Minutes for July 7, 2022 AGT meeting

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 speaker was introduced 11:00. The business meeting commenced at 11:35.

**The following members were present:**

Bobbi Chapman, Linda Fitzpatrick, Jim Hartsell, Russ Fine, Randy Carpenter, Art Stewart, Morris Hudgins, Sam Bledsoe, Laura Derr, Kaye George, Stephen Lin Bales, Stan Johnson, Adrienne Small, and Cheryl Peyton.

**Visitors**: Sherry Fine, Henry Small, Frank Snyder, and Curt Young.

**Welcome and Introduction of Speaker:** Cheryl introduced Sam Venable, author and columnist for the Knoxville News Sentinel.

**Program**:

Sam Venable advised that he had been asked to speak on the difference between writing for a paper and writing books. His response was that there are similarities and differences. Writing for the paper, for him, required an incident currently in the news he could use as a topic, that he admired fiction writers who could make up situations and characters. He quoted his grandfather’s wisdom about people who belonged to different religions as similar to journalists and authors: We’re on different trains but headed for the same depot.

Sam spoke on the need in journalism to write in short sentences as you worked on a deadline and had limited space to make your point. He has found that he can’t write anything without feeling the pressure of a deadline.

One aspect of writing that is the same for newspaper writing and fictional writing is that you need to be accurate. If you write something erroneous in the paper, there will be a correction published the next day. Sam advised he would often call sources of information to make sure he had gotten the details correct.

He talked about the difficulties in meeting a deadline when the news was breaking fast and he had to write several days in advance of publication. He recalled when he was out fishing and learned over the radio that Bruce Pearl had been fired by UT, an important local news story. He rushed to the Sentinel building without having a pass, needing to knock on the door to be let in. Then he had one hour to write a column centering on the event. He made the deadline.

 Sam had brought with him samples of his nine books and order forms with synopses and costs of his books. Cheryl invited members to consider ordering a book or two as Sam had come to speak to us for gratis.

**Business Meeting:**

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

Treasurer’s report: – Russ Fine

Balance as of June 1 was $1,552.83. Balance as of June 30 was $1,611.72. Cash received in Jun: $7.14 for book sales.

New Books:

Jim Hartsell notified us that he was coming out with a boxset of ebooks of his Boone Series for $9.99.

Kaye George advised that she has a new book coming out soon in her Neanderthal series.

Committee Heads reports:

 **Marketing**: Cheryl informed the group that Jerry and Jim would be meeting this month with school officials to develop all the specifics on the writing contest this fall.

 **Library:** Laura reminded all of the procedure of bringing your book(s) to lend, and then picking up the remainder to take home after the meeting.

 **Retail Stores**:

Cheryl advised she had picked up books at Cheesecakes Plus More as Russ is no longer there to maintain the inventory. She also reported on placing books at The Café, a new restaurant in Loudon.

 **Vetting/Membership:** Bobbi reported she continues to receive new applications. Introductions made of Frank Snyder and Curt Young, the most recent applicants.

 **Fairs, Festivals, and signings:** Cheryl reported especially good attendance and sales at the Lavender Festival in Oak Ridge Next event is the Southern Charm & Sweet Tea on Sept. 24. Six have expressed an interest. We have two booths so could have two more.

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### Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m. Next meeting scheduled for August 4 at 10:30 at Faith Lutheran Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Peyton, Secretary Pro Tem

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