

# Minutes

Appalachian Authors Guild  
A Chapter of the Virginia Writer's Club  
Bi-monthly Members Meeting  
Tuesday, September 8, 2015

## Time and Place:

The bi-monthly meeting of the Appalachian Authors Guild met on Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at the Shoney's Restaurant in Abingdon, Virginia. The meeting was from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm.

## Attendance:

Speaker Joe Tennis, President Linda Hoagland, Secretary Vicki Fletcher, Treasurer Jack Rose, Members Sylvia Nickels, Dolly McPeek, Mary Ann Artrip, Linda Dobkins, and Tom Fugate.

## Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Linda Hoagland.

## Business:

- ✓ Secretary's report was printed and given to each member by Vicki Fletcher. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the minutes as given for the July General meeting and the June Board meeting.
- ✓ Jack Rose, treasurer, gave a printed report and it was approved as given. We now have \$1,291.61 in the budget.
- ✓ Jack reported on the Virginia Highlands Festival. Jack said that AAG lost \$125 this year due to the cost of a double booth and the lack of authors paying for a table to be in the AAG booth this year. It was discussed and approved to only reserve one booth space next year where there will be space for 4 authors per day. There were only 16 authors that participated this year with an approximate selling of 250 books.
- ✓ Linda reported on the speaker for the November meeting. It will be Steven James.
- ✓ Website/Communication chair Sylvia Nickels reported continuous hits of the website from people all over the world. We have 15,258 hits as of the meeting. She stated that Google is the most popular search engines and Chrome is the most popular browser.
- ✓ Linda reported 7 new members to AAG: Susan Crum, Danny Dixon, Susan Harmon, Lawrence Keith, Donna Leftwich, Matt Prater, and Louise Kilgore.
- ✓ Linda also gave out the schedules for the Perkins (Dandridge only), Zazzy's in Abingdon, and Chapters Book Shop in Galax, VA. If you are on the list, e-mails will be sent as reminders. If you know ahead of time that you cannot make your scheduled time, please let Linda know as early as possible to allow time to get someone else for that time. If you are an AAG member and would like to schedule these, you can e-mail Linda to see the dates available. Her e-mail is [lhhoagland@gmail.com](mailto:lhhoagland@gmail.com).

- ✓ Linda let the group know that we are planning on an anthology of work from AAG members. The deadline for entries is April 1<sup>st</sup>. Entries can be poetry (no more than 50 lines), fiction, and/or creative non-fiction (no more than 3000 words.) We will have a Christmas anthology and a General anthology to be published and ready for sale at the Virginia Highlands Festival in 2016.
- ✓ We are pleased to announce that our own Linda Dobkins won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the 2015 Summer Shorts sponsored by the Virginia Writer's Club. Her entry was entitled "New Woman and Mad Dog". Congratulations Linda☺
- ✓ Linda is going to be contacting Picadilly in Kingsport and Shoney's in Abingdon and Bristol to see if the AAG authors will be able to set up and sell books there. If you haven't paid your dues, please do so you can be involved with all of our events and opportunities to sell your books.
- ✓ A thank you was given and well deserved to Sylvia Nickels for producing the "Tidings" for the guild. We greatly appreciate you Sylvia☺
- ✓ Dolly McPeek and Addie Davis reported that they had not been successful in finding candidates for nominations for officers for 2016. Some names were added to their list to check and hopefully with the change of meeting times, others will be able to be involved and willing to serve the AAG.
- ✓ There are several contests going on (some with deadlines coming up soon). They are:
  - Springfield Missouri Writing Contest- deadline September 15<sup>th</sup> Check out their site for more info: [www.springfieldwritersguild.org/contests](http://www.springfieldwritersguild.org/contests)
  - Virginia Festival of the Book is accepting books written in 2015. Deadline is October 1<sup>st</sup>. Check out their site for more info: [www.vabook.org](http://www.vabook.org)
- ✓ There are lots of upcoming events that you might want to be involved in. E-mail Linda to find out more details. Here is the list of those mentioned at the meeting today:
  - Hungry Mother- 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, Saturday, and Sunday in July; there will be booth space for 2 authors (or more if you can only attend 1 day)- table fee would be \$15 per day
  - Coomes Center- Weekend before Thanksgiving
  - Marion Farmer's Market- Weekend before Thanksgiving (outside)
  - Book Fair at Kingsport Mall- 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of December. \$10 per table.
- ✓ The Voice in Grundy is in need of a Buchanan County reporter. Please contact Earl Cole at the paper if you are interested in this position.
- ✓ Teresa Wilkerson is an illustrator. If you are in need of one for your book, please contact her at [teresaj\\_wilkerson@yahoo.com](mailto:teresaj_wilkerson@yahoo.com)
- ✓ Linda announced that we would have a board meeting on October 13<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 pm at the Abingdon Library. The next general meeting is November 10<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm at Shoney's. Steven James will be the speaker at the November meeting. We really hope more members take advantage of these meetings. A group is only as productive as the members that work for it. During the board meeting in October, we will be discussing changing our meeting times to early evening to accommodate those members that work and cannot attend lunch meetings. We hope this will be something that will appeal to more of our members.

**Speaker:**

Linda Hoagland, President and Program Chair, introduced the speaker, Joe Tennis. Joe discussed the work involved in completing his latest book "Virginia Rails and Trails" and also the difference in that book compared to 3 other books he has published. This was a very interesting talk and we appreciate Joe for his willingness to share with our group.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned by president, Linda Hoagland.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vicki Fletcher, secretary