

4 February, 2017

General Meeting

10:03 General Meeting called to order by David Chang.

Guests: Ted and Cindy Drott. They have not written anything yet. They moved to Lake Charles from Lafayette in April and attended the Conference.

-Tony from Lake Charles writes short works.

-Larry from Lake Charles does inspirational writing.

-Brandon Victorian from Lake Charles writes Science Fiction and Fantasy

Critique: The critique groups meet on:

Evening Mondays @ 7PM at Panera's

Morning Thursdays @ 10 AM at Stellar Beans.

Member Brags: Mark Allen published Introspection, the first book from Melvin Time Chronicles and says that it is available on Amazon.com and Books A Million.

-Linda Hurst reminded that the SWLA Book Festival will take place and it has free admission.

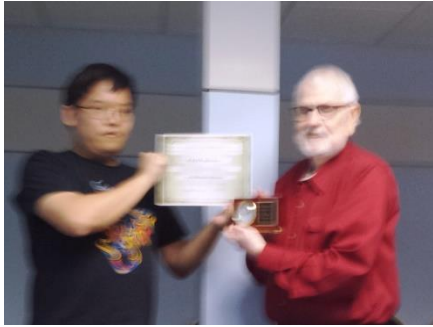
-Peggy Borel informed the group that the Gillis Village in Moss Bluff will have a section for local books for sale.

-Marcia Dutton has a portrait collection on exhibition at the Gallery by the Lake and invites everyone in for a viewing.

Bill Elliot reminded members that there is a contest for veterans called the National Veterans Creative Arts Contest. Go online to find more information on the event.

Treasurer's Report, by Kay Andrews, informed Bayou Writers that we have \$4617.67 in the general fund and \$2850.52 in the grant fund. Conference fees have been paid.

Presentation: David Chang and Cory Conner presented Cliff Seiber a clock and certificate for his time and leadership as president of the Bayou Writers Group from 2015-2016. Cliff also served as grant writer for the group.



Shey Verrett handed out cards to get member input on what they were looking for at the 2017 conference. Based on feedback, she will book conference speakers. She reminded everyone that the Houma Conference is March 4th and said they could check their Facebook page for more information.

Shey also reminded members that the Bayou Writers Conference—A Bridge to Publication has been moved to October 14, 2017. An agent has been booked and the agent wants a Query letter in advance of the conference. Email Shey your query letter by 10, September, 2017 so all queries can be sent together. The letter should have 2 paragraphs about the book and a short biography.

Beth Savoie passed around copies of the 2017 Anthology and asked all members to proof their work. Books will be in for the April 1, 2017 Launch. Anthologies from the 2 previous years are available for \$5.00. Cory passed around signup sheets for contributors and volunteers for the Launch Party.

Cory Conner presented Outlining Your Novel as the monthly book on improving your writing. A drawing was held for the book and it was won by Cliff Seiber.

Members were reminded that all books on the back table are free and members are welcome to help themselves.

Bill Elliot talked about a spreadsheet he made to keep up with his daily word count if anyone was interest. David Chang said that Scribner has something similar to that available with their program.

Nano Wrimo is a national writing project that has participants write 50,000 words in a month. Bayou writers will sponsor a Bayou Wrimos that starts today and will end at the May meeting.. That would make it necessary to write about 333 words daily to meet your goal. You can keep up with your word count in MS Word, Scribner, or a spread sheet. Any member who meets the 30,000 goal will receive a certificate and a raffle ticket for a drawing of a single gift basket.

Cory notified that according to the Bayou Writers Bylaws, we must have a membership vote to increase yearly dues to \$25.00as discussed in the January meeting. The Amendment to ArticleIII, Sections 3 and 4 would read:

Effective January, 2017 all members shall pay required annual dues of \$25.00 each January to retain membership status. New members who join the group in the months of January through June must pay the full annual dues of \$25.00. New members who join during the months of July through December may qualify for a reduced rate of \$12.50.

Linda Todd moved that we make the above changes, Chris Baldouf seconded the motion. A unanimous vote approved the motion.

Beth Savoie announced that the Young Writers Contest already has 4 entries from the 6th-12th grades. Last year, writers who placed 1st through 3rd places were featured in the Anthology as part of their winnings. We will continue that this year.

If you are not getting the Newsletter, go to the Bayou Writers website and complete a Subscribe to the Newsletter form so your information can be updated.

Larrisa Torres reminded everyone to have their submissions for the Newsletter in by the 15th of the month via email to be included in the monthly Newsletter. Email submissions to LissaTorres49@gmail.com.

The meeting was then turned over to SM Schmitz for her discussion on Plotting versus Pantsing and Other Tips to Get Your Book Written and to Market.

With no further business, David Change closed the meeting at 12:00.

See sign in sheets for attendance.