



# TIDINGS

January 2019 AAG Newsletter

## Appalachian Authors Guild

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

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

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

Chapter President  
Victoria Fletcher

Newsletter Editor: Sylvia Nickels  
[mscribe@aol.com](mailto:mscribe@aol.com)

Asst. Editor: Mary Ann Artrip  
[marvannartrip@charter.net](mailto:marvannartrip@charter.net)

J. C. Schweingrouber  
[Appalachian Authors Blog](#)

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

### 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.

Hello AAG Members and Prospects,

I am excited to begin another year as your president. The board is planning lots of great things this year. If you haven't already renewed or joined, it is only \$20 until February 12<sup>th</sup>. From February 12<sup>th</sup> to March 12<sup>th</sup>, it will be the regular \$25. After March 12<sup>th</sup>, it will be \$30 the remainder of the year. So, take advantage of the savings and join/renew now. You can do this on the website [appalachianauthors.com](http://www.appalachianauthors.com) or you can mail your payment to AAG PO Box 803, Abingdon, VA 24212. Your support allows us to provide our programs, meetings, and events. We have insurance to pay too since we are a nonprofit status organization. We also have website fees to pay each year but I've had very positive feedback about the website and hope to continue it. Speaking of the website, I would love to have you on our members page. If you joined and are not on the member page, please email me a photo and bio and I will add you don't forget about our Café Press fundraising site. Show off your AAG pride with shirts, tote bags, water bottles, journals, keychains, and more. Go to the bottom of the website and click the link AAG stuff.

Here is the list of our 2019 meetings and speakers: the board and writers workshop will still be held at the Virginia Highlands Small Business Incubator. The board meeting is from 12 to 1pm and the writers workshop is from 1 to 3 pm. February 12<sup>th</sup>- Linda Hoagland will do writing prompts; April 9<sup>th</sup>- Linda Dobkins will do types of publishing; June 11<sup>th</sup>- Greg Lilly will have a workshop with the topic to be announced later; August 13<sup>th</sup>- Kari Kilgore will do the workshop with a topic to be announced later. October 8<sup>th</sup>- to be announced as I have not received confirmation from the speaker. The general meetings will be held at Abington Shoney's from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. March 12<sup>th</sup>- we will have Linda and Amber Icenhour as our speakers; May 14<sup>th</sup>- we will have Joe tennis as speaker; July 9<sup>th</sup>- we will have Damean Mathews as speaker; September 10<sup>th</sup>- we will have Dr. Jesse Graves as speaker; and November 12<sup>th</sup>- we will install officers and we will be instituting a new writers gift exchange. More details about that in days to come.

We are working on events for 2019. You **must** be a member by March 12<sup>th</sup> to secure your spot at these events. This is to ensure that our treasury can secure the venues for these events. So, take advantage of our special \$20 dues until February 12<sup>th</sup>.

A book signing event at the Small Business Incubator is among the new events to be offered this year. Our treasury will determine the events we can secure for you so your support is much needed to make this happen. As soon as information becomes available, I will update you. Thank you for your continued support. I hope you will have the opportunity to take part in our meetings, workshops, and events this year.

Victoria Fletcher  
Your AAG president  
All 4 AAG & AAG 4 All





## All for AAG and AAG for all!

Members, please send Vicki your brief bio and picture for the AAG website. She would also like links where potential readers may find them.

Contact Vicki via email at [vfletcher56@gmail.com](mailto:vfletcher56@gmail.com) or text/voicemail to 276-492-8314.

## Next Board/Workshop

All members are welcome to attend the AAG Board Meetings as well as General Meetings. Member input is very valuable in scheduling guild activities.

Our first board/writers workshop will be Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. The board meets from 12-1 pm and the writers workshop is from 1-3 pm. It is held at the Small Business Incubator in Abingdon. Linda Hoagland will be leading the class on Writing Prompts. It is sure to be a fun class so come join us. Be sure to let Vicki know by Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup> so materials can be prepared for those attending.

---

It's a new year. We all have the chance to start fresh with our writing and to set new goals or reaffirm our old ones. However, as writers we should be up to the challenge of trying to be more consistent with our writing. Sometimes that is hard to do. Instead of having one huge goal such as writing a full-length novel this year, or writing 3,000 words a day, maybe we focus on writing for thirty minutes or an hour each day.

I'd like to challenge our members to motivate each other. I think having a group of three to five writers that hold each other accountable would be a huge benefit to each and every one of us. It's like joining the gym with a couple of friends. You are more likely to stick with exercising regularly than you would if you go alone.

Find a few fellow writers and do the same with your work. Maybe each of you write 1,000 words a week and share it with each other through email every Friday or Saturday, for example. Or each of you write one short story every two weeks or once a month, or a poem each week. Make sure you and your group are on the same page. Share encouragement, not criticism. Imagine the creativity that could be unleashed from your small tribe.

I challenge you to get your tribe together, unleash your creativity, and see what you can do. This isn't a pass or fail project. You may not always hit your goal, but you have some folks in your corner cheering you on. Have fun with it!

J.C. Schweingrouber  
[www.supportappalachia.org](http://www.supportappalachia.org)

---

Appalachian Authors Guild (AAG) members, Dan Swanson and Ellen Myatt, attended the 100th Anniversary of the Virginia's Writers Club (VWC) at the Hilton Garden Inn, Richmond, VA, on November 2-3, 2018.

Nearly 60 guests attended the annual meeting and awards dinner Friday evening. Winners of the Golden Nib Award in three categories were announced.

AAG member Swanson placed second in the non-fiction category for his submission titled "Cousins." Swanson won first place for this story in the AAG Golden Nib Award in September for non-fiction, while Myatt placed first in the fiction category for her story titled September Bread.

Writers from nearly all 10 chapters of the VWC attended the full-day Symposium on Saturday. Several key sessions addressed issues from getting manuscripts from rough draft to book to the business of writing, and much more.

AAG invites individuals in Southwest Virginia to explore how to get their poems and stories from draft to publication. Plan to attend a monthly meeting or contact Victoria Fletcher at [vfletcher5@gmail.com](mailto:vfletcher5@gmail.com) for details.

Ellen Myatt  
AAG Secretary

pictured are VWC president Leslie Truex  
and Ellen Myatt from AAG





We have a store at Cafe Press to help us raise money for our AAG store and support us.

[AAGStuff](#) at Cafe Press

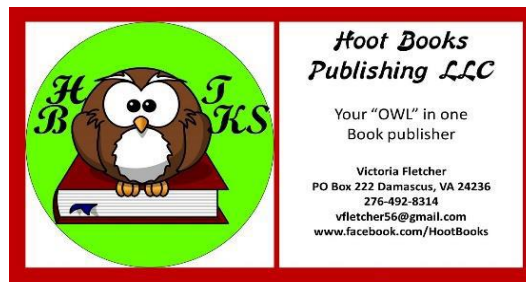
Members who would like to have their new works announced in Tidings should send the info and cover thumbnail, if desired, to the editor's email address ([Mscribe@aol.com](mailto:Mscribe@aol.com)).



We wish our members another year of successful writing adventures.

Vicki Fletcher, Publisher, Hoot Books

Virginia Highlands Small Business Incubator Suite 127 at 851 French Moore Blvd. Abingdon, VA. If I can be of help in getting your book published, please contact me.



New book from Vice President JC Schweingrouber, who writes as Cyrus Alderwood.

The link for my latest book is below. *Grave Legends* is the first of a four part horror series. Originally completed in 2002 under a different title, this book was eighteen years in the making. I have written about the history and effort behind this book and that can be found at my website,

<http://www.cyrusalderwood.com>  
[https://www.amazon.com/dp/1721755225/ref=nav\\_timeline\\_asin?encoding=UTF8&psc=1](https://www.amazon.com/dp/1721755225/ref=nav_timeline_asin?encoding=UTF8&psc=1)

I have a new book, *A Fatal Beginning*. This book is a prequel to the Fatal Series. In the second book in that series a woman named Margie Meadows reveals a secret she had held all her life on the witness stand and then loses consciousness. Many of my readers wanted to know Margie Meadows' story and now it is out. It can be purchased on Kindle, at my website [www.goldenharvestcreations.com](http://www.goldenharvestcreations.com), and Amazon. Please ask Vickie to scan a picture of this and send it to you. I still don't know how to do this.

Addie Davis

