

Virginia Writers Club: Board of Governors Meeting September 8, 2012

The September 8, 2012, meeting of the Virginia Writers Club was called to order by president June Forte at the Westlake Library, with 13 members and a guest attending. The following members attended: June Forte, Becky Mushko, Linda Layne, Betsy Ashton, Chuck Lumpkin, Gary Kessler, Jim Morrison, Dick Raymond, Jack Ferguson, Sally Honenberger, Lynn Young, Sara Robinson, and Diane Hennessy King. Guest was Eva Lynn from Valley Chapter. The only chapters not represented were Hampton Roads and Chesapeake Bay.

OLD BUSINESS

Financial Report: Executive Director Linda Layne noted that the amount of total funds was \$12, 224.14. This is a thousand more than this time last year. Plus the symposium had a profit of \$388.84.

Membership Report: Executive Director Linda Layne reported that with 325 current members, the Virginia Writers Club is growing.

2012 Symposium Report: Betsy Ashton, reported on the success of the symposium and asked what focus we should have for next year—writing student or publishing. Consensus was both. June Forte brought up the timeline for next year and if we held symposium during the school year that we could have a partnership with the college. Darrell Fleming gave input on how the Appalachian Heritage Symposium worked and how successful the partnership was between Southwest Virginia Community College and the Appalachian Authors Guild was.

Website: June noted that members were not using the forums. According to Linda Layne, people are using the website, but some don't know how. The majority haven't yet logged on. Discussion followed about strategies to get people to use it and what should be on forums. When Betsy Ashton suggested that someone take responsibility for writing an article in the E-Nunciator, Sally Honenberger volunteered to write an article on how to use the website and will send it to Gary Kessler who'll add input. Linda explained how Matt Iden can set up the pages for different administrators.

More discussion: Chuck Lumpkin suggested a committee to encourage chapters to participate, June suggested a YouTube video, Becky suggested a Powerpoint demonstration. June will develop a communication project with her students: Linda suggested a visual of the website's tutorial.

Chuck Lumpkin moved that the VWC create a 3-person committee appointed by the president to assist chapters in how to use the website and to monitor progress. Betsy seconded, and the motion passed. The committee will report progress to the board. Details of committee should be approved by the president.

By-law revisions: Sara Robinson reported that the proposed by-law revisions were not ready to hand out, although a draft has been done. A section about the chapters needs to be added. June will review the draft submission and examine the chapter development section. After Sara

incorporates the chapter development section, the board will vote. June noted that chapter info is now in the standing rules, but needs to be incorporated into the by-laws.

June noted that officers need to look at position description and see if some responsibilities need to be moved around. Sara said she has refined the description of position. June will e-mail these descriptions to officers for their input.

June also noted that we need to keep the standing rules as a document and that she'd like to add a new position—community outreach. Work on by-laws won't be ready for a vote by November meeting.

Lynn Young suggested that the information from the VWC Standing Rules of Order a about chapters be incorporated into the Bylaws.

Sara made a motion to move the section about chapters from the standing rules to the by-laws. Betsy seconded, and the motion passed.

Jim Morrison pointed out that, due to vagueness of wording, the procedure for voting for changes can be either in person or digitally.

Nominating Committee for next year's officers: June reminded the board that officers serve two-year terms; president is now limited to two consecutive two-year terms, but other officers can serve more than two consecutive two-year terms.

Annual Meeting: Meeting set for November 3. Linda Layne will know soon if Commonwealth Club in Richmond will be available and will send a notice in about two weeks. Lynn Young reported that the guest speaker will be professor Andy Kaufman of UVA. He is a member of the Blue Ridge chapter.

Betsy suggested that whoever volunteers to sit at the registration table (annual meeting & symposium) should get in for free. Jack Ferguson suggested getting a student or other non-member. Sally, Sara, and Dianne Hennessy-King volunteered to be at the registration table. Linda will recruit volunteers.

Linda noted that annual meeting fee has been kept at \$35 for several years but may have to increase to meet expenses. There was discussion about charging those who attend the meeting but do not have the meal.

Jack made a motion to give Linda permission to increase the fee for the annual meeting at her discretion. Jim seconded; motion approved.

Sally made a motion for a provision for a voluntary contribution added to the registration fee to contribute to young writers. Betsy seconded; motion approved.

Awards Committee: Chairman Jim Gaines (not present) needs nominations by the end of September.

VATE (Virginia Association of Teachers of English) Affiliation: VWC will have a table at VATE conference on Oct. 21-23. Corporate membership for VATE is \$200; table fee is \$180, but we have been offered a table for free. Linda volunteered to donate \$380 for corporate membership and table. Board decided to accept offer of free table and have VWC pay the \$200 membership fee. Linda also joined Piedmont Council of the Arts to promote VWC speakers bureau, VWC members as judges of writing contests, etc.

YVWC: Linda noted a need to recruit mentors for YVWC members and that the scholarship deadline is now March 1. Much discussion about budget for young writers. Sara pointed out that we need a budget for the YVWC as a line item and that she will work on a budget for next year.

Gary Kessler moved the VWC set up a yearly budget of \$2,000 for youth outreach for 2012 and 2013. Chuck seconded; motion approved.

For the scholarship award, Chuck suggested that VWC chapter nearest the recipient's school present the check at the school's awards assembly.

Other Old Business: June read a thank you letter from Southwest Virginia Community College thanking the VWC for its support of \$300.

NEW BUSINESS:

Golden Nib: The Board of Governors will wait until February to make a decision on the length of entries.

February BOG meeting: February 2, 2013, in Charlottesville.

New Chapters: Write By The Rails, a group of writers in Manassas, has asked for help in exploring the option of becoming a VWC chapter. June will meet with them next week. Darrell Fleming will be on the committee.

Sara mentioned that the Shenandoah Valley Chapter made contact with a teacher at JMU who will serve as coordinator of the chapter.

Virginia's Poet Laureate: VWC member and Virginia Poet Laureate Sofia Starnes (not present) is compiling *The Nearest Poem Anthology*. Contributors are needed to submit their favorite poems. Linda handed out a brochure that explained the project.

Jim made a motion that the VWC grant \$200 toward the project. Diane Hennessy King seconded. Motion approved.

Raffle: Sally proposed that she'd be in charge of each chapter's basket to be raffled at the annual meeting. Gary seconded; motion approved.

James River Conference table: Linda reported that she and June will be at the table, which costs \$200.

Virginia Festival of the Book: Linda reported that the fee for a table has not yet been announced, but the VWC will have a program, "Getting It Together—the Process and Power of Anthologies." Gary Kessler is in charge.

Virginia Literary Journal: Linda announced plans for a new anthology—*Virginia Literary Journal*—which will contain works with a Virginia theme or Virginia setting.

E-nunciator: Linda noted that the online E-nunciator had less than 50% click-throughs for readership and she thought short e-mail announcements (with links) would be more effective.

Betsy made a motion to give Linda the latitude to shrink the E-nunciator to meet the current needs of the organization. Dick Raymond seconded; motion approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by June.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Mushko, recording secretary