

**March 2019 AAG Newsletter**

**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**  
[maryannartrip@charter.net](mailto:maryannartrip@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.

**Appalachian Authors Guild  
General Meeting  
March 12, 2019  
Shoney's Restaurant  
Cummings St., Abingdon, VA**

## **Speakers**



Linda Icenhour writes children's books and her daughter, Amber, illustrates them. Though it isn't their first collaboration, their book, *Adventures of Jam and Jelly*, has garnered very positive reviews from Amazon readers. The writer-illustrator team collaborated on other titles such as *Joey's Big Imagination*, *Joey's Big Imagination Blastoff*, the upcoming title *Scarecrows on Main* and more.

On their publishing company's advice Amber redrew the illustrations for *The Adventures of Jam and Jelly* from digital to "traditional style." Linda did not wholeheartedly agree with this suggestion.

What started as an idle doodle inspired by an artist Amber admired became a success. Now *The Adventures of Jam and Jelly* has earned the seal of approval of Mom's Choice Award (MCA) a national honor that evaluates quality products and services for children in more than 55 countries.

Currently, Linda is working in collaboration with illustrator Samuel Calderon on a new book titled, *Dad's Magic Mower*.

(cont'd pg 3 – Speaker)



## All for AAG and AAG for all!

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

Contact Vicki 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 to attend the AAG Board Meetings as well as General Meetings. Member input is very valuable in scheduling guild activities.

The next scheduled board meeting will be April 9, 2019.

Several members have attended and received valuable pointers at the informative workshop presentations after the board meetings in 2018.

ca



## From President Vicki



Hello AAG,

We are off with a BANG in 2019. We have had 31 renewals and 10 new members with our \$20 membership blitz. YEAH!!! You can still join us but the dues will be \$25 until our first general meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup> at Abingdon Shoney's from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Linda Icenhour and her daughter Amber who illustrates her books will be there to speak on children's books. Be sure to let me know if you plan to attend by Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup> so I can confirm with the restaurant and prepare materials to hand out. If you join after the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, the dues will be \$30. I am so thrilled so many of you took advantage of the \$20 dues times. It also helps our treasury get built up. . Through the year, we have insurance to pay, website fees/domain registration to pay, and speakers/presenters for our meetings and programs so we need all our members to support us each year. We have a good start this year thanks to our blitz but still need more to cover all our yearly expenses. Donations are welcome at any time too



As most of you are aware, our yearly symposium is no more. After losing the grant from Dominion bank that we had used to run the symposium and being unable to secure grants or funding to continue, we had to let it go. I, for one, loved that symposium. In lieu of it, the AAG is going to be sponsoring a Spring Fling Writers Day on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 4 pm. It will be held at the Small Business Incubator at 851 French Moore Blvd. in Abingdon, VA. We plan to have 3 learning sessions given by presenters, a writing prompt/sharing time, and book sales where the public will also be invited. You will find the registration on the website by the end of February. Early registration by April 1<sup>st</sup> (no fooling) will be \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members. Registration will stay open until May 1<sup>st</sup> but will go to \$25 for members and \$35 for non-members after April 1<sup>st</sup>. There will also be a place where you can sign up for a table to sell your books. . This will be \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. Your registration fee would include your registration packet, continental breakfast, snacks, water, beverages, and a box lunch. If you are interested in being a host/hostess for this event, please let Vicki know. More details will be on the website so keep checking back often. [appalachianauthors.com](http://appalachianauthors.com) We hope this turns out to be an annual event that will include local Appalachian authors. Hope you will put this date on the calendar and plan to join us there.

(cont'd pg 3 From Vicki



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

[AAGStuff](#) at Cafe Press

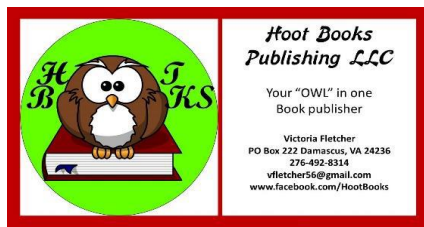
---

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)).

---

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.



And our members another year of successful writing adventures.

From Vicki – cont'd from pg. 2)

Another event you might want to take part in is the newly formed Highlands Writers Fair sponsored by the Highlands Festival Committee and Friends of the Library. It will take place on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. The application can be found at [Highlands Writers Fair](#). The applications are due on February 28<sup>th</sup>. This is a juried event so they can have a variety of genres available for the book sale. The address to send it to Greg Lilly, committee chair, is on the application.

Finally, if you are in need of illustrators for books you have, Katy Hypes and her art class from Blacksburg High School would like to help you. If you are interested, you can contact me and I will give you her email info so you can talk with her directly about any projects you have.

Finally, if you are in need of illustrators for books you have, Katy Hypes and her art class from Blacksburg High School would like to help you. If you are interested, you can contact me and I will give you her email info so you can talk with her directly about any projects you have.

Sorry if you missed the February meeting. Linda Hoagland was great, as usual, bringing us the writing prompts. Each story was so diverse, just like the authors we have in our group. It was a lot of fun. Hope you can make it to the next meeting. If you are too far away or working at that time, just let us know how we can help you as a writer. That's what our group is all about.

Until next time,

Victoria Fletcher, your AAG 2019 president

---

(cont'd from pg 1 – Speaker)

Amber and Calderon are collaborating on a work provisionally titled *Max and Roxie: A Mouse in the House*.

"It's convenient to work directly with the writer," Amber said. "It is very advantageous for changes."

The duo brainstorms ideas bringing different viewpoints. Their unique partnership allows for immediate feedback. The Icenhours have very few creative disagreements.

