

## **Minutes**

Appalachian Authors Guild  
A Chapter of the Virginia Writer's Club  
Bi-monthly Members Meeting  
Tuesday, March 13, 2018

### **Time and Place:**

The bi-monthly meeting of the Appalachian Authors Guild was held on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at Shoney's Restaurant in Abingdon, Virginia. The meeting took place from 11:30am – 1:30pm.

### **Attendance:**

Speaker Dr. Grace Toney Edwards (and her husband John Neimith), Speakers Russell and Ian Justice, President Vicki Fletcher, Vice President JC Schweingrouber, Secretary Jami McDonald (and guest Sharon McDonald), Board members-at-large Linda Hoagland and Linda Dobkins, AAG Members Tom Fugate, Peggy Callison, Hazel Fleming, Dan Swanson and his wife, Carolyn Swanson.

### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by President Vicki Fletcher.

### **Business:**

- ✓ A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the minutes of the board meeting on January 9, 2018, and the minutes of the board meeting on February 20, 2018, as distributed by secretary, Jami McDonald.
- ✓ The AAG has reserved 2 spaces at the Mistletoe Market, this year, Friday November 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday November 4<sup>th</sup>. The Friday and Saturday timeslots are from 10 am - 6 pm, and Sunday from 12 - 5 pm. The fee to reserve a space is \$50. You **do** have to be a paid member to reserve your space. If you are interested in this event, please mail your check (made out to AAG) and choices of days (please list 1st, 2nd, and 3rd) to Vicki at PO Box 222, Damascus, VA 24236. She **must** receive your space fee by May 1st. This is a highly trafficked event, so plan to have a successful turnaround for your fee. The AAG is also planning a fundraiser, soon, and if it goes well, we hope to reimburse members part of their Market sign-up fee.
- ✓ Membership dues for AAG are now being collected. Dues are \$30 and can be sent to AAG, PO Box 803 Abingdon, VA 24212. They can also be given to Vicki or Jack at AAG meetings. There is now a Paypal button on our AAG website that will allow you to pay your membership renewals/fees online. You will also have the option to donate money to the Guild (if you donate \$10 or more, you will receive a free copy of our Guild anthology).

- ✓ **\*Note: Restaurant scheduling will be discontinued if there are no participants. So far, only two members have expressed an interest in this opportunity.\*** The following places have graciously offered to let us sell our books at their locations. Remember to sign up through Linda Hoagland ([lhhoagland@gmail.com](mailto:lhhoagland@gmail.com)). DO NOT contact these places yourself unless you cannot attend on the day you signed up. Even if we don't sell any books, we need to be gracious to the hosts as they are allowing us to come into their businesses for our purposes. Thanks so much to Linda for organizing these opportunities for the guild.

- The Picadilly in the Kingsport Mall- Saturdays from 11-7
- Harvest Table in Meadowview- Sundays from 11-2
- Communications Cafe in Richlands- Either Monday or Friday. Choose 2-3 hours between 7:30 am and 7:30 pm
- White Birch in Abingdon- Wednesdays at either 8-10 am or 3-5 pm.

- ✓ We will have space at the Virginia Highlands Festival at Anthony's Desserts on Main Street. You must be a paid member to request space (or pay your dues and request space at the same time). Each paid member will be eligible to choose ONE participation day (12 - 6 pm with set up from 11 am to 12 pm). You can also choose to be there for either the 12-3 pm slot or the 3-6 pm slot. The following days have been taken: Friday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, from 3-6 pm (Joe Tennis), Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, from 12-6 pm (Darrell Fleming and Brenda Musick), Wednesday, August 1<sup>st</sup> from 12-6 pm (Tom Fugate), Friday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 12-6 pm (Hazel Fleming), Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup> from 12-3 pm (Vicki Fletcher) and 3-6 pm (JC Schweingrouber), and Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup> from 12-3 pm (Peggy Callison) and 12-6 pm (Linda Hoagland) . Please consider sharing a table so we can allow more writers to be accommodated in this limited space. They have also asked us to do a reading as part of a literary event. The readings will be at 12 pm and 3 pm. The space is FREE. You will need to contact Linda Hoagland ([lhhoagland@gmail.com](mailto:lhhoagland@gmail.com)) to request a day. Please let Linda know your preferred day, time, if you would like to participate in the literary reading events, and if you have checked with another author about sharing your space. If you would like to donate \$5 or \$10, we plan to present Anthony with an honorarium for the use of his space. Please remember to be gracious to our host. He is giving us this space in his business without a fee, and seems excited to be partnering with us.

- Anthony's Desserts has also offered to provide us with shelf space to have our books displayed for sale (your presence isn't required). If you would like to have your books available for purchase, Vicki will try to arrange a time/way for your books to be present. You can also send Vicki your business cards or brochures to have available for the public to pick up during the festival. This is a great networking opportunity for our writers and their work!

- There will be a black folder with the AAG logo on the front at Anthony's. Inside, you will find a calendar of days and times along with your name in the appropriate time slots. Please add your number of books sold and make comments about the event for future reference.
- ✓ The following dates/times/locations are for our meetings in 2018. Lunch 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.
  - April 10th – Board meeting from 12:00 pm -1:00 pm with Writer's Workshop to follow from 1:00-3:00 pm. Location- Abingdon Small Business Incubator.
  - May 8th - General meeting at SWCC from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Speaker will be Linda Dobkins. Lunch will be catered and will be \$12. This must be received by May 4<sup>th</sup>. You can mail your check to Vicki at PO Box 222 Damascus, VA 24236. You can also bring your money to the meeting but you need to email Vicki to let her know you will bring it when you come to the meeting. If you can't make it to the meeting, you can mail the money to her at that time.
  - June 12th – Board meeting from 12:00pm -1:00 pm with Writer's Workshop to follow from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. Location- Abingdon Small Business Incubator.
  - July 10th - General meeting at Bristol Shoney's from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Speaker will be Dr. Donna Watson.
  - August 14th – Board meeting from 12:00 -1:00 pm with Writer's Workshop to follow from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. Location- Abingdon Small Business Incubator.
  - September 11<sup>th</sup> - General meeting at Lebanon Bonanza from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Speaker TBA.
  - October 9th - Board meeting from 12:00 pm -1:00 pm with Writer's Workshop to follow from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. Location- Abingdon Small Business Incubator.
  - November 13th - General meeting at Abingdon Shoney's from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Installation of officers for 2019.
- ✓ Remember we now have a Café Press site set up for fundraising purposes. The link, listed below, is also available on our website and our Facebook page. Please let Vicki know of any other items you would like to see available in the store.  
<http://www.cafepress.com/aagstuff>.
- ✓ Vicki has requested speaker suggestions for the general meetings. If anyone has any ideas, please let her know.
- ✓ Reminder: If anyone has anything to add to our monthly Tidings newsletter, please let Sylvia know. She would be more than happy to add your items. She can be reached at [mscribe@aol.com](mailto:mscribe@aol.com). She has also asked that new members contact her with any information about themselves or their books that they would like to have added to the tidings.
- ✓ If you have a chance, please check out our newly reorganized website.  
<http://www.appalachianauthors.com/index.html>. If you have any more questions/ideas/comments for Vicki, she can also be reached at 276-492-8314 and [vfletcher56@gmail.com](mailto:vfletcher56@gmail.com).

**Speaker:**

Vicki Fletcher, President and Program Chair, introduced our first guest speakers, Russell and Ian Justice. Russell Justice spoke to us about a new website he is launching for authors/readers/publishers that will hopefully be ready for the public in April. Please check out the site and sign up for an account. The site is [mybookspace.org](http://mybookspace.org). This is being offered to us FREE of charge.

Vicki Fletcher also introduced the second speaker, Dr. Grace Toney Edwards. Dr. Edwards is Professor Emerita of English and Appalachian Studies at Radford University. Retiring in 2010, she was the founding director of the Appalachian Regional Studies Center and chair of the interdisciplinary Appalachian Studies program. Her most recent book is *The Common Lot and Other Stories: The Published Short Fiction, 1908 – 1921*, by Emma Bell Miles, an anthology of short stories collected, edited, and introduced by Dr. Edwards, and published by Ohio University Press in 2016. She served as senior editor of *A Handbook to Appalachia: An Introduction to the Region* (2006), co-editor of the literature section of the *Encyclopedia of Appalachia* (2006), guest editor of the fall 2005 edition of *Appalachian Heritage*, featuring author Emma Bell Miles, and guest editor of the 2012 summer edition of *Appalachian Heritage*, focusing on author Breece D’J Pancake. Dr. Edwards’s other publications include more than 100 book chapters, articles, essays, and reviews in journals and periodicals.

Dr. Edwards spoke to our group about her newest book and about the life of Appalachian author Emma Bell Miles. It was very informative and we appreciate her braving the snowy weather to come to speak to our group.

**Adjournment:**

President Vicki Fletcher adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Jami McDonald, secretary