

## Minutes of the MMW Annual Meeting

Held Saturday, May 2, 2009

at the 1812 Farm, Bristol, Maine

### Business Meeting

President Janice Lindsay welcomed everyone, and there were 30 women present, including our guest speaker, Jennifer Bunting, Publisher at Tilbury House in Gardiner.

Secretary's Report / Nancy Wilson: Recap of last year's Annual Meeting, May 3, 2008, held at Bintliff's in Edgecomb.

- Dues were set at \$30 for regular membership and \$15 for students.
- Guest speaker was author Lea Wait, who spoke about her experiences in successfully publishing books for young people.

Treasurer's Report / Carol Jaeger:

- Checking account balance = \$7,290.45.
- Scholarship fund balance = \$1,647.23, which includes \$184.00 in income to the fund.

Scholarship Committee Reports / Kathy Brandes and Carol Jaeger (since Kathy was unable to attend, both reports were given by Carol):

- The Karen Van Allsburg Memorial scholarship fund now has less than \$500 in it. Carol ran down the list of past recipients.
- There was only one applicant for the \$500 MMW Scholarship this year, and it was awarded to her – Rebecca Schooley of Georges Valley H.S., who'll be attending Nyack College in NY next fall.
- Brief discussion followed about possible ways to make this money have no subtractive impact on other financial aid the student might be getting. However, experience indicates that there's no way around the problem.

### **President's Message / Janice Lindsay:**

- Janice recapped the three objectives set by the board for the business year 2008-2009: (1) Increase membership; (2) Schedule excellent programs and publicize them well; and (3) Reestablish the college scholarship.
- As to (1) – Since last May, 11 new members and 2 “re-members” joined; but almost as many did not renew. Membership currently = 80, which is 6 more than last year at this time. E-mail list of 95 “Friends of MMW” gets invitations to all meetings; can we get more of them to join?
- As to (2) – This year, 8 programs were open to the public, and average attendance was 29 – 22 members and 7 non-members. Last June's meeting on writing for magazines was unusual in that there were 38 in

attendance and the majority was non-members. Publicity has been great, thanks to Sherry Hanson and Susan Vaughan.

- As to (3) – The MMW college scholarship is up and running again, and thanks go to the committee – Carol Jaeger, Sherry Hanson, and Susan Vaughan – as well as to everyone who donates items and buys items at the silent auction. Thanks, too, to Marilis Hornidge for managing the auction, and to members who occasionally donate directly to the fund.
- A final note – Cheryl McKeary has replaced Maggi Blue as our Web site manager, and (just a reminder) all MMW members can have a page on the site: you pay Cheryl to create it and MMW hosts it for free.

#### Discussion and Vote:

- Membership Dues – Voted to keep the same, with one additional, temporary category: half-price one-year membership offer for women on the Friends of MMW list if they join between June 1 and September 1. [Suggested by Joan Grant; moved by Carol Jaeger; seconded by Davene Fahy.]
- Bylaws Amendment – Voted to eliminate August meetings.

#### Election of Officers:

- Carol presented Janice with a thank-you gift from the board – a gift certificate for a Mountain Ash tree from Pinkham’s Plantation. Janice thanked the board for their help during her term.
- Cindy Carney (nominating committee) introduced slate of officers for the next two-year term, and they were elected as presented:

**President, Carol Jaeger**

**Co-Vice Presidents, Kathy Brandes and Susan Vaughan**

**Secretary, Genie Dailey**

**Members at Large, Sherry Hanson and Louise King**

[Treasury duties will be handled by the board; immediate past president also serves on the board.]

#### Questionnaire, Other Business, Self-Introductions:

- Janice reminded everyone to complete short questionnaire about value of meeting(s) and to suggest future program topics/guest speakers.
- Carol Howe reported that no action had been taken re: the possibility of group memberships; several suggestions were made re: placing publicity in other organizations’ online and/or printed newsletters.
- Members introduced themselves “around the circle.”

After a break and time for networking and auction bidding, Genie Dailey introduced guest speaker **Jennifer Bunting**, Publisher at Tilbury House in Gardiner.

Jennifer spoke about the history of Tilbury House, which is now owned by Neil Rolde. The company employs 8 people – 3 full-time and 5 part-time. As a publisher of mostly nonfiction books of a regional and historical nature, Tilbury handles its own distribution to wholesalers who place them in the chain stores. While many of these are very successful (such as Marilis's *That Yankee Cat: The Maine Coon*), it's their colorful and educational children's books that keep the company afloat. Their goal is to do what they do *better*, rather than striving to "grow" the company.

The joy of discovery is what appeals to Jennifer most about the publishing business, and she highlighted several books and stories that have especially impressed or amused her.

A question-and-answer period followed.

After lunch and additional time for networking and bidding:

- It was decided to reserve The 1812 Farm for the 2010 Annual Meeting.
- Photos of new officers were taken for the Web site and area newspapers.
- Winner of the azalea raffle was announced: Genie Dailey.
- Silent auction bids were tallied, winners claimed their purchases, and Marilis announced that \$584.00 had been earned for the scholarship fund, an unprecedented amount!

Respectfully Submitted,  
**Genie Dailey, Secretary**