

Speed City Sisters in Crime

Minutes to board meeting, Jan. 17, 2024

Via Zoom

All seven board members present – John F. Allen, Diana Catt, Michael Dabney, Brigitte Kephart, Elizabeth San Miguel, Janis Thornton and Janet Williams. Former board member Hawthorn Mineart also attended.

President Diana Catt said there were three items on the agenda: Chapter anthologies, Event planning and Membership.

CHAPTER ANTHOLOGIES

Elizabeth San Miguel and Janet Williams suggested a murder mystery anthology with historic Indiana landmarks as settings. No date suggested. In addition, Tony Perona (via Diana) suggested an anthology that could be titled Romance and Other Dangers. It could be published as early as next February.

Diana said she would talk to Tom Doherty at Cardinal Publishing to gauge his interest in publishing our next effort.

No theme, editor or timing were decided on the issue, which would be brought up at the Jan. 27, general membership meeting.

EVENT PLANNING

There is a signing at the Elwood Library on Feb. 10.

However, there was a general consensus that the chapter needed to do a better job of event planning and the marketing to support it.

John F. Allen volunteered to head a new marketing committee and both Elizabeth and Janet volunteered to also serve. Membership would also be opened up to the general membership at the Jan. 27, meeting. The committee would provide guidelines for event planning, help coordinate the scheduling and marketing of events, and help develop relationships with local venues – libraries, independent and national booksellers – that the chapter regularly visits.

Diana would also discuss with Russ Eberhart how to best assist him in scheduling book signings.

Membership

John said the chapter must better define who we are, what we do and why we do it, in order to attract new members, especially younger members. Besides monthly speakers and book signings, the chapter needs to show greater value in its membership. He is looking to maximize access to the chapter's social media channels.

Diana planned to discuss with the national board and other chapter presidents how lifetime memberships are structured.

The board also voted to establish Brenda Robertson Stewart, a chapter co-founder, as a lifetime honorary member of the chapter.

Minutes submitted by Michael Dabney