**Minutes**

Appalachian Authors Guild

A Chapter of the Virginia Writer’s Club

Bi-monthly Members Meeting

Tuesday, March 8, 2016

**Time and Place:**

The bi-monthly meeting of the Appalachian Authors Guild met on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at Shoney’s Restaurant in Abingdon, Virginia. The meeting took place from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm.

**Attendance:**

Speaker Dr. Lin Stepp, her husband J.L. Stepp, President Vicki Fletcher, Vice President JC Schweingrouber, Secretary Jami McDonald, Treasurer Jack Rose, Members Sylvia Nickels, Linda Dobkins, Linda Hoagland, Linda Dobkins, Peggy Callison, J. Michael O’Connor, Regina Roberts (with guest Ezekiel), Rachel Roberts, Tom Fugate, Donald Perkins (with his mother and a guest), Roberta Long, Larry Keith, Addie Davis, Jonathan Davis, Louise Kilgore, Hazel Fleming, Jean Snader, and BJ Patterson

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by President Vicki Fletcher.

**Business:**

* The secretary’s report was printed out and given to each member by Vicki Fletcher. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the minutes as given for the February board meeting.
* Jack Rose, treasurer, reported:
* The AAG is low on funds. Vicki has suggested that we put out a donation jar at all of our meetings, beginning with this meeting, for members to contribute money to the treasury. Please send additional donations to AAG, PO Box 803, Abingdon, VA 24212.
* 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 the same AAG address as listed above.
* He now taking reservations for the Virginia Highlands Festival. Spaces are beginning to fill up, but there is still some available for members who are interested. If you are interested in participating, please let Jack know as soon as possible.
* The Checkbook Balance for the Guild is $1,766.61
* 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.
* 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.

* 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 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](mailto:lhdobkins@gmail.com).
* Webmaster Sylvia Nickles reported that our website got 16,046 hits this past year.
* 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](mailto:vfletcher56@gmail.com).

**Speaker:**

Vicki Fletcher, President and Program Chair, introduced the speaker, Dr. Lin Stepp. Dr. Stepp is a native Tennessean. She has published nine novels, each set in different locations around the Smoky Mountains. Her fiction novels include ***Down by the River*** (June 2014), ***Makin’ Miracles*** (January 2015), ***Saving Laurel Springs*** (October 2015) and ***Welcome Back*** (March 2016). Dr. Stepp and her husband have also published a Smoky Mountains hiking guide titled ***The Afternoon Hiker*** (2014). She was a very personable, entertaining presenter and we enjoyed having her speak at our meeting.

**Adjournment:**

President Vicki Fletcher adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jami McDonald, secretary