**Minutes**

Appalachian Authors Guild

A Chapter of the Virginia Writer’s Club

Bi-monthly Members Meeting

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

**Time and Place:**

The bi-monthly meeting of the Appalachian Authors Guild met on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at Southwest Virginia Community College in Richlands, Virginia. The meeting took place from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm.

**Attendance:**

Speaker Dr. Thomas McKnight, his wife Judy Ruth McKnight, President Vicki Fletcher, Secretary Jami McDonald, Members Sylvia Nickels, Linda Dobkins, Linda Hoagland, Addie Davis, Rachel Riggsby, Louise Kilgore, Rosalie Null, Peggy Callison, Fred Powers, Hazel Bostic, Brenda Musick, Tom Fugate, Jo Osborne, and Doris Brown. We had 2 visitors, and hopefully new members, Debbie Musick and Tammy Miller. We were very excited that they could join us!

**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 April board meeting.
* Jack Rose, treasurer, reported:
* The Virginia Highlands Festival, in Abingdon, Virginia, is July 29 – August 7, 2016. Jack is still taking table reservations for the festival: 35 author spaces out of 50 are filled, so there are still 15 available spaces for members who are interested. The July 30th, August 5th, and August 6th slots are full, but there are still authors needed for the weekdays (Monday – Thursday) and on both Sundays. If you are interested in participating, please let Jack know as soon as possible.
* As of April 11, 2016, the Checkbook Balance for the Guild was $1,216.45.
* Thank you to all of the AAG chapter members who entered the Golden NIB contest. The chapter winners have been announced. All first place winners will advance to the state competition. Winners: Fiction – 1st place – Linda Hoagland for *No Shades of Grey*, Non-Fiction – 1st place – Linda Hoagland for *A Shrill Scream into the Night*, 2nd place – Jami McDonald for *Coal Black,* and 3rd place – Lynn Young for *My Stream-of-Consciousness Opinion, Relayed in Cliché*, and Poetry – First Place – Lynn Young for *I Have My Mother’s Lips*, and 2nd place – Linda Hoagland for *My Angels*. We wish the first place winners the best of luck in the state competition!
* The following dates/times/locations are for our remaining 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.

* June 14th – Abingdon Library, 1 pm – 3 pm, Board/Writer’s forum.
* July 12th – Abingdon Shoney’s, 6 pm – 8 pm, Speaker Jack Beck and Wendy Welch, owners of the Little Bookstore of Big Stone Gap
* 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 Colonel Charles Dahnmon Whitt
* October 11th – Abingdon Library, 1 pm – 3 pm, Board/Writer’s forum.
* November 8th – Abingdon Shoney’s, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm, Speaker Scott Pratt. At this meeting, we will announce the 2017 officers.
* AAG member Linda Dobkins recently attended a Board of Governors meeting for the Virginia Writers Club and spoke with us briefly about topics that were addressed in that meeting. She also handed out Save the Date! Cards for the Virginia Writers Club 6th Annual Symposium, Saturday, August 6, 2016, that will be held at Piedmont Virginia Community College in Charlottesville, VA. Linda reported that the meeting attendees also discussed ways in which inactive members of the Virginia Writers Club could become more involved in club activities. If you would like more information about the Virginia Writers Club, visit their website at http://www.virginiawritersclub.org.
* Webmaster Sylvia Nickels reported that our website had 16, 657 hits, as of May 2016.
* 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 it is a renewal, the money can be sent to Jack Rose at PO Box 803 Abingdon, VA 24212
* 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. Thomas McKnight. Dr. McKnight has forty-eight years’ experience in the teaching profession. His proudest accomplishment in his teaching career is a twenty-year writing project with senior writers from southwest Virginia. Students involved with this project have contributed stories, poems, and essays to stage and radio plays that have been produced throughout Virginia and Kentucky. Much of his personal writing subject matter includes voices of Appalachia’s people, folklore, medicine, history, and music. He has taught at Southwest Virginia Community College, Bellarmine University in Kentucky, Western Maryland, and Virginia Tech. In semi-retirement, Dr. McKnight now resides in Sevierville, Tennessee with his wife of forty-four years, Judy Couch McKnight.

On Tuesday, May 10, 2016, Dr. McKnight talked to the AAG about good writing pieces having

great beginnings, hooks, and openings. He also led us in a writing exercise that prompted us to create what we thought would be the good opening lines in a story. It was a very enjoyable meeting and we appreciate Dr. McKnight joining us.

**Adjournment:**

President Vicki Fletcher adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jami McDonald, secretary