



# ABILENE WRITERS GUILD

KEEPING MEMBERS IN TOUCH

*AbileneWritersGuild.org ktalley1963@gmail.com*

## My, My, What a May!

What a crazy time we are living through, don't you agree?? If you have high risk factors, as many of us do, please use whatever cautions make you feel most comfortable.

I am happy to report that Kay Talley has volunteered to be our Newsletter Editor for the next three months, so hats off and applause for Kay, please!!

New nominees for officers on the Board were emailed in April. We would have voted on these new positions at our May meeting --- but since we are not meeting this month, we must do things a bit differently this year. The following nominations have been made for terms expiring this year: Mary Berry, President; Sharon Ellison, Program Vice President; Darla McLeod moving from alternate to finish Mary's term which would have ended in 2021; Kay Talley, Board Member; Mary Ann Smith, Board Member; Chuck Webber, Alternate Board Member. The new board positions become effective June 1.

It has been a privilege to serve as your President since 2012! You have been a supportive group and a great bunch of folks with whom to serve. Thank you! One of the highlights of being President has been the opportunity to write my article each month. At first I didn't feel like I had much to say....but if you know me, you know I enjoy talking, so hopefully my articles have felt more like conversations than just articles.

I am excited about stepping into the new role of Program Vice President. I am reviewing the poll we took last fall about what types of programs you would like, and I will do my best to incorporate those throughout the year. Although we did not get to have our Workshop

in March due to Covid-19 quarantine, Nancy Robinson Masters is willing to reschedule it once it is possible, and we shall all look forward to her presentation!

AWG is 51 years old this month! Happy birthday! Here is my final May reminder: if you haven't paid your dues for the coming year, they are \$25 and due now! Feel free to mail them to our P. O. Box address. Members have the opportunity to enter our monthly members-only contests from January to August. Those contests help our writers get ready to enter our annual contest each year. Get busy and send in two or three entries! You have three more months this year!

Thanks again, everyone, for putting up with me for eight years! Wow, time flies—when you are having fun and sometimes even when you are not.

*Sharon Ellison*

AWG President

## DUES ARE DUE

**\$25.00 Single membership**

**\$35.00 family membership**

**Please mail your dues to**

**Abilene Writers Guild**

**PO Box 2562**

**Abilene, Tx 79604**

If you joined AWG since March 2020 your dues come due next year

## NO MAY MEETING

Because COVID-19 has interrupted our regular routines and normal schedules, we will not have our meeting this month as is our normal practice.

## Tentative June meeting

Sharon Ellison, our presenter in June, was born in Abilene and has been a member of AWG for 20+ years. She has been on the Board having served as a general Board Member, Secretary, Vice President and as President from 2012 through May 2020. She will begin as Program VP in June.

She was inspired to write memoirs by stories told by her great-grandmother and her dad, along with some good friends. She was encouraged to write those memoirs by long-time AWG member, writer and friend, Nancy Robinson-Masters. After entering and winning a couple of contests, she wondered how on earth to get her stories published. Thus, she researched and wrote her first query letter. Join us as we take a look at query letters, how to do them and even what not to do!

### *May Members Contest Winners*

First place: **Chuck Webber** for "Crabbing in the Moonlight"

Second place: **Chuck Webber** for "Rock in Solution"

HM: **Coy Roper** for "To Love and Be Loved"

HM: **Cindy Mims** for "Chick Talk"

## *Accept the Challenge Take the Plunge*

Writing Contests/Opportunities

### Minute Poem

**Deadline:** June 14

<https://www.fanstory.com/contestde tails.jsp?id=106536>

### Share Your Story

**Deadline:** June 16

<https://www.fanstory.com/contestde tails.jsp?id=106555>

### Four Line Poem

**Deadline:** June 20

<https://www.fanstory.com/contestde tails.jsp?id=106545>

### Free Verse Poetry Contest

**Deadline:** June 30

<https://www.fanstory.com/contestde tails.jsp?id=106570>

### *Our Life Members*

*Stewart Caffey, Nancy Masters*

*Laura Thaxton, Alice Greenwood*

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

## Bragg and Sage

**Chuck Webber** recently sent several family-type stories to cousins with good replies. Recently reworked an old poem and will submit the rewrite later. It is basically 16 years old, now rewritten.

**Suanna Davis** Brags: Have a critique group established for children's picture books. Have had professional critiques on three stories. Have had author critiques on three stories.

Sags: Have written little during the quarantine.

**Carla Kerr:** I recently finished writing the third book of a trilogy regarding my Cherokee ancestors. The title is Cherokee Adventures, Book 3: *John Crittenden* and it was published in October 2019. I write under the name of C C Crittenden (my maiden name) to honor my Cherokee ancestors. We held a book signing here in Alamogordo, New Mexico, and it was very successful.

**Carolyn Dycus:** Brags: The zinnias are coming up from seed in all the flower beds. Hooray!

Sags: My caladium bulbs are not yet emerging in four pots: cool nights make them extra reluctant to rise and shine.

**Iris Williams:** Sag: didn't write much, but re-reading works of someone I want to write like, over and over.

**David Dodge:** I have one book just out, *The Grey Goose*, another is with a master editor, *Conner Branagan*, and about three chapters of another, *Sharon MacLellan*. The fun continues! As you can see I haven't spent a lot of time reading as I should.

**Coy Roper:** I wrote and had bound a 235 page autobiographical work called "Stories We Told," especially to give to members of our family.

## What AWG Reads

**Suanna Davis:** *Mac Barnett*, picture book author, and lots of internet stuff.

**Carla Kerr:** *The Honey Bus* by Meredith May, well written and interesting; *Yellow Bird* by Sierra Crane Murdoch, a bit rambling, but interesting insight into Native Americans and I'm just starting *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead.

**Carolyn Dycus:** *Revenge of the Mothers*, Jim Fergus; *The Shape of Water*, Guillermo del Toro and Daniel Kraus; *The Hebrew Bible, Feminist and Intersectional Perspectives*, Gale Yee, also Ch. 4, *Affirming and Contradicting Perspectives*, Judy Fentress-Williams and Melody D. Knowles.

**Gail McMillan:** *Little Fires Everywhere*

**Iris Williams:** From *To Fire Called* by Nathan Lowell, a sentence on reflection, one of my favorite concepts: "The stanyers slipped through my mind in flashes like beads through my fingers."

**Chuck Webber:** *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*

## Our Officers

President: Sharon Ellison	(2020)
Executive VP: David Dodge	(2021)
Program VP: Kay Talley	(2020)
Secretary: Carolyn Dycus	(2021)
Treasurer: Gail McMillan	(2021)
Board Member: Linda Gordon	(2021)
Board Member: Mary Ann Smith	(2020)
Board Member: Mary Berry	(2021)
Alt. Board Member: Darla McCleod	(2021)

Monthly Contest Coordinator: Linda Gordon



## Members Only Monthly Contest - 2020

**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:** Submissions received at any time after the 12th of the previous month, 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](mailto: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 count 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.

MONTH	THEME	CATEGORY
JANUARY	"Rock" the New Year (any definition of "rock")	Poetry – 50 lines or less Fiction – 1,000 words or less
FEBRUARY	Hearts on "Fire" (any definition of "fire")	Poetry – 50 lines or less Non-Fiction – 1,000 words or less
MARCH	Mandatory prompt words: Mix, Jam, Twine, Ring, Ticket	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	Make a Splash (anything to do with "water")	Poetry – 50 lines or less Fiction – 1,000 words or less
AUGUST	Mandatory prompt words: Slip, Match, Trace, Key, Pretend	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.