



ABILENE WRITERS GUILD
MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER
KEEPING MEMBERS IN TOUCH
ABILENE WRITERS GUILD.ORG
KTALLEY1968@GMAIL.COM

LET'S CELEBRATE!

GOOD NEWS! After more than a year of a Covid-imposed hiatus, Abilene Writers Guild will resume meeting next month at the regular time and place. The May meeting has normally been a time for members to read a 3-minute selection from their writings, but the tradition will be the ideal program for our first post-pandemic meeting on June 24. Through their work we will get reacquainted with fellow members and meet those who have joined during this “off year.”

MORE NEWS. The candidates for office were announced by the Nominating Committee in the April Newsletter. Any additional nominations from the floor will be considered, and election of officers will be held at the June meeting.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ABILENE WRITERS GUILD! Fifty-two years ago Juanita Zachry was a homemaker who enjoyed writing and wanted the benefits of associating with other writers. She invited interested people to come together to encourage one another, to study and develop their talents, and to promote interest in writing. The group named themselves the Abilene Writers Guild, adopted a set of bylaws, and selected the motto, “Not failure, but low aim is crime.” With some funds raised by members and a grant from a local agency, the guild purchased a building to serve as headquarters. Members dedicated hours of labor to repurpose the former laundromat into a pleasant place to house books and tools for writers, for them to hone their skills, and for the group to hold meetings. The initial small circle of writers, and those interested in writing, grew to a membership of over 100. When the group outgrew its building, it was sold. In 2005 Abilene

Writers Guild obtained non-profit status with the Internal Revenue Service which it maintains. Today AWG attracts interest from across the country and internationally through its presence on the internet on both a website and Facebook page and through its Annual Contest. The membership has declined in recent years, but although small in numbers, the group is strongly committed to the founding principles.

YEAR IN REVIEW. The executive board has worked diligently throughout this meeting-less year to continue the business of the guild. Necessary paperwork has been kept up-to-date and filed with the IRS and the State of Texas, the Nominating Committee presented a slate of officers to be elected in June, and the major projects of the guild – the election of officers in 2020, Annual Contest and Workshop, Members Only Contest, and the Christmas giving – were successfully accomplished. Members have been kept informed, encouraged, and connected through the monthly newsletter. After more than a year of directing an organization without general meetings, the board is overjoyed that at long last AWG will be back to normal next month.

Come celebrate 52 years of Abilene Writers Guild and our return to meetings on June 24. Until then, write on.

Mary Berry
AWG President



Marguerite Gray: BRAG: Writing back cover for *Labor of Love*, publication date 2022.

Hallie Wright: BRAG: I've been focusing on some smaller writing projects to get my creativity flowing again for my book.

David Dodge: BRAG I've started writing again and Frontier Texas has bought a few of my last two books. I also think the treatments I am now taking are helping. As for sags, I can't think of any off hand. GOD is good!

Coy Roper: BRAG: Thanks to a son-in-law I now have a website, "Roper Writings," cdroper.com. It's my plan to publish a different short story I've written each week for a year.



Marguerite Gray: I'm reading: *To Save a King* by Rachel Hauck and *Under the Lilacs* by Louis May Alcott.

Hallie Wright: I'm reading *Neverwake* this week, a sequel I've been looking for for months.

Carolyn Dycus: I'm Reading *Zealot* by Reza Aslan- a scholarly look at Jesus of Nazareth. I'm a history nut so interested in what a native of Iran uncovers about the historical Jesus.

Penny Parker Klosterman: I'm enjoying *On the Edge of the Dark Sea of Darkness*, the first book in *The Wingfeather Saga* by Anderw Peterson.

Mary Berry: I'm reading Jon Meacham's *The Soul of America* which addresses the current state of race relations and divisiveness in our country by describing other dark times in our history when "our better angels" have prevailed. Barbara Kingsolver's *The Poisonwood Bible* is a saga of a missionary family's experience in the Belgian Congo. The character development and descriptive, often playful, language makes this a satisfying read.



Our Officers

President: Mary Berry	(2022)
Executive VP: David Dodge	(2021)
Program VP: Sharon Ellison	(2022)
Secretary: Carolyn Dycus	(2021)
Treasurer: Gail McMillan	(2021)
Board Member: Linda Gordon	(2021)
Board Member: Darla McCleod	(2021)
Board Member: Mary Ann Smith	(2022)
Board Member: Kay Talley	(2022)
Alt. Board Member: Chuck Weber	(2022)
Monthly Contest Coordinator: Linda Gordon	



Our Life Members

*Stewart Caffey, Nancy Masters
Alice Greenwood, David Dodge*

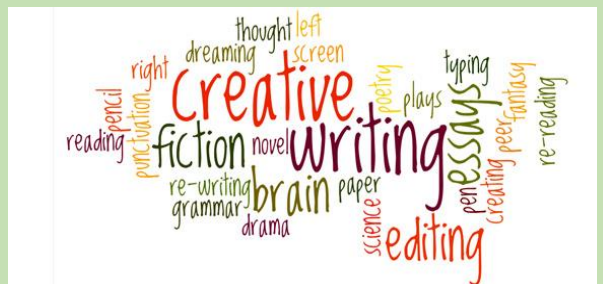
Members gain the status by gift from the membership as a whole, by paying a one-time fee of \$600, by receiving the honor as a gift from another, or by reaching the age of 90 while a member of AWG



May Winners

*1st Place – Kay Talley
"Unmistakable Rattle"
2nd Place – Coy Roper
"Max's Myphone"*

Flash Spotlight Returns



*We are excited to announce the
return of
FLASH SPOTLIGHT
as we resume meeting together.*

Officer Elections

Officers and Board Members serve two-year terms. A nominating committee (Linda Gordon, Chair; Jo Cox, and Carolyn Dycus) offers the following slate of candidates for the offices and executive board positions that will expire in June 2021:

Executive Vice President:

Darla McCleod

Secretary:

Linda Gordon

Treasurer:

Gail McMillan

Board Member: Nominations are in order

Alternate Board Member:

Carolyn Dycus

Nominations are open to any member in good standing who is an active participant in AWG activities, and nominations from the floor are accepted. Please send the name of anyone wishing to be nominated (you may nominate yourself) to awg.entry@yahoo.com by June 1st.

DUES ARE DUE

\$25.00 Single membership

\$35.00 family membership

Please mail your dues to

Gail McMillan

419 Meadow Ln

Abilene, TX 79602

If you joined AWG since March 2021 your dues come due next year

Contest

Opportunities

Lazuli Literary Group Writing Contest | \$200 Prize - LAZULI

LITERARY GROUP

Top prize

\$200

Additional prizes

Publication in ASURE

Genres:

Crime, Essay, Fantasy, Fiction, Humor, Mystery, Poetry, Science Fiction, Short

Story, Thriller,

📄 Entry Fee: \$15

Deadline July 22, 2021

George Dila Memorial Flash

Fiction Contest

Additional prizes

Publication in Third Wednesday magazine

Genres

Fiction, Flash Fiction

📄 Entry Fee: \$6

[Third Wednesday - A Literary & Arts Journal Submission Manager \(submittable.com\)](#)

Members Only Monthly Contest – 2021

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 any time after the 12th of the previous month, but due by 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.

MONTH	THEME	CATEGORY
JANUARY	Beginnings, Hope, Surprises	Poetry – 50 lines or less Fiction – 1,000 words or less
FEBRUARY	Love, Friendship, Memories	Poetry – 50 lines or less Non-Fiction – 1,000 words or less
MARCH	Mandatory prompt words: <i>play, pattern, peril, point, pride</i>	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: <i>space, soften, sting, sparkle, sphere</i>	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.