

Minutes

Appalachian Authors Guild
A Chapter of the Virginia Writer's Club
Bi-monthly Members Meeting
Tuesday, March 14, 2017

Time and Place:

The bi-monthly meeting of the Appalachian Authors Guild was held on Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at Shoney's Restaurant in Abingdon, Virginia. The meeting took place from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm.

Attendance:

Speaker Dr. Jesse Graves, Vice President JC Schweingrouber, Secretary Jami McDonald, Treasurer Jack Rose, Members Linda Dobkins, Linda Hoagland, Peggy Callison, Tom Fugate, Addie Davis, and Hazel Fleming, and visitor Ed Clark.

Call to Order:

In Vicki's absence, the meeting was called to order by Linda Hoagland.

Business:

- ✓ The secretary's report was given to each member by Jack Rose. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the minutes as given for the February board meeting.
- ✓ Jack Rose, treasurer, reported:
 - ❖ 2017 membership fees are now due. If active members paid after August 1, 2016 of last year, they are current for the remainder of 2017. If members have not paid yet, the fee is \$25. The money is needed to help keep the guild financial stable and will be greatly appreciated.
 - ❖ Jack is now taking reservations for the Virginia Highlands Festival. Tables are \$30 for one author or \$15 if two authors would like to share a table. If you are interested in participating, please let Jack know as soon as possible.
 - ❖ As of February 14, 2017, the Checkbook Balance for the Guild is \$158.27.
- ✓ Registration is now active for the 2017 (June 9 – 10) Appalachian Heritage Writers Symposium. Scott Pratt will be the keynote speaker. Information about the keynote speaker, workshop presenters, and other planned activities are available at <http://www.appheritagewritersym.wordpress.com>. Please note that, from 10:15 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. on Saturday, June 10, participants will be able to display and sell their publications. For details about selling your materials (there is a \$10 table fee), please visit the website.
- ✓ The following dates/times/locations are for our remaining meetings in 2017. 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 18th – Abingdon Library, 1 pm – 3 pm, Board Meeting.
 - May 9th – SWVCC in Richlands, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm, with guest speaker Justin Trout.
 - June 13th – Abingdon Library, 1 pm – 3 pm, Board Meeting.
 - July 11th – Bristol Golden Corral, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm, Speaker Dylan Pratt, Scott Pratt's son, will speak about marketing.
 - August – NO meeting due to the Virginia Highlands Festival
 - September 12th – Lebanon Bonanza, 11:30am-1:30pm, with guest speaker Rita Quillen.
 - October 10th – Abingdon Library, 1 pm – 3 pm, Board Meeting
 - November 14th – Abingdon Shoney's, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm, with guest speaker Leigh Ann Hoover. At this meeting, we will announce the 2018 officers.
- ✓ Questions were raised concerning the Virginia Writer's Club's Golden NIB writing contest. You must be a member of both the AAG and the VWC to participate in this contest. Winners from the AAG will be sent to the VWC for the state winners' contest. Further details about the contest will be given to AAG members at a later date.
 - ✓ Linda reported that no word has been received regarding entries for the Virginia Writer's Club's Anniversary Anthology. Notice as to whether or not entries are being accepted into the anthology should be coming, soon.
 - ✓ The AAG board wants to try organizing a Guild anthology in time that it can be sold at the Virginia Highlands Festival as a fundraiser. Only one anthology will be created, but holiday themed poems and stories will be included. If you submitted work for last year's anthologies (not published due to lack of entries), and think your piece may have been lost, please resend your entries to Vicki. If you have not submitted anything yet, please consider doing so. Short stories, poetry, and nonfiction should be less than 3,000 words. Only one entry per category is preferred, but more may be reconsidered if space allows for more selections. The deadline is **May 1st**.
 - ✓ Vicki will be taking care of membership (new and renewals) at this time. Please mail \$25 for membership along with your application, **if you are a new member**, to her at Vicki Fletcher, PO Box 222, Damascus, VA, 24236.
 - ✓ If you have any more questions/ideas/comments for Vicki, she can also be reached at 276-492-8314 and vfletcher56@gmail.com.

Speaker:

Linda Hoagland introduced our guest speaker, Dr. Jesse Graves. Dr. Graves grew up in Sharps Chapel, Tennessee, which is about 40 miles north of Knoxville. He is an associate professor of English, and Poet-in-Resident, at East Tennessee State University. His first poetry collection, *Tennessee Landscape with Blighted Pines*, won the 2011 Weatherford Award in Poetry from Berea College and the Appalachian Studies Association, as well as a Book of the Year Award from the Appalachian Writers' Association. His second collection of poems, *Basin Ghosts*, also won the 2014 Weatherford Award in Poetry, making him the first poet to win the award more than once. Dr. Graves' poetry and editorial works have appeared in several journals and

collections of poetry. He was awarded the 2014 Phillip H. Freund Prize for Creative Writing from Cornell University, and the 2015 James Still Award from the Fellowship of Southern Writers.

Dr. Graves spoke to us about his life as a teacher, poet, and lover of the written word. He also asked Guild members to tell the group a little bit about themselves and their writing. Before we adjourned, he read a poem, Robert Morgan's *Mountain Bride*, aloud and gave us a writing prompt to take home that was centered around Appalachian folklore. Thanks to Dr. Graves for speaking to our group. It was a lot of fun!

Dr. Graves also invited all AAG members to attend ETSU's Creative Writing Spring Festival on Tuesday, April 11, and Wednesday, April 12, 2017.

Adjournment:

Linda Hoagland adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Jami McDonald, secretary