

February 2018 AAG Newsletter

**Appalachian Authors Guild**  
P. O. Box 803  
Abingdon, VA 24212

<http://www.appalachianauthors.com/>

<http://www.virginiawritersclub.org/>

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JC Schweingrouber  
[Appalachian Authors Blog](#)

Some historical blog posts  
<http://appalachianauthors.wordpress.com>

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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.

**Appalachian Authors Guild**  
**General Meeting**  
**March 13, 2018**  
**11:30am-1:30pm**  
**Shoney's Restaurant**  
**Cummings Street**  
**Abingdon, VA**

**Speaker**  
**Grace Toney Edwards**



At the Tuesday, March 13th meeting at Abingdon Shoney's from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, we will be hearing from Dr. Grace Toney Edwards from Radford University. Please be sure to email me if you plan to attend: [vfletcher56@gmail.com](mailto:vfletcher56@gmail.com)

Her most recent book is *The Common Lot and Other Stories: The Published Short Fiction, 1908-1921* by Emma Bell Miles, an anthology of short stories collected, edited, and introduced by Dr. Edwards, and published by Ohio University Press in 2016. She served as senior editor of *A Handbook to Appalachia: An Introduction to the Region*, co-editor of the literature section of the *Encyclopedia of Appalachia*, both published in 2006, guest editor of the fall 2005 edition of *Appalachian Heritage*, featuring author Emma Bell Miles, and guest editor of the 2012 summer edition of *Appalachian Heritage*, focusing on author Breece D'J Pancake. Dr. Edwards's other publications include more than 100 book chapters, articles, essays, and reviews in journals and periodicals.



## From President Vicki



### All for AAG and AAG for all!

Dues for AAG's 2018 year are due by March 13th. They are \$25 till then and \$30 after that date. They can be sent to AAG PO Box 803 Abingdon, VA 24212.

As you are sending your dues, please also send me your brief bio and picture for our new website. I would also like pictures of your books and links for where people can find them. Please contact me via text/voicemail at [vfletcher56@gmail.com](mailto:vfletcher56@gmail.com) or text/voicemail to 276-492-8314.

### 2018 AAG Meetings

We welcome anyone who would like to attend the board meetings at the Small Business Incubator from 12-1 pm with workshops following from 1-3 pm.

February 20, 2018 Board meeting only due to circumstances beyond our control.

Anyone can take part in these workshops whether they are a member of AAG or not, so come on out and invite your friends. If you have specific questions you would like addressed, please email Vicki those and we will be sure to cover that in our discussion.

We are beginning another year and hope that you will consider renewing your membership with us in 2018. This is available on our website now ([appalachianauthors.com](http://appalachianauthors.com)) or you can mail it to AAG PO Box 803 Abingdon, VA 24212. The dues are \$25 if paid by March 13th and \$30 after that date.

We will be having our first writers workshop on Tuesday, February 13th from 1-3 pm held at the Virginia Highlands Small Business Incubator. Many of you had requested an opportunity for a time of questions and discussions on matters of books so that is what we will do. If you have other topics you would like to see covered, please email me and let me know. Also, please email me if you plan to attend this meeting at [vfletcher56@gmail.com](mailto:vfletcher56@gmail.com).

The first general meeting of 2018 will be on Tuesday, March 13th from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Abingdon Shoney's. We have not had any responses to using the restaurants available to sell your books. If no one responds by March, we will not continue to work to make these available. The following restaurants are available at this time. If you sign up, we will continue to make inquiries from other places to let you sell books. If not, we will not pursue this for the group. This was a request by several members so I hope you will take advantage of this and sign up. To sign up, send Linda H ([lhhoagland@gmail.com](mailto:lhhoagland@gmail.com)) an email with your restaurant choice, date, and time and she will get you on the schedule.

**REMINDER:** Do not contact these places on your own so that we do not lose them again. a) Picadilly at the Kingsport Mall on Saturday b) Harvest Table in Meadowview on Sunday c) White Birch in Abingdon on Wednesday d) Zazzy's in Abingdon e) Chicken Little in Abingdon.

Finally, as always, I am so interested in your ideas, thoughts, concerns, etc. I want to make our group the best it can be in helping our authors. I hope you will take part in our meetings this year. I realize some of you work and cannot come during the day. We have tried different times and locations over the last few years and that did not bring you in either. If there is a different day or time that you would be able to come, please let me know. I realize that some of you live in other states or too far away to attend local meetings and am so thankful you remain members of our group. Please let me know how we can serve you better. I feel so blessed to be part of a group of such fine writers and diverse group.

(cont'd, pg 3)

J. C Schweingrouber, Appalachian Authors Guild member, and others have formed a nonprofit group, The Foundation For Appalachian Advancement. They feature on their website an "Artist of the Month." If interested, contact JC Schweingrouber  
<http://www.supportappalachia.org/>

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The Small Business Incubator in Abingdon is just beyond the Higher Ed. Center in Abingdon on the left. Email me if you need directions. This first workshop will be a question and discussion time which was requested by several of you to have this year. If you have specific questions you would like addressed, please email me those and we will be sure to cover that in our discussion. If you plan to attend, please email me so I can be sure I have the correct size conference room reserved for our meeting.  
<mailto:vfletcher56@gmail.com>



We have a store at Cafe Press to help us raise money for our AAG treasury. Hope you will visit the store and support us.  
[AAGStuff](#) at Cafe Press

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Please remember that road work by VDOT is still ongoing on Interstate 81 in Abingdon and be alert.

Vicki

I want you to be able to attend meetings when possible so please let me know how to make that happen.

All 4 AAG & AAG 4 all,  
Victoria Fletcher, 2018 President

VHF News from Jack Rose, Festival Chairman/Treasurer  
Email to Nancy Harte, VHF

Nancy, I spoke at length with Becky Caldwell yesterday, regarding your committee's decision to "Ban" (no other word comes to mind) local authors - members of the Appalachian Authors Guild from participation in this year's Virginia Highlands Festival.

As I told Becky yesterday, the Appalachian Authors Guild has supported the Virginia Highlands Festival for more than a decade. We stuck with the Festival through the years on Remsburg Drive - when crowds were down and many vendors left. We encouraged people by email and social media to support the Festival - to attend and purchase from local artists and crafts people.

Therefore, we - the members of the Appalachian Authors Guild, consider your decision a slap-in-the-face to local authors. We also reject your thinking that writing isn't a craft or an art.

Writing is definitely an art - just as a painter or sculptor will take a blank canvas or piece of clay and create something out of nothing - likewise a writer takes a blank page and creates a story. Creates characters who become real to the writer and the reader - to the point that we feel pain when they are hurt. We cry for them and with them. We share their joys and happiness. We create places so real, that readers want to go there.

I personally, as a local author and participant in the VHF for the past ten years, know that patrons of the Festival come looking for the artwork of our members. We've made countless numbers of friends and loyal readers, who return year after year to purchase our latest works.

One final point - "...because of limited space.." I was told, was another reason for "Banning" authors. Again, let me remind you that when, on Remsburg Drive, the Festival had numerous vacant spots, the Appalachian Authors Guild members were there each and every day, rain or shine, in the sweltering heat of that location. So, I ask you, is it fair to offer space to newcomers, or the ones who have returned, now that you are back on the Barter Green, and kick the authors off the hill?

As to Becky's suggestion that we would be a better "fit" in some other VHF activities, "NO!" The traffic through the main festival area is essential for the success of our authors.

The Appalachian Authors Guild is non-profit organization, dedicated to the support and advancement of the written art form by Appalachian Authors, either living in, having come from, or writing about the wonderful Appalachian Region. With this endeavor in mind, we respectfully ask that you reconsider your decision.