



# BIG COUNTRY WRITERS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ABILENE WRITERS GUILD—JULY 2018

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## July is Passing By

It seems July just dropped by for a quick visit, because it seems to be speeding past us, don't you think, spreading its love (heat) over, around and on us. However, last weekend some of us were blessed with some nice rain which cooled things off a bit.

New members, welcome to AWG! Over the last few months, we have had many new members and several visitors each month and are so very happy to have you! We look forward to your contributions to the Guild. Participation is the key in any organization and AWG provides many opportunities other than our regular, monthly meeting. These opportunities include our monthly members-only contests, our annual contest, the children's writing contest, helping with the CALF children's writing event, and our annual Child Protective Services Christmas project. Just jump right in!

When I ran across a list of writing errors recently, I knew I wanted to share them with all of you. As writers, we want to always be careful to spell words correctly (never mind that each time I try to text the word 'about' on my cell phone, autocorrect changes it to 'snout'. Sheesh!)

Here are some interesting examples of folks NOT proofreading their writing—spacing and spelling just as an editor received them:

*Where can I summit my article?* (Perhaps on a mountaintop?)

*I writing to you with the aim of accepting my article for publication on you site web. English is my passion.* (Well, not quite passionate enough it seems.)

*I am a Kenyan freelance journalist (copy-editor) proposing one story for (name of a competitor's magazine).* ( Goodness! If you are submitting a story to several magazines, please be sure you note the correct magazine name in each inquiry.)

*I need to submit my sricle.Can I submit my article?Im waiting your response.* (I bet they suggested learning how to spell and using the space bar at the end of sentences.)

*I write articles..so I want to ask..how I can write for you and earn sumthing.* (Spell-check and punctuation would be a good place to start.)

*Like where do I contribute and what amount will I be paif* (The editor's response: "Like, I have plenty of professional writers so, like, no thank you.)

*I want to write for you, people. I love in India, how can I apply.* (How sweet and these are REAL inquiries!)

*I would like to write articles & blog about,marketing,sales,success story,how to survive in new city,how to behave in new organization on firs day. What women do at home while not working.* (Sounds like this person didn't know much about the publication she was contacting.)

Here is my personal favorite – and it happens because we are getting lazy in our texting.

*I need online writing jjob to earn. Would u plz give me this opportunity I will proved myself upto the mark.* (Don't use texting abbreviations in business correspondence---seriously!)

Looking forward to seeing you at our meeting this month!

**Sharon Ellison**

AWG President

## Dues are Due

\$25.00 single membership  
\$35.00 family membership

Mail checks to:  
Abilene Writers Guild  
P.O. Box 2562  
Abilene, TX 79604

## BRAGS AND SAGS

**Mary Berry** submitted a magazine article about dolls that depict characters from the funny papers. However, she is struggling to find time and motivation to write.

**Coy Roper** reports that *Truth for Today*, the periodical for which he used to work fulltime, published an issue he wrote called "Misunderstandings about the Old Testament," and paid him for it!

**Carla Kerr:** she is one of the writers in her acting troupe's new murder mystery "Hula and Homicide" as well as acting in the production on July 13, 2018 presented by the city of Alamogordo.

**Lou Mougín** has a new Jekyll-Hyde story in the next CREEPS. He is having trouble finishing Frankenstein 2 or the comics history yet.

**Penny Klostermann's** book *There Was An Old Dragon Who Swallowed a Knight* is going to be a board book. "It will be fun for the book to be in another format."

**Suanna Davis** is way behind on everything and is glad she is finally getting around to emails from last month. Sadly, that is most of the writing she has managed.

**Jo Cox** is working on her next book, *Creator's Parables*. It is a look at the basic nature of God and how Greek philosophy distorted the ancient Hebrew to fit its ideas. Also, the scientific paper depicting the fauna of the fossil site on Jo's family's farm was finally finished and published in the *Journal of Paleontology!* Her cousin Judie Ostlien is named as one of the contributing writers. "Very cool, but it is rather thick reading."

**Loretta Walker's** poem, "Drawing with Mama," written shortly before her mother's death, will be published in the San Pedro River Review. She will be a featured reader in San Francisco, CA.

## WHAT AWG READS

**Mary Berry:** *Victoria The Queen* by Julia Baird and *Reconstructing Amelia* by Kimberly McCreight.

**Carla Kerr:** *Still Life* by Louise Penny. "She writes murder mysteries around Inspector Gamache."

**Lou Mougín:** *The Outsider* by Stephen King.

**Penny Klostermann:** *After Anna* by Lisa Scollone. "It kept my attention."

**Carolyn Dycus:** *Robots of Dawn* by Isaac Asimov. "I'm enjoying a 1983 look at SciFi and the world of robots via the admirable adventures of detective Elijah Baley. This book won the Hugo Award in 1983. A fun read for a 'back to the future' experience!"

**Jo Cox:** Lots of internet information on Predestination vs. Free Will.

## JULY PROGRAM

### OPEN MIC NIGHT!

AWG members! Come and present a reading of your writing for the July meeting.

Prepare for one 4 minute presentation, two if there is time. It can be recorded.

What better way to inspire and encourage fellow members! Be a part of this fun and motivational night.

## Returning AWG Membership

For questions or corrections, contact Gail McMillan at [gmcml5382@taylortel.net](mailto:gmcml5382@taylortel.net)

Suanna Davis  
Sharon Ellison  
Tate Ellison  
Linda Gordon

Cindy Mims  
Barbara Rollins  
Kay Talley  
Iris Williams

### New Members

**Renee Leath, Bill Wright**  
both from Abilene

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## **PAY Your Dues**

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**FYI: without payment,  
August is the last month to  
receive an AWG newsletter!**

## **June Members Contest**

Non-Fiction Month

1st - **Coy Roper** - "Fourteen Things I  
Learned When I Was Young"

2nd - **Kay Talley** - "Peaceful Waters"

### **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

## **Kallisto Gaia Press has 2 Contests**

<http://www.kallistogaiapress.org>

### (1) Poetry Contest

Deadline: August 20, 2018

A portion revenue will be donated to Cancer Research at M. D. Anderson Hospital.

### (2) Short Story Contest

Deadline: August 20, 2018

A portion of revenue will be donated to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research

## **Bethune & Son**

### **Annual Texas Short Story Competition**

<http://www.bethuneandson.com/texasshortstorycontest.html>

Deadline: August 1, 2018

*And a list of long lists of contests, poetry, flash, short stories, Sci-Fi, horror, memoir, non-fiction, etc.*

*Deadlines vary per contest.*

## **Fan Story**

[https://www.fanstory.com/contestsall.jsp?sc=1&wct=1&gclid=CjwKCAjwhLHaBRAGEiwAH CgG3vuQf7z0zsnNRCHYKblonKrGcDjP-Jl8Vcb0-DqyLVbw4anOqsVj2xoCYdoQAvD\\_BwE](https://www.fanstory.com/contestsall.jsp?sc=1&wct=1&gclid=CjwKCAjwhLHaBRAGEiwAH CgG3vuQf7z0zsnNRCHYKblonKrGcDjP-Jl8Vcb0-DqyLVbw4anOqsVj2xoCYdoQAvD_BwE)

## **The Write Life**

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

## **The Writer**

<https://www.writermag.com/writing-resources/contests/>

## **Tethered by Letters**

<https://tetheredbyletters.com/resources/contest-list/>

## **Poets & Writers**

<https://www.pw.org/grants>



## Members Only Monthly Contest - 2018

**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:** Early submissions received at any time, but by the 12th of the contest month.

**Enter by Email Only:** Send document 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: [avg.entry@yahoo.com](mailto:avg.entry@yahoo.com)**

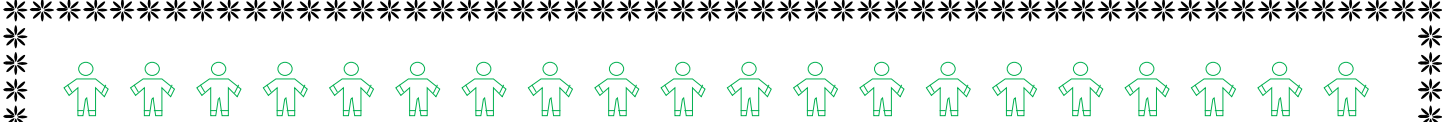
**Mix & Match:** Submit up to 3 entries per month. Enter poetry, prose, or both. Blended themes are acceptable. Must be original work unpublished at deadline (includes Internet posts).

**Cover Sheet Format:** Each entry must include a **separate** cover sheet. Center entry title on page. **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*).

**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. **Other pages:** entry title at top right with page number.

MONTH	THEME	CATEGORY
JANUARY	Ice, Fresh Starts, Power Outages	Poetry – 50 lines or less Fiction – 1,000 words or less
FEBRUARY	Hearts, First Love, Cards	Poetry – 50 lines or less Non-Fiction – 1,000 words or less
MARCH	Mandatory prompt words: Left, Bark, Fly, Seal, Cover	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	Summer Nights, Reunions, Flowers	Poetry – 50 lines or less Fiction – 1,000 words or less
AUGUST	Mandatory prompt words: Light, Refrain, Stoop, Lash, Gold	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.



**Fourth Thursday Together**  
**July 26 – 7:00 p.m.**

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**Open Mic Night!**



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