

**AAG Board Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, February 9, 2021
VH Small Business Incubator**

Time and Place

The board meeting of the Appalachian Authors Guild was held on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at the Virginia Highlands Small Business Incubator from noon until 1:30 p.m.

Attendance

President Vicki Fletcher, Ellen Myatt, Dan Swanson, and J.C. Schweingrouber attended with Kari Kilgore attending via Zoom. Jason Houghton, AAG member, also attended.

Call to Order

President Vicki Fletcher called the meeting to order.

Business

1. Welcome and opening of the meeting – President Vicki Fletcher
2. President Vicki and the board "welcomed" a new member from Arizona.
3. Minutes of the October 13, 2020 AAG Board Meeting and the November 10, 2020 General Meeting were submitted by Ellen Myatt, secretary. J.C. Schweingrouber made a motion to approve the minutes and Dan Swanson seconded the motion.
4. Treasurer's Report – President Vicki (Jack Rose was absent).
 - a. Treasurer's report attached. Total Deposits since November 10, 2020 were \$595.98. The checkbook balance as of February 9, 2021 is \$856.93.
5. Tidings newsletter report – Sylvia Nickels
 - a. Send her information, such as a book review or about one of your books.
6. Publicity Report – Linda Hoagland and JC Schweingrouber –
 - a. Linda continues to get meeting notice in *A! Magazine*.
 - b. JC will continue with podcasts and suggests podcasts featuring new members. He held a podcast with AAG members today who were present at the meeting.
7. Website Report – Vicki Fletcher
 - a. Get upward to 50 hits, the blog receives the most after the home page.
8. Membership list for 2021 will be sent again by President Vicki. (27 members paid as of today, plus three (3) honorees). The Membership Blitz for \$20 is ongoing through the first general membership meeting on March 9. Then dues are \$25.
9. List of 2021 AAG meetings and speakers was distributed and included with these minutes as an attachment.
10. The Highlands Writers Day, sponsored by the Virginia Highlands Festival and the Washington County Public Library, is scheduled for April 17. More details will follow with time and fees, reports President Vicki. Greg Lily is going to send her the cost for tables, the hours, etc.
11. AAG Anthology entries are due by April 2. President Vicki's goal is to have the anthology ready for the Spring Fling Writers Day event and the Virginia Highlands Festival. Authors may purchase

them for their own events at copy cost, yet to be determined. Entries will be collected from the 2021 AAG members.

12. Virginia Writers Club (Richmond) plans to publish an anthology soon, 3 this year. Entries must be submitted to President Vicki by February 23 in time for her to meet the March 1 deadline (it's been pushed forward). Contact her for details. You need to be a member of the VWC to participate in this one.
13. AAG will have a space at the Virginia Highlands Festival at the Higher Ed Center in Abingdon from July 23 to August 1. Vicki will send information following the end of the March 9th Membership Blitz. Greg Lily and Deborah Prescott are advocating on behalf of AAG.
14. President Vicki encourages AAG members to wear their AAG shirts to meetings and events. The deadline to purchase shirts in time for the March 9th meeting is February 15th. This allows two weeks to have them made and returned in time for the meeting. \$15 for a short-sleeved T-shirt and \$20 for a long-sleeved shirt.
15. Members who want to be on the AAG website Members' page or featured in the Bookstore need to turn in their information by the end of February. President Vicki plans a major update before the first general meeting on March 9.
16. The GOFUNDME page on the website has generated \$150. Great! The page will be left up for future events with President Vicki planning to update with promotions for the Spring Fling Writers Day event and future AAG events that need additional financial support. Donations help with events, cost of speakers, liability insurance, and website fees among other expenses incurred by this non-profit.
17. As we look ahead at the best ways to use technology that can make monthly meetings "available" for members near and far, President Vicki asked Dan Swanson, J.C. Schweingrouber and Ellen Myatt to look into three platforms – Microsoft Teams, Go To Meeting, and Zoom. Currently, AAG is using Zoom to connect with Kari Kilgore and this may be the platform to use to engage members in other states as well as those locally who cannot physically attend a given meeting. Kari Kilgore has also agreed to assist with Zoom information. In addition, President Vicki said she has used Facebook Live and it might be wise to continue to use that medium as well for those that do not have access to Zoom. A YouTube channel will be set up to upload these videos so that you will be able to access when you can.
18. In closing, J.C. suggested using the AAG YouTube channel to feature new AAG authors.
19. The meeting was adjourned by President Vicki.