

BIG COUNTRY WRITERS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ABILENE WRITERS GUILD—JULY 2019

abilenewritersquild.org

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Happy July!

Writing rules, the heat, the rain, or multiple other things are food for discussion here, BUT I thought I would share some crazy boo boos I ran across recently. These concern writing query letters and book proposals. When I see things like this, often I laugh out loud, but often I scratch my head wondering "what were they thinking?" These are from Writers Weekly, which is a publication about writing and publishing FOR writers. You can get it via email at WritersWeekly.com in case you are interested. Here are some of the guestions, errors and all:

I want to till you that I wrote articles. Could you mind buying them?

WW response: First, you obviously didn't read our writer's quidelines. Second, I am not interested in being compost for your garden.

All I want is free cover design/publishing and marketing of my attached book in prints and distributed globally on Abuzz Press platforms.

WW response: This is definitely not the way to approach a book publisher.

I am very interested in writing of articles because I am a gifted writer in high domain. I am a well experienced writer of poems, novels, stories, articles and survey I have written some articles, poems and and stories I have 3 poems, stories and articles to sell to you I want to send them to you. So I can I send them to you by email? Just mail me back

WW response: Gifted in high domain, eh? I don't think so...

I want to write articles for you. I am expert in fiction but if you direct me to write upon a specific topic, I am there for you.

WW response: Never tell an editor you can write on any topic. They will not believe you.

What are the areas in which articles are prefered?

WW response: Well, articles with correct spelling would be a good start!

I am willing to write articles. We can write more appropriate content, for example as drug is bad. All I would ask for is attribution at the end of the post (with a do-follow link back to our website). Here are some great blogs I have for your website. Advantages of Steel Structures, 7 DIY Home Décor ideas, How to give Best interior Design to Your Living Home, 5 Helpful Tips in Garden Maintenance, 5 Usage of Garages, 7 Most Expensive Cars in the World, Accessories Should have While Purchasing New Car, How Boat Carports can be Beneficial?

WW response: Lots of people are willing to write articles but can you read and follow a publication's writer's guidelines? Can you also research a publication to see what topics thev cover? Finally, professional writers use correct grammar and punctuation, and never offer to write for free.

Read WW's last response again. You have heard something similar from someone else before. Someone like me!

I will be on a mission trip this month, so I will see you again in August!

Sharon Ellison

AWG President

DUES ARE DUE!

\$25.00 single membership \$35.00 family membership Give cash or check to Gail McMillan at the next meeting or mail to:

> **Abilene Writers Guild** P.O. Box 2562 Abilene, TX 79604

If you joined the AWG since March 2019, then your dues come due next year.

JULY PROGRAM

Scott Davis hails from Neptune Township, NJ. He enlisted in the United States Air Force where he served in a myriad of capacities; Security Forces, recruiting, and as a liaison to the State Department, HQ USCENTCOM, the Royal Air Force, the Royal Australian Air Force, the Air Attaches office and several joint service commands. He is a veteran of Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and Joint Task Force Horn of Africa. He also as a Technical Communications Instructor at the Professional Military Education Center at Dyess Air Force Base. Scott retired from active military service in 2011.

During his military career, Scott received and command-level thirty-seven national awards, including the coveted Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Award, which recognized him as one of the top twenty-four enlisted personnel. He was also selected as the Air Combat Command Security Forces Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year in 2005 for his leading combat patrols throughout Baghdad, Iraq, the incident-free escorting of over 650 distinguished visitors and 6,500 insurgent detainees throughout Iraq and the capture of 82 rocket propelled grenades and seven insurgents while performing duties as the Security Forces Patrol Master.

Scott earned undergraduate degrees; in history, criminal justice and human relations. plus a Master of Arts degree in Teaching and Learning with Technology. Scott completed his postgraduate studies in history at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. He is currently completing his doctoral research in the areas of intelligence and espionage.

Scott was recognized as a Truman National Scholar and has been inducted into the Golden Key International, the Alpha Sigma Lambda and the Delta Alpha Pi Honors Societies. He is also a lifetime member of the National Forensics League and an Honorary Lifetime Member of the Free and Accepted Masons.

Scott and his wife Rebecca own a small ranch in Sweetwater, Texas. They have three children and six grandchildren. He is a devout Christian and cancer survivor. He has often been called upon to speak to Christian organizations regarding his faith and resolve. <ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি><ঞ্জি
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BRAGS AND SAGS

Marguerite Gray is doing research for her new novel, Wait for Me.

Suanna Davis has several stories she is polishing, some stories being worked on. and a stack of ideas that are percolating, but nothing submitted this month. The reason? She traveled to Malaysia and had an amazing time. She learned about 50 words in Bahasa Melayu and is working on learning the language. Great metaphors in the original (owl = ghost bird, for example).

David Dodge has well over a hundred pages of a new book written.

Coy Roper has published his short novel Big Mack on Amazon. It is available either in print or electronic.

Ann Swann has sold her Contemporary YA Novel, Yeah, But I Didn't, to Wordcrafts Press. Sag, she has no idea when the book will be released.

Jo Cox is still rewriting her book, Creation's Parables.

WHAT AWG READS

Marguerite Gray: Stepping into the Light by Candee Fick. It is about the Scottish Highlands in 1412.

Suanna Davis: the sci fi author Glynn Stewart. "He is really good."

Carolyn Dycus: Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens. "Highly recommend, delightful descriptive words, a tale of suspense and angst."

David Dodge: has several books he is

Ann Swann: Little Fires Everywhere by Charlotte Ng. She just finished, Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens. "I loved the lyrical writing in this novel. My only problem with it was the feeling of a rushed ending. It was a bit of a shock.'

Sharon Ellison: *My Gal Sunday* by Mary Higgins Clark. "Four murder mystery stories featuring a Congresswoman and her husband, the former US president. Fun reading.

☆ ☆

WRITING CONTESTS

UNO PUBLISHING LAB PRIZE

Submit: full-length fiction manuscripts

Deadline: August 31, 2019 http://www.unopress.org/lab.aspx

POPULAR FICTION AWARDS

Deadline: September 6:2019

https://www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-

competitions/popular-fiction-awards

JUNIPER LITERARY PRIZES

Deadline: September 30, 2019

http://www.umass.edu/umpress/content/juni

per-literary-prize-series

SHORT FICTION AWARD

Deadline: September 30, 2019

https://www.uipress.uiowa.edu/authors/iowa-

short-fiction.htm

POETRY AWARDS

Deadline: October 1, 2019

https://www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-

competitions/poetry-awards

SHORT STORY AWARD

Deadline: November 29, 2019

https://www.servicescape.com/short-story-

award

AMERICAN HISTORICAL FICTION

Deadline: December 1:2019

https://langumfoundation.org/aboutprizes/american-historical-fiction/

FRIENDS OF AMERICAN WRITERS

Deadline: December 10, 2019

http://www.fawchicago.org/awards.php

CABELL FIRST NOVELIST AWARD

Deadline: December 31, 2019 https://firstnovelist.vcu.edu/

Members Contest Winners

Non-Fiction

1st: Coy Roper "Misadventures Down

on the Farm"

2nd: Chuck Webber "Meeting Willie"

HM: Chuck Webber "Evergreen Road"

HM: Carolyn Dycus

"I Remember Mama"

DUES PAID THIS MONTH

For questions or corrections, contact Gail McMillan at gmcmil5382@taylortel.net

> **Brandon Davis** Nicole Davis David Dodge Carolyn Dycus Lou Mougin Mary Ann Smith

Our Life Members:

Stewart Caffey, Nancy Masters, Laura Thaxton, Alice Greenwood 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	(2021)
Program VP: Kay Talley	(2020)
Secretary: Carolyn Dycus	(2021)
Treasurer: Gail McMillan	(2021)
Board member: Linda Gordon	(2021)
Board member: Coy Roper	(2020)
Board member: Mary Ann Smith	(2020)
Board member: Mary Berry	(2021)
Alt. Board member: Darla McLeod	(2020)
Newsletter editor: Io Cox	, ,

Monthly Contest Coordinator: Linda Gordon

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Members Only Monthly Contest - 2019

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

<u>Judging:</u> Judges are professionals who may or may not choose to critique entries. Choice of winners is 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: Early submissions received at any time, but due by the 12th of the contest month.

Enter by Email Only: Send document as attachments 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

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 coversheets in the same email, but all cover sheets and entries must be **separate attachments**. **

<u>Cover Sheet Format:</u> 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 or line count for poetry (do not include title in 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.

MONTH	THEME	CATEGORY
JANUARY	New Year's Eve, Winter	Poetry – 50 lines or less Fiction – 1,000 words or less
FEBRUARY	Games, Candy, Friendship	Poetry – 50 lines or less Non-Fiction – 1,000 words or less
MARCH	Mandatory prompt words: Gift, Revelation, Break, Jewel, Blue	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	Independence, Beaches, Weddings	Poetry – 50 lines or less Fiction – 1,000 words or less
AUGUST	Mandatory prompt words: Rain, Letter, Skip, Clear, Disguise	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.

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Fourth Thursday Together

July 25 - 7:00 p.m.

Scott Francis Davis

ABILENE WRITERS GUILD

P.O. Box 2562 Abilene TX 79604