



BIG COUNTRY WRITERS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ABILENE WRITERS GUILD—APRIL, 2017

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It's April, Y'all!

We had a great time at our annual workshop! Rickey Pittman presented his material in such a fun way while regaling us with great stories as well as suggestions for writing and publishing. If you were not there, you sure missed a treat. During the second half of his program, Ricky picked up his guitar and entertained us with songs he has written and even shared the stories behind most of those songs. The stories definitely bring the songs to life. Among others, he sang "The Streets of Laredo" as well as a song he wrote about the Alamo. During one of his songs, the words were so fast, we were amazed he had time to breathe while singing it! He may live in Monroe, Louisiana, but he is definitely a Texan at heart!

By the way, Rickey invites you to visit his fan page and "like" it.

<https://www.facebook.com/Rickey-E-Pittman-Bard-of-the-South-223267917752624/>

And please do visit his Facebook page and send a friend request:

<https://www.facebook.com/rickey.e.pittman>

The winners of our Annual Contest are listed in this Newsletter and on our website! Each of you who took the time to enter in any category deserve a big round of applause!

My thanks to these others who helped make our annual workshop a success: Iris Williams' new company, Ambassador Commerce, Inc. ambassadorcommerce.com provided a \$100 sponsorship; Barbara Rollins invited Rickey to speak to our group; David Dodge, who produced some great radio and TV spots about the workshop; Kay Talley coordinated refreshments; Chef A. M. Dycus and wife Carolyn prepared our wonderful lunch; the use of First Baptist Church's dining room; Nancy Robinson

Masters enlisted judges for our contest and volunteered her own time to read and critique those categories without enough entries to be judged; Gail McMillan, our Treasurer, manages our funds, collects fees and disperses prize money; and Board members provided door prizes, breakfast snacks, water, etc. We are also happy to have had many students from Merkel High, Abilene High, and Abilene's ATEMS classes participate in our contest!

If you are a member of AWG (a new member joined at our Workshop!) you have from now through August to enter and hopefully win some monthly prizes; look over the rules and write, write, write! At the risk of repeating myself, winning one or two times could pay your yearly dues, so what are you waiting for?

If you are interested in writing crime fiction, Michael Bracken notified us of a call for submissions. Visit this website for full details:

www.crimefictionwriter.com/TheEyesOfTexas.htm or if you need more information his email is Michael@CrimeFictionWriter.com.

A member of the East Texas Writers Guild sent this link. www.b17.com/books If you have published a book, you can advertise your book(s) on this site for one year at no cost. That's worth checking out!

In case you have forgotten or did not write it down, Rickey talked about BookLocker.com and WritersWeekly.com. Feel free to browse what they have to offer.

Mark your calendar for our next regular meeting: 7 pm, April 27! Hope to see y'all then!

Sharon Ellison

AWG President

BRAGS AND SAGS

Coy Roper has had two books published: *A commentary on Leviticus* in the Truth for Today Commentary series, and a book entitled *Why Christians Prosper, Why They Don't, and Why It Doesn't Matter*, published by Heritage Christian University and available on Amazon.

Lou Mougín has gotten art in on 3 or 4 comic stories. But he got stuck on a novel and had a script rejected.

Carla Kerr is rehearsing for another play "The Haunted Garden." It is for The Children's Play in May. The Theatre Guild pays to bus in school children for six shows.

David Dodge is well over 10,000 words in a new book, going slow.

Ann Swan, her daughter Sara Barnard, and grandson Logan Barnard (10yo) will be at a multi-author book signing April 22 at Brew St. Bakery in Midland TX. Several other excellent authors such as Chuck Sambuchino from *Writer's Digest* will attend.

Jo Cox has rewritten more than half of her book, *Creation's Parables*. She is hoping it will be done soon and have a thorough edit this summer.

APRIL PROGRAM

Legalese For Beginners

Phil Crowley was born at Dyess Air Force Base and raised in Abilene, Texas. Phil graduated from Cooper High School, Hardin - Simmons University, and Texas Wesleyan School of Law (now Texas A&M School of Law). Phil was in private practice for a year and a half after graduation, but later joined the Taylor County District Attorney's Office in June, 2015 to serve his community.

In his free time, Phil enjoys spending time with family and friends and attending movies and sporting events. Phil reads widely and can name and describe most world leaders. Speaking on "Legalese For Beginners" hoping our writers avoid misstatements he's noticed other writers make when they discuss such an integral part of our world.

WHAT AWG READS

Suanna Davis: *Constance Verity* by A. Lee Martinez

Lou Mougín: *Bolivar: the Liberator of Latin America* by Robert Harvey and *Fast Girl* by Suzy Favor Hamilton.

Carolyn Dycus: *Wolf Hall* by Hillary Mantel. Historical fiction of mammoth proportions! Aptly imagined characters surround Thomas Cromwell and Henry VIII for a scandalous good, long reading.

David Dodge: planning on reading a set of Jack London books he has had for some time.

March Monthly Contest Winners

Flash Poetry – Flash-Fiction
Max 100 words + 5 prompt words

Flash Fiction

1st: **Coy Roper** "How the War Began"

2nd: **Sharon Ellison** "Life is Short"

Flash Poetry

1st: **Kay Talley** "Untimely Death"

2nd: **Sheryl Nelms** "Idalou"

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 (2017)
Program VP: Barbara Rollins (2018)
Secretary: Carolyn Dycus (2018)
Treasurer: Gail McMillan (2017)
Board member: Jill Henderson (2017)
Board member: Iris Williams (2017)
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

AWG 2016-2017 ANNUAL CONTEST WINNERS

Unrhymed Poetry (27 entries) Loretta Diane Walker

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|------------------------------------|---|
| 1st - Dee Dee Chumley, Edmond, OK | "Summertime Synesthesia" |
| 2nd - Alice King Greenwood, Odessa | "Free Flight" |
| 3rd - Kay Talley, Abilene | "Abducted" |
| HM - Seth Pace, Abilene | "The Smell of Cookie Monster Bubble Bath" |
| HM - Miller Devanney, AHS | "Sod" |
| HM - Alice King Greenwood, Odessa | "In April's Green" |

Rhymed Poetry (12 entries) Judge: Loretta Diane Walker

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|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1st - Alice King Greenwood, Odessa | "Emancipation Modulation" |
| 2nd - Nick Sweet, Shepherd | "May's Café" |
| 3rd - Nick Sweet, Shepherd, TX | "Decent/Descent" |
| HM - Nick Sweet, Shepherd, TX | "Barbara, Marian and the Elder" |
| HM - Coy Roper, Abilene | "Fall Flowers" |
| HM - Arianna Monsey, ATEMS | "Freakishly Unique" |

Inspiration (5 entries) Judge: Anna Myers

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|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1st - Linda Gordon, Abilene | "The Okra Summer" |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|

Fiction for Adults (25 entries) Judge: Linda Kinsey Spetter

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|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1st - Mason Trevebaugh, Merkel ISD | "Over Budget" |
| 2nd - Linda Gordon, Abilene | "An Ordinary Lawn Mower" |
| 3rd - Dee Dee Chumley, Edmond, Ok | "Trails" |

Flash Poetry (13 entries) Judge: Gwen Choate

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|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1st - Linda Gordon, Abilene | "Neptune's Delight" |
| 2nd - Nick Sweet, Shepherd | "Destination Dublin" |
| 3rd - Dee Dee Chumley, Edmond, Ok | "Sunrise Commute" |
| HM - Alice King Greenwood, Odessa | "Dichotomy" |
| HM - Sky Skiles, Merkel | "Cheater, Cheater" |
| HM - May Downs, Merkel | "Mint Chocolate Chip" |

Flash Fiction (13 entries) Judge: Gwen Choate

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|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1st - Linda Gordon, Abilene | "Salt Spray" |
| 2nd - Megan Wren, AHS | "Savage Sea" |
| 3rd - Ranier Snow, Merkel | "Seaside Cavern" |
| HM Tie - Paige Worrell, AHS | "Imaginative Love" |
| HM Tie - Jill Henderson, Abilene | "The Aroma of Paradise" |
| HM Tie - Coy Roper, Abilene | "The Hit Man" |

Articles of General Interest (4 entries)

Reviewed only, could not be judged based on rules

Memoir/Nostalgia (4 entries)

Reviewed only, could not be judged based on rules

Children's Stories (4 entries)

Reviewed only, could not be judged based on rules

AWG Volunteers needed

For the Write and Illustrate Your Own Storybook session of the **Children's Art and Literary Festival (CALF)**

Assist children, 7-12 years old, in writing and illustrating their own children's book.

Where: Grace Museum, downtown Abilene

When: Fri June 9 and Sat 10, 4-5 PM

Email Carolyn Dycus dycus62@msn.com to sign up to work the festival.

Find out more: www.abilenecac.org/calf

Nonfiction Writers Conference

May 3-5, 2017

A virtual event featuring 15 speakers.

That means no traveling!

There is a 33% discount for AWG members and a single scholarship for one attendee.

<http://NonfictionWritersConference.com>

<http://NonfictionAuthorsAssociation.com>

Permian Basin Writers Workshop

September 13-17, 2017

Midland, TX

www.permianbasinwritersworkshop.com

Thank You Note

Dear guild members, thank you so much for giving me the status of honorary member to the AWG. Indeed an honor, as well as my reaching my 90th birthdate. Although I can't write at the moment, I do support my wife, Betty, in her writing aspirations. I encourage all members to become involved in research, actual writing, participate in workshops, enter writing contests, publish, publish, publish and sell, sell.

Keith Thomason

New Members—Workshop Judges

Loretta Diane Walker
Odessa, Texas

Gwen Choate
Arlington, Texas

Linda Kinsey Spetter
Eastland, Tx

Anna Myers
Chandler, OK

Rickey E. Pittman
Monroe, LA 71201

New Member

Darlene Carmack
Abilene, TX



World Book Day

April 23

Celebrate the joy of reading, authors, and books with likeminded people from over 100 countries.

Members Only Monthly Contest - 2017

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 by the 12th of the contest month.

Enter by Email Only: Send document 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).

Cover Sheet Format: Each entry must include a **separate** cover sheet. Center entry title on page. **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*).

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. **Other pages:** entry title at top right with page number.

MONTH	THEME	CATEGORY
JANUARY	Snow, Celebrations, Peace	Poetry – 50 lines or less Fiction – 1,000 words or less
FEBRUARY	Pets, Love, Mail	Poetry – 50 lines or less Non-Fiction – 1,000 words or less
MARCH	Mandatory prompt words: Star, Clear, Channel, Spare, Harbor	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	Summer, Ice cream, Swimming	Non-Fiction – 1,000 words or less
JULY	Off and On, In and Out	Poetry – 50 lines or less Fiction – 1,000 words or less
AUGUST	Mandatory prompt words: Handle, Snap, Column, Green, Turn	Flash entry: Fiction or Poetry 100 max using 5 prompt words

Flash Fiction/Poetry use 5 mandatory prompt words, or close form and meaning.

Examples: 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

April 27 – 7:00 p.m.

Abilene Senior Citizens Center, Rose Park

Legalese For Beginners

Phil Crowley

ABILENE WRITERS GUILD

P.O. Box 2562
Abilene TX 79604