

Notes from President Linda Hoagland Raising the Bar - Again

Appalachian Authors Guild
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<http://www.appalachianauthors.com/>
<http://appalachianauthors.wordpress.com>
<http://www.virginiawritersclub.org/>

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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.

The closet in the dining room was the place of choice to hide my written words.

I would carry my spiral-bound notebook crammed in among my school books so no one, teacher or fellow student, would know that what I worked on diligently was not homework as assigned to me, but flights of fancy from my active imagination.

My desire, perhaps need, manifested itself in my mind when I was in elementary school. Story books would be handed to each of us with the admonition that we must take special care of the books and never cause the binding to crack and break because that was the way the books were located when they were perched on shelves awaiting other readers

I wanted my name on that binding. I knew that sounded a little silly but that was my choice. The only way I was going to get my name on that book binding perched on a shelf for all to see was to write a book.

So – that was how it began. I carried that notebook, filled it with words, and then had to get another notebook to take its place.

I would become discouraged with the writing and the lack of encouragement. The feeling of futility would cause me to swear off ever writing again and hide my words in the dining room closet. That would last about a week. I was back at the words until I decided I had enough and in the closet the writings would go again.

When I graduated from high school, life seemed to get in my way preventing me from ever accomplishing my goal. I lived through many experiences that I knew could and should be the beginnings of a good book, possibly even a helpful book. Finding time to write the stories became an obsession with me because I knew that as each year passed, my time to write and publish was getting shorter.

I discovered that I liked to enter contests so I could pit my best short stories, essays, and poems, against the writings of those who were also looking for encouragement in one form or another. Whether I won first place or honorable mention, it didn't matter to me. I was happy just to be recognized as a writer worthy of recognition.

I was fifty-eight years old when I held that first book, loosely based on some of my memories, in my hand. I could not remember a more meaningful moment in my life.

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**Upcoming!
AAG General Meeting**

Please email [Linda Hoagland](#) or [Patty Nichols](#) by May 11, 2015, if you plan to attend the meeting.

**Shoney's
480 Cummings St.
Abingdon, VA**

AAG has a Blog,
Facebook page, and is on
Twitter



**Shoney's Restaurant
480 Cummings St.
Abingdon, VA
General Meeting
May 12, 2015 - 11:30am**

Speaker



Frank Kilgore

Frank Kilgore, an attorney in St. Paul, is a lifelong advocate for improved natural resource conservation, health care and education in the Appalachian coalfields.

Mr. Kilgore was graduated from St. Paul High School, St. Paul, Virginia in 1970. And in 1977 from Clinch Valley College of the University of Virginia, Wise, Virginia. He earned a B.S. Degree in Appalachian Studies Virginia Law Study Program and Apprenticeship 1978-81.

He worked with the U.S. Forest Service and Job Corps, 1972-1977 and has practiced law in Virginia from 1982-Present.

He is the author of *Far Southwest Virginia, A Postcard & Photographic Journey* 2014 and Co-author of *Far Southwest Virginia, a Postcard Journey* 2005 and *The Clinch River: A World Class Treasure* 2006. He also is publisher and editor of *Mountain Peeks* magazine, 2011-Present.

Member Donations

The following, all long-time members of Appalachian Authors Guild, have donated money in addition to their annual dues to further the goals of the Guild in 2015.

Please accept the Guild's thanks,

- Linda Hoagland \$75
- Jim Glanville \$45
- Charles D Whitt \$50



To: AAG Members

From: Jack Rose - Virginia Highlands Festival 2015

We are pleased to announce that AAG has been approved again for a double-booth at the Virginia Highlands Festival, which will run from July 31st to August 9th. We will have space for 5 or 6 authors each day. The fee to participate will be \$25 per day for current AAG Members. Non-members will be considered, subject to AAG Board approval and will pay a higher rate.

This year there will be two four foot tables on the front of the booth. The front and adjacent side table are considered "prime" locations by some. So we ask that you not claim these same spaces

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Appalachian Heritage Writers Symposium

SWCC, Richlands, VA

<http://appheritagewritersym.wordpress.com/>

Newer members may not be aware that Appalachian Authors Guild with Southwest Virginia Community College is a Co-founding organization of the Symposium.

Betsy Ashton, President of VWC has placed a link to the Symposium site, including registration, so all VWC members will know about it. This is great publicity. Thank you, Virginia Writers Club.

<http://www.virginiawritersclub.org/event-1930548>



AAG member Gina McKnight invites all members to interview for her blog about their writing and books. Her blog is –Riding and Writing

<http://ginamc.blogspot.com/>

Links to books may be posted, etc. She would like a brief bio and links in the initial request, if available, to read so she can ask appropriate questions. She sends the questions and the person responds via email.

<mailto:gmcknight11@gmail.com>



JC Schweingrouber, Appalachian Authors Guild member, and others have formed a nonprofit group, The Foundation For Appalachian Advancement. He invites AAG authors to talk to them about the possibility of being featured on their website as "Artist of the Month." Contact

JC Schweingrouber

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

(Foundation For Appalachian Advancement)

I had achieved my dream.

One book was not going to be enough. I had many different stories that perked through my brain awaiting the moment when I would write them onto the pristine, white, lined paper. Going into work an hour early each day gave me the opportunity to enter the words written the previous day into the computer to be saved to a floppy disk, or a flash drive now.

Many days I would use my lunch hour to continue the entering and editing.

My dream was still alive but altered enough to include another book, followed by another. I have now neared my most recent goal of twenty books so I'm going to have to raise the bar again.

I will continue to write and, hopefully, my faithful readers will continue to read all of those words. I feel I must write and I will do so until I can no longer clutch the pen with my aging fingers.

That is how I came to be a writer. Now, think about how the urge to write holds you captive.

Linda Hoagland, President
Appalachian Authors Guild



From the Appalachian Authors Guild Treasurer (cont'd from pg 1)

on consecutive days. We are also asking that you not leave any books in the booth overnight.

Please send in your \$25 renewal dues as soon as possible.

If AAG is valuable to you as a writer, and if you are in a position to do so, consider making a cash donation to AAG. As a Chapter of Virginia Writers Club, we are covered under their 501c3 tax status. Each member who contributes at least an additional \$25 will be given one space/day at the Virginia Highlands Festival.

We have other venue/opportunities available, and more in the works. So, stay tuned for developments.

Have a great year with your writing and selling. Hope to see you at the Festival.

Jack Rose, Treasurer
Festivals Committee Chair

Virginia Highlands Festival
July 31, 2015 – August 9, 2015

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



There is a Markets Database on this website:

[Writing for Dollars](#)