

Minutes

Appalachian Authors Guild
A Chapter of the Virginia Writer's Club
Bi-monthly Members Meeting
Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Time and Place:

The bi-monthly meeting of the Appalachian Authors Guild was held on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at Bonanza Restaurant in Lebanon, Virginia. The meeting took place from 11:30am – 1:30pm.

Attendance:

Speaker Rita Quillen, President Vicki Fletcher, Vice President JC Schweingrouber, Members Sylvia Nickels, Linda Dobkins, Linda Hoagland, Addie Davis, Tom Fugate, Dan Swanson, Breda Musick, new member Ellen Myatt, and visitors Jonathan Davis and Claudia Taylor.

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 August 8, 2017, and the minutes of the general meeting on July 11, 2017, as written by Secretary Jami McDonald.
- ✓ Jack Rose was not in attendance at the meeting; therefore, no Treasure's Report was presented.
- ✓ Vicki Fletcher reported that we have had 48 membership renewals and 6 new members join (including one at this meeting), allowing us to grow as an organization.
- ✓ An announcement was made that Kelly McBride Delph, the Director of Russell County Public Library, will be holding an Author Roundtable on October 14, 2017 from 10 am to 3pm. For more information, please call 276-889-8044.
- ✓ Congratulations to all of our Golden Nib Contest winners! First place winners will go on to participate in the Virginia Writer's Club's state contest. Good luck to the participants who are advancing to the state contest. Our guild winners are as follows:

- **Poetry:**

- First: "Challenge" by Lynn Young (advancing to state)

- Second: "Heart of Appalachia" by Vicki Fletcher

- Third: "Dad" by Linda Hudson Hoagland

- **Fiction:**

- First: "Connie the Cat Lady" by Linda Hudson Hoagland (advancing to state)

Second: "Zen Highway" by Cyrus Alderwood
Third: "Life with the Grants" by Vicki Fletcher

Non-fiction:

First: "Crazy Heals—Sometimes" by Linda Hudson Hoagland (advancing to state)
Second: "Okies" by Dan Swanson
Third: "3 Day Adventure" by Vicki Fletcher

- ✓ 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 prepare for the appropriate number of guests.
 - 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.
- ✓ Linda Hoagland announced that Jessee Graves will be the Rodd Altizer Poet-in-Residence at the Southwest Virginia Community College. October 10, 2017, at 7pm, Graves will have a public reading from his works at the Appalachian Arts Center on Route 19 between Claypool Hill and the SWCC Campus. For reservations, please call the Art Center at 276-596-9188
- ✓ Linda Hoagland offered two speaker suggestions for future presentations. They will be presented for consideration. Vicki announced that a Charlottesville Critique Group thanked the Guild for having such a beneficial website.

Speaker:

Vicki Fletcher, President and Program Chair, introduced the speaker, Rita Quillen. Rita Quillen's new full-length poetry collection, *The Mad Farmer's Wife*, is from Texas Review Press. Her novel *Hiding Ezra* was published in March 2014 by Little Creek Books and was a finalist in the 2005 DANA Awards competition. A chapter of the book is included in the scholarly study of Appalachian dialect, *Talking Appalachian*, published by the University of Kentucky Press. She has served on staff for many creative writing workshops across the South and as a visiting writer at many high schools and colleges, including Bluefield College, Roanoke College, and University of the Cumberlands. One of six semi-finalists for the 2012-14 Poet Laureate of Virginia, she received a Pushcart nomination in both 2012 and 2015 and a Best of the Net nomination in 2012. Her previous poetry collections are *Counting the Sums* and *Her Secret Dream*, which received the Book of the Year award from the Appalachian Writers Association. Thanks so much to Rita for speaking to our group.

Adjournment:

President Vicki Fletcher adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Jami McDonald, secretary