

Present: 12

Apologies: Dennis (hope you are surviving being one handed so to speak)

New: none for today

Thankyous: This is a big heartfelt, but we missed you, recognition to those members who normally come to a meeting, but volunteered to stand down for today in recognition of the covid-19 limitations on numbers.

Malcolm, Martin, Audrey, Sue, Maurice, Robert Many thanks folks.

AGENDA:

After the usual meet and greet, we moved briskly to the business at hand. For today it was the way to resolve the ongoing meeting dilemmas of not only what room, meeting the council set regulations for the day, as well as the financial hiccups that beset us from time to time.

To clarify the financial hiccup, is to advise that even with discussion with the management of the room, they are immovable on the paying in advance rule that is set down. Many ideas have been put forward, including an appreciated offering from Peter and Russell, to meet the cost personally, and to be reimbursed as we go along through the year's activities. After much toing and froing it was decided it would be much fairer if membership of CWL pay the meeting room cost up front.

So members will be invoiced by Peter for an amount of \$50 as of next month which will put to rest the fees issue for the room hire for the coming year. Of course, we are aware that not everyone may be in the position to pay the membership up front, so **CWL will still offer members and new comers the opportunity to pay per meeting** as has been the practise this year. If there is any shortfall Russell and Peter and Janet have offered to pick that up when we book the room, and will be reimbursed as we continue to meet.

Obviously there will still be a need to look again at how we cover unforeseen expenses, so we will still need to revisit fundraising opportunities, and grant applications as they become available. Now that we are affiliated with FAWQ there are many more areas of which we can take advantage. Membership today was buzzing with ideas for possibilities as you would expect from such a creative group.

■Today's presentation was by member Rosalie Enstrom covering the topic of autobiography and memoir writing. As Rosalie has now become a prolific writer in these two areas, after some years of drafting and researching her topics. It was interesting to hear her discuss her learnings about what is important in developing her craft.

In Rosalie's journey, she identified some clear steps that she undertook in arriving at her publication phase. These are outlined as follows:

Learning typing and then learning computer skills

Deciding what she wanted to write about, and even though she initially thought she was writing for the family, she firmly believes that everyone has a story in them, and it is a gift to bring that to light.

She felt family history can be traumatic on occasion, and very emotional, however it can also be very rewarding. She has learned that sharing an important story can provide a release for a burden carried.

Her books have required much research and fact finding, along with interviewing and being creative in how you identify and locate your sources of information in order to establish time lines and validate the story events.

A family history was a gift to all you are writing about, but requires sensitivity in management, and often be unpredictable in outcome.

Rosalie felt bringing personal experience to a memoir was crucial. The authenticity and the sincerity is a major requirement.

You also need knowledge of the craft of writing, as in writing structure and creating a narrative that will enhance the reader's understanding and appreciation for the events being described. As a result you also need to know what the reader will be interested in and include the types of things that they will want to know about.

Finally, in a memoir you need to research the history of the times about which you are writing, in order to give a context to the lives of those you are writing about. Never lose sight of who you are writing for was her guide.

Many thanks go to Rosalie for her presentation today. She brought valuable discussion and ideas to our group, and I feel encouraged those of us who still are pursuing our writing ideals.

■ **Last month's homework, and also next months as well.** Given that some members were not with us today, we will need to follow up with their offerings next month, and given that Peter was fresh out of creativity for next month's options **we will continue with writing about what gives us passion for next month as well.**

Today's content covered such things as.....The Writer... It.....Riches to Rags, a continuation....Bird watching...The Storm...Viruses...Father McKenzie..... All were entertaining as per usual.

■ **For your information:** Member Mike advised that he had attended the Redcliffe Library on Friday to Open Mike, which apparently is a way to bring your written work to the readers' attention. Without knowing anything more on the topic, it is worth checking out the library website for further information. Apparently it occurs once a month and is a way of sharing ones writing with peers and interested others. Chaired by Jim our FAWQ chairperson, it runs very smoothly, according to Mike.

Hopefully we will see one another at our next CWL meeting, first Tuesday of the month, November has sure come around very quickly. Maybe it hasn't and I've just run slower, ho hum. Cheers Janet