

Minutes: Speed City Sisters in Crime Jan. 28, 2023

Location: Zoom

17 members attending

Business meeting called to order by Diana at 11:03 a.m.

Leadership reports:

- November 2022 minutes: Janet move to approve, Carol seconded; passed unanimously
- Treasurer's report:
 - November start: \$3434.78; income: \$40.18 dues, \$25 book sales; paid \$456.40 for Homicide for the Holidays; end balance: \$3034.56
 - December start: \$3034.56; income: dues, \$361.26, book sales, \$35; end balance: \$3439.82
 - Hawthorn moved and Ramona seconded to approve reports pending audit. Passed unanimously.
- Membership: 31 members and 29 paid national dues. Hawthorn reaching out to those who haven't paid national as well as members from 2022 who have yet to renew their membership. Had as many as 46 members in 2022. Hawthorn noted there is a new post office box – it's on the website.
 - Keith suggested offering a limited number of scholarships to members who might be struggling to pay.
 - Ramona noted that the playwrighting group she is involved in offers scholarships for members who take on some duties for the organization.
- Website update: information about January and February speakers posted on site as well as new post office box and 2023 meeting dates. New post office box: Speed City Sisters in Crime, P.O. Box 133, Indianapolis, IN 46206-0133
- Speakers: Diana shared that Brian Sweeney will be the February speaker. He is a writer and acquisitions director for Recorded Books as well as co-chair with Diana of Speed City's efforts to bring Bouchercon to Indianapolis in 2027.
- Events: Russ will be calling a meeting of what formerly was the marketing group and has been renamed the events committee.

Old Business

Amber Waves of Graves update:

- Deadline for submissions: March 24. Elizabeth handling submissions and Elizabeth will distribute to judges with a day or two. She will remove identifying information from the manuscripts.
- Judging complete: April 21. Manuscripts then shipped to editors.
- Editors return manuscripts to authors with edits by May 26 and authors have until June 15 to return them. Other deadlines are on the website.
- Judges: Brigitte, Michael and Janet
- Editors: Lillie, Tony and Steve

Future meetings:

- Meetings will be held at various Indianapolis Public Library locations around Marion County and those sites are posted on the website: These meetings will be hybrid, meaning there is a Zoom option. One exception – libraries are close Memorial Weekend in May so that may be Zoom only or at a location to be determined. Here is a link to the meetings: [2023 meeting locations](#)

New Business

Board meeting decisions:

- The board agreed to sponsor the Midwest Writers Workshop, which takes place July 19-22 in Muncie. Sponsorship level will be gold or platinum, depending on how many members want to buy tickets at a discount. Gold sponsors get three tickets and platinum six tickets. Members can buy tickets at the reduced price of \$250, a savings of \$99. It is first come, first served, but members must pay up in advance. Send money to the post office box, treasurer Brigitte Kephart, or to Janet Williams. Deadline to decide is end of February, which is when MWW wants to know whether we will be a sponsor.
- Note the July meeting has been rescheduled for July 29, the 5th Saturday of the month.

Book club

- Diana raised the question of re-establishing a book club for members but there was no interest expressed.

Upcoming events:

- Application submitted to participate in Hamilton East Public Library Author Fair on April 15. Application deadline: Feb. 12.
- Monrovia Library Author Fair takes place on Oct. 7. The deadline to apply is in August.

Member news

- Michael Dabney has a book signing at MacArthur Books, 2169 Glebe St., Carmel, on Feb. 25. It is set for 2 p.m. but he may change it to 3 p.m.
- Crystal Rhodes is one of four artists being featured at the 27th annual Arts and Soul Festival for Black History Month. The festival is sponsored by the IndyArts Council. She will participate in the opening program Feb. 3 at the Cabaret on Pennsylvania Street; on Feb. 8 at the Jazz Kitchen where she will perform as a spoken word artist; and in the closing program on Feb. 25 at the Arts Garden.
- Carol Paddock, writing as C.A. Paddock, has had her story and personal essay, "Doing What Comes Naturally," accepted for the upcoming Gal's Guide Anthology: Journey. There will be a book launch and signing on Saturday, March 25 at 1pm at the Gal's Guide Library, 107 S. 8th St. Noblesville, IN. The anthology can be pre-ordered for \$15/book at galsguide.org.

Michael moved and Lillie seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 a.m.