

Minutes
Appalachian Authors Guild
A Chapter of the Virginia Writers Club
Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 9, 2018

Time and Place:

The board meeting of the Appalachian Authors guild met on Tuesday, August 14, 2018 at the Small Business Incubator in Abingdon, Virginia. The meeting took place from 12-1 p.m.

Attendance:

President Vicki Fletcher, Vice President J.C. Schweingrouber, Board members Linda Hoagland, Sylvia Nickels, and Ellen Myatt attended.

Call to Order:

President Vicki Fletcher called the meeting to order.

Reports:

Minutes: A motion was made by Sylvia Nickels and seconded by Linda Hoagland to accept the minutes of the board meeting held Tuesday, August 14, 2018 and the bi-monthly General Membership meeting held on July 10, 2018 at Shoney's Restaurant in Bristol, Virginia. The September 11, 2018 meeting was cancelled by President Vicki due to inclement weather.

Treasurer's Report: Jack Rose submitted the treasurer's report. We have \$252 in the bank.

Tidings Report: Sylvia Nickels

Website: Vicki Fletcher reminder members to check out the newly reorganized website. <http://www.appalachianauthors.com>. If you have any questions/ideas/comments for Vicki, reach her at (276) 492-8314 or vfletcher56@gmail.com. A new membership application was added to the website for convenience of new members.

Publicity: J.C. Schweingrouber agreed to take on the role of publicity with some guidance from the board.

Membership: Membership applications to be presented – Sue Ray and Brenda Murphy (both ladies were contacts made at the VHF Writers Day). Vicki Fletcher reminded the board that new member annual dues and renewals will be \$20 for January 2019 only. Dues will be \$25 from February 1, 2019 to March 12, 2019. After the first general meeting, dues will be \$30.

- Payment can be sent to AAG, PO Box 803, Abingdon, VA, 24212. Also, payment can be given to Vicki or Jack at AAG meetings.

- There is now a PayPal button on the AAG website that will allow members to pay their renewals/fees. Also, there is a new membership application form. I hope this will allow more members that enjoy the convenience of online forms/payments to join us.

Mistletoe Market (November 2-4th, Friday - Sunday): The final schedule was handed out.

Restaurant Schedule: Linda Hoagland. We will continue these until the end of 2018. If no members express an interest, we will not proceed.

Virginia Highlands Festival: Discussed the possibility of AAG sponsoring the Writers' Contest during the Day of Writing Workshop. President Vicki will look into this more in the future.

Hungry Mother Park Festival: The three-day festival in July is an opportunity for members to sell their books. The cost is \$125/\$150. Linda Hoagland will get more details on this for us.

Golden Nib Award: Winners should be announced in November (although Dan Swanson was called by someone with the Virginia Writers Club and told he won second place for non-fiction). President Vicki said once she has official word in November following the dinner on November 2, she can post the entries.

Meetings for 2019: Discussion centered on "Do we stay with the same set up or change?" President Vicki suggested the guild wait until the February 2019 meeting to decide since the stipend paid to speakers is an issue and she plans to host a membership blitz in January 2019 to see what revenue that generates. Basically, approximately \$250 is needed to cover speakers. The value of workshops to members was discussed.

Other business: A list of topics and speakers for general meetings and workshops were gone over. Vicki will begin making contacts to see who can be here in 2019.

Next General Meeting:

Tuesday, November 13, 2018
Shoney's Restaurant, Abingdon, VA
11:30 – 1:30
Speaker: Ellen Member
Also, Installation of 2019 AAG officers.

Slate of Officers for 2019:

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- 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

Following the business meeting, the writers workshop was held from 1-3 pm. The speakers for this meeting were Lynn Young and Linda Hoagland.

Lynn Young did a workshop on writing memoirs and how they are different than other genres.

Linda Hoagland did a workshop on how to make time to write.

Both ladies had writing prompts for us to take part in and share with the group. This was an excellent opportunity to “hear” everyone’s voice. Our newest member, Jahmal Potter, won a book from Lynn for his writing prompt. Linda’s writing prompt had the same beginning but we added the ending. It was interesting to see how different people used the same first sentence and came up with completely different ideas for stories. This workshop was a great learning opportunity.

The workshops will continue in 2019 and we hope even more members (or guests) can take part in them. What a wonderful time to do some writing and learn some tips from seasoned writers.