

Board of Directors Report
SHUSWAP ASSOCIATION OF WRITERS
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2010

President	Sarah Weaver	Director	Karen Bissenden
Vice-President	vacant	Director	Kay Johnson
Treasurer	Theresa Pederson	Director	Deanna Kawatski
Secretary	Jo Lavallee		

Membership: 42

Activities

Last year the Association hosted several events for writers, including for young writers. The Kids Write day was very successful by most measures – we had successful workshops, great speakers, and excited young writers reading from their works. The event culminated in the awarding of prizes to young authors in several age categories. Other events included workshops on various aspects of writing by Mary Nyland and Lee Rawn, and a workshop with Nancy Holmes and evening poetry readings to celebrate National Poetry Week.

In September planning for the 2010 festival began in earnest and the Board has decided to focus our efforts towards making sure that the festival is one to remember.

Watch for our new updated website, to be launched soon. www.saow.ca We have contracted Mary Scheidegger of Word Art Web Artistry for the new website and are excited with what is developing.

Fundraising

The Association is very grateful for the support we have received locally. The Arts Council provided us with a grant towards the costs of the Kids Write Day, and the Shuswap Community Foundation has provided us with a grant towards the 2010 festival costs. Our annual Books 'n Bread sale in November at Piccadilly Mall was a success. But although the Board has put in considerable time on applications to agencies outside the community, most of these have so far been unsuccessful – a testament to the reality of these economic times. This has meant that we dipped into the reserve left at the end of 2008 to subsidize events, in particular, the Kids Write day which was quite costly. No admissions were charged to the young people participating and thus no revenues were generated to offset the costs of the workshop presenters and the workshop space.

Acknowledgements

Board member and Secretary Jo Lavallee has tendered her resignation. Thank you Jo for your hard work and dedicated minute-taking and coordination of the Book 'n Bread sale. Thank you also to all the volunteers who have helped make our events a success, and to those who are putting in a lot of time planning for the festival.

Upcoming events

Mark your calendars for two big events this spring:

April 9 – 11, 2010. Silent Auction, Piccadilly Mall. Ineke Hughes is coordinating this. If you have a service or something to donate, please contact Ineke: 250 833 5634 or inekeh@telus.net

May 28 – 30, 2010. Shuswap Lake International Writers Festival. Tell all your writer and reader friends – this promises to be a great weekend! We are grateful to Sofie McGarry who is shouldering the responsibility of festival coordinator. Registrations will soon be online at www.saow.ca