

MEETING MINUTES

Virginia Writers Club, Inc. Annual Meeting November 1, 2015 – Richmond, Virginia

Attendees: Betsy Ashton, J. Dennis Bounds, Ellen Butler, Austin Camacho, Kimberly Dalferes, Denise Davis, Phyllis “Maggie” Duncan, Fred Fanning, Dennis Fargo, John Ferguson, June F. Forte, James F. Gaines, Dianne Hennessy King, Linda M. Layne, Linda Levokove, Sigrid Mirabella, Joanne Liggan, Judith M. Maxwell, John Maxwell, JoAnn Meaker, Brenda A. Morris, James W. Morrison, Richard Raymond III, Larry Rubendall, Ann M. Skelton, Barbara Stout, Harvey Tate, Alba Threatt, Robert Threatt, Kelly Wilson, Lauvonda Lynn Young.

1. President called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM.
2. Jack Ferguson made a motion to approve the agenda. June Forte seconded that motion. All were in favor, and the agenda was approved.
3. Jim Gaines made a motion to accept the minutes. Ellen Butler seconded that motion. All were in favor and the minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting were approved.

4. Old Business/Reports:

Linda Layne provided an update on the budget. She noted that we are where we were last year. The balance of accounts is \$7,712.00. She referred those in attendance to review the cash sheet provided to them. She noted that the finances of the club were open for consideration by anyone interested. Betsy Ashton noted that the club was in the black and within budget. She spoke about the website being prepaid for the year. She noted that the website is more than just a website. The VWC also uses it to manage membership. She referred those in attendance to the pie chart provided to attendees.

5. 2015 Meeting Schedule Announcements:

Betsy Ashton noted that the Board of Governors has several meetings scheduled for next year and that all these meetings are open to the general membership. She noted that all meetings except the annual meeting were held in Charlottesville, Virginia. The annual meeting next year will be located at the Embassy Suites in Richmond, Virginia. The symposium for next year will be August 6, 2016, at Piedmont Community College Campus. Our goal for the symposium is to pay for itself. The symposium tables are a lot of work and volunteers are needed. Kim Dalferes did the public relations for last year's event that helped a great deal. Please let Kim Dalferes know if you are aware of anyone who wants to be a sponsor.

6. Golden Nib Award:

Poetry: Third Place, Linda Lerachio; Second Place, Judy Whitehall; First Place, Barbara Stout.

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Fiction: Third Place, none awarded; Second Place, Esther Whitman Johnson; First Place, Ann Skelton.

Nonfiction: Third Place, none awarded; Second Place, Gail Kenna; First Place, Esther Whitman Johnson.

7. Announcement:

Betsy Ashton announced that Kohler's Books is holding a veteran's contest to help veterans get their books published. First place is a book contract with Battle Flag Books. She also noted that Chesapeake Writers want to move their website under the state website. Betsy Ashton was wondering if other chapters would be interested. Betsy Ashton reminded those in attendance that if they brought books for the raffle, they should put them on the back table.

Luncheon/Guest Speaker: Betsy Ashton introduced Jack Ferguson in costume as James Branch Cabell spoke. James Cabell spoke about his life and writing career. He highlighted his most famous book "Jurgen."

8. New Business:

Betsy Ashton opened a discussion of the Virginia Writers Club 100th Anniversary. Suggestion for the anniversary included developing a list of all the past Virginia Writers Club presidents and perhaps a list of keynote speakers from the annual meetings. One member raised the question as to whether we can get free publicity for the event from organizations like National Public Radio. It was noted the Southern Writers Magazine has helped in the past with the symposium. Virginia Commonwealth University was identified as a location for the 100th anniversary. The goal is to have chapters more involved in the whole anniversary process. This raised a concern about choosing a location more a central for the chapters. Betsy Ashton noted that work has been done on identifying a central location. She noted that Charlottesville and Richmond require chapter members to travel a relatively equal distance. Another member raised the point that the potential exists for using history magazines to get the word out on the event. There was also a suggestion that as part of the celebration we could do a Speakeasy and dress for the era of 1918. A suggestion was also made to make Pinterest Board from 1918 available to all. It was noted that in addition to the founding of the Virginia Writers Club World War I ended in 1918, and the Spanish Flu Epidemic occurred in 1918. It was observed Information is ready for the Festival of Books in March and that should be used. Another member suggested that an anthology of stories written in 1918 be developed. A member suggested that the Virginia Writers Club get a government proclamation from the General Assembly for the 100th anniversary. It was also suggested that we should make the celebration, not just a one-time event but rather a year-long event. The suggestion was made that we try to obtain a writer's

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position equal to the Poet Laureate. A Best Writers Award was suggested. This was followed by a suggestion that perhaps a Writer in Residence Award would be better than a Best Writers Award. The emphasis was on recognizing a best Virginia writer. The suggestion was also made to identify other famous writers who belonged to the Virginia Writers Club over the 100 years. The question was asked if there were any Cobell family members alive today who could say who would be interested in participating in the anniversary. A member suggested that an illustrated timeline with pictures be developed of the Virginia Writers Club for the anniversary. A member asked which chapter was the oldest. The Blue Ridge Writers is recognized as the oldest chapter in the Virginia Writers Club. It was suggested that we do something with the Library of Virginia which might include inviting librarians to the event or providing displays for libraries. It was suggested that we do something with the State Historical Society for the anniversary. It was suggested each chapter coordinate their club history as part of the historical society in their local area. Other suggestions included promoting to all age groups and ethnic backgrounds. Those also suggested that we do a screenplay. Moreover, finally, it was noted that the Hollywood Cemetery as a good location for an event.

9. The raffle and silent auction were conducted.

10. There being no more business Betsy Ashton adjourned the meeting at 2:20 PM.