Minutes for AGT meeting for January 2022

The Authors Guild of Tennessee held their monthly meeting at Faith Lutheran Church in Farragut. The social time and library book exchange began at 10:30 a.m. The official business meeting began at 11:00.

The following members were present:

Kaye George, Leoma Gilley, Cyn Taylor, Russ Fine, Jim Hartsell, Jerry Morton, Vicki Bennett, Art Stewart, and Cheryl Peyton.

Visitors: Sherry Fine, Bill Barbour

Welcome – Cheryl let us know about members who could not attend. Sam Bledsoe has COVID.

Mary Gaines’ husband is ill. Bobbi has a pacemaker, but the monitor is caught in the supply chain issues. She’s feeling weak. Randy Carpenter was present but had to see about his son was sick at school.

Last week’s regular meeting was cancelled because the church was closed due to weather predictions. Some members could not come this week due to previous commitments.

New member: Bill Barbour is originally from Pennsylvania, but moved to Knoxville from Atlanta. His first book, *The Wind*, is about the experiences of a German soldier in WWII. He has sold about 600 copies so far and has 21 reviews.

Bill was in a writer’s group in Atlanta who met regularly to critique each other’s work. He would love to start a group like that here. He found AGT through Preferred Pharmacy in Tellico Village and was referred to Bobbi.

December minutes: Minutes of the December meeting have been approved online.

Treasurer’s report: – Russ Fine

Balance as of December 1 was $1972.26. Balance as of December 31 was $1953.03. Total amount of outstanding checks is $9.75 to Carroll Helm. His family will be contacted about cashing the check. Available balance as of today is $1943.28.

New Procedures for 2022: Cheryl

Book exchange: There is an ongoing problem with members reviewing books for other members. Therefore, some changes are being implemented. Members are requested to find books on the AGT website that they haven’t read and arrange to exchange books with them. Bring one or two books to a meeting and arrange with someone to exchange. Check out is as usual. Kindle reviews on Amazon may go straight to Goodreads. Copy and paste also works well. There will continue to be a book table with a sampling of books from absent authors.

Fairs and festivals: Since no one has offered to oversee this task, Cheryl will research possible venues to learn who attends, whether people buy books and what kinds of books might be more successful. Those interested in participating in a particular event should form a committee and designate who will take on responsibilities for administration, set up, etc.

Committee Heads remarks:

Publicity: Jerry Morton gave an update on the writing contest for students in Lenoir City.

The committee plans to meet with the school system next week. With the current COVID situation we may need to postpone the start of the contest.

Programs: Kaye George

Feb Art Stewart A Science and Arts presentation

Mar Bob Booker – News Sentinel reporter - Stories torn from the pages of time

Apr Pat Crumpler – Major writing guidelines, creativity vs formulas

May Bobbi Chapman – Marketing

New book: Kaye George

*Handbook for the Widow* is a new publication by Kaye George. When her husband died in 2017, she had lots of help from many people. She put together some of those resources into this 26-page book. It sells for $4.00 in hard copy and $.99 for the ebook.

Program: Kaye George spoke on using tax deductions to your advantage as a writer.

### Authors or artists can claim a loss for 10-20 years on their taxes for their business. Provided you keep good records to show you are trying to make money, authors are considered a special business category. It is NOT a hobby. As long as you can show you were engaged in trying to make a profit through personal involvement in selling, marketing, time and effort. It is important to keep records of this for the IRS.

In case of questions from a CPA, you may find more information on this topic in **section 1.183-2(b)** of the Federal Tax Regulations.

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-26/chapter-I/subchapter-A/part-1/subject-group-ECFRcc67ec453a5e514/section-1.183-2>

### To file you will need Form 1040 Schedule C. In Line 10. Use Writer as your profession and the code is 711510.

The Schedule C form can be found here:

<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f1040sc.pdf>

Detailed instructions are at:

<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/i1040sc.pdf>

Part 1 Income lists what was sold.

Part II is where you can knock off money you would owe.

Advertising is straight forward. Everything you spent on PR. Bookmarks, mailing out books to reviewers, online ads, etc. (Mailing can be here or under postage—doesn’t matter, just be consistent from year to year.)

Expenses: mileage rate $.56/mile, keep track of EVERYTHING everywhere you go that relates to your books! Meetings, conferences, hotel bill, food, mileage to meetings, fairs, research, picking up supplies, etc.

Cost of books sold includes artwork, printing, donated books, advertising, flyers, charity contributions, libraries.

Line 10 Dues for AGT and other organizations

Office expenses including toner, paper, pens, pencils, clothes, shoes (if for an appearance or conference)

Travel and meals – conference, airline, hotel, meals are 100% if it is a business meal in a restaurant for 2021-2022.

30 – Use of home (form 8829) – Sq footage of house and office, all bills, landscaping insurance, pest control, repairs. Regulations allow 300 sq ft. but this will depend on the size of your office and the percentage of your home that is used.

31 Profit/Loss

New equipment, depreciate or deduct it. Allowed $1 M.

Be consistent every year.

Get odometer reading on Jan 1 and document mileage

You can amend taxes for 3 years, but you must keep receipts for 7 years.

Kaye’s notes have been emailed to all members.

Meeting Locations: Cheryl wishes to make a monetary donation to the church. The Board has put $100 in the budget for this purpose and there was general agreement this is sufficient. Cyn Taylor suggested that we have every meeting at Mimi’s since they don’t charge for the room. Panera will also give a room, but not in Turkey Creek. The change of meeting place will be investigated and discussed at the next meeting.

### Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m. Next meeting scheduled for February 3 at 10:30 at Faith Lutheran Church.

### 