



BIG COUNTRY WRITERS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ABILENE WRITERS GUILD—MAY, 2017

abilenewritersguild.org jcox1awg@catnapin.com

How Can it be May Already?

Do you find yourself wondering about that and other miscellaneous things? Surely I am not alone in that department. Some days I do more wondering than other days. Could that mean I have too much free time on my hands, or do I have just enough free time on my hands? Thinking about it could get really confusing.

Don't you enjoy May with all the lovely flowers in bloom and often some rain to cool things down and make things grow? **This month Abilene Writers Guild celebrates its birthday.** One more thing to enjoy! The last couple of years, we have had severe storms the night of our meeting --- and we actually called off the meetings (pretty much at the last minute) due to tornado watches and severe thunderstorms. I surely hope we don't have to do that this month. BUT, as I have said before, if the weather is severe and you do not want to get out, chances are the meeting will be cancelled. We value your safety above all else, so please use your own best judgment about attending meetings when severe weather threatens.

Barring any bad weather, we will have AWG's birthday party with some snacks and drinks. We will also elect some new officers, then **members will be invited to read some of their writing:** ALWAYS fun and entertaining. That just means YOU are the program, so remember to bring something to share; however, you will be limited to **three minutes** so everyone has a chance to participate.

Each time our members read their stories, poems, etc., we have a great time listening, laughing and pondering what they have written. Surely this year will be no exception. Last fall when members shared

some of their stories, poems, etc., we had an awesome time, so I am looking forward to another fun evening of the same!

In this Newsletter you will find a reminder that your **dues are payable this month** for the coming year. Don't wait another minute! Bring your \$25 to the meeting or mail it to Gail. As I have said before (and remember I am only slightly partial), your Newsletter alone is worth the \$25 yearly fee, because it is full of fun contests and lots of other useful and hopefully encouraging information. When you toss in the great monthly programs, you get more than get your money's worth!

Back to wondering. What kind of shoes are you wearing? Boots, sandals, heels? Low or high? Do you have on closed-toe shoes....OR do you have on close-toed shoes? Eh? Which one do YOU think is correct? See, I told you I often wonder about various and sundry things, and this shoe business is only one of them.

Hopefully I have made you wonder enough to do a little research. I already know the answer. I hope you find it, too, and that you enjoy the quest! See you May 25!

Sharon Ellison

AWG President

Time for Dues at AWG

Mail checks to :

Abilene Writers Guild
P.O. Box 2562
Abilene, TX 79604

\$25.00 single membership
\$35.00 family membership

BRAGS AND SAGS

Stewart Caffey received the 2016 Kate Warnick Award from the Texas United Methodist Historical Society. His book, *Sidney Methodist Church*, was selected as the best local, small-church history in Texas! After growing up in Sidney, Caffey taught school for 31 years. He and his wife, Dona, lived in Abilene for 16 years during which time he also served as president of the Abilene Writers Guild for four years. The couple moved to Lubbock in 2012 to be closer to family.

Ann Swann has a 100 Word True Story being published in June's Reader's Digest and a short, short story coming out in Easy Street Magazine soon." I've been at the computer so much lately, I've gained five pounds!"

Carolyn Dycus, "Here's my sag: our daily print media, aka Abilene Reporter-News, is becoming more like a pamphlet with less local news and more USA Today."

Linda Gordon has a grandma brag. "My 8 year old granddaughter that lives in the Metroplex competed in the Private Schools Interscholastic Association Meet in Creative Writing. She placed 1st in the Regional Meet last month and 5th in the State Meet this month."

Marguerite Gray is waiting for a release date for her book, *Bring Me Near: Revolutionary Faith Book Three*. She is also editing *Labor of Love* and spoke at the Monroe Louisiana Review Club on May 1.

Penny Klostermann has rejections piling up with a running total at 74!

Coy Roper is making progress in writing a book about Zeke, an elected police chief in a small northeastern Oklahoma town in the 1960s. He has written about 50,000 words out of a projected 60,000.

Jo Cox is still working on the rewrite of Creation's Parables. She is about 2/3 done. "It is amazing how busy life gets when you want to write!"

WHAT AWG READS

Carla Kerr: *A Century of Wisdom* by Caroline Stoessinger. The memoir of Alice Herz-Sommer, the oldest holocaust survivor, who died at the age of 110. Well written, fast read, and full of struggles and triumphs. Also, *Walking Rain* by Susan Wade. It is a mystery novel set in New Mexico. It is so wonderfully written she finds it hard to put down.

Mary Ann Smith: *There Was an Old Dragon Who Swallowed a Knight* by Penny Klostermann (from AWG) and *Theodore Thumbs* by Steven Moore.

Linda Gordon: early 1900 mysteries by Mary Roberts Rinehart, the first lady of the popular mystery genre to study her techniques in the art of tasteful suspense.

Marguerite Gray: *My Enemy, My Heart* by Laurie Eakes

Penny Klostermann: the third in the *Chaos Walking* trilogy by Patrick Ness. "Really loving this science fiction series."

Suanna Davis: *Castle Federation* series by Glynn Stewart

MAY PROGRAM

Open Mic Night!

Celebrate AWG's birthday, gifting to your fellow members an insight into your writings. Those who choose to will read for three minutes from their personal work.

The Abilene Writers Guild began in May, 1969, meeting in the home of the first president, Juanita Zachry, then in other members homes. We soon outgrew houses and met for ten years at various places including the Abilene Savings Building, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Building, and a few times at the Junior League Building. Juanita Zachry was president until June, 1978.

The Guild bought a building on Hickory Street in 1980, an old laundromat. Twenty years later the building had served its purpose and security and upkeep led us to move. The web site has brought writers from much farther afield, and together we work to achieve our goals.

Writer's Digest Annual Competition

Entry Deadline June 1, 2017
<http://www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions/annual-writing-competition>

Writer's Digest Self-Published Books

Entry Deadline June 5, 2017
<http://www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions/self-published-book-awards>

Arizona Mystery Writers Story Contest

Entry Deadline June 1, 2017
http://www.arizonamysterywriters.com/?page_id=1449

Arizona Literary Contest

Entry Deadline July 1, 2017
<https://www.azauthors.com/>

Ron Hubbard's Writers of the Future Contest

Entry Deadline quarterly & ongoing
<http://www.writersofthefuture.com/contest-rules-writers/>

Drue Heinz Literature Prize

Entry Deadline June 30, 2017
<http://www.upress.pitt.edu/renderHtmlPage.aspx?srcHtml=htmlSourceFiles/drueheinz.htm>

WTP Literary Competition: Prose

Entry Deadline July 31, 2017
<http://www.thewoventalepress.net/literary-competition-prose/>

Salamander Fiction Contest

Entry Deadline June 1, 2017
<http://salamandermag.org/contests/>

Cinequest Screenwriting Competition

Entry Deadline Nov 3, 2017
https://www.cinequest.org/screenplay_submissions

William Faulkner Literary Competition

Entry Deadline July 31, 2017
<http://williamfaulknerliterarycompetition.com>

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

Permian Basin Writers Workshop

September 13-17, 2017

Midland, TX

www.permianbasinwritersworkshop.com

April Monthly Contest Winners

NO THEME

Fiction – 1,000 words or less

1st: **Sheryl Nelms** "The Family Reunion"

2nd: **Sheryl Nelms** "Jogger of the North"

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

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

May 25 – 7:00 p.m.

Abilene Senior Citizens Center, Rose Park

Open Mic Night!

Members read from their writing

ABILENE WRITERS GUILD

P.O. Box 2562
Abilene TX 79604