



BIG COUNTRY WRITERS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ABILENE WRITERS GUILD—MARCH 2019

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MARCH MADNESS

No, I am not talking about basketball or any other sport. For me, the madness in March has more to do with having to move our clocks forward and re-adjusting to getting our beauty rest as well as having to deal with our West Texas wind along with our ever-changing temperature! I'm ready for spring to get here and hang around a while. How about you?

I have some flowers blooming in my flower beds and have even planted some wisteria, honeysuckle and hydrangeas. Fortunately, I have great soil around my house, so I am hoping the soil and plenty of water will cover whatever I may lack in gardening skills—or energy. I am beginning to see just how much energy it takes to tend a garden. Oh my!

It reminds me somewhat of the time and energy it takes to write. Brain energy, inspiration and creativity are required. The

people who entered our annual contest last fall used all of those. At the meeting this month, I get to share with you the names of the winners in each category. Please carve out time to be with us at our meeting. We will take care of some quick business, enjoy a short program, and then the awards will be presented! We will also have refreshments provided by your Board. Plan on joining us for the fun and congratulate some of your fellow writers!

In April, we have a magician on the program and the winners of the second Children's Writing contest will be announced. Let's celebrate the children's efforts. Be there to encourage them!

Here is a poem by long-time Abilene Writers Guild member, Barbara B. Rollins, from her book, *A Time for Verse: Poetic Ponderings on Ecclesiastes*.

*It's safer to stay home than to get in a car.
Trusting only in myself
refusing to make
friends
prevents friends from hurting me.
I can work decades at a tedious job
or dare to try my dream profession.
The first provides a living;
the second, life.*

*God, give me the skill to sharpen my ax
and the courage to use it.*

That was based on Chapter 10, verses 8, 9, 10. May you each have courage as you ponder writing, whether you feel you **MUST** write or whether you simply **WANT** to write. And if you don't **NEED** to write, then by all means read, read, read! Writers need readers. Especially in this March madness!

Sharon Ellison

AWG President

Our Life Members:

*Stewart Caffey, Nancy Masters, Laura Thaxton,
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: Mary Berry (2020)
- Newsletter editor: Jo Cox

BRAGS AND SAGS

Lou Mouglin has finished and submitted his book *Frankenstein 2*. He also converted an old story into a generic novel and subbed it too. And he will have a comic story in the next issue of CREEPS. With all that going on, he is having to find time to do another comics proposal.

Marguerite Gray has two book signings for *Bring Me Near, Book Three of Revolutionary Faith Series*. She has contracts for two more books, so is busy writing and editing.

David Dodge is still working on his two new books.

Carla Kerr has not had much time to read during the murder mystery production

Ann Swann recently filmed the pilot episode for "In Search of the West Texas Wordsmith" for PBS. It is a new 13-part series of interviews with local writers, which is being put together by Dr. Tom Parks (playwright) and film maker James Fite. "I felt so honored to be asked to do the pilot, I'm still in shock." Her book *Stevie-Girl and the Phantom of Forever* just came out from 5 Prince Books.

Suanna Davis is spending most of her time commenting on student papers.

Iris Williams is reading technical information and writing answers on tests for her new job.

Volunteers for new AWG officers needed by April.

WHAT AWG READS

Lou Mouglin: *Once Upon A Time: The Lives of Bob Dylan* by Ian Bell. "A decent bio / analysis."

David Dodge: *Pearl River Junction* by Robert J. Randisi.

Carla Kerr: *Dreyer's English* by Benjamin Dreyer. "He is the Copy Chief of Random House. It is well written and quite educational and I highly recommend it to all who write or aspire to write."

Ann Swann: *Finding Libbie* by Deanna Lynn Sletten. "It is a clean and gentle romance, sort of the old-fashioned variety. Plus, the author is a super sweet lady."

Jo Cox: *The Quest of the Trinity: The Doctrine of God in Scripture, History and Modernity* by Stephen R. Holmes. "This book delivers an excellent overview of the development and convoluted path of Trinity Theology. It does not however provide a reason why it should be doctrine."

MARCH PROGRAM

David Perkins will be sharing his insights on songwriting and singing, with a little bit about what inspires his songs. David began playing guitar as a hobby while in high school and continues to enjoy playing.

Dr. David Perkins received his bachelor's degree in accounting from Harding University, an MBA from the University of Memphis; and a PhD in accounting from Texas A&M. A preacher's kid, David claims to be from Tennessee, but has lived many different places. He teaches accounting, has taught at Harding, and is now completing his 20th year at ACU.

March Members Contest

Poetry:

- 1st - **Chuck Webber**, "Saving Touch"
- 2nd - **Cindy Mims**, "The Card"

Prose:

- 1st - **Mary Ann Smith**, "Friends 4 Ever"
- 2nd - **Coy Roper**, "Playing Games"

NEW MEMBERS

Cecilia A. Reinoehl
Mike Glacken, Joey Roberts
all from Abilene

Members Only Monthly Contest - 2019

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 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

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 include title in 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	New Year's Eve, Winter	Poetry – 50 lines or less Fiction – 1,000 words or less
FEBRUARY	Games, Candy, Friendship	Poetry – 50 lines or less Non-Fiction – 1,000 words or less
MARCH	Mandatory prompt words: Gift, Revelation, Break, Jewel, Blue	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	Independence, Beaches, Weddings	Poetry – 50 lines or less Fiction – 1,000 words or less
AUGUST	Mandatory prompt words: Rain, Letter, Skip, Clear, Disguise	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

March 28 – 7:00 p.m.

David Perkins
Songwriting and Singing

ABILENE WRITERS GUILD

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