**Minutes**

Appalachian Authors Guild

A Chapter of the Virginia Writer’s Club

Bi-monthly Members Meeting

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

**Time and Place:**

The bi-monthly meeting of the Appalachian Authors Guild met on Tuesday, July 14, 2015 at the Shoney’s Restaurant in Abingdon, Virginia. The meeting was from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm.

**Attendance:**

Speaker Dr. Rob Merritt, President Linda Hoagland, Secretary Vicki Fletcher, Treasurer Jack Rose, Members Sylvia Nickels, Dolly McPeek, Addie Davis, Carol Jackson, and Tom Fugate.

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by President Linda Hoagland.

**Reports:**

* Secretary’s report was printed and given to each member by Vicki Fletcher. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the minutes as given for the May General meeting and the June Board meeting. One exception was noted that the date for the July 14th meeting was not on the reports.
* Jack Rose, treasurer, gave a printed report and it was approved as given. We now have $939.61 in the budget.
* Jack reported on the Virginia Highlands Festival. Jack was disappointed that not more authors had signed up for the VHF this year. There is still time to sign up. Week days are needed. Notify Jack quickly to get on the list to present your books at the festival.
* Linda reported on the speakers for the rest of this year. They are: September 8th - Joe Tennis; and November 10th - Steven James.
* Website/Communication chair Sylvia Nickels reported continuous hits of the website from people all over the world. We have 14,898 hits as of the meeting. She stated that Google is the most popular search engines and Chrome is the most popular browser.
* Linda reported 4 new members to AAG: Jennifer Brickey, Janie Jessee, Louise Kilgore, and Jami McDonald.
* Linda also gave out the schedules for the Perkins (Dandridge only), Zazzy’s in Abingdon, and Chapters Book Shop in Galax, VA. If you are on the list, e-mails will be sent as reminders. If you know ahead of time that you cannot make your scheduled time, please let Linda know as early as possible to allow time to get someone else for that time. If you are an AAG member and would like to schedule these, you can e-mail Linda to see the dates available. Her e-mail is lhhoagland@gmail.com.
* Linda let the group know that we are planning on an anthology of work from AAG members. The deadline for entries is September 1st. Entries can be poetry (no more than 50 lines), fiction and creative non-fiction (no more than 3000 words.)
* Linda said she had sent the wrong date to the A! magazine for this AAG meeting.
* A suggestion was made to do a Christmas anthology as a fundraiser for AAG. We will accept stories for this until September 1st.
* We also discussed doing another presale event for a fundraiser. At the next board meeting, Vicki will bring the details of purchasing a shirt, a messenger/tote bag, and a pen with the AAG logo on it. If the board agrees, details will be sent out to members and we will determine if enough sales will be available to pursue this venture. The fundraiser order forms were given out at the meeting. Sylvia will put a link on the website and email a form to everyone. Orders are needed by August 10th to keep the current pricing available for the items.
* Linda announced that we would not have an August board meeting due to the Virginia Highlands Festival. Any business that needs to be handled will be done through email. The next general meeting is September 8th from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm at Shoney’s. Joe Tennis will be the speaker at the September meeting. We really hope more members take advantage of these meetings. A group is only as productive as the members that work for it.

**Announcements:**

* The Lost State Writers Guild will be meeting on August 6th at the Kingsport Golden Corral from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm. Carol Jackson and Vicki Fletcher will have writing activities on Appalachian speak.
* Writing contests for you: Our AAG anthologies, Green River Writers, winningwriters.com, springfieldwritersguild.org/contests, Virginia Festival of the Book @ VABook.org

**Speaker:**

Linda Hoagland, President and Program Chair, introduced the speaker, Dr. Rob Merritt. Dr. Merritt is the Honors Program Director at Bluefield College. He is also faculty adviser for the Bluestone Review, literary magazine of the college. He read from his poetry and discussed many aspects of poetry. He did an excellent job.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned by president, Linda Hoagland.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Fletcher, secretary