



BIG COUNTRY WRITERS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ABILENE WRITERS GUILD—SEPTEMBER 2018

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It's Fair and Rodeo Time!

If you are anything like me—and I think most of you are to some degree—September brings all kinds of thoughts about fall, pumpkin spice and cooler weather. And rain.

Naturally, rain, because even if it hasn't rained in ages, it generally, usually, kinda, sorta always rains at some point during the fair and rodeo. I doubt any would complain about rain, unless you didn't get some and your friends did.

I was one of those who did. My new cottage is very well insulated. I honestly didn't even know it was raining, until I looked out the front door and saw it pouring! No complaints here. It was great. Just what some of my thirsty plants needed (and I didn't have to go out and water that evening). Later on, I heard thunder rumbling off to the southwest. Sadly, it didn't come back to my house.

Now I'm wondering, are you ready for this? I'm wondering if you are watering your brain as you browse through the categories for the annual contest. Categories and rules are in this Newsletter and on the website. I can't hear you! Did you say YES? I sure hope so, because you have the opportunity to get those creative juices flowing and send in some entries.

May I remind you that one of the children in our first children's writing contest sent in eleven (yes 11!) entries? I know that might be slightly cost prohibitive for some of you, but honestly in the past we have had a couple of writers who submitted 23 or more entries in the poetry categories! That may sound like a lot (and I suppose it is), however, they sent all the entries hoping to win some prize money AND because they enjoyed supporting AWG. Keep in mind that

many others only sent in two or three entries but took one of the prizes in more than one category.

So, go ahead. Save those pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and dollars and send in several entries in the poetry and flash categories. I can't promise the judges will award you first, second and third place as well as honorable mention, but most of our judges in the past have given some good feedback as to what worked and what didn't work and that is worth your entry fee.

I recently ran across a contest for short stories. The entry fee was \$20 PER entry, and they only wanted the first 11 pages. Goodness, I could write a short story in fewer pages than 11, but there was also a word limit and they did promise a magnificent critique of each entry. While I can't promise that, I can promise it will be fun for you to write some entries, fun to send them in, and lots of fun at the awards program!

Submissions are accepted between October 1 and November 30. Be sure to follow the rules.

Hope to see you at the meeting!

Sharon Ellison

AWG President

Change To Meeting

Please enter
Rose Park Senior Center
through the front door, not the
back/side door near the room.

This is a security issue.

BRAGS AND SAGS

Carla Kerr's children gave her an 80th birthday party in August populated by friends and relatives from CA, NJ, FL and from all over Texas. She also attended the 20th Anniversary Red Hat Convention in New Orleans, explored Mt Rushmore in South Dakota, and went to Las Vegas, NV for her 62nd HS Reunion. Check out her blog: ccrittenden.blogspot.com.

Coy Roper is progressing on his autobiographical work. It may be titled, *Stories We Told*. He is coming close to finishing the first draft of a 250-page book.

David Dodge is wrapping up his latest book *Daniel Fleming* with Sharon's help. He is also writing a series of short stories titled *Preston Reardon, Private Eye*. It is to publish as a collection of short stories.

Sharon Ellison "Moving! Aaaaaaargh! Will be quite happy when all boxes are emptied and things are put away but where is the question!"

WHAT AWG READS

Mary Ann Smith: *The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley. "It is a well-written juvenile book set during WWII." *If You Hang on Long Enough, You Get To Live Forever* by Reed Justus who serves at Aldersgate Methodist Church in Abilene.

Barbara Loyd: *America's First Daughter* by Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie. "A spell binding drama of Jefferson's daughter who tried to preserve his reputation."

Carla Kerr: *The President is Missing* by Bill Clinton and James Patterson. "It is well written and fascinating."

Sharon Ellison: *The Masterpiece* by Francine Rivers. "Another one of her best Christian fiction stories!"

Carolyn Dycus: *Alex Cross, Run* by James Patterson.

Jo Cox: *Letters from the Lamb*, by Timothy Archer and Steve Ridgell " A very uplifting description of the letters to the churches at the beginning of the book of Revelation.

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

The Writing Process

Jonne Akens, Ph.D. is Writing Center Faculty for Western Governors University where she has taught for the past three years. A teacher of writing for more than twenty years, Jonne taught for the Texas public school system for eight years and private and public universities, including Abilene Christian University and two universities in the Texas A&M system, for ten years. Jonne earned her Ph. D. in English, Literature and Criticism at Texas A&M University - Commerce. Her research interests include race studies and composition obstacles for Gen 1 student writers. She has presented her research at Pop Culture, Children's Literature Association, MLA, and CCCC conferences and led a week-long workshop focused on race in children's and young adult literature for Louisiana State University. Jonne served as editorial assistant and managing editor for the Philip Roth Studies journal for two years and has extensive writing center experience.

As Writing Center Faculty at WGU, Jonne works with students individually in both live and video sessions and collectively in a cohort format. She is also actively involved in creating video shorts to assist students in proof reading and revision processes and strategies. Her passion is helping students gain confidence in their ability to write professionally and academically.

ABILENE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Pick up a free copy of "The Great American Read" list. The Library has the books in print and audio.

Also check out the Smithsonian's traveling sports exhibit Hometown Teams, September 1-October 6.

New Member

Ruth York
from Cisco

Free Contest

Submit by: October 15, 2018
Each manuscript will receive
feedback by professional editor
Bob Rich.
<http://wp.me/P3Xihq-1>

AWG Roster

You should have received a
copy of the AWG Roster. Please
check your name and contact
information for accuracy.

Texas Book Festival

In Austin, TX

October 27-28, 201

https://www.texasbookfestival.org/attend_festival/

August Members Contest

Flash Fiction

Prose:

- 1st - Mary Berry
"Life's Journey"
- 2nd – Mary Berry
"And They Said It Couldn't Be Done"
- HM – Coy Roper
"Bragging Rights"

Poetry:

- 1st – Sheryl Nelms
"Scuba Diving in the Bermuda Triangle"
- 2nd – Mary Berry
"Digging for Gold"
- HM – Sharon Ellison
"Loneliness"

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 (2020)
- Executive VP: David Dodge (2019)
- Program VP: Kay Talley (2020)
- Secretary: Carolyn Dycus (2020)
- Treasurer: Gail McMillan (2019)
- Board member: Suanna Davis (2019)
- Board member: Linda Gordon (2019)
- Board member: Coy Roper (2020)
- Board member: Mary Ann Smith (2020)
- Alt. Board member: Marry Berry (2020)
- Newsletter editor: Jo Cox
- Monthly Contest Coordinator: Linda Gordon

Gifts for CPS Kids

AWG collects money and donations
for CPS, Sept-Nov. Recommended items
are journals/diaries, pen-pencils, young
adult fiction and non-fiction, and games
and puzzles. Let's challenge young
minds to start on a lifelong journey of
writing.

Donations and/or money can be
given or mailed to Gail McMillan, 419
Meadow Lane, Abilene, TX 79602. For
more information call 325 529-3885.

ABILENE WRITERS GUILD'S ANNUAL CONTEST 2018 -2019

General Information: Open to any person age 15 or older. All entries must be your original work, unpublished as of October 1, 2018. 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. Type only on one side of each page.

Entries must be **postmarked** between Oct. 1 and Nov. 30, 2018. 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 to center of Cover Sheet and center the title.

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, 2019.

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, 2019. 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: Adjust, Pretentious, Flabbergasted, Startled, Confirmation	100 words	\$ 7
9	Flash Poetry	Must include these 5 words: Gain, Magenta, Reef, Overwhelmed, Trust	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 2018-2019 CONTEST ENTRY FORM <http://www.abilenewritersguild.org/>

MAIL TO: Abilene Writers Guild
 c/o S. Ellison
 862 Grand Ave. Or phone
 Abilene, Texas 79605 (325) 665-5195
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 2019

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 27 – 7:00 p.m.

The Writing Process
Jonne Akens

ABILENE WRITERS GUILD

P.O. Box 2562
Abilene TX 79604