

MEETING MINUTES

Virginia Writers Club, Inc.
Board of Governors Meeting
September 12, 2015 – Charlottesville Virginia

Attendees: Linda Layne (Richmond/Blue Ridge), Betsy Ashton (Valley), Maggie Duncan (Blue Ridge/SWAG), June Forte (Write by the Rails), Jack Ferguson, and Dennis Fargo (Write by the Rails).

1. The president called the meeting to order at 10:43 AM. Phyllis “Maggie” Duncan First Vice President served as acting secretary for this meeting.
2. The president offered the agenda for approval. There was a motion to accept as is, which was seconded. The agenda was approved.
3. The acting secretary read the minutes from the previous meeting. There was a motion to approve the minutes with no changes, which was seconded. The minutes were approved.
4. The treasurer announced the scholarship winner’s funds (\$1,000) had been transmitted. The treasurer reported the membership numbers were up from the previous meeting, and that the symposium was the likely reason. The treasurer and the board discussed various means to get lapsed members back in. One suggestion was to offer a classified ad in the newsletter and on the web page for members’ books and/or writing services. What fees should be charged was then discussed. Further discussion led to offering this service to both members and non-members. A motion was offered to have VWC sell ads for members and non-members for their books and/or writing services and that members would be charged a flat fee of \$40 for the whole year and that non-members would be charged a flat fee of \$60 for the whole year. Because discussion had occurred before the motion, the motion was seconded, and the motion approved without further discussion. There was a motion to accept the treasurer’s report, which was seconded. The motion carried.
5. The symposium chair gave a debrief on the symposium and went over the feedback received in the surveys. Attendance was down by one-third from the previous year, but the feedback was that overall the symposium was excellent.
6. After the lunch break, the board discussed a proposal from the Chesapeake Bay chapter regarding hosting of their web site. This evolved into a discussion of whether this was a benefit we could offer all chapters. The consensus was if so, a representative from the chapter would have to make updates to the chapters’ pages, not the VWC web person. The consensus was Chesapeake Bay would be a pilot program. However, there were no motions made to this effect.
7. The president indicated the chapter participation in the Golden Nib and Summer Shorts contests were not good this year. This evolved into a discussion of whether to open the

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contests to all interested writers and not just chapter members. The consensus was the chapter representatives would discuss participation further in chapter meetings, with the goal to increase participation.

8. The first vice president gave a status report on the plans for the annual meeting. The cost of the luncheon is going to increase because of an overall increase in catering charges at the hotel, Embassy Suites in Richmond. However, the hotel had offered to give attendees who stay at the hotel a room discount. There was an agreement to request tables for a members' book fair, and there would be a raffle of donated books.
9. The board discussed a request for funding for the Hampton Roads Teen Book Festival; however, it is not a Hampton Roads chapter event. The board agreed that if the Hampton Roads chapter would adopt it as a chapter event, we would reconsider the funding request.
10. Two chapters had issues opening new bank accounts because they did not have 501(3)(c) status. They had closed existing bank accounts because the associated banking fees exceeded chapter income. This evolved into a discussion of whether chapters could funnel their funds through VWC's account, i.e., they would become line items in the VWC budget and VWC would issue checks for the chapters when needed. There was a motion to the effect of: Any chapter who wants to be covered until VWC's 501(3)(c) status can now opt to have their finances managed up under VWC. The motion was seconded, and there was no further discussion. The motion was approved with one abstention.
11. The Write by the Rails chapter requested a financial review from VWC, basically an audit of its finances. The second vice president agreed to conduct the audit. From this discussion, there was a motion to give Write by the Rails members a free year of VWC membership. The motion was seconded and approved. There was a further motion to appoint June Forte and Dennis Fargo as facilitators for Write by the Rails. This motion was seconded and approved.
12. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:08 PM.