

MINUTES
ASSOCIATION OF RHODE ISLAND ATHORS

Zoom

May 13, 2021

Call to Order 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Mike Squatrito, Guy Natelli, Debra Zannelli, Kevin Duarte, Norm Desmaris, Ray Wolfe, Angela Singer, Debbie Das, Francis Bena, Martha Reynolds, William Smith, Deborah Tillinghast, Martha McVei, Tabitha Lord, Pamela Carey, Richard Rezendes, Paul Caranci, Mary Catherine Volk

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Motion to approve minutes
Will Smith, first Norm, seconded
- Motion approved

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Membership
 - 320 members as of January 13, 2021
 - 210 paid members
 - Once book signing and events begin, membership will close

FINANCIAL UPDATE

- Treasurer's Report (Guy)
 - Report given after ARIA Academy as Guy was late to the meeting
 - Guy requested the record show that he votes positive for passing the by-laws and the slate of candidates
 - Checking \$2,188.
 - General Savings \$12,572
 - Go Fund Me \$5317.00,
 - Checking account amounts will change as funds will have to liability insurance, tax accountant and payments and advertising for Old Slater Mill Association are coming due.
 - Motion to approve minutes
Norm first , seconded Bill Smith
Motion passed
 - Guy is getting in touch with Commerce RI, they are giving grants to businesses being hurt by COVID Restrictions. He will see if they have grants available for non-profits
Question on how much do we spend on EXPO. Mike gave estimated cost of \$10,000-12,000 bring in roughly the same amount.
 - Guy suggested the author cost be examined to make sure it coincides with the Expo's rising cost
 - It will be looked at by the expo committee

REPORTS

- By-Law Amendments (Mike)
 - sent out for examination, items highlighted in yellow are the changes
- Motion to pass By-laws
 - Paul Caranci first, Ray seconded
 - Motion passed
- Nominations and Elections
 - Ray Wolfe and Wayne Barber have resigned their positions, they will continue as active ARIA Members
 - Mike is looking for nominations for the positions to be sent to him or Debra Zannelli prior To June's meeting, nominations open from May 13th until meeting June 10th
 - Paul moved to nominate incumbent board members
 - Martha seconded
 - motion passed

Mike Squatrito – President

Tabitha Lord – Vice President

Guy Natelli – Treasurer

Deb Zannelli – Secretary

Heather Rigby – At-Large Board Member

Paul Caranci – At-Large Board Member

Angelina Singer – At-Large Board Member

- Mike will send out email to let membership know there are two board positions open
 - ARIA Academy(Tabitha)
 - The survey results have been collected, should have things ready to roll out a pilot by September
 - Rebranding Effort(Mike)
 - Rebranding committee choose the logo presented by CCS.
- The logos were shared on the screen
- The logos will be used on all ARIA banners, logos, letterhead and websites, business cards
 - Go Fund Me has been reactivated, A new goal of \$15,000 has been set
 - Looking for way to incentivize donations,
 - Anthology (Martha)
 - Submission period over, judges have made their decisions.
 - Martha volunteered to do the anthology for as long as ARIA wants to have them
 - Received 31 submissions including more than 5 poems. Judges selected 14 stories and 5 poems To be included
 - Judges select blind
 - For 2022 Anthology Martha will announce the theme earlier to give authors more time
 - Lively Literati(Guy)
- East Greenwich Hotel is looking to reopen hopefully in June
 - Guy will be looking to book people in June

- August is already booked, those booked for last year Guy hopes to book for this one
- RI Expo Committee(Mike)
 - Planned as a live event December 11th at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet from 10:00 to 4:30
 - Kevin Duarte is handling Writers Resource
 - Angelina is working on volunteers
 - there will be a new floor plan, where tables are sold by location, priced accordingly, tables can be purchased on-line
 - Panels and Presentations are being handled by Tabitha
 - Headliners are Bill Lee and Elizabeth Beisel
 - Thinking of having Bill Lee tell his stories on the mezzanine
 - Santa's on the way
 - Food trucks are being looked into
 - Guy is heading the raffle effort
 - Matt Bowen will be the MC
 - There was a question as to when you can pick your table, Mike is working on this and will do everything he can to make sure everyone gets the information
- Old Slater Mill Event(Paul and Guy)
 - For non-fiction authors there's room for 7 authors, one table is for ARIA
 - An ad for the expo is being prepared at \$40.00 a spot.
 - Guy mentioned that the ads go in, in the order they arrive.
 - they will be released on June 17th
- Comic Cons
 - Comic Cons are on
 - Tabitha, Mike and Heather Rigby are going to Tampa at the end of July
 - Mike hopes to have new logos ready
 - Chicago Comic Con is at the end of August, Mike is hoping to go
 - RI Comic Con
 - In November
 - All the cons have already been paid
 - Guy wants to do the table again
 - Deb says she wants to be there

PAST EVENTS

- N/A

FORTHCOMING EVENT

- Scituate Farmers Market (May 22,2021 – October 2, 2021) (Wayne)
All filled for waiting list contact Wayne
- Barrington Arts Festival (June 6 2021)
 - Mike wanted to know if anyone signed up, he hasn't heard how it's going
- Grow Coventry Local Authors Fair ?

- When Mike gets information, he'll inform us
- The Loof (August 21, 2021)
 - Register on line
 - Too many authors signed up and they weren't sure what to do
 - Mike suggested they do first come first serve
 - He doesn't know for sure what they are doing. It's not an ARIA event.
- Burriville Art Festival (September 18, 2021-September 19, 2021)
 - Wayne is coordinating
- Autumn fest in Woonsocket(October 9, 2021-October 11, 2021)
 - Wayne is coordinating
- Exeter Fall Festival (September 25, 2021)
 - Deb is coordinating
 - Still only \$20.00 a booth
 - Can have seven to eight
 - Flyer posted on Facebook
- Mike asked if there are any events they would like to add, please do.
- (Paul)North Providence is having a three day festival he does not have details
 - Paul is looking for someone to coordinate the event, he'll send the phone number to Mike
- Debra mentioned possible having contact with the Providence Flea
- (Paul)North Providence is having a three day festival he does not have details
 - Paul is looking for someone to coordinate the event, he'll send the phone number to Mike

NEEDS, REFERRALS & OPEN FORUM

- Motion to Adjourn
- Guy asked to make sure he could pay the ad fee.
 - Approved
 - Time for changes are over
- Next Meeting Debate
 - Zoom Verses live meeting
 - Church room is already paid for
 - Mike was hoping to have some live, some Zoom
 - Paul asked if it could be hybrid
 - It is being looked into

ADJOURN

- Motion to Adjourn
 - Ray first Guy second
 - Motion approved
- Next Meeting June 10, 2021