

Speed City Sisters in Crime
February 27, 2021

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

Called to order: President Janet Williams

The Minutes: Michael Dabney moved and Diana Catt 2nd to approve the January minutes
Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: Brigitte Kephart

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

ENDING BALANCE: **\$3156.11**

Profit from Murder 20/20 sales is \$817.23

Steve Terrell moved and Diana Catt 2nd to accept the treasurer's report.
Treasurer's report approved pending audit.

Membership: Elizabeth San Miguel

40 have paid local, 48 have paid national and 7 members need to pay dues

2 new members

Local dues are \$15.00 or \$16.00 if paid online. Anyone with questions regarding membership or wanting to get involved with leadership roles should contact Janet Williams or one of the other board members. Janet thanked Brigitte Kephart for setting up the online payment method.

Website and Communication: Hawthorn Mineart

Website traffic increased 7%.

Information regarding the speakers including John Gilstrap and William Kent Krueger has been posted in the Newsletter. This will also be promoted on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.

The library events are also being promoted on the website.

Hawthorn is working with Carol Paddock on branding and promotion. Eventbrite helps SCSIC keep track of the number of those attending the events.

Janet Williams stated anyone having difficulty getting into Eventbrite should contact her. If anyone has free events, Eventbrite can be used free.

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

Janis continues to provide us with amazing speakers each month.

February 20 – authors of *The Legend of Bigfoot*, Tammy Ayers and Mel Cabre.

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

April 24 – Susan Crandall, adapting *Whistling Past the Graveyard* for the big screen.

May 22 – William Kent Krueger

OLD BUSINESS:

2021 the Halloween Anthology update:

Diana Catt stated the 19 submissions have been returned to the authors for more editing.

The deadline for returning revisions is March 31st. She hopes all 19 stories will be in the book. Let Diana know if you wish to pull your story. Janet Williams thanked Diana Catt and Tony Perona for their editing work.

Discussion:

Janet asked Diana Catt for title and cover suggestions. The title *Hoosier Halloween Havoc* has been suggested. Steve Terrell feels we should put more thought into the Title selection. Janet stated ideas for the book title should be sent to her or Diana Catt. Janet stated we should have the title before we decide on a cover. Steve Terrell asked how many stories were submitted. Diana said nineteen stories were submitted and twelve require very little editing.

Action Plan:

Select a title before selecting the cover.

Submit title suggestions to Janet Williams or Diana Catt prior to March 18th so they can be reviewed by the SCSIC Board.

Future Meetings:

Janet Williams stated all meetings will be held via Zoom for the foreseeable future. She will be checking with Barnes and Noble to see if meetings may continue there in the future. Looking at other options as well. It may be midsummer before we can meet in person again.

Washington Carnegie Library Event – *Demystifying Mystery Writing* led by Tony Perona on March 9, 2021 at 6:30. This is a virtual event.

Janet Williams will be on the moderator.

Panelists are Andrea Smith, Russ Eberhart, Tony Perona, and Liz Dombrosky.

Access may be obtained through Eventbrite and is tagged with Speed City.

Janet stated this is a great opportunity to promote our 20/20 Anthology and our SIC Chapter.

Tony Perona is planning another event with the Plainfield Library on April 27th. Volunteers are needed for a moderator and panelists for the April event.

First Friday Write-ins:

First Friday write-ins will occur March through November. Access the write-ins on Eventbrite. A writer may sign up for as many as desired. Write-ins are open to all members and any genre is welcome.

Janet Williams stated the same link used to access the February business meeting may be used to access the write-ins. The next write-in will be March 5th.

Critique Group Update:

Brenda Stewart hopes to get the critique group organized again. Twenty people were invited this month and five attended. Stories or chapters for critique should be sent to Brenda. Try to limit them to 20-25 pages but this not is not a strict rule.

NEW BUSINESS:

Plainfield Library Event on April 27th - Janet Williams stated volunteers are needed.

Recordings of speakers: All presenters giving permission will be recorded and may be viewed on the website. Carol Paddock is in charge of the recordings. The *Potato Masher Murder* presentation is now on the website.

SCSIC Board Objectives and Goals: Carol Paddock presented the Board Objectives and Goals to the membership. Janet Williams stated we hope to qualify these.

Build a sustainable chapter – focus on marketing strategy and create a standing marketing committee.

Develop and provide opportunities for members – learning and publishing.

Broaden the impact of SCSIC – collaborate with other writing groups.

Carol stated she would like the standing marketing committee to create new marketing strategy, a new logo compatible with all media, a press kit and a membership kit.

Five members have volunteered to serve on the marketing committee. Contact Carol Paddock by email if you wish to serve on the committee. Carol stated they are hoping to divide the tasks among the committee members. She would like to schedule the first meeting in the next two weeks.

Janet stated she hopes to get new members interested in leadership roles.

Indiana Writers Center –Janet Williams stated we will continue co-hosting a two-hour write-in on first Fridays on Zoom with IWC. During the week of April 19th the IWC has a weeklong writing event. This is still in the discussion stage and more information will come.

Flying Island is in the discussion stage.

Janet feels our involvement with IWC will help SCSIC reach a broader audience.

Upcoming Events:

First Friday Write-in – March 5, 2021 – go to Eventbrite to sign up.

Washington Carnegie Library Event – *Demystifying Mystery Writing* on March 9th.

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. This is in conflict with the John Gilstrap two-hour workshop March 27 following the SCSIC business meeting.

Plainfield Library Event – April 27, 2021.

Member Announcements:

Janet Williams announced that Janis Thornton had a great interview on WFYI. She also thanked Janis for providing us with such a high quality of speakers and said the speakers alone are well worth the SCSIC dues.

Steve Terrell announced registration for the Midwest Writers Summer Conference is now open.

Steve also said Bouchercon 2021 will be held in New Orleans, August 25-29th.

Russ Eberhart stated that Bouchercon will give full refunds if it has to go virtual.

Janet Williams said Murder and Mayhem 2021 is in Chicago, April 17th.

Meeting Dates for 2021:

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

Business Meeting – March 27, 2021 11:00 a.m. (Critique Group 10:00 a.m.) - via Zoom

Meeting Adjourned: Meeting adjourned 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, *Ramona Henderson*, Secretary