Speed City Indiana Chapter of Sisters in Crime

Minutes for June 27, 2026

Location: Zoom and Carmel Clay Public Library

The meeting was called to order by chapter Media Manager Elizabeth San Miguel at 11:01 a.m.

Minutes: The minutes from the May meeting appeared in the June newsletter. Motion by Crystal Rhodes to accept the minutes was seconded by Tony Perona. Accepted.

Treasurer's Report: The June report was published in the June newsletter.

BEGINNING BALANCE (5/19/2026): $ 2,330.76

Income:

Authors Patch Book Sales	$ 61.09
Authors/Members Copies S&S $	$470.00
Sales from Book Launch	$252.00
Sales from Mayfest (Cash + Square Sales)	$256.28
Sales from ComicCon Chapter Grant (from National)	$400.00

Total Income: $ 1484.60

Expenses:

Initial copies of S&S (via Elizabeth San Miguel)	$699.56
May Speaker gift card (Janis Thornton)	$ 25.00
More Copies of S&S (for book launch; via ESM)	$360.71

Total Expenses: $ 1085.27

ENDING BALANCE: $ 2,730.09

Notes: • Amber Waves of Graves through 06/19/2026 - Bal $624.25 to reach author pay out

Motion by Arianna Grazzianni to accept the report (pending audit) was seconded by Ramona Henderson. Accepted.

Membership: Nothing new to report.

Media: An article was accidentally left out of this month's newsletter and will be included next month.

Elizabeth San Miguel is accepting submissions from anyone wishing to contribute to the newsletter. She plans to have a new monthly spotlight on authors of stories in the Scenic and Sinister Anthology. If your story was included, and you would like to be featured, please send information about yourself and a couple of lines about your story.

Speakers: Janis Thornton has speakers lined up for the next several months and welcomes your suggestions for future presentations, especially for the November meeting. Speaker Line-up:

> **Today –** Larry Sweazy will present his workshop on finishing our works-in-progress
>
> **July** – Terry Barnett, our Sister In Crime, will talk about designing books and why it's OK to judge a book by it's cover
>
> **August** – Janet Williams will moderate a panel on Artificial Intelligence that will include Russ Eberhardt and Reese Hirsch. Note: Russ Eberhardt will be featured in a podcast on StarbaseIndy.com, July 15, 2026.
>
> **September** – Lori Rader Day, author, will speak (via zoom) on book promotion for shy authors
>
> **October** -- Laura VanArendonk Baugh, author, return to teach us more about distributing our books through BookBub.

Old Business

1. Landmark Anthology news:
    a. Landmark Anthology news: Scenic and Sinister: An Indiana Landmarks Anthology Launch party was well attended by almost all authors and several guests. We sold many books to authors in addition to what was pre-ordered. The readings went well. Refreshments were awesome! Please continue to look for landmark gift shops, other affiliated signing opportunities, let's market this thing!
    b. Comic Con Indy Convention Center was great! We sold some books, gave away some books, handed out many of our trifold info fliers. Not a lot of attendance to our panels, which may have been due to poor time slots and the one good time slot had a competing panel with almost the same title.
        i. There was discussion about participation cost versus benefits. Suggestion was made to provide an analysis of each event.
        ii. Discussion tabled to next month on developing a formula for sharing event costs with other groups and/or individuals.
    c. Another reminder: QR code stickers are available to put on your business cards or your bookmarks. See Diana for more info.

d. Submission opportunity: Dragon's Edge Press is announcing open submissions for Sci-fi /fantasy shorts and poems until July 15, 2026. The theme is Power Corrupts. See Mary Bischoff for more information.
e. InConJunction is July 10-12 Sharing table expenses with Dragons Edge Press. Mary Bischoff will sell our books there.
f. Kirkland Art Fair, June 13, 10-4 was cancelled due to storm damage. It has been rescheduled to September 12th. Janis won't be able to go then due to conflict with another signing event in Stark County. However, if anyone wants to go then, cost is cheap, but you need to bring your own table, chairs, and tent. Diana Catt can supply chapter books for you to sell.
g. The Author Patch in Danville carries all our chapter anthologies and several of our member's novels. We expect our new Landmark anthology will soon be in the gift shops at Indiana Historical Society and the Indiana State Museum. Once established, we hope to place other anthologies there as well. Michael Dabney volunteered to contact Indiana Landmarks for promotion possibilites.

New Business

1. Our board met and approved the cost of approx. $150 to purchase a retractable banner (33" x 80") for events. The company will take our vision and make it real.
2. The chapter is considering new bookmarks and possibly business cards with our QR, website, books or one or two books with great covers.
3. The board discussed developing a procedure to determine how much to charge member authors who sell their own books at our table and other incidences of sharing table costs. Member discussion has been tabled until the July meeting. Bring your suggestions.
4. Current inventory of chapter books (some books have been ordered, but not yet received):
    a. Racing Can Be Murder – 94
    b. Bedlam at the Brickyard – 69
    c. Hoosier Hoops & Hijinks – 59
    d. Decades of Dirt – 4
    e. Fine Art of Murder – 12
    f. Homicide for the Holidays – 6
    g. Murder 20/20 – 9
    h. Trick or Treats – 13
    i. Amber Waves of Graves – 25
    j. Scenic & Sinister - 67
    k. Circle City Crime - 10
5. Suggestion for members doing book signing events: purchase our anthologies at the member rate, then resell at your event.

6. Discussion on obtaining a vendor table at GenCon 2027 has been tabled until we can see a cost/benefit analysis of previous years events.

Member News

Janis Thor and Stephen Terrell will be at Beyond the Book Fair at the Starke County Public Library on September 5, 2026.

Stephen Terrell recently published a four part article for the Delaware County Historical Society on the first death penalty case tried in Delaware County. He encourages members to take advantage of our most excellent critique group, which helped him to hone this article for publication.

Lillie Evans and Crystal Rhodes are finalists in the 2026 Maglarin Memorial Comedy Festival for Stakeout - their one act play that was performed at the Indie Fringe Festival years ago. This was the first time they submitted the play. Now all of their plays have won international awards. Congratulations!

Crystal Rhodes became an "accidental blogger" on "60 and Me." She submitted a story and the publication contract included a requirement for her to write 12 blog articles for them. The group has a lot of money and a large readership. After the eighth article, they help you sell your other products, (i.e. books) to their readers, which could be a great opportunity.

Reminders about Upcoming Events:

Book signing at In/Cconjunction is July 10th through the 12th.

Danville Street Author Fair is September 26, (conflicts with our meeting time).

Ladies Night Out at the Author Patch on November 19, 2026 will feature our anthologies: Homicide for the Holidays Food and Scenic and Sinister.

BoucherCon 2026, will be in Calgary, Canada, October 21st through the 25th.

BoucherCon 2027 is in Washington DC

BoucherCon 2028 will be in Indy. Please contact Diana Catt if you are interested in volunteering

Officers for 2026

President: Diana Catt, diana.catt@gmail.com

Vice President: Mary Bischoff, riasnetbook@gmail.com

Secretary: Arianna Grazzianni, grazziarti@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Tony Perona, tony.perona@gmail.com

Membership: Michael Dabney, mbdabney27@yahoo.com

Media: Elizabeth San Miguel, esm.kirlia@gmail.com

Speakers: Janis Thornton, janisthor@aol.com