

Minutes

Appalachian Authors Guild

General Meeting

Tuesday, March 12th, 2019

Time and Place:

The general meeting of the Appalachian Authors Guild was held on Tuesday, March 12th, 2019 at the Abingdon Shoney's. The meeting was from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm.

Attendance:

Members Vicki Fletcher, Linda Hoagland, Addie Davis, JC Schweingrouber, Sylvia Nickels, Dan Swanson, Linda Dobkins, Elizabeth Champagne, Tom Fugate, Kari Kilgore, Donald Perkins, and Roberta Long, guest Dustin Blackson, and speakers Linda and Amber Icenhour.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Vicki Fletcher.

Business:

- ✓ The minutes were presented from the board meeting/writers workshop on Tuesday, February 12th. Notes were taken by Linda Hoagland since Ellen Myatt has been sick.
- ✓ Jack Rose was unable to attend due to illness but Vicki reported that we now have 35 renewals and 11 new members for 2019 after the \$20 blitz. Dues were \$25 from February 13th to March 12th at our general meeting. They will be \$30 now. Our treasury is now at \$1,272.45. Thank you for your support of AAG.
****However, if you do not pay membership dues by March 12th, additional fees will be needed for you to take part in any events we plan for the year. This is to ensure that the treasury has enough for us to secure spaces at these events for our authors to take part in. We are looking for more venues for us. If you know of any events that would be a good fit for us, please let Vicki know.
- ✓ Sylvia Nickels requested that any news for the Tidings be sent to her by May 1st so she can prepare it before the general meeting on May 14th at Abingdon Shoney's and get them emailed out.
- ✓ The board has agreed to sponsor the AAG Spring Fling this year. We hated to lose the symposium but hope this Writers Day will be a good fit. It will be held on Saturday, May 18th, 2019 at the Small Business Incubator in Abingdon, VA. April 1st is the early registration for the Writers Day. If we do not have enough to register early, we will not be able to continue with the event as we would not have the funds available to proceed. There have only been 5 to register but I am hoping this week will add more. If you are planning to attend, please register this week. It is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. That is a good deal for a nice day of food, fun, fellowship, and fabulous writing with our guest speakers Steven James, Rita Quillen, and Dr. Rebecca Elswick.
- ✓ JC Schweingrouber also told us about the Appalachian Arts Festival that his organization, Foundation for Appalachian Advancement are working on. It will be held on Saturday, June 22nd at the Russell County Conference Center in Lebanon, VA.

- ✓ Since there have only been 2 or 3 authors taking part in the restaurants, the board decided to disband that as a group project. You can still contact the restaurants personally and set up a time to sell books.
- ✓ The list of meetings for 2019 are as follows:
 - April 9th**- Board meeting/Writers Workshop at Small Business Incubator from 12-3 pm. Linda Dobkins will be presenting the different types of publishing and their pros and cons.
 - May 14th**- General meeting at Abingdon Shoney's from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm with Joe Tennis as our guest speaker
 - June 11th**- Board meeting/Writers Workshop at Small Business Incubator from 12-3 pm. Greg Lilly will be leading our workshop.
 - July 9th**- General meeting at Abingdon Shoney's from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm with Damean Mathews as our guest speaker
 - August 13th**- Board meeting/Writers Workshop at Small Business Incubator from 12-3 pm. Kari Kilgore will be leading our workshop.
 - September 10th**- General meeting at Abingdon Shoney's from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm with Dr. Jesse Graves as our guest speaker
 - October 8th**- Board meeting/Writers Workshop at Small Business Incubator from 12-3 pm. Jim Glanville will be presenting at this workshop.
 - November 12th**- General meeting at Abingdon Shoney's from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. We will announce the officers for 2020 and have a writer's grab bag social. If you would like to take part in the grab bag, bring something for a writer (no more than \$5) to put in the exchange pile. We will draw numbers and #1 picks first. #2 can steal it or pick another gift. And so on and so forth until everyone has a gift. Lots of fun and fellowship with our authors to end the 2019 year. NO meetings in December and January.

Speaker:

Vicki Fletcher, President and Program Chair, first told writers in attendance about the newly formed Highlands Writers Fair which is co-sponsored by the Highlands Festival Committee and the Friends of the Library. It will take place on Saturday, April 13th at the Abingdon Library. The AAG will have 7 authors represented there with 2 also leading presentations during the day. We hope you will go out and support your fellow authors that day.

Vicki then turned the meeting over to Linda Icenhour and her daughter Amber. Linda writes children's books and Amber is her illustrator. They discussed the difficulties in finding the right publisher for their books. Amber went on to explain getting started in the illustration business now that she has graduated with her Arts degree. She discussed the cost for illustrating books. If you missed the meeting and would be interested in contacting her about illustrating one of your books, email me and I will get you her information.

Adjournment:

President Vicki Fletcher adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Hoagland, acting secretary