



ABILENE WRITERS GUILD
SEPTEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER
KEEPING MEMBERS IN TOUCH
ABILENE WRITERS GUILD.ORG
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Finding Our Creative Nitsch

It is not a rare thing for an author to sit down to write and not be able to get the first line going. In the last newsletter we discussed some of the challenges writers face. At the close of the front-page president's article, we were left with the idea that we are often bogged down by desire to create GREAT ideas. We must keep in mind that there is "nothing new under the sun." There may be times we might think we have come up with a great creative idea only to later discover that there has been something very similar thought about and written on before. Even those concepts were spawned by another's creativity.

As I opened my laptop to compose the article last month, the very first words I saw were words that formed a similar idea or phrase in my mind – "Create Like a Pro: Turn those ideas into great stories, articles, or poems." Although I had read that our program for August by Suanna Davis would be "Creative Sparks" as I began to write, it never registered with me that she would be giving suggestions on the very thing I wanted to write about. She presented a fun and interactive program on tips to get the "Creative Sparks" flowing. Those who participated in the activity were benefited by it.

Along with Suanna's excellent suggestions, I have found that visualizing ideas can be helpful in bringing about the

inspiration needed to get the ball rolling and give your writing a new perspective. This might take a sketch of your thoughts. Don't feel talented as an artist? No worries. Often just a rough sketch can uncover a wealth of creativity.

Early morning walks, when the day is fresh and all creation seems to be singing the song that inspires creativity, is an excellent way for incentive to be birthed. The mind is rested and is coming alive with descriptive words. Take a moment to type the words in notes on your phone. Once you return to your computer and writing space and you've got your ideas out, read over them again and start putting them together to form a coherent piece. Not a morning person? Take a drive in the country later in the day, or a walk in the park if the weather is nice.

There are times when we let the voice of discouragement try to convince us that we don't have what it takes to write a good manuscript, article or poem. Read some of your past writings and find yourself in amazement at some of the creative work you have done. We are all different and each of finds different things that can get us jump started on the road to writing again. Find what gets you running and WRITE ON!!

Kay Talley-Leach
AWG President



Ron Davis: BRAG: I have started releasing new stories in the Growing Up Rainbow book on Wattpad.com. They come out every Saturday and Wednesday.

<https://www.wattpad.com/1259243790-growing-up-rainbow-prologue>

David Dodge: BRAG: I've had the chance to work with Gene Robertson on his book that he is self-publishing. It looks really good. I hope to read it when he gets it finished. SAG: My sags are the same I'm still working on my latest book but between doctor appointments.

Marguerite Gray: BRAG: Up for pre-order *Keeping Christmas*—releases October 4. I have a novella in this anthology about Christmas, castles and love.

Mary Berry: BRAG: My article about a doll that was popular in the t 1940s and 50s (and its present day replica) is the cover story for the latest issue of *Doll Castle News* - and one of my dolls is on the cover.

Kay Talley-Leach BRAG: Received an order for four of my books: *Beyond the Rain*, *Living Triumphantly in Grief*.



Carolyn Dycus: READING: *Dream Team* by David Baldacci, inspires me to write even one sentence as invigorating as each of his chapters are! Also, beginning to read *All the White Spaces* by Ally Wilkes. If you enjoy historical AND supernatural novels, this one is for you. Plus, if you read it in our Texas heat wave, it's Antarcica setting will be terribly refreshing.

Mary Berry: READING: Continuing my exploration of Texas history I am reading Stephen Hardin's *Texian Macabre*, *The Melancholy Tale of a Hanging in Early Houston*. The diligently researched account of the personalities and conditions in early Houston paints a very different picture than that found in most history books.

Next on my list is *A Texas Secret*, the just - released 4th book in the Moccasin Rock series written by Laura Conner Kestner.

Marguerite Gray: READING: I am reading *Around the World in Eighty Days* in French and English by Jules Verne and *George Knightley*, *Esquire* by Barbara Cornthwaite..



Our Life Members

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



September Presenter Karen Witemeyer

Presents “Elements of Smile: Winning Readers With Humor”. For those who love to smile as they read, bestselling author Karen offers warmhearted historical romance with a flair for humor, feisty heroines, and swoon-worthy Texas heroes. Voted #1 Readers’ Favorite Christian Romance Author in 2019 by Family Fiction Magazine, Karen is a multiple-winning author and firm believer in the power of happy endings. She is an avid cross-stitcher, tea drinker, and gospel hymn singer who makes her home in Abilene, TX with her heroic husband who vanquishes laundry dragons and dirty dish villains whenever she’s on deadline.



August Winners

Members Only Contest

Flash Prose: 1st place: Chuck Webber
for

“Assignation Under Peachtree Street”

2nd place: Coy Roper for

“The Windsor Project”

Flash Poetry: 1st place for
“What Will it Be”

2nd place: Judy Sitton Ware for

“Floating to the Top”



Our Officers

President: Kay Talley-Leach
(2024)

Executive VP: Darla McCloud
(2023)

Program VP: Sharon Ellison
(2024)

Secretary: Linda Gordon
(2023)

Treasurer: Gail McMillan
(2023)

Board Member: Chuck Weber
(2023)

Board Member: Mary Berry
(2024)

Board Member: Ron Davis
(2024)

Alt. Board Member: Carolyn Dycus
(2023)

Monthly Contest Coordinator: Linda
Gordon



ABILENE WRITERS GUILD ANNUAL CONTEST 2022 RULES & CATEGORIES

General information:

website: abilenewritersguild.org

1. Open to any person 15 or older.
2. Entries must be postmarked between Oct. 1, 2022, and Nov. 30, 2022!
3. Categories with fewer than 5 entries are not eligible for prizes but may be critiqued if judges agree.
4. Categories, descriptions, maximum lengths, entry fees: page 2. Do NOT count title in your word count.
5. All entries must be your original work, unpublished as of October 1, 2022. Publication on the internet IS publication. The work must not have earned a cash award in any PREVIOUS AWG Annual Contest. However, Honorable Mentions from past annual contests may be re-entered and any AWG monthly members-only contest entry is eligible IF it fits the category. Use font type 12: Times New Roman preferred. Type on one side of the page.
6. Separate Cover Sheets for each entry. Upper left corner: your name, complete address, phone number and email address. Upper right corner: category and number of words or lines. Space down to the middle of page and enter your title on the cover sheet.
7. First page, Poetry/Flash Fiction entries, categories 1-4: Upper right corner: category and number of lines or words. Do not count your title in the word count. Double space down, center your title, double space down again and begin manuscript. Single space. NO author's name on this page.
8. First page, Prose Categories 5-9: Double space all pages with one-inch margins. Upper right corner: type category and number of words. Do not count your title in the word count. Double space down, center your title; double space down again and begin manuscript. On all following pages: type entry title and page number in upper right corner. NO author's name on this or following pages.

Mail Entries Only: Staple your cover sheet to your entry. Attach payment with a paper clip to your entry. For multiple entries, be sure your check covers all entries and fill out the registration form or facsimile thereof. If you want your entry/entries returned, please provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope with adequate postage; otherwise, your entry will be discarded on or after May 31, 2023. (Needs one stamp per 5 pages in a #10 letter-size envelope.) Our judges, professionals in their fields, are asked to critique each entry, but we cannot guarantee same.

REMINDER: As in the majority of writing contests, entries not meeting the guidelines will be disqualified and fees will not be refunded. Please follow the rules carefully. Decisions of the judges are final. Winners will be announced at our Annual Awards Workshop to be held in March 2023 and will be published on our Website by April 15, 2023. Prizes will be mailed to winners who cannot attend the Workshop. Please check our website and/or Newsletter for

location, date, time and other details of the March 2023 Workshop. Entries will be available for pickup immediately following the Workshop.

You may also bring entries to AWG's October and November meetings if you are in the area.

Prizes:	Categories 1,2,3,4	Categories 5,6,7,8,9
First Place:	\$70	\$100
Second Place:	45	65
Third Place:	25	35

ABILENE WRITERS GUILD 2022 CONTEST ENTRY FORM

MAIL TO: AWG, c/o 862 Grand Ave, Abilene, TX 79605 Email questions: AWGWrite@gmail.com

Your email address: _____

Printed Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Street Address: _____ **City:** _____ **St:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Make check or money order payable to: Abilene Writers Guild

of entries in Categories 1-4 _____ **X \$7 each = \$** _____

of entries in Categories 5-9 _____ **X \$10 each = \$** _____

Your Check Number _____ **TOTAL \$** _____

CATEGORIES		MAXIMUM WORDS/LINES	ENTRY FEE
1. Poetry, Rhymed, any style		50 lines	\$7
2. Poetry, Uhrhymed, any style		50 lines	7
<u>Flash categories, 3 and 4, require use of the five prompt words:</u>			
*3. Flash Poetry: <u>starlight, flood, amusement, flower, power</u>		100 words	7
*4. Flash Fiction: <u>practical, audition, caretaker, thunderstorm, headstrong</u>		100 words	7
5. Children's stories	preschool or elementary-age readers	750 words	\$10
6. Inspiration	any form: prose, drama, religious	1200 words	10
7. Memoir/Nostalgia	take reader back to a former time	1200 words	10
8. Fiction for Adults	short story for teens and older	1200 words	10
9. Science Fiction	short story for teens and older	1200 words	10

You may enter as many times as you wish in one or multiple categories!