



# ABILENE WRITERS GUILD

## KEEPING MEMBERS IN TOUCH

[ABILENEWritersGUILD.ORG](http://ABILENEWritersGUILD.ORG) [KTALLEY1963@GMAIL.COM](mailto:KTALLEY1963@GMAIL.COM)

### MEET YOUR PRESIDENT

In recent months life has changed in utterly unexpected and unimaginable ways, but one anticipated change was to the leadership of AWG. With these words allow me to tell you a little more about your new president.

Most members of a writer's guild consider themselves writers – people with stories to tell. I think of myself as a “wordsmith” rather than a “storyteller.” I write because I love words and their derivation - unusual words or words strung together in a unique way. From childhood I have been an indiscriminating reader of almost any type of fiction, non-fiction (especially history), and poetry. I also spend pleasant hours solving crossword puzzles.

History is another passion. Whether family stories, local lore, the saga of our country, or the evolution of civilizations, I have always been interested in the interrelationship of people and events and outcomes. The amateur sleuth in me has toyed with genealogy, and I am the repository for my family history.

My roots are in northwestern Pennsylvania where ancestors on both sides settled after the Revolutionary War. My personal journey includes a BA from the U of Arizona, MEd from TCU, and several years in education as a classroom teacher, counselor, and educational diagnostician. Teaching meant long summer vacations that I spent working on ranches in Canada, Wyoming, and Colorado. Those adventures ended when a new one began, the birth of my

only child who became the mother of my two grandchildren. For forty two years I have been married to my dearest friend, loving partner, and staunchest supporter. For the past four years I have been his caretaker as he suffers with debilitating COPD, but before then we worked side-by-side in the volatile Texas oil industry. I learned to research land and mineral title and to handle the paperwork involved in drilling, completion, and operations.

Retirement afforded me time to revive a life-long love of dolls. I share my large, eclectic collection through displays and programs and by writing for a doll publication where I am listed as “Contributing Writer.” I have had over 80 articles published. My dolls often came to me in “well loved” condition and needing new clothing. This has allowed me to employ another interest – sewing and needlework. Several doll costumes I created have won awards at national doll shows.

When my husband urged me to join AWG three years ago, I told him that I intended to sit back and just enjoy it. He replied that before long I would be running the group. That man knows me better than I know myself. I don't intend to “run” the group, but I look forward to serving as your president.

Unfortunately the Rose Park Senior Center does not plan to open for meetings until August 17; therefore, the regular meetings of AWG will not resume until August 27. In the meantime I hope you are honing your skills and looking forward to that day when once again you can enjoy the camaraderie of AWG. It is said that a

*pessimist complains about the wind; an optimist expects it to change; and the realist adjusts the sails.* As we strive to find just the right setting for our individual sails amidst all the recent changes, I hope that all of us will stay the course and that the year ahead will bring smooth sailing for AWG.

Mary Berry          Acting AWG President

## NO MEETINGS UNTIL AUGUST

Since our meeting place is closed until August 17 we will look forward to seeing you on August 27

## DUES ARE DUE

**\$25.00 Single membership**

**\$35.00 family membership**

**Please mail your dues to**

**Gail McMillan**

**419 Meadow Ln**

**Abilene, TX 79602**

If you joined AWG since March 2020 your dues come due next year

*WELCOME  
NEW MEMBERS*

**Christopher Browning**

**Marla Polk**

## Our Life Members

*Stewart Caffey, Nancy Masters  
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

*June*

## Members Contest Winners

First Place:

Carolyn Dycus for  
"Dammit Darlene"

Second Place:

Judy Sitton Ware for  
"A Meditation: Mesquite"

## Our Officers

President: Mary Berry	(2022)
Executive VP: David Dodge	(2021)
Program VP: Sharon Ellison	(2022)
Secretary: Carolyn Dycus	(2021)
Treasurer: Gail McMillan	(2021)
Board Member: Linda Gordon	(2021)
Board Member: Darla McCleod	(2021)
Board Member: Chuck Weber	(2022)
Board Member: Kay Talley	(2022)
Alt. Board Member: Mary Ann Smith	(2022)

Monthly Contest Coordinator: Linda Gordon

# *Accept the Challenge Take the Plunge*

Writing Contests/Opportunities

## This Sentence Starts The Story

Deadline: July 15

<https://www.fanstory.com/contestdetails.jsp?my=0&id=106620>

## Faith Poetry Contest

Deadline: July 22

<https://www.fanstory.com/contestdetails.jsp?my=0&id=106650>

## L Ron Hubbard Writers of the Future

Deadline: September 30

<https://thewritelife.com/writing-contests>

## **Inkitt's Writing Contest**

Monthly Contest

[https://www.inkitt.com/writing-contest?utm\\_source=affiliate\\_writelife](https://www.inkitt.com/writing-contest?utm_source=affiliate_writelife)

## *What AWG Reads*

**Marguerite Gray** is reading *Fine Print* by Chautona Havig and *The Piper's Pursuit* by Melanie Dickerson.

**Denver Reid** is currently reading *Bch-bioturf* by Dan Reid and *'Biofabrication* by Ted Fellow and Suzanne Lee. It takes an interest in plants and research to find it interesting.

**Iris Williams** is reading *Visual Intelligence: Sharpen Your Perception, Change Your Life* by Amy E. Herman. Very interesting and revealing.

**Mary Ann Smith** loved reading Madeleine L'Engle's *A Wrinkle in Time* along with her 8 year old granddaughter (read over the phone to each other since she lives out of state ) & enjoyed this classic that she hadn't read in years. She also enjoyed a more recently published book, *No Other Will Do*, by Karen Witemeyer, who is still a member of our group. She got a signed copy from the Texas Star Trading Co. store here in Abilene and they had more copies.

**Carolyn Dycus** is reading no novels, but rather comfort food for the soul during this past month: *Christian Meditation*, a guide to contemplative prayer by James Finley, and re-reading her favorite author of all genres Madeleine L'Engle's *Walking on Water*, Reflections on Faith and Art.

**Brandon Davis** is currently reading *Star Wars Ahsoka*, about Anakin's (Vader's) former apprentice.

**Linda Gordon** currently reading the seventh book in the Poldark series by Winston Graham

## BRAGS 'n Sags

**Marguerite Gray:** The fifth and final book in the Revolutionary Faith Series, *Wait for Me*, is at the publisher and scheduled for release in early 2021. My work in process is *Whispers of Wisdom*. I'm half way through the writing.

**David Dodge:** Just published *Conner Branagan*, but need to make some corrections, it is entered in StorytimeUK2020. Not likely to make a mark on a book contest, but I thought maybe the Brit judges will be interested in a western. This is my eleventh western, my twelfth book on Amazon. My sag, the book I'm writing has taken a turn that has slowed me down a bit.

**Brandon Davis:** Brag: Boss okayed bringing my laptop to the office with me to write/edit.

Sag: Some nights I leave it in the case all shift.

**Suanna Davis:** I have done some critiques. I am in the process of editing my middle grade novel with Jo Cox.

**Coy Roper:** Brag - I had two sermons published in the most recent issue of Truth for Today, a monthly periodical published in Arkansas.

**Carolyn Dycus:** Husband and I clearing, cleaning our huge storeroom outdoors of 50 years, and all "things material" that go with life over those decades, with yard equipment in front of all! Photos and memorabilia are slowing down progress immensely! If you have lived in one home for fifty years, you understand.

**Linda Gordon:** Had a short story titled "The African Violet Leaf" published in the May/June issue of Christian Woman magazine.

**Kay Talley:** Completed two issues of the monthly AWG Newsletter. Still learning.

## SAVE the DATE

### WORKSHOP RESCHEDULED!

Saturday, September 12, 2020, 8:30 am to 11:30 am. Registration begins at 8:30 with the program following quickly, so please be prompt! Come ready to write during this hands-on workshop presented by well-known local and national writer and speaker, Nancy Robinson-Masters!

Location: Southeast corner of First Baptist Church, Abilene, Texas, at the intersection of Hickory and North 2nd streets. There is parking near the south entrance to the building and also directly across the street from the meeting room. Cost is \$25 per person. Call 665-5195 and leave a message with your name and number to reserve your space, or leave a message if you have questions. Bring a friend!

GO AHEAD

JUST DO IT  
START TODAY  
MEMBERS ONLY  
CONTEST  
JULY

Theme: *Make a Splash*  
(Anything to do with water)

Poetry - 50 lines or less

Fiction - 1000 words or less

## Members Only Monthly Contest - 2020

**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. 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:** Submissions received at any time after the 12th of the previous month, 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](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 coversheets 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 or **line count** for poetry (*Do not count 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.

MONTH	THEME	CATEGORY
JANUARY	"Rock" the New Year (any definition of "rock")	Poetry – 50 lines or less Fiction – 1,000 words or less
FEBRUARY	Hearts on "Fire" (any definition of "fire")	Poetry – 50 lines or less Non-Fiction – 1,000 words or less
MARCH	Mandatory prompt words: Mix, Jam, Twine, Ring, Ticket	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	Make a Splash (anything to do with "water")	Poetry – 50 lines or less Fiction – 1,000 words or less
AUGUST	Mandatory prompt words: Slip, Match, Trace, Key, Pretend	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.