

ABDASC MINUTES
January 12, 2010
Ed's Editions, Columbia

Next Month Meeting Reminder: NEW DAY
6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 8 at Ed's Editions in Columbia

I. Welcome

Present: Ed (Ed's Editions), Skip (Gumshoe Books), Ron (Bridwell Books), Vic, Marie & Ann (Watafindbooks.com), John & Maureen (Lee's Book Attic), Fred (Henry Dickens & Co.)

Regrets: Judith (McDowell's Emporium), Neil (W. N. Dunlap Books), Jim & Shirley (J&S Books), Kitty (Books and Things Past), Sara & Dan (Willington Bookshop), Jim (Palmetto), Pat & Don (Five Points Bookshop/Dr. Books), Mike & Diane (Bookquest), Wilson (McIntosh Books)

II. Approval of Minutes Last Meeting

Minutes from the December meeting at Skip's were approved.

III. Treasurer's Report (Ron)

Ron reports that our opening balance was officially \$3879.07, plus an unofficial \$100 initiation and membership fee still in check form, thus bringing our true balance up to \$3979.07. There were no reported expenses from December's meeting to January's.

Members who have not sent in their dues for 2010 have just a few days left to be included in the 2010 flier. Please get those fees to Ron Bridwell at P.O. Box 7875 , Columbia , SC 29202 .

IV. Vice-president's Report (Skip)

Skip brought us the latest on the South Carolina Book Festival. This is, shall we say, a continuation of the "liveliest controversy" within ABDASC. Everyone's goals are the same: a vibrant, exciting festival for the area and outstanding book sales for ABDASC members. The vision on how to achieve this, however, has brought up sharp differences, both between members within ABDASC and also with controlling forces outside of our organization. Newer ABDASC members will note that ABDASC can and does *influence* festival plans, but does not actually *formulate* them. We are a vital *part* of the festival, but it is not technically *our* event.

There are going to be changes in this year's festival from last year's. Those decisions are already in the can and include an art show and sale in the lobby of the convention center held in conjunction with, or loosely as a part of the book festival. Festival organizers hope and believe this will increase attendance, which is a primary goal of some of the festival's city and county government sponsors. Whether it will achieve this ambition or not remains to be seen. And this change is not without some risk. Some fear that gearing the festival toward becoming more of a cross-cultural event will water down the literary focus of the show.

The One Really Big Burning Question is: will the attention given to art affect book sales, and if so, will that affect be positive or negative? I expect that the post-festival minutes from the

March ABDASC meeting will be hotly anticipated and go a long way toward answering that. As they say, "More will be revealed."

Other changes are coming up for the festival in 2011 and beyond. There will be a change in the date of next year's show. We will probably be moving toward a publisher-pushed later spring date. The idea behind this is that authors could work in a visit to the festival as part of their regularly scheduled book promotion tours, which traditionally happen in spring and autumn. This timing was tried in earlier years for the festival and was not particularly successful. Whether or not that was just another era in the public's passions and the maturity of the event--one whose lessons do not apply to today--is in question.

It is also reported that the name will change from "South Carolina" to "Southeastern." There may be other surprises as well. Doubtlessly these will be hotly debated over the coming year, but some, such as the date, are irreversible, as the Columbia Convention Center is booked on our traditional weekend for the next several years.

In a side note, John and Maureen have suggested that the ABDASC president be installed as a permanent member of the Festival's governing board. Typically we have a member or two who rotate on and off. The suggestion is that along with that representation, the office of president would also have a permanent slot in that body. This seems a prudent move and will hopefully be followed up on by informed and influential ABDASC members. Short-term, Ed will attend this month's board meeting on our behalf.

V. President's Report (Ed)

Ed chiefly allocated his time to our talk on the festival, which as may be inferred was less a report by Skip *to* present membership than it was a long and open discussion *by* present membership.

Ed and Ron have agreed to form a committee to consider the real possibility of introducing an Associate Membership category to ABDASC rolls. Anyone interested in voicing their views in regard to that should contact Ed or Ron.

We once again welcome our newest member, David Ruple, of Jake's Fine Books.

Ed informed us that there will not be a GABA book sale in Decatur this year due to generally disappointing sales at the last event. While some dealers did quite well, success was spotty.

VI. Other Business

The next ABDASC meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 8, at Ed's Editions, 406 Meeting Street, West Columbia, SC 29209. Skip is bringing the wine and Ed, Vic & Marie are furnishing snacks.

Fred Davis
Secretary
January 14, 2010