



Appalachian Authors Guild
A chapter of the Virginia Writers Club

TIDINGS

March 2017 AAG Newsletter

From Vicki

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

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

<http://appalachianauthors.wordpress.com>

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[Appalachian Authors Blog](#)

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,

If you plan to attend the meeting on Tuesday, March 14th at 11:30 am at the Abingdon Shoney's, please contact me by Friday, March 10th. I have to call them back and confirm the number attending so they can reserve enough space for us. Dr. Jesse Graves will be our speaker. My contact info is: vletcher56@gmail.com, or 276-492-8314 (text me or leave a voicemail).

We are trying to get enough entries for our anthology. Your entries can be on any topic. Please use Times New Roman, 12-point font, single spaced for any entry you send. This will really help in formatting the book and getting it ready to upload to Create Space. PLEASE PUT ANTHOLOGY ENTRY in the subject line of the email. These are due on May 5th. Also, send me your ideas for a title for our book. A decision will be made at our April board meeting so get those ideas to me by April 1st (no fooling).

If you would like to be featured on our website blog, please contact Gina McKnight at gmcknight11@gmail.com. She may have already contacted you for this.

As a heads up, the VHF fees went up this year. We will also have to increase our fees to pay for our space. We will make a decision after this year as to whether to participate in the future. The 2 small tables at the front or a full table will be \$30 per day. You can request a 1/2 table for \$15. If you have someone you would like to share a table with, make this known to Jack when we begin taking reservations for this. More details about this will follow in the months ahead.

If you haven't sent in your renewals of \$25, I am encouraging you to do that. Jack had to pay our fee to Virginia Highlands Festival to reserve our space. It put our treasury in very low state. Renewals can be sent to AAG PO Box 803 Abingdon, VA 24212 or you can bring them to the March meeting if you will be attending.

Our 2017 meetings, locations, and speakers are: May 9th at Southwest Virginia Community College in Richlands with Justin Trout as speaker; July 11th at Golden Corral in Bristol with Dylan Pratt as speaker; September 12th at Lebanon Bonanza with Rita Quillen as speaker; and November 14th at Shoney's in Abingdon with Leigh Anne Hoover as speaker. All meetings are from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

Vicki Fletcher, President
Appalachian Authors Guild



All for AAG and AAG for all!

Dues can be sent any time. 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 or text/voicemail to 276-492-8314.

2017 AAG Meetings

We welcome anyone that would like to attend the board meetings at Abingdon Library, 1pm to 3pm, 2nd Tuesday in each month prior to the general meeting.

ALL General Meetings will be from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm.

March 14, Abingdon Shoney's, Speaker, Dr. Jesse Graves from ETSU

May 9 at Southwest Community College in Richlands. Speaker, Justin Trout.

July 11, Bristol Golden Corral, Speaker, Dylan Pratt, marketing. This is Scott Pratt's son.

September 12, Lebanon Bonanza. Speaker, Rita Quillen.

November 14, Abingdon Shoney's. Installation of officers for 2018. Speaker, Leigh Ann Hoover.

Speaker



Dr. Jesse Graves
March General Meeting
Appalachian Authors Guild
Shoney's Restaurant
Abingdon, VA
March 14, 2017 – 11:30am

Dr. Jesse Graves, an assistant professor in East Tennessee State University's Department of Literature and Language, has been named the recipient of the Weatherford Award in Poetry for his poetry collection, "Basin Ghosts," published by Texas Review Press.

Graves, who claimed the 2012 New Faculty Award from the ETSU College of Arts and Sciences, is the recipient of the Appalachian Writers Association's Book of the Year Award in poetry for his first poetry collection, Tennessee Landscape with Blighted Pine. That collection also won the Weatherford Award for poetry, presented to him by Berea College and the Appalachian Studies Association.

The Weatherford Award is presented annually by Berea College and the Appalachian Studies Association to authors in the categories of nonfiction, fiction and poetry who best illuminate the challenges, personalities and unique qualities of the Appalachian South. Graves is the first poet to win the award more than once.

Graves participated in the Barbara and David Zalaznick Reading Series at Cornell University, where he was presented with the Philip H. Freund Prize, a prestigious honor with a \$5,000 award.

Graves has also received the James Still Award for Writing about the Appalachian South from the Fellowship of Southern Writers.

He served as co-editor for two volumes from the University of Tennessee Press, titled "The Complete Poetry of James Agee," with Michael Lofaro, and "Jeff Daniel Marion: Poet of the Holston," with Thomas Alan Holmes of ETSU and Ernest Lee. Also co-editor with William Wright and Paul Ruffin of three volumes of "The Southern Poetry Anthology, including collections on Tennessee, North Carolina and Contemporary Appalachia.

Upcoming Writing Events

Appalachian Heritage Writers Symposium June 9-10, 2017

Keynote speaker will be popular and nationally recognized writer, Scott Pratt, author of the very successful Joe Dillard novel series.

More information is posted on the website, check it often.

Tennessee Mountain Writers Conference

Oak Ridge, TN
April 6-8, 2017
Workshops, contests, etc.

JC 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/>

Markets

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

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

Writing Prompts

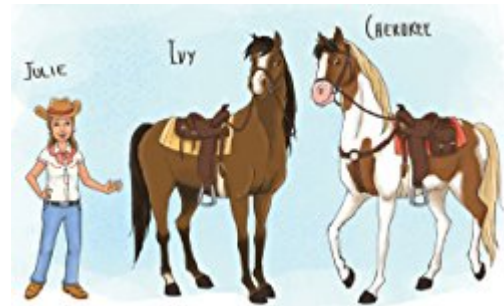
<http://www.toastedcheese.com/>
<http://www.writermag.com/writing-prompts>

On Writing

<http://www.writersvillage.com/index.php/membership-information>

<http://www.advancedfictionwriting.com/ezone>

Spotlight On Gina



Gina McKnight has been a member of Appalachian Authors Guild for a number of years. She is a woman of many interests, author, equestrian, freelance writer, blogger and poet! Recently Gina took on the job of editor for the AAG blog, part of the new website under construction by Vicki Fletcher.

Gina believes that living in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains promotes inspiration and passion for creative writing; children's literature, poetry, freelance, and more. She is a graduate of Franklin University/Leadership Scholar/BA, Columbus, Ohio.

An avid reader and lover of words, she began writing at an early age. Gina continues to be encouraged by her horses, neighbors, family and friends. Enjoy [Gina's poetry](#), learn about her [book releases](#), as well as [events](#).

As our Blog editor, Gina will be featuring AAG members, their writing and books on the official Appalachian Authors Guild website. Also visit Gina's own blog, [Riding and Writing](#), where she has generously featured interviews of many of our members in the past.

<http://ginamc.blogspot.com/>
<mailto:gmcknight11@gmail.com>

