

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

### **WLOV General Meeting May 11, 2022**

The May general meeting of WLOV opened to the theme song "Paperback Writer." President Linda Keenan called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. and reminded the group that WLOV would not meet in June or July of 2022. During that time, Linda suggested reading books written and published by WLOV members and writing reviews of those books for Amazon.

Members and guests were invited to take a few minutes to share with their table mates the one thing they've learned to improve their writing. People wrote their writing improvement tip on a card and table captains were selected to share the tips with the entire group.

Joyce Gillette, president of Dollars for Scholars, spoke about their non-profit group that provides scholarships for high school students. WLOV supports the efforts of Dollars for Scholars.

George Massey mentioned how authors featured at All Booked Up can increase interest in their books with customers.

#### **Introduction of New Members**

Ellen Davis writes non-fiction.

Dave Thieme writes historical books.

Dottie Klein writes spiritual books.

Ann Davidson writes historical fiction

Doug Wilcox writes military stories.

#### **New Books by WLOV Members**

Mark Newhouse: Devil's Bookkeepers: Book 2: The Noose Tightens

Chris Cooper: Secrets of Stress-Free Entertaining

#### **Treasurer's Report (Betty Frankfather)**

Balance at 4/30/22: \$8,410.50

Balance at 3/31/22: \$6,286.31

Membership: \$451.99

Scholarship: \$2,195.71

WLOV operations budget for this month was (27.75).

Betty said WLOV relies on \$20 dues from members and income from the 50/50 raffle to support the organization's operations, including promotions, publicity, the website, special movies.

#### **Membership Report (Shari Cohen)**

WLOV currently has 224 paid members.

In April, WLOV invited members to share primary needs in writing/marketing their books, in order to better serve the interests of the members.

Shari reported fifty-eight (58) of the seventy-five (75) in attendance responded to survey as follows:

17 write fiction, 16 write non-fiction, the remaining write in other genres, including poetry.

32 are interested in marketing

16 are interested in technology

18 are interested in editing

23 are interested in self-publishing

6 are interested in writing query letters

21 are interested in a smaller writers group

Shari said WLOV plans to address these needs and interests to add value to membership.

## **Amazon Smile**

Susan DeLay offered a brief summary of how to support WLOV with passive income by designating the organization as the recipient of a portion of proceeds from Amazon purchases. Information on signing up for Amazon Smile was provided at the tables.

## **Custom Apparel**

Custom Apparel can add the WLOV logo to shirts, bags, hats for \$12.95. For an additional \$5, they can add a name. A list of products will be available at Custom Apparel is on their website. Linda will alert the members when our product page becomes available and how to access it.

## **StoryWorth**

Joe Finch shared information about StoryWorth as a good way to start writing. StoryWorth allows people to collect their family stories, preserving them for future generations. Information is available at [www.storyworth.com](http://www.storyworth.com).

## **Committee Reports**

### **Communications (Rita Boehm)**

Members can request information on the local author spotlight in the Villages magazine by contacting [WLOVWriters@gmail.com](mailto:WLOVWriters@gmail.com)

In the first quarter 2022, local authors sold a total of 85 books at Barnes and Noble. Books by local authors are displayed on a shelf near the cash registers. Fourteen (14) local published authors are featured in April and May, with seven (7) authors in April and seven (7) in May.

WLOV needs volunteers for Book Expo 2023, especially seasoned volunteers. The Book Expos for 2021 and 2022 were cancelled because of Covid. Book Expo 2023 is scheduled for January 29.

[Writers of The Villages Group](#) on Facebook has approximately 100 members and can give you a voice in what you want to share.

### **Newsletter (Larry Martin)**

May trivia contest focused on Broadway lyrics. Winner will have their book publicized in the next newsletter. June's trivia contest is on authors who wrote classic short stories.

After the June issue, the newsletter will go on hiatus until September.

### **Scholarship (Tweet Coleman)**

The first annual scholarship fundraiser was held on April 29. WLOV granted \$500 scholarships to high school seniors Randy Nguyen and Emelly Corco.

Tweet recognized the committee who helped with the 2022 fundraiser. She quoted WLOV Founder, Mark Newhouse "Nothing builds success like success."

### **Website (Paula Howard)**

Writersleagueofthevillages.com contains past newsletters, information on new books written by members, information on authors. Anyone can access this information on the website without logging in. Logging in is only required to view the bylaws and the membership roster.

Paula explained members can log in on the member tab on the website.

Movies from Master Class are shown every Thursday at 3:00 p.m. Currently Steve Martin and James Heinz are the selected Master Class instructors. WLOV has been showing movies every week for two years.

**Announcements**

Short Story Night at Mystic Ice Cream on September 26.

Scary Musings at Laurel Manor on October 24.

Stories and poems will be selected for reading.

Seats are \$15. A table for eight may be purchased for \$100 (a savings of \$20).

**50/50 Raffle – Gross \$127**

\$61 was distributed in the 50/50 raffle.

**May Guest Speaker: Jack O'Brien, author of "The Roundabout Way" presented Marketing Tips.**

**Next Meetings**

WLOV will hold no general meetings in June or July. The August general meeting will take place on August 10 on Zoom. The guest speaker will be Penny C. Sansevieri, Author of "How to Sell a Truckload of Books on Amazon."

President Linda Keenan adjourned the April meeting at 10:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan DeLay, Secretary