



ABILENE WRITERS GUILD

FEBRUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

KEEPING MEMBERS IN TOUCH

ABILENE WRITERS GUILD.ORG

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Catching Up

The best laid plans of mice and men go oft awry, and so it was last month. Icy roads and frigid temperatures led to the cancellation of the regularly scheduled meeting and the postponement until July of David Dodge's much anticipated program on self-publishing. Missing last month's meeting was especially unfortunate because there is no regular meeting scheduled for this month. I am left feeling empty and hungry for the opportunity to gather in company with our fellow writers and to be inspired by another of the outstanding programs we have enjoyed this year. Happily, the perfect antidote for that malady will take place on Saturday, March 26th – our three hour Writers Workshop.

Be sure to read about the workshop and our presenter, Laura Conner Kestner, in this newsletter and on our website. A seventh generation Texan Ms. Kestner draws upon those deep roots and her Christian faith to enrich her writing. A long list of honors and awards attests to her excellence in writing romance, mystery, and western fiction. She also has 25 years of experience as a small town journalist and is a wife, mother, and grandmother. I am looking forward to what will most certainly be an interesting, inspirational, and informative morning, and I encourage you to join us.

If we had met in February, I would have announced the appointment of a Nominating Committee tasked with the responsibility of

selecting candidates for the offices with terms ending in June. I have asked Sharon Ellison to chair the committee and Gail McMillan and Chuck Webber to serve. At the April meeting they will present candidates for your consideration for the offices of president and program vice president and for three places on the board. Additional nominations may be made from the floor, and elections will take place in May.

Linda Gordon, coordinator of the Members Only Contest, would have announced that Chuck Anderson won 1st place and Chuck Webber placed 2nd in February's contest. The contest provides opportunities for members to exercise and hone their skills and also the prospect of earning a little cash. I encourage you to check out the contest rules in this newsletter to take advantage of this special privilege of membership – and to give the Chucks a little friendly competition!

If you do not follow AWG on Facebook (Abilene Writers Guild Page), be sure to keep up to date by visiting our website (abilenewritersguild.org). There you will find the latest information about upcoming programs, contests, writing opportunities, and more.

I hope to see you at the Annual Workshop on Saturday, March 26 and again at the April meeting. Until then – write on.

Mary Berry
AWG President



Marguerite Gray: BRAG: I've sent a novella, *Crystal Clear*, to my editor. It releases in November 2022.

Chuck Anderson: BRAG: Brag: I have ten thousand words done for the opening chapters (a parody and strophe) of my next award-winning book. Now to weave in more Greek tragedy elements. I love stasimons! My web page is (mostly) operational. <https://chuckazerogee.com/>

Chuck Webber: BRAG: I got 2 replies from publishers for poems submitted. One said no, but please send more. The other said yes and will print it in the Beir quarterly newsletter. Of course, the one that pays money said no & the one that pays with a smile and a handshake said yes. It is the religious quarterly.

David Dodge: Was working on self-publishing presentation but that got rescheduled to July. Trying to get back on recent writing but then I have cath surgery scheduled the 22nd so it's even slowed down more at our place. Maybe it will get back in line after all that.

Suanna Davis: BRAG: I finished a complete, age-appropriate rewrite of my fantasy novel. Jo and I are halfway through editing it. SAG: I did not write a single picture book draft in February.

Mary Berry: My article about a little German doll made in the 1920's was published in the latest issue of *Doll Castle News* magazine. I have submitted two more pieces that will be published later this year.



Mary Berry: READING: Laura Conner Kestner's three novels, *Remember Texas*, *A Texas Promise* and, *A Texas Moon*. Not my usual genre of choice but I found myself enjoying the characters (which appear in all three books) and their adventures - some of which are based on real events.

I am also reading aloud to my husband Jules Verne's *The Mysterious Island* written in 1875. He is fascinated with the ingenuity of the castaways, and I am enthralled with the vocabulary and descriptions.

Chuck Anderson: READING: *Epicurus' biography: Epicurus and the Pleasant Life: A Philosophy of Nature*. Remember, "It is impossible to live a pleasant life without living wisely and well and justly. And it is impossible to live wisely and well and justly without living a pleasant life."

Suanna Davis: READING: I have read multiple fantasy novels by James Haddock, a former Warrant Officer and now a full-time RVer and pantser author.

Marguerite Gray: READING: *In Search of a Prince* by Toni Shiloh and *Finding a Memory* by Chatouna Havig.

Chuck Anderson: Reading: Two new novels by Abilene Writers Guild authors. Joe Computer Private Detective by Lou Mouglin and *The Adventures of Space Girl Red* by R. A. Davis. It is such a treat to read novels written by members of our own Guild. Both are well worth reading.

Lou's computer/detective story is going to be a hit with Geeks around the world as he blends technology with sleuthing (think W. Gibson's *Neuromancer* meets D. Hammett's *Sam Spade*). Ron's *Space Girl(s)* is an absolutely fun read that will please the young adult audience, especially those looking for women role models. Watch for sequels.

Our Life Members

*Stewart Caffey, Nancy Masters
Alice Greenwood, David Dodge
Betty 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: Mary Berry (2022)
Executive VP: Darla McCloud (2023)
Program VP: Sharon Ellison (2022)
Secretary: Linda Gordon (2023)
Treasurer: Gail McMillan (2023)
Board Member: Chuck Weber (2023)
Board Member: Mary Ann Smith (2022)
Board Member: Kay Talley (2022)
Alt. Board Member: Carolyn Dycus (2023)
Monthly Contest Coordinator: Linda Gordon



**MEMBERS ONLY
CONTEST
APRIL
NATIONAL POETRY MONTH
NO THEME**

**No Thursday night Meeting at
Rose Park this month .
Meet us at First Baptist Church
on
Saturday, March 26 – 8:30 AM**

**MEMBERS ONLY
CONTEST WINNERS
FEBRUARY**

**1ST CHUCK ANDERSON
“YEAH, I MET THE GUY”**

**2ND CHUCK WEBBER
“MILESTONES”**

**HM MARY BERRY
“A BIG STEP”**

**HM MARY BERRY
“I HAVE SEEN BEAUTY”**

Abilene Writers Guild Annual Workshop

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

The place is secured, the speaker is coming and we hope to see YOU!

When: Saturday, March 26, 2022, 8:30 am to 11:30.

Where: Dining room/parlor of First Baptist Church, N. 2nd and Hickory Streets, Abilene.

Coffee and light refreshments will be available. Enter at the southeast corner of the building. There is ample parking near the building as well as just south across the street.

Cost: \$20

Register: 1) (325) 665-5195. Leave your name & phone number. You may pay at the door on March 26, but please let us know you are coming!

2) ***OR***, send your name and check for \$20.00 to: AWG, 862 Grand Ave, Abilene, TX 79605.

3) ***Can't decide?*** If March 26 arrives and you want to come...just show up!!

Awards from AWG's 2021 Annual Writing Contest will also be presented.



Laura Conner Kestner spent 25 years in community journalism before pursuing a career in fiction. Her first novel, Remember Texas, was published in 2018, followed by A Texas Promise in 2019 and a Texas Moon in 2020. She has several more books in the works.

A seventh generation Texan, Laura was born in Fort Worth and lived there 30 years before moving to Central Texas.

She and her husband, John have two daughters, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren. In addition to writing, Laura loves photography, reading, doing genealogy research and studying history. She's a member of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. She's won several writing awards including a Genesis Award from American Christian Fiction Writers and is a three-time finalist for the Will Rogers Medallion Award.

2022

Members Only Contest

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. Judge's decisions are 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 may be sent any time after the 12th of the previous month, but no later than the 12th of the contest month.

Enter by Email Only: Send documents as attachments and 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 cover sheets 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 entries or line count for poetry. (Do not count the 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.

2022

MONTH	THEME	CATEGORY
JANUARY	No contest this month	Extra writing time for February
FEBRUARY	Winter, Nature, Milestones	Poetry – 50 lines or less Non-Fiction – 1,000 words or less
MARCH	Mandatory prompt words: tear, color, wind, sort, drift	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	Home, Travel	Poetry – 50 lines or less Fiction – 1,000 words or less
AUGUST	Mandatory prompt words: project, double, shine, top, way	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.