**Minutes**

Appalachian Authors Guild

A Chapter of the Virginia Writer’s Club

Bi-monthly Members Meeting

Tuesday, September 13, 2016

**Time and Place:**

The bi-monthly meeting of the Appalachian Authors Guild was held on Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at Pat’s Kountry Kitchen in Lebanon, Virginia. The meeting took place from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

**Attendance:**

Speaker Gayle Trent, President Vicki Fletcher, Vice President JC Schweingrouber, Secretary Jami McDonald, Members Sylvia Nickels, Linda Dobkins, Linda Hoagland, Hazel Bostic, Addie Davis with guest Jonathan Davis, Brenda Musick, Larry Keith, Fred Powers, and Tom Fugate.

**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 June/July board meeting and the July general meeting.
* The final general meeting of 2016 is scheduled for Tuesday, November 8th, at 11:30 am at Shoney’s in Abingdon. Scott Pratt is tentatively scheduled to be our guest speaker. This meeting will also include the induction of officers for 2017. If anyone is interested in holding an office or position on the board, please let Vicki know before the October 11th board meeting.
* The AAG wants to congratulate Linda Dobkins for winning the James River Writers self-published book award for her third novel. She will get to meet the judge of the contest, go to the awards ceremony, and earn a small monitory prize. We are very proud of her! The board also wants to congratulate Linda Hoagland for her 1st place win for fiction in the Virginia Writers Club Summer Shorts contest. Congratulations, too, to Hazel Bostic for receiving an honorable mention for fiction in the Northern Stars contest. Hazel will also soon be featured in Front Porch Magazine. Good job, ladies, you deserve a round of applause! C:\Users\staff\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\0D13C7A2\Snoopy_Dancing_by_jessie4508[1].jpg
* Webmaster Sylvia Nickles reported that our website has had a total of 17, 617 hits. 125 hits were acquired from our link on *writersrelief.com*. Some hits also came from the website, *writersandeditors.com*. AAG is listed under ‘local and regional organizations’ on these sites.
* Due to an illness, Jack was unable to attend the meeting or compile the treasurer’s report. Vicki presented the report in his absence. We hope that Jack starts feeling better very soon.
* Checks were written in August for $50.00. As of September 1, 2016, our

checking account balance was $1,175.68.

* At the Virginia Highlands Festival, the Guild broke even on the cost of the rented spaces and the fees collected from the authors who were using those spaces. Approximately 375 books were sold among the 20 authors participating in the festival. The guild hopes more authors take advantage of this great selling opportunity next year.
* Appalachian Wine and Words, an event the Guild had considered hosting in October 2016, has been canceled. We still hope to make this event happen in 2017. The board will keep members posted on news of this event as more preparations are made. Linda Dobkins has kindly offered to be the coordinator for this event. If you have any suggestions, concerns, or ideas, please feel free to contact her at [lhdobkins@gmail.com](mailto:lhdobkins@gmail.com).

* 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, Gayle Trent. Gayle’s most recent book, in the Calamity Café mystery series, is published under the pseudonym Gayle Leeson. As Gayle Trent, she writes the Daphne Martin Cake Mystery series and the Myrtle Crumb Mystery series. As Amanda Lee, she writes the Embroidery Shop Mystery series. Gayle lives in Virginia with her family, which includes her beloved Great Pyrenees.

At our meeting, Gayle talked to the AAG about a variety of topics including her love of cozy mysteries and the road she traveled to becoming a published author. She also talked about her friendship with best-selling author Dean Koontz. Mr. Koontz has said, “One day, I found myself happily reading mysteries by Gale Trent. If she can win me over, she has got a great future.” Gayle has a very bubbly personality and a wonderful sense of humor. It was a very enjoyable meeting and we appreciate her for joining us.

You can learn more about Gayle and her books on <http://www.gayletrent.com/>.

**Adjournment:**

President Vicki Fletcher adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Jami McDonald, secretary