



BIG COUNTRY WRITERS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ABILENE WRITERS GUILD—NOVEMBER 2017

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November Thanksgiving

It is that time of year once again where we give thanks. Indulge me, please, as I list my immediate family, for whom I am VERY thankful. If I added everyone else, family and friends, my list might turn into a dissertation!

David: eldest stepson, awesome smile, a great guy, fun sense of humor, and a computer nerd in the best possible way. Love his hugs. **Kelly:** his sweetie who loves watching sports maybe even more than she loves him!

Patrick: youngest stepson, super guy, funny, awesome dad and loving hubby. Love his hugs, too. **Jessica:** second daughter-in-love, talented, loving and creative young woman who loves cooking, among other things. Glad she is part of our family! **Payton:** age 7, beautiful granddaughter with a super smile who sure likes playing soccer, video games and having tea parties! **Paige:** age 4, cute, petite granddaughter, energetic, smart and makes us laugh at her antics!

Tate: youngest of the boys, awesome dad, loving/caring husband, creative and funny guy. Good hugs? Yep! **Abbye:** first daughter-in-love, talented, loving, home-school teacher, Tae Kwon Do student and artistic young woman. Glad she found Tate. **Truett:** oldest grandson, age 12, 5'-9" and taking Tae Kwon Do! Handsome with a kind heart and gentle spirit, but can be a bit ornery at times. **Liam:** age 9, a tornado, almost always in high gear, loves video games, annoying his older brother, and Tae Kwon Do! **Sophye:** age 7, just braved heart ablation surgery (doing great). This little beauty loves birthday parties, tea parties, coloring, makeup parties, and Tae Kwon Do.

Samuel: my horse...errr...sorry.... dog. Newest member of my household. Makes me laugh out loud and is good company!

Well, there they are: three handsome sons,

two beautiful daughters-in-love, David's awesome girlfriend, five adorable grands, plus granddogs, Cooper & Lizzie, and grandcat, Sally!

What fills up YOUR time?

Be sure to join us **Thursday, November 16**, for our potluck supper. Bring finger foods to share with the group and bring something you have written to read. These evenings have been a blast in the past!

Also this month, please remember to bring items related to writing or money to donate to our **Children's Protective Services** Christmas project. Gail will be delivering our gifts in December. Please be generous!

Your annual contest entries need to be sent in or be **postmarked by November 30!** Hurry. Your entries are much needed!

This month you will find **rules** for the 2018 Members-Only Contests AND for our new Children's Writing Contest for 2018. If you know children ages 9 -11 or 12 -14 who might be budding writers, encourage them and their parents to visit our website and enter our contest.

Remember: There is NO meeting in December. I wish all of you a very Happy Thanksgiving. Count your blessings. Each of you is one of mine. Happy to be a part of Abilene Writers Guild and to serve as your President.

Sharon Ellison

AWG President

Next Meeting

THIRD Thursday, November 16th.

From the AWG Board

Tell us your ideas for programs!

New Members

Darla McLeod, Cindy Mims, and Diana Hartmann all from Abilene

BRAGS AND SAGS

Ann Swann's new Romantic Suspense novel *The Remains in the Pond* is now available for preorder at <http://www.5princebooks.com/annswann.html>.

Mary Berry's article about a unique doll from the 1940s, was published in *Doll Castle News* magazine. She has a display of military dolls for Veterans' Day in the lobby of the Rose Park Senior Citizen's Center.

Lou Mougín says, "The comics history book is coming closer to fruition." Also, *Lucky Comics* keeps wanting him to do new stuff and his next *Creeps* story comes out soon. On a sag note, *Frankenstein 2* is only half through.

Kay Talley's book, *Don't Hurry the Sunrise* has recently been released and can be ordered through ketchpublishing.com.

Suanna Davis has started working on her middle grades novel again. She hopes she has disassembled the plot blocks.

Coy Roper is working on two projects, an autobiography, *Stories We Told*, and on *Misunderstandings About the Old Testament*.

Carolyn Dycus is working the November women's Walk to Emmaus.

Loretta Walker had a successful book signing of *Desert Light*. She was nominated for a Pushcart Prize by *Red River Review* for her poem "A Sudden Blaze." Her poem "Birth of Autumn" was published in *Illya's Honey*. She was invited to attend The Poetry Society of Texas award banquet because she won first place in the PST poetry contest.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

Open Mic Night

Members will read from their writing and visitors will be welcome to share some, too! Time is limited to three minutes each.

Bring finger foods to share. AWG will furnish paper goods, utensils and drinks.

Programs like this have proved very interesting in the past because there is a wide variety of genres: poetry, flash fiction, short stories, a chapter of a book, etc.

Come join the fun.

WHAT AWG READS

Ann Swann: *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman.

Carla Kerr: *The Honest Spy* by Andreas Kollender. *If the Oceans Were Ink* by Carla Power.

Lou Mougín: *The Fifties* by David Halberstam.

Kay Talley: *Wives of King David*, and *Wives of the Patriarchs* by Jill Eileen Smith.

Jill Henderson: *The Girl Who Takes An Eye For An Eye* by David Lagercrantz. *Crime Scene* by Jonathan and Jesse Kelleman. *Friday The Rabbi Slept Late* by David Kemelman.

Penny Klostermann: *Invisible* by James Patterson. "Creepy!"

Judy Ware: *The Rooster Bar*, by John Grisham.

Sharon Ellison: *The Dead Don't Dance* by Charles Martin.

Jo Cox: *Yeshua the Name of Jesus Revealed in the Old Testament* by Yacov Rambsel.

Carolyn Dycus: *One Thousand White Women, The Journal of May Dodd* by Jim Fergus, *Into the Silent Land* by Martin Laird, and *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood.

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	(2018)
Executive VP:	David Dodge	(2019)
Program VP:	Barbara Rollins	(2018)
Secretary:	Carolyn Dycus	(2018)
Treasurer:	Gail McMillan	(2019)
Board member:	Suanna Davis	(2019)
Board member:	Linda Gordon	(2019)
Board member:	Kay Talley	(2018)
Board member:	Coy Roper	(2018)
Alt. Board member:	Mary Ann Smith	(2018)
	Newsletter editor: Jo Cox	
	Monthly Contest Coordinator: Linda Gordon	

ABILENE WRITERS GUILD'S ANNUAL CONTEST 2017-2018

General Information: Open to any person age 15 or older. All entries must be your original work, unpublished as of October 1, 2017. 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. No fancy fonts! Text: type only on one side of each page.

Entries must be **postmarked** between Oct. 1 and Nov. 30, 2017. 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 12 lines from top of page and center your title on the cover sheet.

YOUR NAME DOES NOT GO ON ANY OTHER PAGE.

CATAGORIES 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, 2018.

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 30,2018. 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

This project is supported by a grant from the Abilene Cultural Affairs Council, HeARTS for the ARTS, the Abilene Arts Alliance, and the City of Abilene.

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: Adore Jealous Machine College Foreign	100 words	\$ 7
9	Flash Poetry	Must include these 5 words: Tree Purple Fortitude Exquisite Conform	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 2016-2017 CONTEST ENTRY FORM <http://www.abilenewritersguild.org/>

MAIL TO: Abilene Writers Guild
 c/o S. Ellison
 1025 Grand Ave.
 Abilene, Texas 79605
 (325) 672-1868

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 2018

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

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

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.

ABILENE WRITERS GUILD'S STUDENT WRITING CONTEST 2018 For ages 9-11 and 12-14

RULES and ENTRY FORM

You do NOT have to be a member of Abilene Writers Guild to enter or win the contest, nor do you have to attend the April 2018 meeting. However, if you enter our contest, we encourage you to come to the meeting to help support and cheer your fellow students in their writing efforts. Enter as many times as you wish between January 1, 2018, and February 15, 2018.

Entries mailed or emailed before January 1, 2018, or after February 15, 2018, **will be accepted**. Mailing address and email address are on page two.

CATEGORIES, MAXIMUM LENGTHS

1. **Poetry**, rhymed or unrhymed.....maximum 50 lines
2. **Short story**.....maximum 600 words

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS – Titles are not counted in the line or word count.

1. **Poems**: may be rhymed **OR** unrhymed in any style.
2. **Short Story**: If you like to make up fun stories, now is your chance! Give us a beginning, interesting characters, a middle and a good ending with a maximum of 600 words (which equals about two and one-half typed pages or four and one-half hand-written pages).

COVER SHEET: Each entry must have a separate cover sheet with the following:

Your name and age
Category (poetry or short story)
Your school's name
Your teacher's name (If home-schooled, put parent & school name)
Then, go down to the center of the page and
put the title of your poem or story on the cover sheet.

SHORT STORY: Entries may be typed on computer or handwritten. **Center the title of your story at the top of the first page, leave a space after the title** and begin your story. For second, third, fourth pages, put the story title and page number at the top— **DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON ANY OF THESE PAGES!** If your entry is handwritten, please make sure anyone can read your writing!

POETRY: Poems may be typed or handwritten. If you hand-write your poem, please make sure anyone can read your writing. **Center the title** of your poem at the top of the page, leave a blank line and write your poem. **Do NOT put your name on this page!**

PROCEDURES: Staple a cover sheet to each entry. Send us a SASE (self-addressed, stamped return envelop) if you don't plan to attend the awards meeting but want your entry back. SASE must include **adequate postage**. Remember, even emailed entries must have a cover sheet for each entry.

This project is supported by a grant from the
Abilene Cultural Affairs Council, HeARTS for the ARTS, the Abilene Arts Alliance,
and the City of Abilene.

NOTE TO PARENTS & TEACHERS: The entries will be judged on content, presentation and creativity, not necessarily on spelling and punctuation. We want this to be a fun project for the children. The judges, professionals in their fields, are asked to critique each poem or story, and they may make suggestions about spelling and punctuation. It is our aim to help the children succeed! **Decisions of the judges are final.** Awards will be announced at the April 2018 meeting of Abilene Writers Guild, held at Rose Park Senior Center at 7 pm the fourth Thursday in April.

Awards: First place, Second, Third, and Honorable Mention

Please visit our website, AbileneWritersGuild.org, for more details about Abilene Writers Guild. Entries may be picked up after our April meeting, or we will use the self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) to return the entries as long as there is sufficient postage to do so.

Winners will also be listed on our website: AbileneWritersGuild.org by May 15, 2018.

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ABILENE WRITERS GUILD 2018 STUDENT WRITING CONTEST ENTRY FORM

MAIL TO: Abilene Writers Guild
c/o S. Ellison
1025 Grand Ave.
Abilene, Texas 79605
(325) 672-1868

Email Inquiries to: TrLiSo3@hotmail.com

*Your Name _____ *Age: _____

*School and Teacher's Name or Parent's Name:

***=required information**

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

(Parents/Teachers: We only ask for address, phone and/or email address in case we need to contact you for some reason. If you prefer not to include this information, feel free to omit it.)

of Poetry Entries _____

of Short Stories _____

We invite you to join AWG individually for \$25 a year, or two members of a family may join for \$35; however, you do not have to be a member to enter or win in this contest!

Third Thursday Together
November 16 – 7:00 p.m.

Open Mic Night
Food and Read Your Writing

ABILENE WRITERS GUILD

P.O. Box 2562
Abilene TX 79604