**Appalachian Authors Guild**

**Board meeting/Workshop on Tuesday, February 13, 2024**

**Virginia Highlands Small Business Incubator**

**TIME AND PLACE**

A Board Meeting/General Meeting was held by the Appalachian Authors Guild on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at the Virginia Highlands Small Business Incubator from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm for the Board Meeting and 1:00 to 3:00 pm for the General Meeting.

**ATTENDANCE**

President Vicki Fletcher, Linda Hoagland, Addie Davis, J.C. Schweingrouber, Dan Swanson, Tracy Prater, Peggy Wolfe, Snow Ferreniea and guest: Betty Domjahn. Zoom was cancelled due to technical issues. Those who chose to do so could join by phone. Kari Kilgore, Betty Reed, Mandy Barker, and Melinda Scott joined and received handouts for the workshop.

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Vicki Fletcher called the meeting to order.

**BUSINESS**

Welcome and opening of the meeting – Vicki Fletcher

Minutes of board meeting in November 2023 and the board meeting in January 2024 were presented by Linda Hoagland.

Treasurer’s Report submitted by Vicki Fletcher indicates a problem with the balance versus the bank. It will be reconciled in March.

The current Tidings Newsletter was distributed prior to the meeting by Sylvia Nickels who was not present at the meeting.

The publicity reports were presented by Linda Hoagland and J.C. Schweingrouber. Linda has notified A Magazine and Voice Magazine for Women of upcoming meetings. J.C. has spoken about AAG in the podcasts and speaking engagements in which he has participated.

The website report was reported by Vicki Fletcher. 382 views from January 8th to February 10th. A new count will be presented in March.

As of February 10th, there are 22 membership renewals, 6 new members, 5 honorary members. and 1 free membership contest winner for a total of 34 at this time. The winner of the free membership was Chrissie Anderson Peters for her story "Smoke and Mirrors.

The Holiday Anthology will accept entries until 4/1/24. Please send entries about holidays other than Christmas. Poems and stories can be sent to vfletcher56@gmail.com. They will be sent to Kari Kilgore to format/design in preparation for publication for selling at the Highlands Festival.

The initial signs ups for the Virginia Highlands Festival will do out the first week of March. One day will be given to the authors that would like to reserve a space. After the initial sign ups have been done, another sign up form will go out in May to fill and table space available.

Form 1023 for out 501(c)(3) is awaiting the decision.

The new cookbook (#2) is available through the website, Those who contributed can purchase them for $7 a copy. Members can purchase them for $10. Amazon lists them for $15.

The Virginia Highlands Festival is scheduled for July 26, 2024, thru August 4, 2024. Writers & Readers Day is scheduled for July 26 & 27. The Friday keynote will be Steven James and the Saturday keynote will be Robert Morgan with Jesse Graves doing an interview.  The schedule for events and speakers is on the website.

The 501(c)(3) has been sent and AAG is awaiting the final decision.

The March 12th meeting is our Meet the Author Program. Please be sure to let Vicki know if you can take part in person of via Zoom.

**WORKSHOP**

A presentation by Steven James on The Story Cube was really great. Instead of just a beginning, middle, and end to your story, we learned how to add the dimensions to make it an exciting story with many twists, turns, and ways to hold your reader’s attention.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by President Vicki Fletcher.