

Speed City Sisters in Crime
August 28, 2021

Business meeting: 11:06 a.m. Zoom meeting

Called to order: President Janet Williams

The Minutes: Ross Carley moved and Brigitte Kephart 2nd to approve the July minutes
Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: Brigitte Kephart

BEGINNING BALANCE: **\$3,644.82**

ENDING BALANCE: **\$2,512.95**

Michael Dabney moved and Janis Thornton 2nd to accept the treasurer's report.
Treasurer's report approved pending audit.

Membership: Elizabeth San Miguel

48 members are in good standing with local and national SIC.

No new members this month.

Website and Communication: Hawthorn Mineart

Stats are up because of the book.

27% increase in traffic on the website.

36% increase in unique visits.

Traffic increase because of the Halloween Anthology page and rules for writing detective stories.

Facebook, Twitter, and Google were the top sources.

51% opened the newsletter. Members are encouraged to open the letter.

Facebook had nine new followers. The Halloween Anthology for sale was the number one post (37%).

Instagram at a 213% increase.

Twitter at a 512% increase.

The book going on sale has given quite a boost in interest.

Discussion: Russ Eberhart commented that if you buy the book on Amazon you can post a critique.

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

August 28 – Keith Royston, *The Westside Park Murders: Muncie's Most Notorious Cold Case*

September 28 – J. C. Kinney, *Write What You Know With A Twist*

October 23 – Andrew W. Huggins, *The Art of Revision*

November 27 – Working on a program regarding how to prepare a manuscript.

Russ Eberhart has contacted Janis Thornton about having a panel to speak on writing cyber information and technology in fiction.

Marketing Committee Update: Janet Williams and Hawthorn Mineart for Carol Paddock Tony Perona and Janet Williams are working on a news release and strategy.

The committee is reaching out to individuals.

Jon Burroughs has contacted The Daily Reporter.

Janet will send out an email this week.

The new logos have been updated on the SCSIC website. Hawthorn Mineart will update them on social media.

The book cover has been approved by SIC National.

Hawthorn Mineart, Carol Paddock and Elizabeth San Miguel are putting together taglines and blurbs.

Janis Thornton said there will be opportunity to promote our books at the Elwood Red Gold Chili Cook Off October 23. She will provide more information later.

The Morgan County Library Event in Monrovia will be on November 27th. Volunteers are needed.

Next Marketing Committee Meeting: August 31 at 7 p.m.

Book Sells Update:

The price of the book for chapter and author members is \$9.00 per book to be paid when the books come in.

Brigitte Kephart stated there will be a promotion at Black Dog Books in October. Date to be determined.

Janet Williams said we will be reaching out to libraries and making certain they receive a copy of the book.

Janet Williams said we have applied for the Library Authors Fair on October 31.

SCSIC is on the waitlist for the Authors Fair at the History Center on December 4th. Three members of SCSIC have been accepted. Everyone should support them.

Future Meetings:

SCSIC will continue meeting via zoom through this year. Will receive money from National SIC to continue with Zoom. Hope to be able to meet at public libraries soon.

First Friday Write-ins:

First Friday write-ins continue. Attendance has been small but expected to pick up. Janet Williams asked for a volunteer to host on September 3rd because she will not be available.

Critique Group Update:

The critique group will continue to meet at 10:00 a.m. prior to each business meeting. The group met via Zoom prior to the August 28th meeting and critiqued Steve Terrell's work.

Interested members should send their material to Russ Eberhart as early as possible prior to the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

November Election of Officers: This is an opportunity to play a role in the organization. Let Janet Williams know if interested in running for office. All members are eligible to run for office. All members may attend the board meetings.
Someone is needed to head the nominations committee.

Prime Crime Conference:

There was no response to the SCSIC letter regarding code of conduct.
The conference has been postponed until April.

Contracts for Authors and Others Involved with the Books:

Steve Terrell is working on the contracts.

Member Announcements:

Steve Terrell – Midwest Writers Agent Fest is October 13-16th. It is delegated to the business for writing – query letters, marketplace, proposals, etc. The fee is \$199.00 and \$50.00 extra for an agent to review a query letter, first page, etc.

Steve recorded an excerpt from his story in Trick or Treats. It is on YouTube. He would like members of observe it and provide feedback.

Crystal Rhodes – Crystal's play 1200 Miles From Jerome has won 3 wards. It will be performed at Onyx Fest. Rehearsals begin next week. Deborah Asante is the director.

Michael Dabney – He will be doing a virtual book tour September 1-9. This will be posted on Facebook and his personal page.

Meeting Dates for 2021:

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

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

Motion to adjourn: Janis Thornton moved and Elizabeth San Miguel 2nd

Meeting adjourned 11:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, *Ramona Henderson*, Secretary