**Minutes**

Appalachian Authors Guild

A Chapter of the Virginia Writer’s Club

Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 5, 2016

**Time and Place:**

The board members of the Appalachian Authors Guild met on Tuesday, July 5, 2016, at the Washington County Public Library in Abingdon, Virginia. The meeting took place from 1:00-3:00 pm. The meeting was originally scheduled to take place on June 14, 2016, but was rearranged due to lack of attendance. President Vicki Fletcher and Secretary Jami McDonald were present at the meeting on June 14th and briefly discussed items on the agenda.

**Attendance:**

President Vicki Fletcher, Vice President J.C. Schweingrouber, Treasurer Jack Rose, and AAG members Linda Dobkins and Sylvia Nickels

**Call to Order:**

President Vicki Fletcher called the meeting to order.

**Reports:**

* Since this meeting was arranged for the purpose of discussing guild business matters, the board officers chose to bypass the writing activity scheduled for the original, June 14th, meeting.
* A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the minutes of the board meeting on April 12, 2016, and the minutes of the general meeting on May 10, 2016, as distributed by secretary, Jami McDonald.
* Treasure Jack Rose reported that we have $939.45 in our checking account (as of July 5, 2016). Checks have recently been written to Dr. Thomas McKnight ($50.00), In the Country ($ 250.00), and USPS ($102.00). 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). The days that are now closed are July 29th, July 30th, July 31st, August 5th, and August 6th. Authors ae still needed for the Monday through Thursday spaces and also for the final Sunday of the festival (August 7th). 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 17,081 hits. These statistics only apply to those Internet users who search for, or click, a bookmark for our website.

Sylvia also reported that the website is getting visitors from much more varied regions. Many of the individuals who visit our site seem to be connecting with the Guild through two larger writers’ websites, *writersrelief.com* and *writersandeditors.com*. The Appalachian Authors Guild is listed on those websites under ‘local and regional organizations.’ We are grateful to those two sites for their continuing support.

* We have received two new membership applications for Gary Sizer and Kathy Jacobs. We would like to welcome them to the Guild.
* The following dates/times/locations are for our meetings for the remainder of 2016. Lunch/Dinner 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.
* July 12th – Abingdon Shoney’s, 6 pm – 8 pm, Speaker TBA.
* August – No meeting is scheduled for this month.
* September 13th – Lebanon, Location TBA, 6 pm – 8 pm, Speaker TBA.
* October 11th – Abingdon Library, 1 pm – 3 pm, Board/Writer’s forum.
* November 8th – Abingdon Shoney’s, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm, Speaker TBA. At this meeting, we will announce the 2017 officers.
* The board would also like to have a special Christmas holiday fellowship on Tuesday, December 13th, from 6 pm – 8 pm. The location of this event will be determined later. If anyone has any ideas/input about this event, please let Vicki know.
* The Appalachian Authors Guild is currently planning a special event in the fall. Appalachian Wine and Words (and other spirits) will be held at the Higher Education Center in Abingdon on October 1, 2016 from 10 am to 2 pm. AAG member Linda Dobkins is sending letters out to area wineries and breweries, inviting them to attend the event. After the attending list of wineries and breweries has been collected, AAG authors will receive information about selling their books at the event. The board plans to ask for food donations and art displays beginning in September. Tickets will be $2 per person (children under the age of 12 will receive free admission). Vicki is working on getting a non-profit status for the Guild, which will confirm our reservation at the Higher Education Center. The board is going to ask Guild member Linda Hoagland to do area television advertising for the event. Vicki will also be doing an interview with Joe Tennis for the local newspaper. If any guild members have any other suggestions for, or donations to make to, the event, please let Vicki know.
* Jack also needs posters and decorations for the Virginia Highlands Festival. If anyone has anything to bring for this, please let Jack or Vicki know. Vicki also suggested buying genre posters from a teaching supply store. The board members all thought this was a good idea.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned by President Vicki Fletcher.

Respectfully submitted, Jami McDonald, secretary