

THE INDIANAPOLIS LITERARY CLUB
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THE SECRETARY'S LETTER

On 3 October, the Indianapolis Literary Club began its 147th year with its first Ladies' Night meeting since October 2019. Several of the 30+ members brought their ladies or a guest, all of whom observed the mask requirement recommended by the Club's Executive Committee. It was good to see everyone in person after the past couple years of "virtual" meetings.

The Club will gather next on **Monday 17 October 2022 at 8:00 pm** in its regular meeting place in Clowes Commons at Park Tudor School. First-time essayist Fritz Gordner will present his essay "From Bear to Bull."

BERTIE: Touch of indigestion, Jeeves?

JEEVES: No, Sir.

BERTIE: Then why is your tummy rumbling?

JEEVES: Pardon me, Sir, the noise to which you allude does not emanate from my interior but from that of that animal that has just joined us.

BERTIE: Animal? What animal?

JEEVES: A bear, Sir. If you will turn your head, you will observe that a bear is standing in your immediate rear inspecting you in a somewhat menacing manner.

BERTIE (as narrator): I pivoted the loaf. The honest fellow was perfectly correct. It was a bear. And not a small bear, either. One of the large economy size. Its eye was bleak and it gnashed a tooth or two, and I could see ...that it was going to be difficult for me to find a formula. "Advise me, Jeeves," I yipped. "What do I do for the best?"

JEEVES: I fancy it might be judicious if you were to make an exit, Sir.

English author and humorist P.G. Wodehouse (1881-1975), *Over Seventy: An Autobiography with Digressions*

At the last meeting, new President Jack Cooney offered his welcoming remarks to the Club and then invited members to introduce their guests. Then, President Cooney introduced essayist Stephen E Towne who presented his essay "Platform Cards." He explored the contributions of Charles Farrar Brown, Henry Wheeler Shaw, and David Ross Locke to the development of humor in the mid to late 19th century, beginning with newspaper entries and leading to stage performances. The essayist also explained how these early humorists laid the groundwork for later humorists, including Mark Twain and today's stand-up comics. A lively period of questions and answers followed.

Special thanks to Club Soundmaster Paul Halvorson for arranging the Zoom connection for the meeting.

The 2022-2023 Club *Yearbook and Schedule of Exercises* includes the schedule of meetings, a list of officers and directory of members. The Secretary has already received updates on numerous members' entries. Please make the following corrections/updates:

January, Alan – email – ajbruaryx1@yahoo.com
Sease, Gene – 470 Dove Dr. West, Franklin 46131 phone 317-736-1579
Sweeney, John – phone – 317-446-9894

The Indianapolis Literary Club is one of a few remaining all-male literary clubs in the nation. For over 140 years, ILC has offered its members meetings of high literary quality and opportunities for fellowship and enriching conversation throughout the year. Please renew your membership **now** by sending your **dues payment of \$60** (checks are to be made out to the *Indianapolis Literary Club*) to:

Richard E. Wiehe, Treasurer
2435 Glenhill Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46240

Prompt payment of annual dues is deeply appreciated and will save the Treasurer the time and expense of sending a reminder notice to you. If you do not wish to renew your membership, please contact the Secretary immediately and we will remove your name from the membership roster.

Make sure that you mark your calendars for **all** of the meetings. Consider inviting a friend or colleague to be your guest and introduce them to the Club. Also, visit the Club website – www.literaryclub.org -- for past essays and membership applications and watch for the Secretary's Letter for Club updates.

The next meeting of the Indianapolis Literary Club's 2022-2023 year will be **Monday 17 October 2022 at 8:00 p.m.** in Clowes Commons at which time essayist Fritz Gordner will present his essay "From Bear to Bull." One might immediately think that the essay will focus, in some way, on Wall Street and the stock market. But is that what the essayist has in mind? You will need to attend in-person or via Zoom in order to find out. The Zoom link is the one used for this past meeting, but will be resent prior to the next meeting. Hope to see you there!

Stock market corrections although painful at the time, are actually part of the whole mechanism, because there are always speculative excesses that develop, particularly during the bull market.

American author and journalist Ron Chernow (1949-)

The Secretary