

OUR RECENT SPECIAL MEETING

On Tuesday, March 14th several members of Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers met at the home of President Sue Eller. Present were Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Bob Weldin, Marilee Hudon, Larry Danek, Carl Northrup, Esther Hildahl, Bob Hildahl, and Dave McChesney.

The primary reason for the meeting was to agree on and establish a new meeting location for the group. While we thought we had found a home at the Shadle Library, things did not work out. While those at the Shadle Library had welcomed us and were willing to work with us, it seems the larger Spokane City Library system was not. There are (were) rumors they believed our presence would establish conflict with another group headed by a relatively well-known local writer. Thus, once our March meeting ended on the afternoon of March 9th, we no longer had a place to meet.

During our March 9th meeting, President Sue Eller announced the meeting at her place on Tuesday the 14th, saying that anyone who wanted to come was welcome. Meanwhile, once our regular second Thursday of the month meeting ended, fellow SASP member Bob Weldin stopped by the Corbin Senior Center and spoke to them. He then called Sue and suggested it as a place for SASP to meet.

On Friday the 10th, Sue and Dave McChesney, visited Corbin Senior Center, spoke to members of the staff, and had a chance to visit the potential meeting room. They were favorably impressed.

When the above-named individuals met on Tuesday, Corbin Senior Center was the only actual place proposed, and those attending voted unanimously for us to meet there in the future. Following the Tuesday meeting, Sue and Dave returned to the Senior Center and finalized arrangements for our use of the place. Bob and Esther Hildahl tagged along in order to see the new meeting place, and Carl Northrup came by a while later.

While we now have a meeting location for at least the next year, there are a couple of things that should be noted. First and probably the most important is that we had to change the day of the week on which we meet. Sorry but it was the only time the room (or any room) was available at the time we need. **We now will be meeting on the second Friday of each month.** Arrangements have been made for the room to be available to us from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm. We'll start our meetings at 2:00 pm and conclude all business at 4:00 pm or so. That will allow us time to clean

up and vacate the place by 4:30 pm.

If you enter the building from the parking lot, which is to the south of the building, take the elevator to the basement. When you get off, the meeting room is immediately to the right. If you come in a different entrance and can't find it, ask for the *Lower South* room.

Additionally, they charge for use of the room, and we have paid \$50.00 per month for a single half day per month, or \$600.00 a year. If we can keep our membership levels high enough, we should not have to raise dues to cover this new expense. We also have a bit of a surplus at present, so there is no immediate financial hardship on the organization.

Other items discussed:

Merilee said she'd checked on the possibilities of meeting at St. Francis of Assisi Church but wondered about access for handicapped individuals. It was put forth as a possible meeting site if we decide to set up a second evening meeting each month.

We discussed dropping the "self-publisher" portion of the group's name, as it is possible that expression still has negative connotations with some. We also talked about SASP sponsoring a trip to the PNWA Writers Conference in Seattle in September for our president, Sue Eller. Hopefully she would then bring back valuable information for us all.

None of the last items were decided upon, but there is a good chance you will hear about them in the near future.



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