



BIG COUNTRY WRITERS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ABILENE WRITERS GUILD—OCTOBER 2017

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October Ramblings

Three sheets to the wind. What on earth does THAT mean? Well, we've likely all heard it said, but why?

To be "**three sheets to the wind**" is to be drunk. The sheet is the line that controls the sails on a ship. If the line is not secured, the sail flops in the wind, and the ship loses headway and control. If all three sails are loose, the ship is out of control. Not that I have seen any of you drunk, nor do I care to do so, just to be clear; but, I guess being out of control would pretty accurately describe someone who was drunk.

How about other such sayings? You can probably think of many. Have you heard this one? "**That's about as loud as a cow peeing on a flat rock.**" No? I suppose you would have to know someone who uses this phrase... as I do. It always gives me pause to stop and think about just how loud that might be.

You're "**barking up the wrong tree!**" Surely you've heard that phrase. Apparently it was coined for hunting dogs who literally "barked up the wrong tree" when trying to tree the prey. Now it is often used when people are questioned about something, and they try to prove their innocence.

Do you try to stay on "**a good footing**" with your friends or coworkers? Of course that just means remaining in a pleasant relationship with them.

Another hunting term is "**beat around the bush.**" The phrase was used while hunting wild boars that tried to hide in the bushes. "Beaters" were hired hands who were asked

to go into the bush and drive the boars out. I don't know about you, but I would not like to run into a sharp-tusked, wild boar in a bush!

Now we might ask someone to "**spit it out and don't beat around the bush**" when they have something to say but seem to be having a difficult time doing so.

Everyone knows if you are trying to make a good impression, you "**put your best foot forward,**" right?

Well, I don't think I am barking up the wrong tree by reminding you that our annual contest is in full swing. I hope you will try to stay on a good footing by sending in your entries to support AWG and its project. You know me... I won't beat around the bush when it comes to reminding you to read and **follow** the rules!

I dare say none of you would do your best writing if you were three sheets to the wind, but if you DO send in some entries this year, you might just win, in which case we might possibly hear you shouting even louder than a cow peeing on a flat rock!

Go ahead. Get busy. You have stories and poems to write and the judges are anxious to read them. Plus, the mailbox is ready and waiting!

Sharon Ellison

AWG President

Call for Submissions

The Ocotillo Review is a literary nonprofit magazine open for submissions August 15 - November 31st and January 15th through March 31st.

Contributors are paid. You can find more info @ www.kallistogaiapress.org.

Ocotillo Review has recently acquired publication rights to the iconic Texas Poetry Calendar.

New Member

Mary Berry of Abilene

BRAGS AND SAGS

Lou Mougín has had another *Creeps* script accepted. *Pulp Legends#1* just came out, with his prose "Black Bat" story. He is still lagging on *Frankenstein 2*.

David Dodge has completed his fourth book; and it is ready to go before the most scrutinizing eyes of one of the Big Country's best editors... to be torn to bits.

Jo Cox split her book into two, by an editor's suggestion. They are now *Creator's Parables* and *Creation's Parables*.

OCTOBER PROGRAM

Conferences

writing and publishing

Unlike most women, having your roots show is a compliment to Diana Hartmann. A former Accountant now writer, the West Texas native views what others might think of as trash in their past, as stars leading her to share her story through the written word and messages full of hope and healing.

Her journey started in her early years living in West Texas. Her own trials brought her into the world of recovery, which fuels her passion to help other families and individuals seeking freedom from addiction's legacy.

Addiction is a family illness that is passed down from generation to generation. While others may try to run from their past, Diana has been able to witness the power that comes from looking back at her past like a star leading her to her own personal treasure, a new relationship with self. Learning self appreciation and powerful self confidence leading to a new and better life.

Go with her on a journey that will help you break the cycle of addiction in your own family. She will show you how to break free from the negative codependent behaviors and identify the patterns lurking at the bottom of so many dysfunctional families. Diana leaves the audience feeling empowered and most importantly hopeful for a new life, free from the past.

WHAT AWG READS

Lou Mougín: a Harry Chapin biography.

David Dodge: *Breakheart Pass* by Alistair MacLean.

Judy Ware: *The Last Anniversary* by Liane Moriarty.

Carolyn Dycus: *The Witches' Tree* by M. C. Beaton.

Gail McMillan: *Horsefly Hank and the Osage War Shield* by David Roper. *Buffalo Trail* by Jeff Guinn, this year's A. C. Green award recipient.

From the AWG Board

If you have ideas for programs or would (or need) a program on a certain writing subject, let your Board know. We are all learning together.

Celebrate the Arts

Gail McMillan

Thank you for the opportunity to represent Abilene Writers Guild.

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.

CATEGORIES 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

Fourth Thursday Together
October 26 – 7:00 p.m.

Conferences
writing and publishing
Diana Hartmann

ABILENE WRITERS GUILD

P.O. Box 2562
Abilene TX 79604