

WE'VE HEARD IT ALL BEFORE...WE REJOICE IN THE RETELLING.



# THE REGISTER

## JULY 2020 NEWLETTER

# A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello, everyone,

As storytellers we can help mend fences in our world by telling stories with meaning and truth. We are confronted with illnesses of all kinds, both to use as individuals and to our society. Stories can help unify and heal us. Rex Ellis, storyteller, once said, "You can't hate someone if you know their story." We need to learn each other's story and find understanding and peace.

July is the month for the MO-TELL Liar's Contest. Mark your calendars: July 11th, 2pm CDT. We will be meeting on Zoom for the virtual lying. I hope you can join us.

**Meeting ID: 881 9785 4913**

**Password: 641934**

Our lives have certainly changed because of COVID-19. We are adjusting and working in ways we thought were impossible. Storytelling can be done all over the worlds with people we would never have known before. It is amazing. I attended a 24-conference in India run by Eric Miller. NSN (National Storytelling Network) conducted a conference virtually and had a record number of attendees. There were storytellers from Scotland, Ireland, Indonesia, India, Australia, and more. Our region put on a great concert with a few locals that you know: Priscilla Howe, Jim "Two Crows" Wallen, and Bobby Norfolk.

There are drawbacks, too. I really miss telling stories in person instead of on Zoom or YouTube. I miss hugging my listeners.

In August, Missouri will start celebrating its bicentennial with storytelling. There will be events planned for August through May. Watch for that!

Last, but certainly not least, I am happy to announce that Ken Wolfe is back as our newsletter creator and guru. I am so grateful. Hip, hip, hurray!!! Many thanks to Ken. *(Thanks, Joyce. Glad to help out. Huzzah! kw)*

Love, Joyce.

"STORIES CREATE COMMUNITY, ENABLE US TO SEE THROUGH THE EYES OF OTHER PEOPLE, AND OPEN US TO THE CLAIMS OF OTHERS."

— PETER FORBES

**INVITE LIARS INTO YOUR HOME!**



**JULY 11, 2PM**  
**JOIN THE SCOUNDRELS ON ZOOM**

**ID: 88197854913**  
**PASSWORD: 641934**

## **SPOKEN COMPETITION**

Susan Bravo, Illinois  
Lee Giezantanner, Missouri  
Carol Kariotis, Missouri  
Gary Kuntz, Missouri  
Ron Stewart, Missouri  
Rich White, Missouri  
Ken Wolfe, Missouri

## **WRITTEN COMPETITION**

Nate Applebaum, Missouri  
Susan Bravo, Illinois  
Joseph Bubenik, Missouri  
Patricia Coffee, Iowa  
Linda Kuntz, Missouri  
Alice Nathan, Missouri  
Roger Rose, Missouri  
Ron Stewart, Missouri

**COME FOR THE LIES, STAY FOR THE HECK OF IT!**

# THE WISEST SON

Once upon a time an old man called his three sons into his room. He knew his life would end soon and he could not divide his house and land among his sons.

“ I will give one of you my estate. Whoever is the wisest of you will inherit everything I have and it will support all of you for a long time. There is a coin on the table for each of you of equal amount. Take the coin and buy something which will fill this room.”

The eldest son went straight to the marketplace and filled his wagon with straw. The second son bought sacks and sacks of feathers. The youngest son thought and thought and then bought two small items and put them in his pocket.

That night the father called them in to his room. The straw filled only part of the floor and the feathers filled only two corners of the room. Then the youngest son pulled out two small items from his pocket and filled the room and inherited the estate. What did he buy which filled the room?

# MO-TELL MEMBER OF THE MONTH

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## *Roger Rose*



One day my daughter showed me a newspaper item. "Dad, there's a storytelling festival going on at the Arch. You're a storyteller. You should check it out." I didn't know I was a storyteller, but I went to the Arch for the Third Annual St. Louis Storytelling Festival. There I walked through a magic looking glass and found a whole new and strange world! I was a middle-aged father of six adult and near-adult children, just adjusting to the idea of being a grandfather.

For half my life I had been a research engineer at Monsanto, with my creativity focused on manufacturing better detergent chemicals by the ton. My experience with stories was in reading books to my children and teaching Sunday School classes.

I was immediately enthralled with storytelling. Sylvia Duncan and Irene Eveland drew me into Gateway Storytellers dinners at the old Salad Bowl. I signed up for classes at Meramac Community College. When I was looking for places to practice, Leigh McGee invited me to join her in volunteer telling for the Special School District.

I had a lot to learn. I was proud of my ability to memorize and recite long poems and portions of text. I had to learn to put that skill aside and tell the story in my own voice. Somebody said, "Roger, you need to go to Jonesborough." I said, "What's Jonesborough?" I really didn't know about the National Storytelling Festival. "Sue and John Hinkel are driving an RV and taking passengers." So, I called Sue and got on the bus. In Jonesborough, I realized I had forgotten to make a motel reservation! Luckily, I was able to score a room at the old 11-E Motel. It was a crummy room, but I didn't care. I was overdosing on storytelling.

Storytelling became my passion. I joined NAPPS and went to the National Festival every year. I attended the NAPPS Summer Conferences at Washington Academy -- a wonderful way to get to know storytellers from all over. I got involved with storytelling events wherever I could -- Jim May's Illinois Festival, Mike Anderson and Dan Keding's Clayville programs, the Louisville Festival (where I was featured as a "New Teller" one year. I even got to a "Sharing the Fire" conference in New England.

At home, I was active in Gateway Storytellers and edited their printed newsletter "The Grapevine" for many years. I was a member of Riverwinds Storytellers and took part in their events. I volunteered for the St. Louis Storytelling Festival, was a regional teller for 20 years (featured in 1994), and was a member of the Festival Planning Committee for several years. I became a member of MoTell,

participated in their workshops and in the Missouri River Storytelling Festival in St. Charles. I never made the leap to being a full-time professional storyteller. This was partly because I always had another source of income and partly because I was never effective in marketing myself. (I hate marketing!)

I have focused much of my storytelling on literary stories and the balance between staying true to the written story and the craft of adapting the story to the oral medium. This led to my involvement in the issues of copyright and getting permission -- issues which have diverted many tellers away from using literary material. I also work with traditional folklore, usually by adapting, modifying, or "fracturing" the fairy tale. I have written some original stories. My version of "Sir Gawain and the Loathly Lady" was published in the NSN Storytelling magazine in 2016.

Like many St. Louis tellers, I owe a lot to Lynn Rubright, Ron Adams, and Steve Otto. On the national level, I have learned from Chuck Larkin, Michael Parent, Donald Davis, Elizabeth Ellis, and many others, too numerous to list.

It's hard to choose a favorite story from my repertoire, but if pressed, I would choose my "cat" story, "Just Good Friends," adapted from a Jeffrey Archer short story.

Oh, about that walking stick. My father made it from the woody stem of a saguaro cactus. I carried it first as a prop, then as something to make people remember me, and finally as a talisman. Chuck Larkin taught me to either weave the stick into the story or put it down.



**MO-TELL**  
MISSOURI STORYTELLING

**MISSOURI**  
STATE PARKS

**Missouri Arts Council**  
The State of the Arts

**THREE GREAT ORGANIZATIONS  
BRINGING STORYTELLING  
TO OUR GREAT STATE!**

# AND NOW, A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR..



SPOILER: TECHNICALLY, YOU'RE OUR SPONSOR.

## STORYTELLERS & STORY LISTENERS!

Missouri Storytelling, Inc. celebrates storytelling and Missouri history around the entire state of Missouri, with members from all over the region. Our membership includes storytellers, listeners, and enthusiasts alike.

We are proud of the benefits we offer our members: Missouri State Parks Storytelling, the Missouri Liars's Contest, website presence for storytellers, National Storytelling Network affiliation, and a world class newsletter replete with snazziness.

Our fiscal year runs from February 1st through January 31st. We're glad to offer flexibility in memberships as single or dual, the dues of which we collect annually or biennially by January 31st. (Ahem. Has it passed without your dues?)

Whether you're a...

- New member
- Current member whose 2019 dues are expiring
- Current member with dues expiring in 2020
- Former member with an eye to re-enlist

...we want to keep you as a member. We want to hear from you.

(Like it'd kill you to call every once in a while....)

## PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING OR REJOINING MO-TELL TODAY.

### WHAT HAVE YOU TO LOSE BUT YOUR ANONYMITY AND THAT VAGUE, HAUNTING SENSE OF NOT BELONGING?



**ONE  
CAN'T.**

No matter how mythic.



**MANY  
CAN.**

No matter how human.

**MO-TELL NEEDS YOU TO PULL.  
WHICH COMFY HARNESS FITS YOU?**

Serve on the Board of Directors?  
Represent MO-TELL from other Missouri areas?  
Coordinate, plan, and manage events?  
Write grants? Help with accounting?  
Contact any existing Board Member with your ideas.  
Really. You've seen this page for months now.

# WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

Missouri Storytelling, Inc (MO-TELL) is an organization of storytellers and other interested person dedicated to spreading the joy and art of storytelling throughout Missouri.

## MISSION STATEMENT

We envision that every Missourian will hear and share stories and keep the oral tradition alive.

## VISION STATEMENT

President: Joyce Slater, joyceslater20@gmail.com

Treasurer: Sue Hinkel, shinkel@mail.win.org (Membership)

Secretary: Linda Kuntz, lharilag@gmail.com

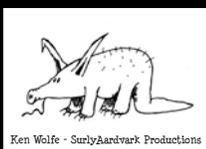
At Large: Gary Kuntz, galirahi@aol.com  
Jim "Two Crows" Wallen, jimtwocrows@att.net

Emeritus: Perrin Stifel, pstifelstl@earthlink.net

[www.mo-tell.org](http://www.mo-tell.org)

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## THE MO-TELL BOARD