

**MINUTES**  
**ASSOCIATION OF RHODE ISLAND ATHORS**

*Zoom*

February 11, 2021

Call to Order 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENT**

Michael Squatritro, Debra Zannelli, Guy Natelli, Judith Glynn, Tabitha Lord, Wayne Barber, Robert Bentley, Jim Dyer, Deborah Katz, Risa Nyman, Paul Caranci, Ray Wolf, Angelina Singer, Kevin Duarte, Richard Rezendes, Janet DeLeo, Alda Kaye, Douglas Levine, Mark Bender, Heather Rigby, Brian Wilcox, Elizabeth Devlin, Norm DesMaris, Tim Baird, Francis Bena

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Motion to approve minutes
- Wayne, first
- Guy seconded
- Motion approved

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- Membership
  - 302 members as of January 13, 2021
  - 105 paid members
  - Spam Emails
    - Some of Mike's emails have gone into Spam, he will check it more often
  - Membership open until January 31, 2021
- Go Fund Me
  - Money will be used for rebranding
  - Judith Glynn will reactivate
    - She is getting a go grant about \$5,300
    - She is getting together with the team from RISD job board, she will try to get in touch
    - with New England Tech students and Don Hags- he designed web pages
    - She would like to hear from anyone with ideas
    - hope to have project completed in 3 or 4 months.
    - Rob Bentley will be an integral part of website building
    - Website needs to be more interactive
    - Judith will react
  - . Guy suggests we use all our social media like Facebook and Linked in to direct people to the ARIA website
  - . Mike announced new board member Angelina Singer

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

- Treasurer's Report (Guy)
  - ARIA credit card has been suspended
    - Any use of the debit card must be forwarded to Guy
  - Amount in checking account will only cover month to month cost. General Savings and Go fund me account are separate from checking
    - checking account \$11,696.00
    - Savings \$2096.00
    - Go fund Me \$5316.00, Includes money from Robert D. Gray Charitable trust
  - . Guy balanced all accounts as of December 31, 2020, a tax statement can now be prepared
    - Guy will change our addresses for our vendors
    - a 5013C acquired from Bank RI with no minimum balance required

## REPORTS

- RI Expo Committee (Mike)
  - Virtual event success but live event is a better format, everything worked fairly smoothly
  - times were tight, registration was difficult for some. More work needs to be done. More training is needed.
  - Expo next year will be a live event on December 11<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 – 4:30 A decision to change will be made same time as this past year. If needed we will learn from what was done this year. Steve and Dawn stepped down. Steve with help with headliners. Lee Brown and Vicky Corles stepped down from the raffle. Theresa Zink stepped down from handling writers resource
  - J. Glynn asked if the raffle was worth the effort. It brings in \$1,200 - \$1,600 and may not be worth worthwhile.
  - More people are need on the committee and to help with the work. Steve and Dawn have stepped aside. Steve will help with guest speakers. Vickie and Lee are stepping down.
  - Therese is stepping away from her work in the resource area where other groups join us.
    - Look at this as an opportunity to become more involved
  - Angelina suggested having musicians join us
  - Virtual expo is not a book selling event
- Lively Literati (Guy)
  - still on hold
  - Joanne in East Greenwich still wants to hold the event
  - when it restarts, there are places who want to host the events. There is a possibility of having one in Providence, still waiting for green light
- ARIA Catalog (Rob)
  - Catalogs have been sent to all RI books stores and libraries
    - a future format is being thought of in the future
- Mike announced new board member Angelina Singer
- Guy suggests all social media be linked to people in ARIA website
- Anthology (Martha)

- Open (3/1/21-4/20/21) The theme is green, same guidelines as before cut off is 5,000 words
  - Mike will send out emails look for Think Green
  - question on when can work be republished
  - Mike says yes, not sure when, information forthcoming
- Open (3/1/21-4/20/21) The theme is green, same guidelines as before cut off is 5,000 words
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  - Mike says yes, not sure when, information forthcoming
- ARIA Academy
  - Tabitha will send out constant contact
    - looking for teachers and ideas send out form sometime next week
    - possible roll out June/July
    - websites will be updated
    - Rob: still working on particulars
    - Mike: web and social media will be linked
    - Membership forms could help with grouping people
- Monthly Meeting Guest Speakers (Mike)
  - Mike suggests speakers from both inside and outside the organization
  - Judith would like meetings to be both virtual and in person
    - Rob says this is possible. He and Mike believe they can make this happen
    - Kevin asked if non-members are welcome
      - Mike they are welcome, Rob will post it everywhere he can to make information available
- YA (Young Adult) Leadership (Angelina)
  - waiting for rebranding
  - looking for volunteers
  - Hoping to attract young writers
- Rebranding
  - There are three proposals
  - Three people in ARIA will vet
  - Angelina will start up an Instagram page, with a special logo
  - Angelina is looking for assistance, Rob will help with set-up
  - There is a possibility of having specialized events
  - Mike is looking to bring more people into the organization, have possible sub groups with Information broadcast to all members
  - Guy will pass on any connections he has

## **PAST EVENTS**

- Comic con RI Authors Virtual Expo (Mike)
- Boskone was held virtually February 12-14

## **FORTHCOMING EVENT**

- Comic com (Mike)
  - Terra Con ( an early version of RI Comic Con) is scheduled for June
    - Summer Comic-con with Terra Con
  - Tampa Bay is scheduled for August
  - RI Comic Con is scheduled for November
  - Wayne suggested doing author signings outdoors, especially poetry as it is having a renaissance
  - Burrillville Arts Festival still scheduled September 18 and 19
    - 8 – 10 authors
    - See Wayne
  - Exeter Fall Festival
    - Waiting for word from Yawgoo Valley Ski Area
    - Deb will update
  - Submissions for Best New England Crime Stories Anthology (1/15/21-3/31/21)
  - Woonsocket Fall Festival
    - still planning on holding
    - contact Wayne

## **NEEDS, REFERRALS & OPEN FORUM**

- Next Meeting Thursday, March 11, 2021
- Kevin suggested a mentorship program
- Janet suggested more information available about ARIA itself ARIA 101
- Wayne will be opening his collection of books for purchase at an online store
  - Authors Hour Bookstore.com
    - If you want to participate email Wayne at WayneWNRI@Yawhoo.com
    - Open to ARIA members first
    - will open after podcast
- Rob is working with authors for book formatting
  - RKBwrites.com
- Angelina is working as a freelance editor information is listed on website in information on author
  - if you have services you'd like listed, send information to Rob
- Angela asked about Loof, no information at this time
- Mike thinks things will open up and we should be ready, check inventory

## **ADJOURN**

- Motion to adjourn
  - Guy first
  - Kevin seconded
  - motion approved