

# Minutes

Appalachian Authors Guild  
A Chapter of the Virginia Writer's Club  
Bi-monthly Members Meeting  
Tuesday, May 9, 2017

## Time and Place:

The bi-monthly meeting of the Appalachian Authors Guild was held on Tuesday, May 09, 2017 at Southwest Virginia Community College in Richlands, Virginia. The meeting took place from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm.

## Attendance:

Speaker Justin Trout (and friend Nicholas Deskins), Secretary Jami McDonald (and guest Sharon McDonald), Members Larry Keith, Addie Davis, Rachel Rigsby, David Fenner, Linda Hoagland, Brenda Musick, Fred Powers, Tom Fugate, and Linda Dobkins.

## Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by member Linda Hoagland.

## Business:

- ✓ The secretary's report was printed out and given to each attendee by Linda Hoagland (in Vicki Fletcher's absence). A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the minutes as given for the April board meeting.
- ✓ Jack Rose, treasurer, reported:
  - ❖ The Virginia Highlands Festival, in Abingdon, Virginia, is July 27 – August 6, 2017. Jack is still taking table reservations for the festival. If you are interested in participating, please let Jack know as soon as possible. Tables are \$30 for one author or \$15 if two authors would like to share a table.
- ✓ The following dates/times/locations are for our remaining meetings in 2017. Lunch/Dinner 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.
  - June 13<sup>th</sup> – Abingdon Library, 1 pm – 3 pm, Board Meeting.
  - July 11<sup>th</sup> – Bristol **Shoneys** (\*this has changed from previously being the 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 12<sup>th</sup> – Lebanon Bonanza, 11:30am-1:30pm, with guest speaker Rita Quillen.
  - October 10<sup>th</sup> – Abingdon Library, 1 pm – 3 pm, Board Meeting

- November 14<sup>th</sup> – Abingdon Shoney’s, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm, with guest speaker Leigh Ann Hoover. At this meeting, we will announce the 2018 officers.
- ✓ The board would like to thank everyone who contributed a piece of writing to our first Appalachian Authors Guild anthology. We had 29 contributors submit 63 entries for the collection. The finished work should be ready in June, giving us time to sell them at the Highlands Festival. Those who submitted entries can buy an anthology for \$5 (\$7 if Vicki will be mailing them to you). Additionally, copies can be purchased for \$10 to earn money for the guild.
- ✓ The Virginia Writers’ Club will be hosting its annual Golden Nib writing contest, this year. You must be a member of both the AAG and the VWC to participate in this prestigious contest. The deadline for entries is August 1<sup>st</sup>. Winners from the AAG will be sent to the VWC for the state winners’ contest. Please send your entries to Linda Dobkins, who is our contest coordinator this year. Her email is [lhobkins@gmail.com](mailto:lhobkins@gmail.com).
- ✓ Guild dues can be sent in at any time. They are \$25. They can be sent to AAG PO Box 803 Abingdon, VA 24212.
- ✓ 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:**

Guild member Linda Hoagland introduced our guest speaker, Justin Trout. Justin was born in Richlands, VA, and spent a majority of his childhood writing stories. When he was in Kindergarten, he shared his first "dinosaur" story with his classmates. With a passion to draw and share his stories, Justin began writing novels when he was only 12 years old. It was at this age that the Enaya series was born. He wrote a majority of the first draft while he attended Lebanon High School. Justin obtained a master's in education with a specialization in counseling from Lindsey Wilson College. Justin is a children's therapeutic day treatment counselor and an avid writer. He has also appeared in a number of short films and recently wrote and directed his first indie film, *Fade Out*. His first novel, *Enaya: Solace of Time*, is book 1 in an 8-part series.

Justin talked to our group about his struggles with getting his first novel published and how he has had successes, and failures, in the field of self-publishing. It was a very informative and delightful conversation. We enjoyed having Justin talk to the group.

### **Adjournment:**

Member Linda Hoagland adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jami McDonald, secretary