

**Speed City Indiana Chapter of Sisters in Crime
Minutes for Saturday August 26, 2023**

Hybrid in-person and Zoom meeting called to order at 11:05 a.m. by Janet Williams who ran the meeting because Diana Catt could not make it. She was travelling. Elizabeth San Miguel attempted to take minutes and recorded the meeting.

Minutes from August meeting. Steve Terrell moved to approve, and John Allen seconded. Approved by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report: Brigitte Kephart reported July beginning balance of \$3605.61.

Some income came in for book sales and member dues.

Total Income of \$84.37

Expense for brochures of \$179.00

Ending balance of \$3510.98.

Moved by Elizabeth San Miguel and seconded by Ramona Henderson to approve pending audit. Passed unanimously.

Membership: No Report

Website: Newsletter updated and sent out. Been busy.

Speakers: Steve Terrell reported on who the speakers will be for the rest of the year.

Today will be Lance Darden is police officer and teaches program on how to listen and de-escalate situations. Good for writers who write scenes.

September speaker is Deb Lambert. Director of collections for Indianapolis Public Libraries. Will speak about digital life of libraries. How libraries select books for collection. Also, on recent controversies with banned books. Will speak at Beech Grove public library.

October speaker will be Lori Rader-Day. Working on where and when. Will do event at Carmel library. It is in conjunction with her most recent book.

November speaker will be Leslie Bundewitz who is past president of national Sisters in Crime. Will be on the third Saturday rather than the fourth.

Janet requested if anyone has ideas for programs in 2024 they should send along suggestions.

Some issues with sound online. Janet is not sure what is wrong. People can hear Janet. Speakers will go to computer.

Old Business:

Retreat Committee: Janet sent out email about retreat. Crystal Phodes, Carol Paddock and Elizabeth San Miguel will meet later. John Allen has volunteered to join committee.

Amber Waves of Graves: Steven Terrell said book is in the proofing stage. Editors have sent along corrections to pdfs. Special thanks to Hawthorn Mineart. We should all express our thanks for his critical work on the manuscript especially with all he is going through. Book will be published mid-November.

Janet thinks we should have an event for book launch. Please send along suggestions to editors or anyone in leadership.

Playwriting group is still meeting. We are working to produce play for 2024 Fringe Festival. We are meeting September 30th at the Barnes & Nobel in West Clay at 4pm.

Upcoming events

- Diana and Russ will be at Bouchercon in San Diego.
- Monrovia Library Author Fair on October 7, 2023 will be the third annual MCPL Author Fair. This event takes place from 2-5 PM at the Monrovia Branch of the Morgan County Public Library, located at 145 S Chestnut Street, Monrovia, IN 46157. If you want to participate, get a hold of Diana Catt.
- October 21st is the Indy Public Library Author Fair downtown. Chapter will do 2 panels. Tony Perona on panel for how we write. Another panel with Russ and on the Peril and Promise of AI.
- Book signing Nov. 16 at the Author's Patch in Danville with members preparing recipes from **Homicide for the Holidays**. That will be from 5-8 p.m. If you want to participate get a hold of Russ. If you don't have a story in HoHo then pick out a recipe to bring. Half a block of square.
- Signed up to do panel and book signing on Sunday August 11th 2024 at Bloomington Public Library. Will do a 45 minute panel with 15 minutes for Q & A. Janis set it up. Will be able to sell our books.
- Janis and Steve Terrell on Oct 21 will be doing presentations at a true crime conference. Steve will talk about researching his current book. Janis will talk about her current book.

Election of 2024 Speed City Sisters in Crime will happen in November. Every position is open. Michael Dabney will chair our election committee.

Seven offices need to be filled:

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Media
Membership
Programs

He reached out to board members about serving next year. Most are tired. He has heard for one person who has never been a board member for the media membership chair. Email interest to Michael.

It is not burdensome to serve on the board. As a person who has been a member for 15 years, Michael has served in all positions on the board for at least one year. It is not a particularly difficult. Overall it is very, very, very fulfilling. He is encouraging, particularly people who have not run before, to step up.

Janet said you have an opportunity to set the direction of the chapter. We are working on a retreat, a play, an anthology, or if you have any ideas of what we might be doing please consider expressing your creativity in a leadership roll.

New Business

Steve Terrell – Next year's Bouchercon is in Nashville. It's a fun town and an easy drive. They will be doing an anthology. Due date for submissions is November 1, 2023. The theme is Music, Murder, Mystery and Mayhem. You should start working on your story now. Sharpen those pencils and get ready to send us a story! They will be accepting submissions until November 1st, 2023. Please provide your submission as a Word document. Bouchercon is August 28 to September 1.

Bouchercon will start three days after Killer Nashville writers conference ends. Killer Nashville is more for writers whereas Bouchercon tends to attract readers. Killer Nashville is third full weekend in August.

Russ mentioned three authors at MWW:

Eric Adolph who wrote Beautiful is a retired cardiologist who lives in Noblesville.

Terry Barnett who wrote Revenge Knows No Bounds who lives in Lebanon.

Charles Jacobs who wrote The Pangaea Solution who lives northwest of Cincinnati.

The first two are going to join Sisters in Crime and Russ thinks we should try to get them all in Sisters in Crime.

Member News

M.B. Dabney has a new book coming out on September 1st.

Launch party will be at MacArthur Books in Carmel from 2 PM to 4 PM on September 30th. (Afterwards we will have playwriting at West Clay Barnes and Noble at 4PM.)

Lillie Barnett and Crystal Rhodes play Grandmothers, Incorporated will be in October 6th – 15th. Tickets are now on sale. Groups of 10 or more get a discount. Crystal asked if the poster could be put on the Sisters in Crime website. Yes, it can. The group presenting it is a special group. They are actors who range in age from 60 to 90. They have been together for a long time. Actors are the age of the characters in the play which is a switch.

Russ mentioned at Killer Nashville he met an agent there. He had coffee with him and the agent asked for the full manuscript. New book is called Pro Bono Assassin. Not sure where it will go.

Michael Dabney moves to adjourn. Mary Bischoff seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Future 2023 meeting locations, which will also be on Zoom:

- **Saturday 23 September 2023** 10:00am-2:00pm Beech Grove Public Library (1102 Main St, Beech Grove, IN)
- **Saturday 28 October 2023** 10:00am-2:00pm Lori Rader-Day program at Carmel Public Library.
- **Saturday 18 November 2023 [THIRD SATURDAY]** 10:00am-2:00pm Lawrence Public Library (7898 Hague Rd, Indianapolis, IN)

Anthology update: Amber Waves of Graves

- Editors: Lillie Evans, Tony Perona and Stephen Terrell
- Theme: Rural settings, country graveyards and small-town life in Indiana can be beautiful. And deadly.
- Number of stories in book will depend on the length of those accepted.
- To be released November 2023, self-published by the Chapter

Submission/Publication Timeline (Updated)

- July 31, 2023: Editors final review. Book Cover selected & sent to national for approval.
- September 20, 2023: Formatting, proofing, approvals from national, printing
- November 15, 2023: Publication Date