**Minutes**

Appalachian Authors Guild

A Chapter of the Virginia Writer’s Club

Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 19th, 2016

**Time and Place:**

The board meeting of the Appalachian Authors Guild met on Tuesday, February 19, 2016 at the Washington County Public Library in Abingdon, Virginia. The meeting took place from 1:00-3:00 pm.

**Attendance:**

President Vicki Fletcher, Vice President J.C. Schweingrouber, Secretary Jami McDonald, Treasurer Jack Rose, and AAG members Addie Davis, Linda Dobkins, and Syliva Nickles

**Call to Order:**

Treasurer Jack Rose called the meeting to order.

**Reports:**

* A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the minutes of the board meeting on October 13th, 2015, and the minutes of the general meeting on November 10th, 2015, as distributed by secretary, Vicki Fletcher.
* Linda Hoagland has resigned as board president of the Appalachian Authors Guild. The board wishes her the best of luck in her future endeavors. The new officers for the board were approved at the meeting. The new officers are President - Vicki Fletcher, Vice President - J.C. Schweingrouber, Secretary - Jami McDonald, Treasurer - Jack Rose, Website/Tidings - Sylvia Nickles (Member - at - Large), and VWC liaison – Linda Dobkins.
* Vicki asked that AAG members contact her if they are interested in volunteering their time to work on actives for/promotions of the 2016 Appalachian Heritage Writers Symposium, or any other festival/event. In addition, registration is now active for the Symposium. Sharyn McCrumb will be the keynote speaker. Information about the keynote speaker, workshop presenters, and other planned activates are available at http://www.appheritagewritersym.wordpress.com. Please do not miss this great event.
* Jack Rose reported that the 2016 membership fees are now due. If active members paid after August 1, 2015 of last year, they are current for the remainder of 2016. If members have not paid yet, the fee is $25. The money is needed to help keep the guild financial stable and will be greatly appreciated. Please send payment to AAG, PO Box 803, Abingdon, VA 24212.
* The board has decided that future board meetings will not only pertain to the discussion of Guild business topics, but will also be conducted as a platform for creative writing prompts, exercises, critiques, and other activities that will help members develop their craft. This plan was designed, with the help of Jason, as a means in which to allow Guild meetings to occur monthly leading into 2017.
* The following dates/times/locations are for our meetings in 2016. Lunch/Dinner will accompany the general meetings that are underlined, so please let Vicki know if you

plan to attend. This will help the restaurants/caterers prepare for the appropriate number of guests.

* March 8th – Abingdon Shoney’s, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm with guest speaker Dr. Lin Stepp. Welcome Dr. Stepp!
* April 12th – Abingdon Library, 1 pm – 3 pm, Board/Writer’s forum. Reminder, any Guild member who wants to take part in the new creative writing activities at these meetings is welcome.
* May 10th – SWVCC in Richlands, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm with guest speaker Dr. Thomas McKnight, founder of Reminiscent Writers. This will be a catered lunch, with the cost of the meal set at $10. Please let Vicki know if you plan to attend, and pay her for your meal, by May 1st.
* June 14th – Abingdon Library, 1 pm – 3 pm, Board/Writer’s forum.
* July 12th – Abingdon Shoney’s, 6 pm – 8 pm, Speaker TBA.
* August 9th – Abingdon Library, 1pm – 3pm, Board/Writer’s forum. \*Note: This meeting may be canceled due to the Virginia Highlands Festival.\*
* September 13th – Lebanon, Location TBA, 6 pm – 8 pm, Speaker TBA.
* October 11th – Abingdon Library, 1 pm – 3 pm, Board/Writer’s forum.
* November 8th – Abingdon Shoney’s, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm, Speaker TBA. At this meeting, we will announce the 2017 officers.
* The board would also like to have a special Christmas holiday fellowship on Tuesday, December 13th, from 6 pm – 8 pm. The location of this event will be determined later. If anyone has any ideas/input about this event, please let Vicki know.
* The board wants to remind Guild members that they would like to complete two anthologies in time to sell at the VA Highlands Festival as a fundraiser. Some entries that were sent earlier in the year may have been lost. Vicki has entries from Susan Harmon and Linda Dobkins. If you submitted work earlier in the year, and think your entry may have been lost, please resend your entries to Vicki. If you have not submitted anything yet, please consider doing so. Short stories, poetry, and nonfiction should be less than 3,000 words. We hope to have enough entries to complete both a Christmas and a general anthology. The deadline is **April 1st**.
* Jack has sent in our application to the Virginia Highlands Festival. As soon as we receive approval, he will begin taking reservations for days and the $25 dollar table fee. Be on the lookout for the email concerning the festival. If you **do not** have an active **email,** and would like this information mailed to you, please let Vick know.
* The Golden NIB writing contest is now underway. More information on this contest can be found on the Virginia Writer’s Club website: <http://www.virginiawritersclub.org/event-1942014>. You must be a member of both the AAG and the VWC to participate in this prestigious contest. The deadline for entries is May 1st. Winners from the AAG will be sent to the VWC for the state winners’ contest. Please send your entries to Linda Dobkins, who is our contest coordinator this year. Her email is lhdobkins@gmail.com.
* Jack Rose reported that the Checkbook Balance for the Guild is $1,766.61. A check has recently been written to the VHF for $1,035. A check has also been written to Sylvia Nickles (our webmaster) for $278.83. Vicki has suggested that we put out a donation jar at all of our meetings for members to contribute money to the treasury. Donations are tax deductible. Please send additional donations to AAG, PO Box 803, Abingdon, VA 24212.
* Sylvia reported that our website got 16,046 hits this past year. Sadly, this will be Sylvia’s last year as webmaster.
* As acting Vice President, it is J.C.’s job to schedule meetings and obtain guest speakers. J.C. is involved with the Foundation for Appalachian Advancement. He looks forward to incorporating his work with the Guild into his work with the foundation. The website for the foundation is [www.SupportAppalachia.org](http://www.SupportAppalachia.org).
* Vicki will be taking care of membership (new and renewals) at this time. Please mail $25 for membership along with your application, **if you are a new member**, to her at Vicki Fletcher, PO Box 222, Damascus, VA, 24236.
* If you have any more questions/ideas/comments for Vicki, she can also be reached at 276-492-8314 and vfletcher56@gmail.com.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned by newly elected President Vicki Fletcher.

\* Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be involved with the Guild. I am new to being in charge of the minutes, so please feel free to suggest any improvements/changes that I need to make. If you need to contact me, I can be reached at jami\_mc04@yahoo.com. I look forward to getting to know all of you.

Respectfully submitted,

Jami McDonald, secretary