

Speed City Sisters in Crime

Minutes from FEB. 24, 2024 meeting

Location: Zoom / Carmel Public Library

Business meeting Called to Order by President Janet Williams @11:09AM 2/24/2024

Minutes for January 2024 meeting were approved on a motion by Ramona Henderson and seconded by John F. Allen.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Brigitte Kephart. The beginning balance was \$4,218.04. With income of \$198.78 and expenses of \$126.15, the ending balance was \$4,290.67. On a motion by Eliabeth San Miguel and seconded by Lillie Evans, the report was approved pending audit.

Media: John is doing updates to the website, please contact him with author updates. Looking to update our events page and work with some information to attract younger audiences.

Membership: Elizabeth San Miguel reported that we have 46 members who have paid their national dues, less on the local dues. Can pay via online link or contact us to get a physical address to pay by check. Going to begin targeting some younger members with a membership drive.

Programs: The speaker for this month is **Laura Van Arendonk Baugh**, fantasy and Sci-fi author, who will talk about the promotional benefits of **BookFunnel**.

Our **March** speaker is **Nick Petrie**, the bestselling author of the Peter Ash thrillers, who is going to talk about everything from **life logistics** to **work habits** to the **mental and emotional aspects of the writing life**.

For **April**, the speaker is true crime author **Jane Simon Ammanson**. (**May postpone to later date**)

For **May**, Ball State professor **Chris Flook** will join us to talk about his new book, called "**Indianapolis Grave Robbing: A Syndicate of Death**."

Events:

March 9 – Between The Pages Bookstore in Lebanon – Tony and Russ, email Russ if you can attend.

The Hamilton East Public Library event is April 20 in Fishers. Diana has submitted an application for the chapter's participation.

Midwest Writers Workshop – July 11-13 More information to come

The chapter is working on the details for attending an event in Bloomington August 11, time to be determined Possibly 2-3PM. Russ will report on details later. Looking for semi-final list of authors to attend.

Talking to Authors Patch about a future date.

Old Business:

There is a book-signing and panel discussion at the Elwood Public Library on Feb. 10. John, Diana, Janis Thornton, Michael Dabney and Mary Bischoff volunteered to attend. Some audience interest and younger, hoping for some positive return for the chapter. Did sell a book and John will coordinate with Janet for deposit.

The retreat committee doesn't have a report but the goal is still to have a chapter retreat in 2025. No new information to date. Aiming for Spring or Fall 2025. Waycross in Brown County.

Tracking sales for Trick or Treats. Payouts are close about \$100 away on sales, AWG is \$800 away.

New Business:

Michale and Diana are at a writers workshop downtown and promoting Speed City Sisters in Crime 2/24/2024.

Midwest Writers Workshop is July 11-13 at Ball State; if we sponsor the event we will get 6 members will get a \$100 discount for 6 tickets. We would get \$1134 from members, chapter would cover \$866 from the chapter. We think it is \$189 with the discount but will confirm, standard attendance \$289. Lottery will be held for persons interested to draw for who will benefit from discount. Flash fiction contest expected to be held again this year. Membership vote to commit to support the event conditional upon getting 6 persons to commit in participating on workshop. Let us know if you are interested by March 15th. Ross Carley said he was interested.
Vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Beech Grove Library meetings – still don't have a location to meet in March, proposing zoom for March. Need a membership for Carmel to get a room there. Carmel Member Marianne Halbert, was able to reserve for the FEB meeting will work for see if we can do March at Carmel. We will check into getting a membership card possibly for the chapter.

Diana submitted an application and we are 57 on the list for possible lottery acceptance into Indy Fringe Festival. Ramona suggested we check with other venues to try to get into a theater – ours would still consider a short play and any theater rental would likely require a 2 act play at minimum. Continuing to work on this years play with hopes of getting in somewhere. (*The Catphish Seat*)

Camp Necon – July 18 – 21 – conference in the NEW England area, primarily for Horror but does cover other fantasy, Sci-Fi and speculative mystery. Like a summer camp for authors. Very good Keynote speakers and Diana and Marianne Halbert have attended many.

Killer Nashville – August 22-25, Nashville, TN. Ross spoke about the event, both Bouchercon and Killer Nashville are 3 days apart this year. Clay Stafford runs the entire event and Russ feels its run very well.

Boucher Con is Aug 28- Sept 1 – in Nashville, TN.

Writers Police Academy is June 6 – 9, Appleton, WI - Police procedurals and crime scene investigations. Charlaine Harris is the speaker this year. Elizabeth San Miguel and Brigitte Kephart will be attending 2024.

Westcoast crime – Seattle, in April, Russ recommended, didn't have the dates.

Electronic copy of Amber Waves of Graves for Authors, Mary Bischoff was asking when the authors will get a copy.

Member news:

Steve Terrell is invited to speak Aug 10 at Indiana State Library for the Summer Lecture Series on The Madness of John Terrell

Russ Eberhardt – the Pro Bono Assassin is at the editors, expected to be out July or August 2024

John is requesting members follow him on his author page to help him gather announcements from our members and get a larger audience. Facebook page for John F. Allen Author

Stick around for our speaker Laura Van Arendonk Baugh after a short break! Will begin at 12:05PM

Brigitte Kephart Motioned to adjourn, John Allen Second at 12:03PM 2/24/2024
Minutes submitted by Brigitte Kephart