UPPAA Board Meeting Minutes
November 7,2024

Present:
Absent: Mikel Classen
President: Victor Volkman
Vice President: Terri Martin
Treasurer: Jodi Perras
Recording Secretary: Nikki Mitchell
Publications Chair: Debbie Frontiera
Membership Chair: Brandy Thomas
Newsletter Chair: Jansina Grossman
Former Treasurer Larry Buege
Former Recording Secretary: Sharon Kennedy

I. The meeting was called to order by Victor at 7:01 p.m. Victor motioned to approve the agenda. Seconded by Terri. Carried unanimously. Victor motioned to approve the Aug. 1 meeting minutes without reading. Seconded by Terri. Carried unanimously.

II. Discussion Items

a. Board election results/welcome

i. Special thanks to Larry and Sharon by Victor for their service on board.

ii. Victor motioned to swear in Nikki Mitchell as recording secretary and Jodi Perras as treasurer, seconded by Brandy, carried unanimous.

iii. Existing board members were sworn in for another 2 years.

b. Report on meeting with non-profit attorney

i. Jodi reported about the meeting with the attorney and that he had requested more time to research. Nothing is extremely urgent so the board can wait until getting the full recommendations for the new year.

1. Brandy asked about the future of UP Reader once Victor eventually retires as the publisher. Jodi recommended having something in writing with MHP stating their role with the UP Reader. Victor agreed.

2. Brandy asked about the application of grants as a 501c-6. Jodi said that it would depend on the granting organizations and their rules.

3. Victor suggested tabling until at least January, board agreed.

c. Change in annual membership dues

i. Brandy reported that an increase is needed cover the cost of the conference and the food. Either charge for the conference or increase the membership dues.

1. The board discussed both options and agreed that an increase in membership dues would be the best choice as many people only sign up to be a member for the annual conference.

2. Victor motioned to raise the basic membership to $50/year and the family/business membership to $65/year. Brandy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

d. September picnic report

    i. Debbie reported that the picnic went well, but wished it was better attended. Terri said that she thinks it's a good discussion to have a rotating picnic at a later date.

e. 2025 conference

    i. Cap on attendance

        1. Brandy suggested we cap attendance at 100 not including board members and speakers, and not market the conference outside of the UPPAA members

        2. Brandy made a motion to limit to 100 attendees seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

    ii. Registration fee-ticketing

        1. Brandy will implement 2025 conference registration using Ticket Tailor.

    iii. Catering menu

        1. The board discussed hiring people to cater/serve the lunch, and which types of food would be best to serve. Debbie and Terri said they would work together to get options for the next meeting.

        2. Victor motioned to table the discussion until January Brandy seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

    iv. Young writers conference

        1. Victor reported that students will have the opportunity to go to breakout sessions. Tickets will increase to $25 instead of $15.

    v. Friday night venue

        1. Brandy reported that the Crib was reserved, but the deposit still needs to be paid.

        2. Options for the food will be discussed at the next meeting.

III. Reports

a. U.P. Reader chair report

        1. Debbie reported that there have been 18 fiction, 15 nonfiction, and 18 poetry submitted. Debbie said that she would like to remove names before sending to the jury moving forward.

b. U.P. Notable Books Report

    i. none

c. Webmaster's report

    i. none

d. Treasurer's report—already reported and discussed by email. Larry said they did have a $10 charge on the old account. He would like to close the old account before switching treasurers.

e. Dandelion Cottage report

    i. Larry reported that he has contacted all of the schools in the UP., and now the contest has 54 schools represented. He will be sending out another email soon to get them pushed forward.

f. Membership Chair Report

    i. none

g. Newsletter Chair Report

    i. none

IV. Next meeting will be held on January 2, 2025.

V. Meeting was adjourned at 8:19 pm.