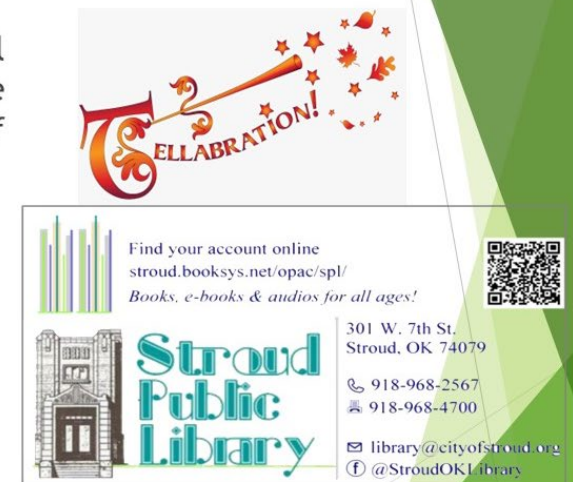
Stroud Public Library,

Stroud, Oklahoma

Saturday 14 November, 2026

3 p.m.

"Come Listen - Come Tell"



Territory Tellers Budget
June 1 2026 – May 31 2027

Revenue	Budget FY 26-27
Memberships	\$ 2200.00
15 Family @ \$40.00	\$ 600.00
60 Single @ \$25.00	\$ 1500.00
1 Organization @\$40.00	\$ 40.00
6 Student @10.00	\$ 60.00
Festival (FY 26, 27)	\$ 5000.00
Grants & Non-festival Donations	\$ 1500.00
Special Events	\$ 2500.00
Anthology	\$ 1000.00
Workshops	\$ 1000.00
Other	\$ 500.00
Total income	\$11200.00
Expenses	
Special Events	\$ 3000.00
Jan. Retreat	\$ 400.00
Anthology Expenses	\$ 300.00
Tellebrations donations 2 groups	\$ 200.00
Technical assistance	\$ 200.00
Periodic programs yearly	\$ 200.00
Production costs for posters etc	\$ 100.00
Travel Expenses Rising Star TSA	\$ 100.00
Workshops	\$ 1000.00
Insurance	\$ 500.00
Festival	\$ 5000.00
Remembrances for members who pass	\$ 100.00
Marketing & Publicity	\$ 2100.00
Organization Memberships	\$ 300.00
Sound System & office expenses	\$ 500.00
Zoom license and fees	\$ 200.00
	\$ 11200.00

2026 Annual Meeting Treasurer's Report
Community Learning Center, Rose State College
June 20, 2026

Activity from June 1 2025 to May 31, 2026

Beginning Bank Balance	\$ 9043.00
Income	
Donation by Tim Couch	\$ 3000.00
DAF (Couch) Grant	\$ 1000.00
May 26 donations (Couch, Czarski, Kimble, Stallings)	\$ 540.00
Festival 25 Registrations & auction	\$ 1166.00
Festival 26 Registrations (Couch, ,R A & R D Czarski, Kimble, Stallings, Vail)	\$ 210.00
Membership (Couch(S), Czarski (F), Hardman (S), Kimble (S), Matthews (S), B. Smith (2 yr S)), Stallings (S), Vail (S))	\$ 240.00
Reimbursement from Rose State	\$ 5.92
Returned cash	\$ 300.00
Transfer from PayPal	\$ 1100.00
Total Income	\$ 7561.92
Bank Balance plus income	\$16604.92
Expenses	
Cash withdrawn for opening Festival 25	-\$ 300.00
Festival 25 Food & site	-\$ 2129.04
Festival 25 performers (Shivers)	-\$ 500.00
Festival 25 Office & Display Expenses	-\$ 88.47
Organization Membership (Texas Storytelling Assc25-26. NSN 26-27)	-\$ 175.00
Retreat food 2025 (Saner)	-\$ 25.00
Festival 26 Clearwater Insurance	-\$ 250.00
Rose State Festival 26 Deposit	-\$ 263.44
Zoom annual payment	-\$ 159.90
Total Expenses	-\$ 3890.85
Income & Bank Balance Minus Expenses	\$ 12714.07
PayPal	\$ 848.41
Balance from May 25	\$ 1297.52
Transfer to Bank 1 Jul 25	-\$ 1100.00
New Balance	\$ 197.52
income	
Membership (Coffman (F), Douma-McMenamy (S)	
Harjo (S)-2 yrs., Hudson (S), Le (S), Payne (S),	
Post Oak (S), Rossbach (S), Saner (F), Stephens (F),	
White & Nathan (F)	\$ 360.00
Donations (Saner, White-Nathan)	\$ 172.53
Festival Registrations (Le, Malone,S & T Saner)	\$ 140.00
Tickets	\$ 20.00
Total Income	\$ 692.53
Total balance & income	\$ 890.05
Fees	-\$ 41.64
Total Income less expenses	\$ 848.41
Total Assets	\$13562.48

Territory Tellers Treasurer's Report
July 18, 2026
Activity from May1 –June 30, 2026

Beginning Bank Balance.....\$10,824.07

Income

Cash drawer returned\$400.00

DAF giving 360 (Tim Couch) grant\$1,000.00

Members (*Beamon (S), Compton (S), Couch (S), Courtney (F), Czarski (F),
Hardman, (S), Jones (S), Kimble (S), McLaughlin (S), N. Matthews, (S),
E. Parker, (S), Ross (S), Stallings (S), Vail (S)*)\$380.00

Festival 26 Registration (*Alexander, Beamon, Blue, Caldwell, Compton,
Couch, Courtney, R & R Czarski, Hardman, Harjo, Jones, Kimble, N. Matthews,
McLaughlin, E. Parker, Shiver, Stallings, Vail, C. & V. Weems, E. Weems*)\$770.00

Donations (*Compton, Couch, Czarski, Kimble, McMenamy, Stallings*)\$1,090.00

Total Income\$3,640.00

Total Income (Bank Balance & income).....\$14,464.07

Expenses

Festival

Cash drawer for Festival-\$400.00

Clearwater Insurance for Festival-\$300.00

Elizabeth Ellis Performance & partial expenses-\$1,100.00

National Story Network water donation-\$400.00

Total Expenses-\$2,200.00

Income Less Expenses Bank Balance.....\$12,264.07

PayPal Beginning balance\$486.73

Members (*Saners (F)*)\$40.00

Festival Registration (*Le, Malone, McManamy, Morales, S & T Saner*)\$210.00

Tickets\$20.00

Donation (*Saner, White/Nathan*)\$172.53

Total Income\$442.53

Total Balance Plus Income\$929.26

Expenses

Fees-\$12.73

Total PayPal Balance less Expenses.....\$916.53

Total Assets.....\$13,664.46

Is your membership current? Send in your renewal today!

Territory Tellers is a 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 _____ Are you a storyteller? ☐

Web site (optional) _____ 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