

July 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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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**  
**July 10, 2018**  
**11:30am-1:30pm**  
**Shoney's**  
**Bristol, VA**

**Speaker**



**Donna Watson**

Teaching is the best profession, and I have always been a teacher. I graduated from Big Creek High School (highlighted in the movie *October Sky*) and couldn't forget my wonderful teachers from elementary, junior high, and high school. After graduating from Bluefield College with a BA in English and a mathematics minor, I taught mathematics in middle school for 16 years in McDowell County, West Virginia. In the summers, I worked providing professional development throughout West Virginia with teams from the West Virginia Department of Education.

When I moved to Mercer County, West Virginia, I worked for a textbook resource company... Eventually I went to Virginia Tech to work on my doctorate degree, and when I finished, I became a full time assistant professor at Bluefield College. When Dr. Clay retired, I became the director and then the Dean of the School of Education when we established the Master of Arts in Education, adding an online degree to our traditional teacher education program.

In the summer of 2017, I moved to Bristol, TN, and accepted the position to become the Dean of the School of Education. Teaching new teachers and guiding the School of Education provide challenges and always daily joy. (cont'd Pg. 3)



## All for AAG and AAG for all!

Dues for AAG's 2018 year are due before March --. They are \$25. 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.

## Next Board/Workshop

All members are welcome who would like to attend the AAG board meetings. Member input is very valuable in scheduling guild activities.

Note in President Vicki's message that the next board meeting is Aug 14th, 12-1pm at the Small Business Incubator, Abingdon, Virginia. The new writers workshop will follow from 1-3pm, a presentation/discussion on Kick Starting Your Writing led by VP JC Schweingrouber.

Several members attended Vicky's very informative presentation last month on formatting your book in Word.



Also note booksigning and sales opportunities in Vicki's remarks for VHF and Mistletoe Market.

## From President Vicki



Dear AAG,

Here we are, half way through the year. Our next general meeting is Tuesday, July 10th at Bristol Shoney's at exit 5 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Please let me know if you are planning to attend.

Our next board meeting and writers workshop is Tuesday, August 14th at the Small Business Incubator. The board meets from 12-1 pm and the workshop is from 1-3 pm. Please let me know if you plan to attend so materials can be prepared for you. JC Schweingrouber, our vice president, will be doing the presentation/discussion on Kick Starting Your Writing. Join us for these workshops and be sure to let me know of topics you would like to see addressed.

Virginia Highlands Festival is coming up soon. You can see from the schedule below that we have only a few spaces available. If you would like to come to Anthony's Desserts on Main Street in Abingdon and sell your books during the festival, please let me know by Friday, July 13th as the flyers will be made. Also, please check the VHF website and the AAG Facebook page to see who will be there each day.

New places have been secured to sell our books. Check those out on the website. Let Linda Hoagland <mailto:lhhoagland@yahoo.com> know if you would like to take part in any of these.

The Mistletoe Market is coming up in November, but payments are needed August 1st. There are a couple of spaces available. They are \$50 per day. Let me know if you would like a space by Friday, July 27th and be sure to send your \$50 fee in by that time.

The treasury is running low due to our liability insurance payments and Mistletoe Market booths coming due. If you have any ideas for fundraisers for next year, please let me know. The board has mentioned several and we will discuss them more at our next meeting. All members are welcome to attend the board meetings. If you cannot but have ideas, just send those to me and I will let the others know.

Hope you are having a wonderful summer with lots of time to write. See you soon.

As always, all 4 AAG & AAG 4 all,  
Victoria Fletcher, your president



## ATTENTION

If you are an AAG and VWC member and want to enter the Golden NIB contest, the entries are due to me by Friday, July 27th. We have to judge them and get them to VWC by August 15th so we have to cut it off. Not much time to get your entries in, but please send those to me. Please put Golden NIB in the subject line. Thanks so much and good luck to everyone who enters.

Vicki

<mailto:vfletcher56@gmail.com>

(Watson – cont'd)

I'm so blessed to be working with such fine faculty in education and wonderfully idealistic young people who are called to be teachers.

I enjoy cooking and feeding people, listening to stories, telling stories, playing the piano (especially for church), gardening, and exploring Appalachia. And I keep a daily gratitude journal where I thank God for His guidance and love.

A Bible favorite verse is from Proverbs 3:5-6, *“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”*



## Important AAG announcements

Interested in a more active role in 'taking care of business' for Appalachian Author's Guild? Now is the time to step up and volunteer.

(1) Officers for the 2019 year are being sought at this time. If you have a desire to serve in an office, please contact Vicki and let her know. Officers must be able to attend the board meetings and general meetings.

(2) Our secretary, Jami McDonald, has had to resign her duties effective immediately due to a change in work schedule and personal commitments. If anyone is interested in taking on this position for the remainder of 2018, please contact Vicki. Officers should be able to attend the board meetings and general meetings. Thank you for considering this.



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

## Summertime in Tennessee/VA

