

Writers in Stuttgart - Annual Meeting, February 10, 2024

Chair: Jadi

Minutes: Jim

Attendees: (all on Zoom) Jadi, Jim, Erica, Barbara, Katharine, Katherine, Michael, Cihan

Prompt by Erica: Write about your favorite word and make it the title or the star about what you're going to write.

- Jadi: Hors d'Oeuvres
- Jim: Possibilities
- Erica: Vendetta
- Barbara: Alchemy
- Katharine: Matriarch

Annual meeting agenda and decisions: (replaced a reading)

1. The date for the next reading is planned for Friday October 18 at Dreigroschen theater. Jadi has contacted Helen Pavel and it has been approved.
2. Possible themes discussed?
 - New endings
 - Appetizers
 - Masquerade
 - Masks
 - Fitting in
 - Adventures/Ventures
 - Wilderness
 - Vice
 - Legacy
 - Lost & Found
3. The group decided not to have a joint meeting with the Society of Childrens Book Writers and Illustrators.
4. We voted to move the Dark Monday reading month from January to April and Charles Urban has approved.
5. Comments on what we do right?
 - a. We take pride in being a solid core group
 - b. The comments included that we are proud that we always pull it together for the readings.
 - c. Jim will add a link to the public page that highlights recent awards and publishings for individual members.
6. We voted YES to do a page on the website listing members' achievements.
7. We discussed doing an anthology of 2023 writings.
8. We voted to try to do readings in October and April each year.

9. We voted to move the annual meeting to January instead of February.
10. We do not know how much we made at the Dark Monday reading. Jadi will check with Charles Urban.
11. We voted YES to resume Write-Ins and to also use them for member conversations.
12. We voted NO to actively pursue members to either join or to attend meetings when they are delinquent. People who want to show up, do!
13. Members voted to resume ZOOM Write-in meetings between regular meetings. These meetings will be used for both write-ins and general conversation between members with no agenda.

The first ZOOM Write-in/conversation meeting will be Feb 24 at 10:00. Jim will update the Website to reflect Write-in/conversation meeting dates. Any member can host these meetings by starting a meeting from the WiS website.

14. Jim reviewed our website. The website should provide three functions.
 - a. Provide a place for the general public to get information on Writers in Stuttgart.
 - b. Provide a place for WiS members a place share information between meetings that is seen by the whole group.
 - c. Provide a mailing list of reading attendees and the general public to keep them informed about future readings and WiS information
15. Jim commented that the first two goals are achieved but the third is not. This needs to be worked on in 2024

16. Jim gave the financial review

- a. The annual cost of maintaining the website in 2023 was 158,79€
- b. The Cost of ZOOM in 2023 was 214,88€
- c. All bills through 2023 have been paid
- d. The WiS bank balance on Dec 31, 2022 of 753.73€
- e. We had income for the year of 495,00€
- f. We had expenses for the year of 487.94€
- g. We had a profit of 7.06€
- h. As of year end, we have a bank balance of 580,79€
- i. With increases in website hosting and Elementor maintenance cost he estimates that 2024 costs will be between 175€ and 200€.

17. Considering the costs of ZOOM and maintaining the website, the members voted to increase annual dues by 10€ to 35€ per year.
18. PDFs are available of the Excel spreadsheet and 2023 income and expenses.
19. We have not yet been paid for January Dark Monday.
20. The next regular meeting will be hybrid.

