**Minutes**

Appalachian Authors Guild

A Chapter of the Virginia Writer’s Club

Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 14th, 2017

**Time and Place:**

The board meeting of the Appalachian Authors Guild met on Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at the Washington County Public Library in Abingdon, Virginia. The meeting took place from 1:00-3:00 pm.

**Attendance:**

President Vicki Fletcher, Vice President J.C. Schweingrouber, Secretary Jami McDonald, and AAG members Linda Hoagland, Linda Dobkins, Sylvia Nickels, and J. Michael O’Connor.

**Call to Order:**

President Vicki Fletcher called the meeting to order.

**Reports:**

* A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the minutes of the board meeting on October 11, 2016, and the minutes of the general meeting on November 8, 2016, as distributed by secretary, Jami McDonald.
* Vicki asked that AAG members contact her if they are interested in volunteering their time to work on activities for/promotions of the 2017 Appalachian Heritage Writers Symposium, or any other festival/event. In addition, registration is now active for the Symposium. Scott Pratt will be the keynote speaker. Information about the keynote speaker, workshop presenters, and other planned activities are available at http://www.appheritagewritersym.wordpress.com. Please do not miss this great event.
* Guild 2017 membership fees are now due. If active members paid after August 1, 2016 of last year, they are current for the remainder of 2017. If members have not paid yet, the fee is $25. The money is needed to help keep the guild financial stable and will be greatly appreciated. Please send payment to AAG, PO Box 803, Abingdon, VA 24212, or give your dues to Vicki or Jack at any of our regularly scheduled meetings.
* Appalachian Wine and Words, an event the Guild had considered hosting in 2017, has been postponed due to scheduling conflicts and difficulty in event planning. The board would like to explore other avenues that would allow members to sell their books to the public. If anyone has any ideas, please let Vicki know. Venues we discussed at the meeting included public libraries, the Mistletoe Market, and area restaurants.
* The following dates/times/locations are for our meetings in 2017. Lunch will accompany the general meetings that are underlined, so please let Vicki know if you

plan to attend. This will help the restaurants/caterers prepare for the appropriate number of guests.

* March 14th – Abingdon Shoney’s, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm, with guest speaker Dr. Jesse Graves from ETSU. Welcome Dr. Graves!
* April 11th – Abingdon Library, 1 pm – 3 pm, Board Meeting.
* May 9th – SWVCC in Richlands, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm, with guest speaker Justin Trout.
* June 13th – Abingdon Library, 1 pm – 3 pm, Board Meeting.
* July 11th – Bristol Golden Corral, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm, Speaker Dylan Pratt, Scott Pratt’s son, will speak about marketing.
* August – NO meeting due to the Virginia Highlands Festival
* September 12th – Lebanon Bonanza, 11:30am-1:30pm, with guest speaker Rita Quillen.
* October 10th – Abingdon Library, 1 pm – 3 pm, Board Meeting
* November 14th – Abingdon Shoney’s, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm, with guest speaker Leigh Ann Hoover. At this meeting, we will announce the 2018 officers.
* The board wants to try organizing a Guild anthology in time that it can be sold at the Virginia Highlands Festival as a fundraiser. Only one anthology will be created, but holiday themed poems and stories will be included. If you submitted work for last year’s anthologies (not published due to lack of entries), and think your piece may have been lost, please resend your entries to Vicki. If you have not submitted anything yet, please consider doing so. Short stories, poetry, and nonfiction should be less than 2,000 words. Only one entry per category is preferred, but more may be reconsidered if space allows for more selections. The deadline is **May 1st**.
* Jack has sent in our application to the Virginia Highlands Festival. As soon as we receive approval, he will begin taking reservations for table space. Be on the lookout for an email concerning the festival. If you **do not** have an active **email,** and would like this information mailed to you, please let Vick know.
* Jack Rose reported that the Checkbook Balance for the Guild is $158.27. A check has recently been written to the VHF for $1,035. Please remember that the Guild is always accepting, and thankful for, donations. Donations are tax deductible and will be collected at each Guild meeting. Please send additional donations to AAG, PO Box 803, Abingdon, VA 24212.
* If you have a chance, please check out our newly reorganized website. [http://www.appalachianauthors.com](http://www.appalachianauthors.com/index.html). If you have any more questions/ideas/comments for Vicki, she can also be reached at 276-492-8314 and [vfletcher56@gmail.com](mailto:vfletcher56@gmail.com).

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned by President Vicki Fletcher.

Respectfully submitted, Jami McDonald, Secretary