

Speed City Sisters in Crime March 27, 2021

Business meeting: 11:05 a.m. Zoom meeting

Called to order: President Janet Williams

The Minutes: Carol Paddock moved and Crystal Rhodes 2nd to approve the February minutes
Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: Brigitte Kephart

BEGINNING BALANCE: **\$3169.49**

ENDING BALANCE: **\$3230.10**

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

Membership: Elizabeth San Miguel

48 members

44 have paid local, 48 have paid national

Unpaid members are not counted in the totals

Some have paid local dues twice. Their second payment will be put toward their 2022 membership.

Website and Communication: Hawthorn Mineart

Website traffic increased slightly.

Most activity on the home page and speaker events page.

Many searching through Google and the Indiana Writers Center website.

67 people received the newsletter.

Hawthorn is still looking for the right format for the newsletter.

Facebook – 227 with 199 likes.

Twitter – 250

Instagram – 165, an increase of 25

Posting events and speakers. The Zoom link can be posted on Eventbrite.

YouTube – the two library events are posted. The YouTube website will be added to the information.

Discussion: Janis Thornton asked why Weebly didn't work out.

Hawthorn said it was a free trial at first. The cost is too high but he will continue to search for free ones on Weebly.

Janis said she uses Mailchimp and suggested it.

Hawthorn stated he had trouble with the newsletter reaching people with Mailchimp.

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

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, What being an author means to him.

June 26 – Debra Des Vignes, Founder of the Indiana Prison Writers Workshop

Closed captions: Janet Williams stated she has had a request to make meetings accessible to hearing impaired individuals. She has sent a request to national SIC. Please give her any suggestions you have.

Steve Terrell suggested Otter.ai. Janet stated it records only one side of the equation.

Jeff Gabbard stated Zoom has closed captioning for webinars.

Steve said live transcription can be done in Otter.

Janet will keep working on this.

OLD BUSINESS:

2021 the Halloween Anthology update:

The deadline for returning revisions is March 31st.

Janet Williams said we need ideas for the title and book cover. Forward idea to editors Diana Catt and Tony Perona. The first title suggestion was *Hoosier Halloween Havoc*.

Ramona Henderson has submitted some ideas for the title.

Janet Williams wishes to get marketing started in advance of the publishing.

Brigitte Kephart stated total sales for Murder 20/20 are \$2304.00.

Action Plan:

Select a title before selecting the cover.

Submit title suggestions by the middle of April so they may be reviewed by the SCSIC Board.

Future Meetings:

Janet Williams stated all meetings will be held via Zoom until everyone has received their vaccination. Hopefully it will be mid-summer. Local dues are \$15.00 per year.

Plainfield Guilford Library Event April 27, 6:30 p.m. –

Volunteers are needed for this virtual event via Zoom. Female members are needed.

Janet Williams will reach out to longer term members.

Cheryl Shore and Russ Eberhart volunteered.

Michael Dabney will narrate.

Janet stated panelists do not have to have authored a story in the Anthology.

Authors will be discussing how we approach our craft.

The March 9, 2021 virtual event went well.

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

First Friday Write-ins:

First Friday write-ins are scheduled 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 last two hours. Janet Williams stated the same link used to access the business meeting may be used to access the write-ins. The next write-in will be April 2nd at 6:30 p.m. Brigitte Kephart will lead the write-in.

Discussion: Writers write in twenty-minute increments with discussion in between.

May work in any genre.

The link is the same every time.
Everyone is welcome to join.

Critique Group Update:

Brenda Stewart stated the critique group has been going well. Stories or chapters for critique should be sent to Brenda. Try to limit them to 20-25 pages.

The group meets on Zoom at 10:00 a.m. on the Saturdays of the monthly business meeting. Russ Eberhart provides the link via email.

Questions regarding the critique group should be sent to Brenda Stewart.

Marketing Committee Update: Carol Paddock

Next committee meeting is Wednesday April 7th at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Let Carol know if you are interested in joining.

They will be looking at the following goals – strategy, a new member welcome kit, press kit, promotion of the Halloween Anthology and the play Deadbeat.

Janet Williams stated any ideas or expertise are welcome.

Excerpts of the Deadbeat are on YouTube.

Hawthorn Mineart stated we are also trying to promote a package of two plays, the SCSIC Deadbeat and Stakeout by Crystal Rhodes and Lillie Evans.

NEW BUSINESS:

Events: The February speaker and March panel discussion are posted on YouTube.

Hawthorn has posted the link.

501c6 organization letter for the IRS – cost \$650.00.

Would allow SCSIC to meet in libraries without being charged fees. There are no libraries in this area that do not charge for meeting spaces.

Will allow us to be part of fun raising events.

Discussion: Steve Terrell thought the cost was low and it may have to be re-established every year. There are fines if something is done wrong.

Hawthorn Mineart stated Monette Draper (accountant) would have the details regarding this.

Brigitte Kephart stated SCSIC is set up as a 501c6 now.

Pam Rees stated the IRS is 6-9 months behind if everything in the situation is not perfect.

Janet suggested tabling the decision regarding the letter.

Steve Terrell said this would not be a big deal if SCSIC is not changing our status.

Brenda Stewart stated she thought the letter would be worth the money.

Steve Terrell noted it would be a one-time thing.

Janet Williams amended the motion to spend the \$650.00 to get the letter.

Membership voted – passed.

Upcoming Events:

Plainfield Library Event – April 27, 2021.

Murder and Mayhem 2021 is virtual, April 17th.

Member Announcements:

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

Pam Rees will also be attending Bouchercon.

Meeting Dates for 2021:

Board Meeting – April 15, 2021 6:00 p.m.

Business Meeting – April 24, 2021 11:00 a.m. (Critique Group 10:00 a.m.) - via Zoom

Meeting Adjourned:

Motion to adjourn –Steve Terrell moved and Pam Rees 2nd. Meeting adjourned 11:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Ramona Henderson, Secretary