



# ABILENE WRITERS GUILD

## JULY 2022 NEWSLETTER

### KEEPING MEMBERS IN TOUCH

**ABILENE WRITERS GUILD.ORG**

**KTALLEY1968@GMAIL.COM**

#### Writing to Heal and Restore

When I began journaling as a 13-year-old, I thought of it mainly as jotting down the events of the day. By the end of the Five-Year diary which I had received for Christmas, I had learned that what that little book held was much more than words on a page. Hidden behind the ink were thoughts and emotions that had been birthed by the events of the day.

When a soul is so troubled, or the heart so deeply pained that the tongue cannot form the words to express the brokenness, sitting down to write can offer a measure of comfort, a pathway to restoration.

Our lives are made up of words and stories; stories that must be told. When we can't express those stories, when we are without the language for them, we begin to feel disconnected from all the world around us. In the early morning quietness of my bedroom, words begin to take their places within my creativeness to form sentences; sentences that write my stories. I pick up the pink journal and begin to write. The words begin to flow through the pen onto the page and I find freedom; a freedom from judgement and criticism that sometimes inhibits the freedom to expression. Discovery of things I know but didn't realize I knew comes to light. Images and emotions are released that have been held inside can no longer stay inside. Through release I find restoration of confidence, a healing, and creativity is revitalized.

There are times when the smell of coffee brewing, or a special song triggers a memory that brings about sadness. I write about those things that are stored in my memory bank from years past that are now resurfacing to bring about bitter-sweet memories.

Hurt feelings and broken hearts, for a writer, can be mended when written on the page. The stories of those emotions don't just go away; they simmer, morphing into broken relationships, ill health, and sour dispositions. They must be told, and for some, they are best told on the written page. The entries don't require eloquence; they will probably never be read by anyone other than the one who wrote them. Writing the words will still work on your heart and mind to readjust your attitude.

For complete healing and restoration through journaling, it is important to always end an entry with positive thoughts and lessons we learn through heartache.

For me, journaling provides nourishment for my soul. I find it necessary for my well-being and a way to use words to create a stairway out of the pits. When life tosses me into a dark hole, I know there is a way out through journaling and I use it as a means to reach freedom and safety.

Kay Talley  
*AWG President*



**Lou Mouglin:** BRAG: Another ish of FOX FORCE is out. SAG: Trying to get permission for history book.

**David Dodge:** BRAG/SAG: Working on number 16 in Settling the West series. Time is slow what with doctors' visits and therapy,

**Marguerite Gray:** BRAG: Submitted my novel, *Room to Love* to my publisher

**Mary Berry:** My article about the USPS's Classic American Doll Stamps issued 25 years ago, the dolls they represent, and the dolls they inspired is in the July/Aug issue of *Doll Castle News*.

**Jo Cox:** BRAG/SAG: I got a new laptop. Getting everything set up makes my head hurt.



**Jo Cox:** READING: *Under the Sun* by S Westley King. VERY good read. It poses the questions many people struggle through in their faith.

**Lou Mouglin:** READING: *Birds of Prey* by J. A. Jance.

**Carolyn Dycus:** READING: *Alistair Cooke's America* (If only this could be required reading in our nation's middle and high schools.) Also read a fun, fast moving novel, *The Horsewoman* by James Patterson and Mike Lupica.

**Linda Gordon:** READING: I very much enjoyed reading Karen Witemeyer's latest book release titled *In Honor's Defense*.

**Mary Berry:** READING: Books 1 and 2 of the Redemption Gray Series by S(ean) Westley King, the Cisco writer who presented our June program.

**Marguerite Gray:** READING: *The Dark Heart of Florence* by Tasha Alexander and *Much Ado about Persuasion* by Barbara Cornthwaite.

### Our Officers

- President: Kay Talley-Leach (2024)
- Executive VP: Darla McCloud (2023)
- Program VP: Sharon Ellison (2024)
- Secretary: Linda Gordon (2023)
- Treasurer: Gail McMillan (2023)
- Board Member: Chuck Weber (2023)
- Board Member: Mary Berry (2024)
- Board Member: Ron Davis (2024)
- Alt. Board Member: Carolyn Dycus (2023)
- Monthly Contest Coordinator: Linda Gordon



### Our Life Members

- Stewart Caffey, Nancy Masters*
- Alice Greenwood, David Dodge*
- Betty 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



## **MEMBERS ONLY AUGUST CONTEST**

**FLASH FICTION/POETRY**

**100 WORDS OR LESS**

**MANDATORY WORDS**

Project, double, shine, top, way

**DEADLINE – AUGUST 12**

*MEMBERS ONLY CONTEST*

## *JUNE WINNERS*

*1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE*

*Chuck Webber*

*The Truth About Photia*

*\*\*\*\*\**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Place*

*Coy Roper*

*Bewitched, Bothered and*

*Bewildered by Computers*

## *Advantages of Membership*

- Encouragement from other members
- Inspiration at monthly meetings
- Great tips in monthly programs
  - Members Only Contest
  - Monthly newsletter

**Secure your Membership**

**Update Your Dues**

**\$25.00 Single membership**

**\$35.00 family membership**

Please mail your dues to

**Gail McMillan**

**419 Meadow Ln**

**Abilene, TX 79602**

**Or Give to Gail at the July  
meeting**

If you joined AWG since March  
2022 your dues come due next year

*AWG's*

*own*

**DAVID DODGE**

*will present a program this month on self-  
publishing. He has a slide presentation for  
us and will answer any questions you might  
have. This could be an interesting*

*discussion, so plan to be with us July 28  
@ 7 PM David is an inspiration to all of*

*us. He and his wife celebrated their 72<sup>nd</sup>  
anniversary earlier this year. As a writer,  
he is like the energizer bunny-he keeps on  
writing books, one after the other!*

*Come learn what he has discovered through  
publishing NUMEROUS books,*

*particularly in his*

**SETTLING THE WEST**

*Series*

# 2022 Members Only Contest

**Exclusive:** For current members of AWG only. All entries eligible for Annual Contest. No fees!

**Judging:** Judges are professionals who may or may not choose to critique entries. Judge's decisions are final. If there are fewer than four entries per category in double category months, categories will be combined. Six entries per month are required for judging.

**Prizes:** \$20 first prize and \$15 second prize. You are encouraged to attend the meetings to pick up your check. Otherwise, they will be mailed to the physical address provided.

Pay careful attention to all guidelines

**Deadline:** Submissions may be sent any time after the 12th of the previous month, but no later than the 12th of the contest month.

**Enter by Email Only:** Send documents as attachments and in Word format only. Subject Line should state: AWG Contest and "Month" (e.g. January). Entries will be returned to the email on coversheet. **Warning:** some devices may not transmit document correctly, thus disqualifying entry. AWG will respond within five days. It is entrant's responsibility to verify and resend.

Send to: [awg.entry@yahoo.com](mailto:awg.entry@yahoo.com)

**Mix & Match:** Submit up to 3 entries per month. Enter poetry, prose, or both. Blended themes are acceptable. Must be original work unpublished at deadline (includes Internet posts).

**\*\* You may send up to 3 entries and accompanying cover sheets in the same email, but all cover sheets and entries must be separate attachments.\*\***

**Cover Sheet Format:** Top left: author's name, physical address (to mail prize check), telephone number, and email. Top right: Chosen month of entry, word count for Prose and Flash entries or line count for poetry. (Do not count the title when determining line or word counts.) Title of entry should be centered midway down the page.

**Entry Format:** Do not include author name on any page. Minimum one-inch margins; prose double spaced; poetry single or double spaced. First page: center title at top, double space then start text. Number subsequent pages at the top center or top right.

# 2022

MONTH	THEME	CATEGORY
JANUARY	No contest this month	Extra writing time for February
FEBRUARY	Winter, Nature, Milestones	Poetry – 50 lines or less Non-Fiction – 1,000 words or less
MARCH	Mandatory prompt words: tear, color, wind, sort, drift	Flash entry: Fiction or Poetry 100 max using 5 prompt words
APRIL	National Poetry Month NO THEME	Rhymed or Unrhymed Poetry 50 lines or less
MAY	National Short Story Month NO THEME	Fiction - 1,000 words or less
JUNE	AWG Non-Fiction Month NO THEME	Non-Fiction - 1,000 words or less
JULY	Home, Travel	Poetry – 50 lines or less Fiction – 1,000 words or less
AUGUST	Mandatory prompt words: project, double, shine, top, way	Flash entry: Fiction or Poetry 100 max using 5 prompt words

**Flash Fiction/Poetry use 5 mandatory prompt words**, or close form and meaning, like: Oil = oiled, oils, oiling, oiler, oily not spoil or foil; boat = lifeboat; speak = unspeakable, not spoken; place = placement; defect = defection or defective.