

December 15, 2006

National Storytelling Network
Attn: Awards
132 Boone St. Suite #5
Jonesborough, TN 37659

Dear Awards Committee Members:

This letter is in support of Joyce Story's nomination of Sean Buvala for The Distinguished National Service Award. I am wholeheartedly in support of Sean's nomination. His service to storytelling has been comprehensive and national in its scope. I have detailed his contributions below.

- **Description of the nominee's contribution to the storytelling community:** For the past ten years, Sean has operated Storyteller.Net, a non-profit online storytelling resource of great power and scope. Sean offers low-cost, easily accessible websites for storytellers to make themselves available to the world. But that is just the beginning. Members submit articles and stories. Sean conducts interviews with storytellers across the nation and makes them available in his on-line amphitheater. He also offers an online marketplace where storytellers can offer their materials for sale. The site offers great depth and range for anyone desiring to learn more about storytelling. It is highly professional in its design and execution. All this has given Sean an unparalleled awareness of hundreds of storytellers as well as the state of storytelling in our country today. Given this knowledge, he is known for his generosity in linking people and opportunities
- **Description the nominee's contribution to NSN:** Sean is a member of NSN, as are most of the people who make use of Storyteller.net. By providing a vehicle through which the broader society can learn about storytelling, as well as contact individual storytellers and hire them, he is providing a great service to NSN and its members.
- **Description of the nominee's contribution to the community in which they live:** Sean is an active and vital member of his local community. He is the president of the West Valley Tellers of Tales and maintains a website for the group on Storyteller.net. For the past year and a half, he has run a monthly storytelling event at Borders Bookstore in the west valley. Each month he features storytellers from across the state, providing performance opportunities to new and experienced tellers alike. He has participated in storytelling classes and events offered by the South Mountain Community College Storytelling Institute, including a concert at the Irish Cultural Center.
- **Description of how the nominee's work has expanded public awareness of storytelling:** Sean has supported himself and his family as a professional storyteller for over 20 years and his work has taken him all over the country. This alone means that he has significantly affected public awareness of storytelling. When you add to that the remarkable contribution and impact of Storyteller.net, I would say that Sean's contribution is on a par with that of NSN itself.
- **Description of the nominee's originality in their body of artistic work and/or preservation of storytelling as a traditional art form:** Sean is an excellent storyteller with a great range. He is known for his work with teenagers and young adults, particularly young men. He is also known for his work with storytelling and the ministry. His repertoire is dominated by traditional material which he unfailingly delivers with power and fresh insight, merging elements from his life and popular culture and music into a well-crafted mix.

Sean has given exemplary service of the highest quality and consistency to the storytelling community for two decades. He deserves to receive this award.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Warren
Faculty, South Mountain Community College Storytelling Institute, Phoenix, AZ