

OUR MAY 2024 MEETINGS

Compiled by Dave McChesney

Spokane Authors held its first meeting at Canaan Buffet at 2:00 pm. on Friday May 10th. Present were Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Larry Danek, Jennifer Day, Mary De Bord, Sue Eller, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, Tiffani Harvey, Bob Hildahl, Esther Hildahl, Marilee Hudon, Steve Lalonde, Amy Logan, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Jon Miller, Carl Northrup, Kathy Peterman, Kate Poitevin, Linda Sonntag-Noble, and Terry Stratton. Visitors included Mark Lee Golden, Tina Hammond, Melody and Lily Reiersen, and an individual assumed to be Kathy Peterson's spouse (Tina Hammond, and although she wasn't present, Carolyn Eller are now members of Spokane Authors.)

Even though this was our first meeting at our recently chosen location, new member Tina Hammond invited us to meet at the Sans Souci Club House. A vote was taken, and Sans Souci garnered fifteen votes to three for Canaan Buffet. Thus, it looks like we'll be meeting at a new location again next month. Ideally, we'll be there for the foreseeable future. (San Souci is at the far western end of Boone Ave. More complete directions will be included soon.)

Bob Manion offered some thoughts regarding marketing, while Tiffani Harvey spoke briefly about transportation for members. Someone suggested checking into the possibility of signing and selling books in supermarket entrances, much like the Girl Scouts and other organizations do. Carl Northrup suggested we put together and publish another anthology. Our last one came out in 2017. Steve Lalonde noted that his books are available at <https://www.ouranianpublishing.com>

Dave McChesney passed out new member name tags to those who were present. These tags feature our new logo. We conducted a drawing for a small number of door prizes, milled around smartly for a while, and eventually headed our separate ways.

Spokane Authors also met at 2:00 pm. On Saturday May 18th in the social hall of St. Francis of Assisi Church. Attending were Larry Danek, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, Kevin Hostbjor, Marilee Hudon, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, and Terry Stratton. Our guests were Mike and Lily Reiersen.

As President Carl Northrup was unable to be there, Vice-President Bob Manion took the helm. He mentioned an online seminar that all could sign up for and attend, taking place the next day, Sunday May 19. (Members of Spokane Authors should have received an e-mail about this event a few days prior to the meeting.) Bob also noted that local author and one time SA member Asa Bradley would be at the Shadle Library at 6:00 pm on Wednesday May 22.

It was noted that Gray Dog Press has moved and has combined with Minuteman Press. The phone number is 509-534-2355. Russ Davis is still involved, but for the time will be working from home.

Recently we received information and sign-up forms for this year's Garland Summer Market. However, there were some requirements listed that might cause problems for some authors, so Marilee Hudon said she was trying to get ahold of those in charge to ask about it. She'll let us know as soon as she finds out. Marilee also reminded us to let her know about any upcoming author or writer events we may have so she can get the word out on social media. She also reminded us that our meetings are recorded and posted on U-Tube.

Bob Manion went on to suggest an association with the Pacific Northwest Writes Association (PNWA) and encouraged members to attend their writers conference coming up in the fall. If one is a PNWA member, the conference price is discounted by the \$65.00 membership fee.

Bob further suggested that we put together a catalog of members' books that we could share with other writing groups, and possibly have as a handout when signing and selling books. He also noted that we could advertise our books in The Exchange.

Kevin Hostbjoer said he'd made some updates to *Musher Man* on Amazon and passed around some artwork connected with a story he is working on called *The Fourth Cohort*. Terry Stratton advised us he would read his prompt-based story at our next meeting. Larry Danek did read his and mentioned he was about two-thirds of the way through his next ghost story.

Dave McChesney passed out new name tags to those who didn't already have them and noted that he had new holders available for those who would want one. He also noted that he tried to forward or pass along via email, anything that might be of interest to even a few of our members. This could include information on webinars, meetings of other groups, contests, etc.

Final comments included the possibility of a class, probably at a Saturday

meeting, on writing query letters for anyone inclined to go that route in publishing. The idea of title suitability was talked about briefly, and it was pointed out that in many ways we are or could be a resource for each other.



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