

**AAG General Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 9, 2021 Small Business Incubator**

Time and Place

A meeting of the Appalachian Authors Guild was held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at the Virginia Highlands Small Business Incubator from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. for the "Meet the Authors" event. Member Kari Kilgore hosted the meeting via Zoom.

Attendance

Members who attended in person were: President Vicki Fletcher, Linda Hoagland, Addie Davis, JC Schweingrouber, Jason Houghton, Oral Frazier, Delilah O'Haynes, and Ellen Myatt. Attending via Zoom were Kari Kilgore, Jason Adams, Betty Jamerson Reed, Damean Mathews, and Tammy Robinson Smith.

Summary of Presentations

Authors on Zoom spoke first. Kari Kilgore and Jason Adams shared their enjoyment of writing short stories. "Don't say 'no' to them when the opportunity to write one arises," Kilgore advised. Adams said, "Ideas develop as I write." He ends up taking "dictation" from the characters after a while. He may not know what the story is ultimately going to be about until he has written it. "Have fun," he said. "Write what appeals to you."

JC Schweingrouber agreed. He has fun writing various genres but spoke at this meeting about comedy writing. As he chuckled about a couple of stories he has written, he said "Listen, it's okay to laugh at yourself. The "supernatural sleuth" encouraged authors to add humor to their work when possible.

Linda Hoagland, long-time AAG member and support, has written and published stacks of books featuring different genre, including poetry. She explained mystery stories top the list of her favorite books to write. However, she added that she enjoyed writing short stories the most.

Like Hoagland, Addie Davis is a prolific writer and published author. She said what has helped to boost the sale of books for her is the "series" format. She shared the basis for a couple of her novels written as a series, and shared why her readers seem to enjoy that format.

New to AAG as of two weeks ago is Oral Frazier. He stated his favorite genre is Fantasy, and he enjoys writing Science Fiction.

New member Jason Houghton talked about a recent book of his titled "18 Fools." Also, he said he published a new book earlier this year as well.

Tammy Robinson Smith said, "Writing is part of who I am." She shared briefly the impetus for writing "The Ivy Creek Sewing Circle," and how characters begin to take on a life of their own. She said she has a new book coming soon, cautioning listeners not to hold their breath for a website just yet.

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Ellen Myatt said she is working on a non-fiction piece – a "meal guide/recipe book" for readers and foodies who learn they have an auto-immune disease due to an inflammatory condition and who need to know what foods and recipes are less likely to be inflammatory.

Vicki Fletcher, president of AAG who arranged the Meet the Authors event today, is best known as a writer for her children's books and spiritual devotions. However, said Vicki, who publishes books through her company Hoot Books, her recent "fairy tale" for an anthology may cause her to write more stories in this genre. This fairy tale will become a children's book soon.

Like Tammy and other AAG members, Delilah O'Haynes has written and published for some time. Poetry and Fiction has been her mainstay. And like Schweingrouber, O'Haynes said she tries to throw in humor in all of her writing.

In closing, as authors listened to each presentation, nuggets of golden insight were gleaned. When Jason Adams spoke of his love of writing short stories and the impact stories can have in the lives of readers, he said, "Knowing that I'm one of these people who made that happen is great with me." Everyone in the room smiled in agreement.

In Closing

President Vicki Fletcher reminded AAG members and authors that April 2 is the deadline for material for the AAG Anthology.

President Vicki also shared the Treasurer's Report, which had a balance of \$1,516 as of March 8, 2021. AAG has a total of 51 members, with total membership dues totaling \$919.34.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 from 1-3 pm at the Small Business Incubator with Steven James as our guest speaker. He will be talking on character development. If you have heard him speak before, you know you want to be there. If you haven't, you are in for a wonderful treat. Please let Vicki know by Friday, April 9 if you are planning to attend in person. The workshop will be videotaped and put on our YouTube channel following the meeting if you can't attend.