



BIG COUNTRY WRITERS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ABILENE WRITERS GUILD—SEPTEMBER 2017

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September Musings

Wow, it is already past mid-September. How can that be? The fair has come and gone without rain, for goodness sakes. That is just not right, is it? The book and author festival is around the corner and football is in full swing. All those things we expect in the fall---and we even had some teasingly cool weather, briefly. Don't know about you, but it made me long for cooler days.

Our annual contest is about to be in full swing, too, so I hope you have read the rules and are getting your entries ready. Remember, you may enter as many times as you wish so put on your creative hats and get those poems and other genres ready!

We are happy to announce that this year AWG will also sponsor a children's writing contest which begins AFTER our annual contest ends. It will be for children 8-11 and 12-14. Big Country Home Educators is already on board and some of us will be contacting teachers in the public schools. If you know an elementary or middle school teacher, please mention this to them or give me their contact information. Rules and other information will be in the December Newsletter and on our website.

Since none of you shared with me about your trips from the summer, I must assume

that you either had a "staycation" at home or perhaps you did not read my last article at all. Now which is it?

AWG is looking forward to having David Roper as our speaker this month! Come join us for a fun evening as he shares his passion for writing for children!

I hope to see you at our meeting. OH YES! We are changing rooms this month, moving from the small room back into the larger room next door. Please sit closer to the front or center so you can hear well and enjoy the program!

Sharon Ellison

AWG President



West Texas Book Festival

September 21-23, 2017
<http://www.abilenetx.com/city-hall/departments/community-services/library/friends-of-the-library/book-festival>

Writing Workshops

Both workshops are free and will be in the downtown library auditorium.

Lisa Wingate
 "Writing Your Family Stories"
 Friday, Sept. 22, at 2 p.m.

Diane Kelly
 "20 Tips for Better Writing."
 Saturday, Sept. 23, at 1 p.m.

Celebrate the Arts

The annual luncheon is 11:45 a.m.
 Wednesday, Oct. 11 at
 ACU Hunter Welcome Center.



BRAGS AND SAGS

Suanna Davis is spending all her writing energy on work and Toastmasters related writing: promotion blog, newsletter, syllabi for classes.

David Dodge is still trying to write on his latest book.

Marguerite Gray is republishing her first two novels with a new publisher who is working on her third novel. It is a long process but it will be great.

Jo Cox has been building a house. That is very awesome, but it also means she has had very little time to work on her book.

WHAT AWG READS

Suanna Davis: *Family Law* series by Mackey Chandler. Interesting stuff, but could have used a good edit.

Carla Kerr: *The Price of Justice* by Laurence Leamer. It is a true story about coal mining, executive greed, and lawsuits. Well written and interesting. *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* by Harriet Jacobs, a true story taken from her journals. Well written, deeply moving and sad but informative. *Everybody's Got Something*, Robin Roberts' memoir. A fast read and mostly positive. *Rosemary, the Hidden Kennedy Daughter* by Kate Clifford Larson.

Mary Ann Smith: *Mead Mountain* by B.K. Dell. It is about a passionate, controversial minister who gets a message from God that the mountain behind his church will move within weeks of his receiving the message.

Marguerite Gray: *How to Catch a Prince* by Rachel Hauck and *A Bridge Across the Ocean* by Susan Meissner.

Carolyn Dycus: *Beyond the Rain* by AWG member Kay Talley, *The Screwtape Letters* by C. S. Lewis, and *Empire of the Summer Moon* by S. C. Gwynne.

Jill Henderson: *Glass House* by Louise Penney and *The Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Zafon.

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

WRITING FOR CHILDREN 101

David Roper is best known for his religious writing with over one hundred books and booklets published. But he is developing a reputation as a children's writer with four children's books and over sixty stories, poems, and articles in *Highlights*, *High Five*, *Ladybug*, *Jack & Jill*, and other children's publications. David will share what he has learned (often the hard way) about writing for children.

August Monthly Contest Winners

Flash Fiction or Flash Poetry

1st - Carolyn Dycus, Flash Poetry
"Play Like"

2nd - Coy Roper, Flash Prose
"How Greenovia Lost the War"

New Members

Rhonda Jarvis and Bailey LeRoux
both from Abilene

Our Life Members:

*Stewart Caffey, Nancy Masters, Laura Thaxton,
Dr. Clyde Morgan, Alice Greenwood,
Keith Thomason*

Members gain the status by gift from the membership as a whole, by paying a one time fee of \$600, by receiving the honor as a gift from another, or by reaching the age of 90 while a member of AWG.

Our Officers:

President:	Sharon Ellison	(2018)
Executive VP:	David Dodge	(2019)
Program VP:	Barbara Rollins	(2018)
Secretary:	Carolyn Dycus	(2018)
Treasurer:	Gail McMillan	(2019)
Board member:	Suanna Davis	(2019)
Board member:	Linda Gordon	(2019)
Board member:	Kay Talley	(2018)
Board member:	Coy Roper	(2018)
Alt. Board member:	Mary Ann Smith	(2018)
	Newsletter editor: Jo Cox	
	Monthly Contest Coordinator: Linda Gordon	

ABILENE WRITERS GUILD'S ANNUAL CONTEST 2017-2018

General Information: Open to any person age 15 or older. All entries must be your original work, unpublished as of October 1, 2017. Publication on the Internet is publication. The work must not have earned a cash award in any previous AWG Annual Contest. However, Honorable Mentions from past contests may be re-entered. Also, AWG monthly members-only-contest entries are eligible. Use **ONLY** font size 12 in Times New Roman or Arial. No fancy fonts! Text: type only on one side of each page.

Entries must be **postmarked** between Oct. 1 and Nov. 30, 2017. Entries posted earlier or later than those dates will **NOT** be accepted and will not be judged, nor will fees be refunded. If fewer than 5 entries are received in a category, that category may not be judged; or, if judged, only first place may be awarded.

Please see the list of categories, descriptions, maximum lengths and entry fees. The title of your work does not count toward your final word count.

Cover Sheet for all categories: Each entry must have a separate cover sheet.

Upper left corner: your name, complete address, telephone # and email address.

Upper right corner: category and number of words or lines. Space down 12 lines from top of page and center your title on the cover sheet.

YOUR NAME DOES NOT GO ON ANY OTHER PAGE.

CATEGORIES 3-8: Center the title at the top of the first page only. Double-space and begin manuscript. Double-space all pages. **All other pages:** type title of the manuscript and page number in upper right corner. No author's name on these pages!

POETRY: Center the title at the top of the first page . Double-space down and begin . May be single or double-spaced. **Category 1 and 2:** list total number of lines in upper right corner.

Category 9 only: include the number of words.

Other information: Attach payment and cover sheet to each entry with a paper clip. **Do NOT staple anything!** If you want your entry/entries returned with judges' comments, please provide us a large enough SASE with **adequate postage**. Verify at local post office. Entries without large enough return SASEs will be destroyed after April 30, 2018.

Reminder: Entries which do not meet guidelines will be disqualified and entry fees will not be refunded. **Decisions of the judges are final.** Prizes will be presented at a time and place to be decided soon, but no later than March 30,2018. Please check our website and/or Newsletter for details.

Mail entries to the address on the next page or bring them to AWG's October or November meeting if you are in our area. We would love to meet you!



	Cat # 3-7	Cat # 1-2, 8-9
First Place	\$100	\$70
Second Place	\$65	\$45
Third Place	\$35	\$25

Cat #	Category	Description (Do <u>not</u> include Title in Word Count)	Max # Lines/Words	Fee Per Entry
1	Poetry, Rhymed	Rhymed – in any style	50 lines	\$ 7
2	Poetry, Unrhymed	Unrhymed – in any style, Stanzas or free verse	50 lines	\$ 7
3	Children’s Stories For readers ages 3-8	Can be for pre-school or elementary age readers, but do not have to include both age groups.	750 words	\$10
4	Articles of General Interest—Non personal general information	Subjects: history, people, events, or places (suitable for newspapers, magazines, or journals)	1200 words	\$10
5	Inspiration	May be prose or drama. Does not have to be religious in nature	1200 words	\$10
6	Memoir/Nostalgia	Writing that takes the writer and reader back to a former time	1200 words	\$10
7	Fiction for Adults	Short Stories written for adults, teens, and older	1200 words	\$10
8	Flash Fiction	Must include these 5 words: Adore Jealous Machine College Foreign	100 words	\$ 7
9	Flash Poetry	Must include these 5 words: Tree Purple Fortitude Exquisite Conform	25 words	\$ 7

Mail entries to the address below or bring them to AWGs October or November meeting if you are in our area. We would love to meet you!

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ABILENE WRITERS GUILD 2016-2017 CONTEST ENTRY FORM <http://www.abilenewritersguild.org/>

MAIL TO: Abilene Writers Guild
c/o S. Ellison
1025 Grand Ave.
Abilene, Texas 79605
(325) 672-1868

Email Inquiries to: TrLiSo3@hotmail.com

Bonus
If you are not an AWG member your entry entitles you to free AWG newsletters from January through May 2018

Your Email Address: _____

Your Name _____

Your Postal Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Number of entries in Categories 3-7 = _____ x \$10 each = \$ _____

Number of entries in Categories 1-2, 8-9 = _____ x \$7 each = \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

Please Make check or money order payable to: Abilene Writers Guild

Fourth Thursday Together
September 28 – 7:00 p.m.

Writing for Children 101
David Roper

ABILENE WRITERS GUILD

P.O. Box 2562
Abilene TX 79604