**Minutes**

Appalachian Authors Guild

A Chapter of the Virginia Writer’s Club

Forum and Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 12th, 2016

**Time and Place:**

The board meeting of the Appalachian Authors Guild met on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 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, Treasurer Jack Rose, and AAG member-at-large Linda Dobkins.

**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 general meeting on March 8, 2016, as written by Jami McDonald (distributed by Vicki Fletcher).
* We had a brief discussion about self-publishing outlets that are available on the internet, including *Create Space*, *Smashwords*, and *LuLu*.
* We participated in a writing activity by selecting a topic from a pool of writing prompts that were provided by Vice President J.C. Schweingrouber. Some participants chose to write about where they would travel in the United States if they had an abundance of money. Others chose the prompt “Look around the room. What is wrong with this picture?” A sample of the writing generated from this activity can be seen in our AAG May 2016 Tidings. Please remember that all AAG members are welcome to attend the writing activity portion of the Forum/Board meetings. It was a lot of fun and we learned some things about one another that we didn’t know before.
* Treasure Jack Rose reported that we have $908 in our checking account (as of April, 11, 2016). Checks have recently been written to Dr. L Stepp ($50.00), Burke’s Print ($57.92), and the SWCC Foundation ($250.00). The donation kitties that have been available at the past few AAG meetings have given our treasure’s fund a boost. No matter how small or large they may be, donations are always welcome.
* Jack also provided us with a copy of the AAG schedule for the Virginia Highlands Festival (July 29 – August 7, 2016, in Abingdon, VA). Weekend spots at our writers’ table are filling up quickly, but there are still plenty of spaces open during the weekdays. If you are interested in selling your books at the AAG table during the Highlands Festival, please let Jack know as soon as possible. The registration fee is $25 per day to secure a

spot at our Guild’s table.

* Sylvia reported that our website currently has a total of 16,380 hits. These statistics only apply to those Internet users who search for, or click, a bookmark for our website. \*Correction: In the February 2016 board minutes, I reported that Sylvia’s calculations for website hits were for the past year. Sylvia’s monthly calculation reports are actually the number of total hits we have acquired since she has been gathering statistics.\*
* We have received two new membership applications for Valerie Dowdy and J. Michael O’Connor.
* There were only 10 submissions for both the Christmas and General AAG anthologies, so these projects have been put on hold until next year. If you submitted a piece of writing for consideration and would like the opportunity to submit it to a different contest/project, please feel free to do so. If you would like to submit a piece to go in a future AAG anthology, you are more than welcome to send the work to Vicki.
* The next AAG general meeting will be on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at Southwest Virginia Community College. A catered lunch will be provided for those members who submitted $10 in advance to Vicki Fletcher.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned by President Vicki Fletcher.

Respectfully submitted,

Jami McDonald, secretary