

Village Writers' Club Minutes

February 22, 2016

Mary Lou Moran, president, called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. in Room 6, Coronado Community Center. She welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes, January 25, 2016: The minutes were approved as posted on the club website.

Financial Report: Melissa Sonnen, treasurer, reported an Operating Fund balance of \$1,646.15 and a Workshop/Anthology Fund balance of \$1,612.38 for a total balance of \$3, 258.53 as of February 22. An end-of-month report will be posted on the website.

L'Audible Art, May 9, 2016: Mary Lou urged members to begin getting their stories, poems, and essays ready to bring to the Read-Arounds in March and April. We will need to practice reading our pieces before an audience. Each reader is limited to five minutes (about 650 words). Chair for the event is Marlene Kloack. She will need volunteers to help with set up and with refreshments.

Chairpersons' Reports:

Membership: Nancy Foris, membership chairman, asked our visitors to stand. A record number of guests—19—attended the meeting. One former member, Mary Laughlin, rejoined the club. Following the meeting, Cliff Darnell, also joined. Welcome, Mary and Cliff!

Nominating Committee: Jerry Davis, chairman of the Nominating Committee, asked any member who is interested in serving as an officer in 2016-2018 to please contact him. New officers will be elected at the April meeting and will be installed in June.

Programs: John Swinburn, programs chairman, provided a handout giving information about the March 28 meeting, "A Look Inside." This will be an informal roundtable discussion among all of us as writers. Some questions we will discuss are: What prompted us to start writing? What keeps us writing? Why did we choose one kind of writing over another? What motivates us? What are the best ways to improve the art of writing?

New Members Group—Judy Lacy has organized a group for new writers, to encourage them and give them a safe place to share their writing. Please contact Judy for more information: LacyJWrites@gmail.com or 226-5328.

Upcoming Events:

FOCCL Presents, 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25, Coronado Center, Room 6: Featured speakers will be Mary Lou Moran and Jerry Davis who have worked together to publish three books of original skits for senior adult theater groups and a collection of their

award-winning short stories. They have also collaborated to write two plays produced and staged by the Village Players Association.

Writing Workshops: Jerry Davis announced that VWC will sponsor a six-hour workshop on Saturday, May 14, featuring creative writing instructors, Dr. Stephen Vanderslice and Dr. Stephanie Vanderslice, from University of Central Arkansas in Conway. More information will be coming soon.

The club also plans to sponsor three mini-workshops during the summer on the fourth Mondays in June, July, and August. The June workshop will deal with how writers can use social media to enhance the marketing of their work.

John Swinburn introduced Suzanne Sweeten, reporter with the *Hot Springs Village Voice*, who moderated a panel discussion by eight club members who are now published authors. Participants included: John Achor, Linda Black, Jerry Davis, Elizabeth Foster, Chap Harper, Mickey Jordan, Mary Lou Moran, and Madelyn Young. Speaking from his or her own personal experiences, each panelist answered two prepared questions—one about writing and one about publishing. Then the audience asked questions of the panelists. Everyone seemed to enjoy the lively, informative exchanges.

Mary Lou adjourned the meeting at 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Madelyn Young, Secretary

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