

February 2015 AAG Newsletter

Appalachian Authors Guild
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AAG Mission Statement

The mission of the Appalachian Authors Guild, a Chapter of the Virginia Writers Club, is to support and promote literary art throughout the Appalachian region, to encourage writers and authors to both preserve and build upon the literary history and heritage of the Appalachian region and to provide opportunities for readers to experience the joy of meeting our people, visiting our beautiful region and understanding the wealth of our culture through literary art.

Notes from President Linda Hoagland I'm Thinking About It

I knew it was a mistake the moment it was over. It was too late now to change my mind. I would have to live with my decision for the next year.

“Congratulations, Linda,” said Doris as she gave me a warm hug. “It’s about time,” she added as she walked away.

I wish I felt the same way about this president thing. I had fought against it for about six months. Every time someone asked me for an answer as to whether I would run for the office of the president or not, I would answer, “I’m thinking about it.”

Because I had not definitely said “no”, it was assumed that I would take the position when I was voted into the job. Low and behold – that’s what happened.

Linda Hoagland is now President of the Appalachian Authors Guild. How was I going to lead all of the local writers, who had faith in me, onto new, exciting, fun-filled, and productive paths to recognition and monetary success?

Who am I kidding?

I had been the vice president for the last couple of years and the work was piled on because no one else felt the need to do it. I was looking forward to shifting some of it, actually most of it, to my vice president to free me up to seek out speaking engagements and television appearances as I sought new members to enhance our aging group. New blood and new leadership were desperately needed with all thoughts being aimed to the future and the hope that Appalachian Authors Guild would endure with the passage of time.

I am the official recruiter. Having been appointed as chairman of the membership committee of one person, it became my responsibility to talk and entice people to join our Guild.

I’ve got about two months until our next scheduled meeting and I hope I can get my mind acclimated to the fact that I’m the one who has to do the stand-up routine in front of the assembled writers.

After the meeting I drove home, the trip took over an hour, and upon entering my house the phone was ringing. I checked Caller ID and picked up the receiver immediately. “Hey Hazel?”

“I just heard about you and I want to wish you well. I know you will do a great job.”

“Thanks, Hazel, I’ll do my best, but the whole thing scares me a bit. You know what I mean, don’t you?” I asked.

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**Upcoming!
AAG General Meeting**

Please email [Linda Hoagland](mailto:Linda.Hoagland@AAG.org) or [Patty Nichols](mailto:Patty.Nichols@AAG.org) by March 9, 2015, if you plan to attend the meeting.

**Shoney's Restaurant
480 Cummings St.
Abingdon, VA
General Meeting
March 10, 2015 - 11:30am**

**Shoney's
480 Cummings St.
Abingdon, VA**

AAG Business Meeting

[**AAG February Board Minutes**](#)

AAG Gen Meeting Minutes

[**AAG Nov Gen Mtg Minutes**](#)

Speaker



Darnell Arnoult



**AAG has a Blog,
Facebook page , and is on
Twitter**



Member Donations

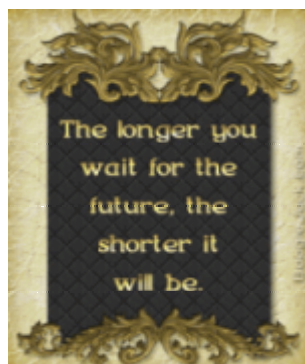
The following, all long-time members of Appalachian Authors Guild, have donated money in addition to their annual dues to further the goals of the Guild in 2015.

Please accept the Guild's thanks,

Linda Hoagland \$75

Jim Glanville \$45

Charles D Whitt \$50



Darnell was born in Martinsville, Virginia on December 19, 1955 to Juanita Burch Arnoult, a Baptist beautician originally from Draper, North Carolina, and Joseph Henry Arnoult, a Catholic architect originally from Memphis, Tennessee. Her mother wanted to be a movie star, her father a fighter pilot. She wanted to be a cowgirl almost from the day she was born, but in forty-two years the opportunity never presented itself. Her father did accept payment once in the form of a Shetland pony named Buckshot, the orneriest pony who ever lived. But no one could stay on his back.

Darnell's published novel is *Sufficient Grace*. Her poetry collection, *What Travels with Us*, features the people and times of Fieldale, Virginia, a planned community in the Virginia foothills founded by Marshall Fields in the early 1900's.



To: AAG Members

From: Jack Rose - Virginia Highlands Festival 2015

We are pleased to announce that AAG has made application for a double-booth at this year's Festival, which will run from July 31st to August 9th. We will have space for 5 or 6 authors each day. The fee to participate will be \$25 per day for current AAG Members. Non-members will be considered, subject to AAG Board approval and will pay a higher rate. We have been asked to consider allowing authors who have only one or two books to share a table with another author. We are not opposed to this arrangement, but, again, it is subject to Board approval.

There are a couple of new guidelines for participating at this year's event – specifically, regarding table space (location). Since the front tables (this year there will be two four foot tables on the front) and the adjacent side table are considered “prime” locations by some, we have found it necessary ask that you not claim the same space on consecutive days. We are also asking that you not leave any books in the booth overnight.

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Market - Anthology
Your Glasses are On Top of Your Head!

Finding the Funny
Adventures in Aging

Submissions date has been extended to March 15, 2015. Printing may be as early as June 2015.

If your story is accepted, I will notify you with possible editing changes and your final approval.

Brenda Elsagher
National Speaker, Author, Comic
Courageous Conversations on
Humor, Health, & Happiness
Ph: 952-882-9882

<http://www.livingandlaughing.com/contact>

Grace Lee, Director of Operations
<mailto:grace@livingandlaughing.com>

AAG member Gina McKnight invites all members to interview for her blog about their writing and books. Her blog is –Riding and Writing

<http://ginamc.blogspot.com/>

Links to books may be posted, etc. She would like a brief bio and links in the initial request, if available, to read so she can ask appropriate questions. She sends the questions and the person responds via email.

<mailto:gmcknight11@gmail.com>

JC Schweingrouber last year joined Appalachian Authors Guild. He and others have formed a nonprofit group, The Foundation For Appalachian Advancement. He invites AAG authors to talk to them about the possibility of being featured on their website as "Artist of the Month."

Contact

JC Schweingrouber

<http://www.supportappalachia.org/>
(Foundation For Appalachian Advancement)

"You'll be fine. I may even come to a meeting now that you are president," said a teasing Hazel.

"I hope so," I said and I truly meant it.

The kind folks of Tazewell County had presented a Leadership Program mostly aimed at the future politicians and entrepreneurs in the community. I had no plans to run for office or give money away but I had prevailed upon a friend to let me participate. I did and it was great. It actually taught me that I should do the very same thing I had been doing for the last few years which was jump into something, a project, with both feet and all of the confidence I could muster.

I did that when I knew I had to sell my books. I had to create interest so I sought out any good, decent public relations opportunity I could find. Then to make things more interesting, I started designing and crocheting my Guardian Angel Afghans. This was an idea I needed in craft shows so I would fit much better into that group but still sell my books. It opened a few more doors.

Now, I need to show others how to be successful in each of their endeavors, always keeping in mind that they have to invest time into what they are doing. The book buyers won't come knocking at their doors. They have to go find them like I do three seasons out of the year.

Marketing Opportunities will be my theme for the coming year. Now that I have chosen a path, it will be a good, perhaps even a great, year. Perhaps it won't be a mistake. We'll just have to wait and see.

Keep in mind that I am a writer who writes what she knows, thus I have written this little anecdote from life. All I can hope for at this point is a little bit of luck and the well wishes from my fellow members of the APPALACHIAN AUTHORS GUILD.

Linda Hoagland, President, AAG

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From the Appalachian Authors Guild Treasurer

One final thought, our treasury (bank balance) is at the lowest level I've seen in all my years with AAG. So we are asking two things: Please send in your \$25 renewal dues as soon as possible. Also, we are asking, if you are in a position to do so, consider making a cash donation to AAG. Each member who contributes at least an additional \$25 will be given one space/day at the Virginia Highlands Festival.

We have other venue/opportunities available, and more in the works. So, stay tuned for developments.

Have a great year with your writing and selling. Hope to see you at the Festival.

Jack Rose, Treasurer

Festivals Committee Chair