

Minutes
Appalachian Authors Guild
A Chapter of the Virginia Writers Club
General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, November 13, 2018

Time and Place:

The General Membership Meeting of the Appalachian Authors guild met on Tuesday, August 14, 2018 at Shoney's in Abingdon, VA, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30

Attendance:

President Vicki Fletcher, Vice President J.C. Schweingrouber, Secretary Ellen Myatt, members Linda Hoagland, Addie Davis, Hazel Fleming, Dan Swanson, Darrell Fleming, and Jahmal Potter. Guests included Cathy Fleming, Rana Duncan-Daston, and Richard de Montebello.

Call to Order:

President Vicki Fletcher called the meeting to order.

Reports:

Minutes: Presented by Ellen Myatt, prepared by Vicki Fletcher.

Treasurer's Report: There was a problem getting bank information in time for this meeting, so it will be relayed at the next board meeting, per President Vicki.

Tidings Report: Sylvia Nickels was unable to attend.

Membership: Vicki Fletcher reminded the board that new member annual dues and renewals will be \$20 until February 12, 2019. Dues will be \$25 from February 13, 2019 to March 12, 2019. After March 13, dues will be \$30. President Vicki announced two new members: Jahmal Potter (JP) and Chuck McCrillis.

Golden Nib Award: President Vicki recognized Dan Swanson for placing second in the Non-Fiction category of the Golden Nib Award for his piece titled "Cousins." He and his wife, Carolyn, attended the award ceremony in Richmond, Virginia, hosted by Virginia Writers Club. Ellen Myatt also attended the ceremony and the symposium the following day.

Restaurants: J.C. Schweingrouber announced he sold a couple of books while at Anthony's Desserts and Linda Hoagland said she sold two at Piccadilly in September.

Meetings: President Vicki gave a handout pertaining to Appalachian Authors Guild Meetings 2019. We will continue our bi-monthly workshops at the Small Business Incubator and our general meetings at Abingdon Shoney's. This seemed to work best for the majority of members attending the meetings this year. We hope even more will take part in our meetings. Here is a list for 2019:

January - NO meeting. Big push for membership renewals. Incentive of \$20 if they join before the first meeting on Tuesday, February 12th. From

February 13th to March 12th, it will be \$25. After March 13th, it will be \$30. Our membership dues are what allows us to have meetings, presenters, events, etc. since we are a non-profit group.

February 12- Board meeting/Writers Workshop with Linda Hoagland- Writing prompts
March 12- General meeting
April 9- Board meeting/Writers Workshop
May 14- General meeting
June 11- Board meeting/Writers Workshop
July 9- General meeting
August 13- Board meeting/Writers Workshop
September 10- General meeting
October 8- Board meeting/Writers Workshop
November 12- General meeting/Writer's Gift exchange/Installation of officers for 2020

All speakers are to be announced as soon as dates are confirmed.

Speaker today: Ellen Myatt shared "*How to get to your writing goal with a football.*" After she and the group discussed blockers that get in the way of writing, she passed out stress balls in the shape of footballs and asked guests to write the one thing they can do to get beyond their biggest blocker. This was also done on small sheets of paper that were pasted on a poster representing a football field. Identifying the blockers is one key to overcoming them, she said, but it takes action to actually get to one's goal.

In addition to today's presentation, Ms. Myatt also gave a brief overview of the 100 Anniversary celebration of the Virginia Writers Club meeting in Richmond by sharing handouts of various topics discussed during the symposium. In closing, Ms. Myatt held a drawing for two of 100th Anniversary Anthology.

Slate of Officers for 2019 Installed:

President - Victoria Fletcher
Vice President - J.C. Schweingrouber
Secretary - Ellen Myatt with Linda Hoagland as substitute
Treasurer- Jack Rose
Newsletter - Sylvia Nickels
Website and Membership - Vicki Fletcher
Publicity & Website blog- J.C. Schweingrouber
Festivals/Events- Linda Hoagland
Board member-at-large- Addie Davis

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned by President Vicki Fletcher

Respectfully submitted by Victoria Fletcher and Ellen Myatt