

**Speed City Sisters in Crime**  
**April 24, 2021**

**Business meeting:** 11:04 a.m. Zoom meeting

**Called to order:** President Janet Williams

**The Minutes:** Lillie Evans moved and Carol Paddock 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the March minutes  
Motion approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Brigitte Kephart

**BEGINNING BALANCE:**               **\$3,230.10**

**ENDING BALANCE:**               **\$3,331.04**

Carol Paddock moved and Russ Eberhart 2<sup>nd</sup> to accept the treasurer's report.  
Treasurer's report approved pending audit.

**Membership:** Elizabeth San Miguel

No new members this month

48 members

44 have paid local, 48 have paid national

An email will be sent to the four that haven't paid dues to see if they still wish to maintain their membership.

Discussion: The marketing committee met April 22 and discussed ideas for welcoming new members. The Chicago Chapter welcoming letter may be used as a template for the SCSIC welcoming letter. Janet Williams suggested we reach out to those we haven't heard from for a while.

**Website and Communication:** Carol Paddock for Hawthorn Mineart

Website traffic on home page increased 36%.

Traffic – 232 unique

Facebook – 227 hits, 24 members. Want to increase the traffic.

Twitter – 250 followers,

Instagram increased by 8.

Home page has been updated. Switched back to using Mailchimp.

The taping at Black Dog Books is still on YouTube.

26 tickets have sold for the April 27<sup>th</sup> event.

**Programs:** Janis Thornton (upcoming meeting dates and speakers on Zoom):

April 24 – Susan Crandall, adapting *Whistling Past the Graveyard* for the big screen.

May 22 – William Kent Krueger, what being an author means to him. Followed by Q & A.

June 26 – Debra Des Vignes, Founder of the Indiana Prison Writers Workshop

July 24 – Louisville Chapter, *The Derby Rotten Scoundrels* (Suggestions for topics needed)

August 28 – Keith Royston, *Muncie's Most Notorious Murders*

June 12 – Louisville Chapter’s monthly meeting – A discussion panel. Some topics will be the anthology and play writing. Volunteers for the panel are needed. Crystal Rhodes volunteered to discuss play writing. Janis Thornton stated the Louisville Chapter has just finished writing a play. Others wishing to volunteer should email Janet Williams and send her their biographies.

**Welcome New Members:** Janet Williams

Janet welcomed the following new members – Pamela Rees, Carol Hall and Keith Roysdon.

**Marketing Committee Update:** Carol Paddock

Next committee meeting is Wednesday April 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Email Carol if you are interested in joining.

Small groups will focus on the goals – strategy, a new member welcome kit, press kit, promotion of the Halloween Anthology and the play Deadbeat.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**2021 the Halloween Anthology update:**

Title selected – Tricks or Treats: Tales of All Hallows Eve

Designs for cover still needed. Contact Tony Perona or Diana Catt.

Price - \$8.00 for member authors and a free eBook will be provided. \$12.99 print price is being discussed. Janet Williams stated the price may be adjusted.

**Discussion:** Pamela Rees asked if retailers make money with the suggested price. Russ Eberhart stated most bookstores take between 35% - \$40% of the selling price. Barnes and Noble takes 40%. Ingram or some process for bookstores to order them is needed. Brigitte Kephart stated SCSIC makes \$8.00 for each book sold. Russ Eberhart said it would be good if the book could be published early enough to take to Bouchercon August 25-29<sup>th</sup>. Pam Rees suggested selling the book at Halloween venues such as haunted houses and corn mazes. Those venues usually look for a 50% profit. Janet Williams thinks it is worth looking into.

Information regarding the cover design will be sent to members.

**Action Plan:**

Select a design for the cover.

Submit title suggestions to Tony Perona and Diana Catt.

**Future Meetings:**

Janet Williams stated all meetings will be held via Zoom because Covid numbers are still high.

The board will be looking at this and decide when we can meet in person again.

Virtual access to meetings will continue when in person meetings start again.

**Plainfield Guilford Library Event April 27, 6:30 p.m. –**

Panel - Cheryl Shore, Tony Perona, Liz Dombrosky, Brenda Stewart, and Russ Eberhart  
Michael Dabney will serve as moderator.

Janet Williams will record the event.

Authors will be discussing how we approach our craft.

Access may be obtained through Eventbrite and is tagged with Speed City.

**First Friday Write-ins:**

First Friday write-ins are scheduled through November. Access the write-ins on Eventbrite. The next write-in will be May 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Carol Paddock commented that the live transcript is now available.

**Critique Group Update:**

Diana Catt had trouble getting into today's meeting.

Some others had trouble getting into the critique group meeting.

Janet Williams will ask Russ Eberhart about using the same Zoom code for all critique meetings instead of changing it each month.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Upcoming Events:** Elwood Home, Health, and Garden Show May 15<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

This is an outdoors event this year.

Authors Alley - SCSIC will have a free table for selling books. Volunteers are needed. Contact Janet Williams if interested in volunteering.

Any author wishing to obtain a table may do so for a \$20.00 fee. Contact Janis Thornton if interested.

Applications may be obtained at [www.elwoodchamber.org](http://www.elwoodchamber.org)

Janet Williams has offered to carpool.

**501c6 organization letter for the IRS** – cost \$650.00.

Janet Williams stated SCSIC will be obtaining the 501c6 organization letter.

This was voted on by members at the March business meeting.

**Grant:** SCSIC has received approval for a \$400.00 grant to be used for chapter expenses. This can be applied toward the 501c6 letter.

**Member Announcements:**

Crystal Rhodes was a semi-finalist in the 45<sup>th</sup> Pride Write Festival. This entitles her to a seat at the table to read plays entered in the 46<sup>th</sup> Festival.

One of the Crystal Rhodes and Lillie Evans book covers will appear in a Canadian movie.

Pam Rees announced she wants to sponsor a table at Bouchercon for a young playwright or someone who has had a hard time getting started in their writing career. Their writing will need to be mystery related.

Steve Terrell said the Midwest Writers will be having their 48<sup>th</sup> summer conference virtually in late July. The craft of writing will be discussed. They will also have the Midwest Writer Agent Fest that is usually taught by agents and covers the business aspects of writing. Writers get to pitch their work to some agents. This will take place about two weeks prior to the Prime Crime conference.

**Discussion:**

Diana Catt asked if SCSIC should consider attending Prime Crime at the Columbia Club. Steve Terrell mentioned there were issues at the 2019 Magna Cum Murder conference. Diana said we would need to ask for their policies. Carol Paddock said the SCSIC Board has been discussing the code of conduct. Janet Williams said our chapter voted to address this issue but we did not

receive a reply. Magna and the entire program were defunded and no longer exist. We want to make certain of their inclusion and code of conduct. The Columbia Club is a major sponsor the new conference. Diana thinks we should address this and not just rule it out.

**Meeting Dates for 2021**

Board Meeting – May 13, 2021 6:00 p.m.

Business Meeting – May 22, 2021 11:00 a.m. (Critique Group 10:00 a.m.) - via Zoom

**Meeting Adjourned:**

Motion to adjourn –Pam Rees moved and Lynne Handy 2<sup>nd</sup>. Meeting adjourned 12:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, *Ramona Henderson*, Secretary