

Speed City Sisters in Crime
January 23, 2021

Business meeting: 11:03 a.m. Zoom meeting

Called to order: President Janet Williams

The Minutes: Carol Paddock moved and Brenda Stewart 2nd to approve the November minutes
Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: Brigitte Kephart

BEGINNING BALANCE: **\$2,773.11**

ENDING BALANCE: **\$2,924.91**

Tony Perona moved and Steve Terrell 2nd to accept the treasurer's report.
Motion approved.

Profit from Murder 20/20 sales is \$802.04

Membership: Elizabeth San Miguel

51 members

32 have paid local

40 have paid national.

Elizabeth San Miguel explained how to pay membership dues online. Local dues are \$15.00 or \$16.00 if paid online. Anyone with questions regarding this should contact Janet Williams or one of the other board members.

Hawthorn Mineart will place a call to action on the SCSIC website to make this easier for people.

Discussion:

Steve Terrell asked if a person paying dues is automatically a member.

Elizabeth adds those that pay to the membership.

Tony Perona asked if those paying local dues are vetted to see if they are national members.

Diana Catt asked if national dues may be paid via the SCSIC website.

Hawthorn Mineart stated there is a link on the SCSIC website to pay national dues.

Website and Programs: Hawthorn Mineart

Website traffic increased from November, 154 visits.

Facebook - 222 followers, 30 new followers (24 members in Facebook group)

Instagram, Twitter and Facebook have new followers.

Newsletter was send to 77 people.

2021 Updates – Welcome letter, homepage, events and speakers page, authors information page, and anthology information.

Carol Paddock's promotion generated more traffic on the SCSIC website.

Recorded events are on YouTube.

Programs: Janis Thornton (upcoming meeting dates and speakers):

January 23 – Gary Sosniecki, retired journalist, newspaper editor and author, *The Potato Masher Murder*

February 20 – authors of *The Legend of Bigfoot*, Tammy Ayers, who writes as T.S. Mart, and Mel Cabre.

March 27 – John Gilstrap, two-hour workshop on writing. *Whose Story Are You Telling?*

April 24 – Open

May 22 – William Kent Krueger

Old Business:

2021 the Halloween Anthology update:

19 authors submitted stories. Need a fixed number of how many stories will be included.

Diana Catt stated the first read on the 19 submissions has been done. There were many POV issues.

Diana Catt and Tony Perona will meet on January 24th to discuss the submissions.

All submitting authors must be up to date on their membership dues.

Discussion: Diana asked about included inserts.

Suggestions for inserts: Personal ghost stories, historical ghost stories and legends, ghost stories in old newspaper articles that meet copyrights requirements.

Negatives for inserts: Book doesn't lean toward inserts, will not add or attract sells, and will increase the final page count.

Tony Perona suggested an extra story because one of our goals is to promote new writers.

Janet Williams said this will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Meme Blast: Created an increase in sales on Amazon. 15 books sold, 7 – 8 people shared.

Future Meetings: Janet Williams will contact Barnes and Noble but we may need an alternative place when in person meetings can be resumed.

Critique Group: Brenda Stewart will set up critique group meetings. They will continue on Zoom. Submit work as soon as possible.

New Business:

Washington Carnegie Library Event – *Demystifying Mystery Writing* led by Tony Perona on March 9, 2021 at 6:30. Location: 300 W Main St, Washington, IN 47501

The event was discussed by the Marketing Committee.

Wish to appeal to a wider audience.

Authors that have been published in at least one of the SCSIC Anthologies are asked to volunteer.

Janet Williams will be on the panel.

More female writers are needed for the panel. Contact Janet if you wish to volunteer.

Diana Catt volunteered to be on the panel.

Zoom presentation.

Janet Williams and Tony Perona will discuss using Eventbrite for the presentation.

Tony stated the Plainfield Library would like to do an event with SCSIC.

New Marketing Subcommittee - Janet Williams is creating a new marketing subcommittee to prepare a press kit and develop a more comprehensive marketing strategy to promote our books and organization. Volunteers are needed.

Indiana Writers Center – SCSIC is searching for more ways to partner with the Indiana Writers Center. Janet Williams will meet with Rachel Sahaidachny to discuss collaboration. There is a possibility of a two-hour write-in on first Fridays on Zoom. Members will be notified when this begins. Please give any suggestions on ways to expand our reach in the writing community to Janet prior to the January 30th board planning meeting.

Retreat Update – The retreat has been pushed back to the Fall of 2022.

Upcoming Events:

Washington Carnegie Library Event – *Demystifying Mystery Writing* led by Tony Perona
March 9, 2021 at 6:30. 300 W Main St, Washington, IN 47501

Midwest Writers day long event with Jane Friedman March 27: Topics – Professional query letters, researching markets, deciding if a book is suited for self-publishing. Cost is \$65.00.

John Gilstrap two-hour workshop March 27 following the SCSIC business meeting.

Member Announcements:

Steve Terrell Offered to lend his copy of Jane Friedman’s book to anyone wishing to read it. Just contact him.

Meeting Dates for 2021:

February Business Meeting – February 27, 2021 11:00 a.m.- via Zoom

Board Meeting to discuss goals – January 30, 2021 10:00 a.m. – noon

February Board Meeting – February 18, 2021 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned: Meeting adjourned 11:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, *Ramona Henderson*, Secretary