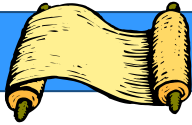




# Missouri Writers' Guild News



## 100th Anniversary Year Celebration



Celebrating the Past / Planning for the Future



## President's Message

March 2015

Volume 90, Issue 4



Within the next few months, several big events and projects will be completed, furthering the cause and supporting the members of the Missouri Writers' Guild.

One is the April Conference. It is just around the corner. It appears someone from every major chapter will be attending. This means that the conference will be well-set to make good policy for the future of the Guild. If you haven't decided on whether or not to come to the conference in April, think hard about participating in the discussions, which will set Guild policy for the next 100 years. The dates are April 10-12 in Columbia, Missouri. If you need more information, please contact me at [president@missouriwritersguild.org](mailto:president@missouriwritersguild.org) or Steve Wiegenstein at [swiegenstein@yahoo.com](mailto:swiegenstein@yahoo.com).

Our website, which has taken nearly a year to update, is almost ready. Several members have already done a first round of testing, and all that's left is to update the member information. This should be finished shortly. We are hoping to have the website up in March so that it's ready for the new board.

That's not all though.

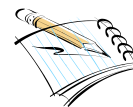
Election for the new Board of Directors will occur at the April Conference. If you are interested in having your name on the ballot, let me know and I will pass it on to the nominating committee. (MWG bylaws for duties of officers are on the back cover.) Once the committee is formed, I'll let you all know who they are so you can send them your name directly. Being on the board is hard work, but it is rewarding and vital to the continued success of the Guild.

There are also our annual President's contests. The deadline for submissions was February 15th. We didn't have a lot of submissions this year, but I'll be passing on what we have to our judges. Thank you for sending in your work for the contests. We will announce the winners at the April Conference.

Finally, we will be having a workshop at the conference to discuss revisions to the Guild bylaws. Part of that discussion will be membership criteria. If you are interested in a discussion about the bylaws, please plan on attending this workshop at the conference.

Looking forward to seeing you in April!

**Lisa Miller**  
President, MWG  
Publisher, Walrus Publishing, Inc.



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Do you have news, contests, kudos, or articles for the MWG Newsletter?

Type them out and submit them to the **Publicity Director/Editor-In-Chief** at [mwg.press@gmail.com](mailto:mwg.press@gmail.com) by the following dates:

- May 15 (June Newsletter)
- August 15 (September Newsletter)
- November 15 (December Newsletter)
- February 15 (March Newsletter)

## Writers on Rails: Explore, Dream, Discover Missouri

What writer hasn't imagined having the opportunity to Explore, Dream, and Discover—uninterrupted—a story bottled within?

Well, in celebration of Missouri Writers' Guild 100th anniversary in 2015, the MWG board of directors, in keeping with Mark Twain's encouragement to explore, dream, and discover, are offering writers this exact opportunity with a new and exciting essay contest! The Writers on Rails: Explore, Dream, Discover Missouri essay contest.

And for the winner? An all-expenses-paid, two-day, first-class round trip vacation across our magnificent state of Missouri on the luxury, air-conditional Amtrak Missouri River Runner.

For further information and submission guidelines, contact Donna Essner at [treasurer@missouriwritersguild.org](mailto:treasurer@missouriwritersguild.org), or Lisa Miller, president, at [mwgpres@missouriwritersguild.org](mailto:mwgpres@missouriwritersguild.org).

—Submitted by Donna Essner

## Member Kudos

**LAURA VALENTI**—In mid-2014, MWG member Laura Valenti entered her two *Between the Star and the Cross* novels, *The Choice* and *The Election* — about a small town county sheriff from the Ozarks—into a Writers Digest national competition. In late 2014, she received evaluations on both novels. While she did not expect to win, she was most gratified with the following national-level evaluations.

They included Outstanding ratings of 5 (on a scale of 1 to 5) in pacing, production, cover, voice, and writing style. All other areas received a 4 rating. Since the covers for all of Valenti's novels are designed by local art and photography students and their high school teacher, this was also a real boost for aspiring young Missouri artists. The judge also described Valenti's characters, "as a breath of fresh air in the rural Ozarks, and as alive and flawed as human beings in real life." The judge further commented, "I got into the tempo of the town of Serenity. Sheriff Dale Harper is the true protagonist of the novel, whom I liked very much. [He] really cares about the people of Serenity, and Valenti makes the reader care about them. I found Valenti's tales both charming and touching."

In the second book, the judge commented, "I liked that this could be a stand-alone novel, although I was very happy to see the romance between Harper and Milagro Palacios flourishing. The story was well done and I particularly appreciated the detail. I thought Milagro's distress as a woman and a [Latin] American who knows corrupt politics all too well, was very believable. The murders hook the reader into the plot. The faith present in the book is deftly and gently woven in. Milagro Palacios's explanation to Harper about giving problems to God for solving was beautiful. I believe women readers will be inspired to convey Milagro's message to their own hunks!"



**BILLY ADAMS**— won the Senior Poet Laureate contest of Missouri in 2013 and was published in the 2013 edition of *Golden Words*.

**FAYE ADAMS**—judged a poetry contest for the states of Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Texas. That contest is now open for American poets 50 and older. Guidelines can be found at: [www.amykitchenerfdn.org](http://www.amykitchenerfdn.org)

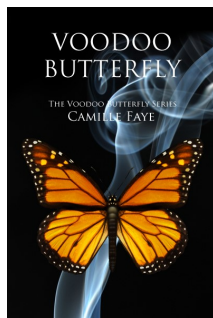
*IDEALS Magazine* published Faye Adams's poem, "Early Morning Surprise," in their current Easter edition, and used "Acres of Diamonds" in the 2014 Christmas edition.

*SBU Literary Journal* has accepted excerpts (two chapters) from her book, *Sharecropper's Daughter* for publication in their Spring 2015 edition of *Cantos*, and used a short nonfiction story, "Reefer's Rerun," and several poems in the 2014 edition.

**CAMILLE FAYE**—Camille Faye published *Voodoo Butterfly* with Soul Mate Publishing out of New York State in fall of 2014. The Northwest Houston RWA named her novel a 2013 Lone Star Contest finalist. In *Voodoo Butterfly*, Sophie Nouveau inherits a New Orleans voodoo shop, but there's one big problem. She knows nothing about voodoo. . .or her family's secret power.

Camille's stories are inspired by her travels to 27 countries and counting! Follow her journey at [www.camillefaye.com](http://www.camillefaye.com).

*Voodoo Butterfly* is available on Amazon.com for \$2.99 and will be offered on sale for \$.99 for Mardi Gras week (Feb. 16-23).



**DONNA VOLKENANNT'S**—personal essay, "Mom's Cuss Jar," was published in *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Thanks to Mom*.

**KAREN MOCKER DABSON**—has released her debut novel, *The Muralist's Ghost*, through Covered Bridge Publishing. With a soft release in late 2014, Dabson will officially launch the historical fiction at Village Books in Columbia ([www.villagebooks.org](http://www.villagebooks.org)) on March 21 from Noon to 2 PM with a book talk and signing. The *Muralist's Ghost* is available in paperback or e-book from Village Books, Columbia Books, Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble.com, and other distributors such as Baker and Taylor and Ingram. The novel evolves around a true life incident that Maxo Vanka experienced while painting murals in a church just outside of Pittsburgh. A specter appears to him and only him, and he is left to solve the mystery by searching his distant and recent past. However, when more corporeal activity occurs, and the church is damaged, the artist realizes that the situation may be far more dangerous than he first realized. To learn more about *The Muralist's Ghost* and its backstory, visit [www.mockerdabson.com](http://www.mockerdabson.com).

Mocker Dabson also takes her book talks on the road in March, and will be the guest speaker for "Coffee and Crime" on March 7 at 9:30 AM at the longstanding independent bookstore, Mystery Lovers Bookshop ([www.mysterylovers.com](http://www.mysterylovers.com)) in Oakmont, Pennsylvania, near Pittsburgh, her hometown.

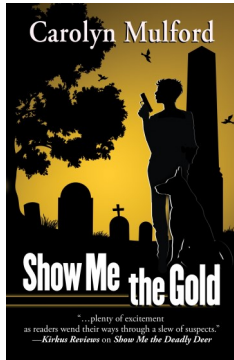
In other news, Dabson joins several members of the Guild for inclusion in a recent anthology published by Mozark Press. Her story, "Bess Harding, Mystery Queen," appears in their 2014 anthology, *A Shaker of Margaritas: That Mysterious Woman*. ([www.mozarkpress.com](http://www.mozarkpress.com))



# Member Kudos

CAROLYN MULFORD—

*Show Me the Gold*, by Carolyn Mulford, Five Star, 2014, 304 pp.; ISBN: 978-1-4328-2990-2; hardcover, \$25.95; e-book, \$3.99



Staking out a country graveyard against vandals on an August night, former CIA covert operative Phoenix Smith and Acting Sheriff Annalynn Carr Keyser receive an urgent call from a neighboring county. They respond and guard the road from an abandoned farmhouse where four bank robbers were spotted. The women engage the robbers in a fatal shootout, but two gang members escape. Achilles, Phoenix's K-9 dropout, can't sniff out their trail, but he smells a trap set to kill pursuers.

With the FBI on the way, the women think the case has ended for them. They return to Vandiver County, Missouri, and their personal problems. The shootout's aftermath soon overshadows Annalynn's grieving for her late husband and Phoenix's ambiguity about old and new romances. The FBI fails to find the fugitives or the gold coins they stole. Agents suspect Phoenix found and hid the gold. More alarming, so do the elusive, vengeful robbers. Phoenix adapts her tradecraft to protect herself, and others, and to trace old and new threads leading to the gang and the gold.

To read the opening chapters of her *Show Me* books, go to <http://CarolynMulford.com>.

LESLIE A. LINDSAY— My interest is finding and interviewing/reviewing great books/authors (especially debut/emerging authors). On my blog, you'll find a host of bestselling and debut writers, from Caroline Leavitt, Lisa Unger, Kimberly McCreight, Laura McHugh, Thomas Christopher Greene, among many others. Sometimes I write about the craft or

general musings, too. The site is [www.leslielindsay.com](http://www.leslielindsay.com) Award-Winning Author of *Speaking of Apraxia* [www.speakingofapraxia.com](http://www.speakingofapraxia.com), [www.woodbinehouse.com](http://www.woodbinehouse.com)

## Treasurer's Report

I wanted to share our financial information with each of you, our bank account and PayPal balances as of February 27, 2015.

As you can see, we currently have no outstanding checks, giving us a balance of \$16,125.71 in our bank account.

\*\*\*\*\*

Beginning Bank Balance Jan 1, 2015	\$15,958.36
Deposits - 2/23/15(Transfer from PayPal)	<u>1,200.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 17,158.36

Checks Written

- Acumen Consulting (Website)	\$1,350.00
- Marshal Writers Guild-2015 Grant Award	<u>365.00</u>
Total Debit (-)\$1,715.00	

Bank Balance as of February 27, 2015	\$15,443.36
PayPal Balance as of February 27, 2015	<u>\$ 682.35</u>

TOTAL CASH ON HAND \$16,125.71

Currently, MWG does not have any outstanding invoices owed.

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If anyone has any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at [treasurer@missouriwritersguild.org](mailto:treasurer@missouriwritersguild.org).

Until next time...  
Donna J. Essner  
Treasurer



# Chapter Report

## Saturday Writers

2015 is underway! Saturday Writers has a new president at the helm. Tom Klein is passionate about writing and plans to provide members with our usual activities, and maybe new ones, too. Monthly meetings include speakers who present tons of info on craft and the business of writing. January brought Robin Tidwell of Rocking Horse Publishing, who gave insight on how to "Make It Happen." In February, Lisa Miller of Walrus Publishing and the President of the Missouri Writers Guild will advise on how to add tension to writing. To prepare for the April poetry month, poet Jane Ellen Ibur comes in March. Visitors are welcome to attend meetings for a \$5 fee.

Monthly contests continue with the overall topic of Elements. Each month focuses on an element such as cold, fire, wind, or light. Cash prizes are awarded and winners are published in the annual anthology. Our contests are open to the public.

Throughout the year we sponsor member events such as open mics, book signings, critique groups, works-in-progress gatherings, and a youth contest.

All info is on the web site: [www.saturdaywriters.org](http://www.saturdaywriters.org) and is updated frequently. PayPal is available for online dues, contest entry, anthology orders, and merchandise of hats, totes, shirts, and mugs.

Our motto is "Writers Encouraging Writers," so if you are in or near St. Charles County, come and check us out. You'll be welcomed.

—Submitted by Marcia Gaye  
MWG Liaison



## Writing Inspiration

### 50 Years to the First Sale

By: Faye Adams

Shakespeare suffered 50 rejections before any of his work was accepted for publication. It took me 50 years of writing before summoning up the courage to submit to a publisher. For the first 50 years, I gave them away. My poems. It never once occurred to me that they were salable items. I wrote poems for birthdays, weddings, baby showers, anniversaries, and special events, embellished with bright mats, lace, quilling, and shadow-box frames, then presented them as gifts to whomever I was honoring or to whomever was celebrating.

I fielded and fulfilled requests for poems from friends, family, theatre groups, co-workers, even college professors. Our Pastor frequently included poetry in his sermons and wanted to see anything I had written. Every year, as the month of December approached, he would ask if I had a new Christmas poem. I had poetry floating around in Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, Wyoming, and Montana, with publication in newspapers, always without pay. I was totally unconcerned, actually felt honored that my work was being shared and appreciated.

When my husband and I planned a big blow-out for our 50th anniversary, I had no idea it would lead to my first sale. My mother, at 88, was a special guest at our party. She stayed with us through a renewal of vows, plus dinner and dance later in the evening. She seemed to have a great time and actually got out on the floor for a little dancing.

One couple, unable to accept our invitation, sent a note of regret with an issue of *IDEALS magazine* as a gift. The theme of the edition was Friendship. It was a publication new to me, but it was beautifully done and contained poetry. I devoured the entire issue in one sitting. In the center of the magazine was a double-page spread titled, "Reader's Reflections." A note at the top called for poems from readers and gave submission guidelines.

I immediately copied several poems and mailed them in for consideration. Many months passed without a reply and I assumed the publisher was unimpressed. Oh well, not everyone would appreciate

my style of poetry. I couldn't expect the same reaction from editors that I received from family, friends and our Pastor, who are probably prejudiced just because they think I'm such a swell person.

But one day the mailbox contained a request for my signature, giving *IDEALS* permission to publish a poem, "Mother's Green Thumb," in the 2005 Mother's Day edition. With my heart beating wildly and excitement taking my breath away, I signed and returned the form.

A month or so before Mother's Day, I received two copies of the edition in which my poem appeared. I was given the choice of purchasing additional copies at a greatly reduced rate.

I gleefully wrote out a check for eight more copies. Later, it thrilled me to be able to hand Mom her copy of the magazine, containing a published copy of my poem about her.

Yet the biggest boost came from that \$10 check floating out of the envelope. It might as well have been a million bucks for the way it made me feel. With satisfaction, the realization hit that I had finally become a writer. That's all the encouragement I needed to keep submitting.

There have been numerous other publication credits in the ten years since that first poem, but none have ever packed the jolt of that first check. Of course, I made a copy before depositing it into our bank account. Occasionally, I pull out the copy and look at it to remind myself to keep writing.

I'm geared up for the next 50 years of writing, convinced that this is only the beginning. Who would have thought that I would begin a new career during my golden years? Perhaps my experience disproves the old theory that you can't teach an old dog, new tricks.



## Writer Opportunities

### HIGHLIGHT KANSAS CITY

Send us your art, prose, and poetry that highlights a unique part of Kansas City life and culture. Let's export this place! Do your characters attend a Royals game? Is your story set in the West Bottoms? Did your camera capture a lively jazz show? We want you to submit it! Until March 15th.

Check out our full guidelines and submit here. <http://www.wppress.org/main/submissions/>

—Whispering Prairie Press/  
Kansas City Voices

### SLING MAGAZINE

*Sling Magazine* is a "How To" magazine featuring "Davids" of the art world – ordinary people who are, or become extraordinary. It was inspired by Malcolm Gladwell's book *David & Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and The Art of Battling Giants*, released in 2013. Connecting Gladwell's work with her observations, Creative Director Hope Johnson quickly learned it was the way in which ordinary people "Davids" used unique tools and talents to defeat "giants" that determined their success. *Sling* was created ask readers and artists the question: What's in Your Sling?

*Sling Magazine* features essays, fiction, poetry, art / photography, and interviews. To submit, please see "submissions" tab on <http://www.slingmag.com/>.

### PRIME NUMBER MAGAZINE

*Prime Number Magazine* is our quarterly online journal of distinctive poetry and prose from writers at all levels and tastes. Publishing in journals, magazines, and anthologies is a great way to build your bio, build readership, and meet other writers and editors who will later become your support team. <https://press53.submittable.com/submit/>

### GLIMMER TRAIN

We are looking for stories about families of all configurations. It's fine to draw heavily on real life experiences, but the work must read like fiction. March 31, 2015 deadline. <http://www.glimmertrain.com/familymatters.html>



# Writing Advice

## Ten Common Mistakes New Mystery Writers Make

By Carolyn Mulford

All writers differ, but those writing their first (and maybe second or third) mystery usually make at least two or three of ten common mistakes. I base this list on what I've observed in reading other writers' works in progress, and what they've said about my manuscripts.

The mistakes vary in the manuscript's different sections: two to three opening chapters, twenty to thirty middle chapters, and three to five final chapters.

### The opening chapters

The hardest and most important section to perfect is the opening. Most agents and editors tell us they won't read beyond the third page (some not beyond the first paragraph), if the story doesn't grab them. From what I've heard, a majority of readers will give the writer until the end of the first chapter. If you can't move the professional or the casual reader past the opening chapters, your exciting middle chapters and dynamic ending won't matter.

Watch out for these problems in your opening chapters. If you find them, try the suggested solutions.

### 1. A lengthy backstory

Start your story with a crucial event or action, not your biographical notes on the protagonist. Find the corpse or foreshadow the murder in the first chapter.

Give the necessary backstory in phrases or sentences, not paragraphs or pages. Let actions reveal character and aptitudes. Show your protagonist through others' eyes.

Set the tone and voice of the entire book in your first chapter.

### 2. Long descriptions of the setting or the characters

Find the telling details that put the reader in the time and place.

Give thumbnails of the main characters or settings and add information as needed.

### 3. A prologue revealing a dramatic point late in the book

If an event is critical, make it part of chapter one.

If your beginning lacks action or suspense, write a new one.

### 4. Multiple characters

Introduce your protagonist immediately so readers identify with that person.

Limit characters to those whom you would remember at a networking event.

### The middle chapters

We tend to spend so much time rewriting the opening that we neglect the much longer middle, the heart of the investigation and of character development. By this stage, readers tend to put the book down at the end of a chapter. Each chapter must motivate them to pick up the book again. Writers' most common mistakes involve pacing.

### 5. A lack of action

Something must happen in every chapter. Check that by writing a headline for each chapter.

Continue conflict—in solving the crime, in reaching the protagonist's goals, in personal and professional interactions.

### 6. Clues or characterizations that reveal too much

Present three or four viable suspects and speculate on at least two motives.

Use gray, rather than black and white, in portraying suspects.

### 7. Indistinguishable characters

Give each named character a memorable characteristic—appearance, mannerism, speech pattern, etc.

Make each person's speech distinctive—vocabulary, grammar, syntax, rhythm.

### The final chapters

Those last chapters must evoke emotion and stimulate the intellect. If readers feel cheated because previous chapters haven't prepared them for the conclusion, they are confused because the solution lacks clarity, or dissatisfied because characters act out of character, they won't recommend your book to others or read your next book. Readers' frustration often comes from the following mistakes.

### 8. The first indication of the villain and the motive

Give the reader the facts to solve the crime, but don't make those obvious.

Plant clues and red herrings throughout the book. Don't bunch them at the end.

### 9. Illogical, coincidental, or incredible solutions

Surprise but satisfy with your solution. You want readers to say, "Oh, yes. Now I get it."

In fiction, readers expect to receive all the answers. They also expect justice.

### 10. Villain reveals all

If the bad guy has to explain why and how, rework your plot.

Wrap up all the loose ends, starting with the subplots. (If you're writing a series, you may leave a loose end or two to propel the reader into your next book).

One more thing: Never kill a cat.

Avoiding all ten of these mistakes doesn't mean the author has produced a good manuscript. Making several of them guarantees the manuscript requires a lot of rewriting.

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Carolyn Mulford, Columbia, writes the *Show Me* mysteries published by Five Star/Gale, Cengage Learning. *Show Me the Murder*, the first in the series, won MWG's 2014 Walter Williams Major Work Award. Her latest is *Show Me the Gold*.



## Four Years Older and Ages Wiser

### Opinions and Reflections of a Former Newsletter Assistant

By: Janet L. Cannon

As a teacher, I tell my students that reading and following directions is the number one skill they must learn. Why? If a person can read and follow directions, they can do almost anything.

Adults often fall into the same trap children do. We think 1.) we already know enough, so we don't need to read the directions. Or, 2.) the rules don't apply—for whatever reason—so we don't bother to read and/or follow directions.

To illustrate this point, you may have noticed the subtitle of this article includes, "Former Newsletter Assistant." I learned recently that during these last four years, I was not technically the MWG Newsletter Editor because in Section 5 of ARTICLE III, DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS, it states that the Publicity Director is the Editor-in-Chief, "and may appoint assistants in this work..." This misunderstanding is my fault for not reading the bylaws.

And as I'm sure many of us have experienced, it's frustrating when we try to work with others who don't follow the same rules. That's when hard feelings and divisions arise, even among the closest of friends and family.

My point, friends, is that the two attitudes above about reading and following directions—in my humble opinion—are not only why society is suffering from a variety of conflicts, but also why the MWG has fragmented rather than joined together as a cohesive whole.

To be that powerful, cohesive group, we need a common set of rules—bylaws—and we should obey those rules. But first, we have to read those rules and agree about what they mean. Second, if we use common sense, those rules need to fit the needs of our group. Since our needs have changed since our bylaws were first written, that means we need to update all the bylaws so they fit with the current trends in writing and publishing. To change our bylaws we need dedicated people, dedicated time, and above all, consideration for the common good of all Guild members present and future.

As many of you know, this past year has not been easy for the MWG membership or for the MWG board members. I'm not going to sugarcoat matters and say everyone agreed on everything. That is the nature of sitting on a board and in making decisions for the good of all members.

The point I want to make here, friends, is that the people who were elected last year as MWG board members at least stood up and TRIED to make a difference. Maybe you didn't agree with their methods or the outcomes, but they spent time away from their businesses and personal projects to help you and the MWG.

Unfortunately, their efforts and requests for help were met with either silence or animosity. Whispered complaints and disgruntled comments among MWG members didn't help because the board can't address issues they don't know about. When confronted in an unprofessional manner about issues, the board has had to find tactful ways to respond without seeming to cater to one party but still address the problem. Serving on the board is not easy, and there is no way to make everyone happy, because the number one priority of the MWG board is to serve the membership the best way they can.

It is not my intent to offend anyone with my opinions. However, if my words have elicited strong feelings about the guild, don't let go of those emotions. That means something. That means you care about the MWG. Every member of the MWG needs to be an active and positive part of the change that puts this guild back on track. In essence, I'm putting out a call to action to revive our 100 year-old Missouri Writers' Guild organization. And the reason we should can be found in the ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT of the bylaws:

3. The specific purposes for which this association is formed are: a) to bring into closer relationship the writers of the State of Missouri, to the end that by such relationship the members hereof may receive mutual inspiration, information and amusement; that distinguished writers and editors and those engaged in our profession may from time to time be entertained by the association; that the writers of the State of Missouri may, through this association, speak as a body politic on matters relating to the welfare of their calling, to the end that those high

principles which have been established by its individual members may in the future be maintained and perpetuated....

The phrases I underlined are the keys: The Missouri Writers' Guild was incorporated so we could have a closer relationship with each other, friends! We are supposed to inspire each other, teach each other, amuse each other, entertain each other, and use our collective strength to fight for our political rights as writers. TOGETHER.

What does "togetherness" look like? This is the longest newsletter we've had in years. Why? Because I emailed everyone to contribute. Four years ago when I asked why everyone wasn't contacted to contribute to the newsletter, the response I received was, "Because it isn't done." After reading the bylaws, I discovered there was no rule against it. This newsletter—as well as other assets of the organization—belong to everyone. Everyone should have a voice AND everyone should have a vote.

And everyone needs to read those bylaws.

I challenge every one of you to get a copy of the bylaws and read them. Then, instead of standing up and pointing fingers at all that is wrong within our organization, stand up and help make a change. A change that will inspire all those who come after us in the next 100 years.

If that's throwing your name into the hat to sit as a state board member or a chapter leader, wonderful! If that's volunteering as a committee member for the state or local boards, awesome! If that's becoming a part of the committee to help bring the bylaws into the twenty-first century, bless you!

And all of us "formers" are still obligated to help in our own ways.

But sitting quietly either in helplessness or disgust is hurting the guild and it's hurting yourself as well. Speak up. Volunteer. Know your bylaws. Be a part of all that is yours.

We MUST come together and refocus our collective dream of inspiration, education, and amusement so the Missouri Writers' Guild will not only survive but thrive for the next 100 years.



## Conferences and Workshops

### KENTUCKY WOMEN'S BOOK FESTIVAL, Louisville, KY

March 7, 2015

The event is free and open to the public, but box lunches will be available from Masterson's Catering. The cost is \$10 and reservations (for lunch only) are required by March 4. Please call the UofL Women's Center at 502-852-8976 to reserve your lunch. <http://louisville.edu/womenscenter/programs-events/community/kwbf>

### SOUTHERN LIT ALLIANCE— 2015 Celebration of Southern Literature, Chattanooga, TN

April 16-18, 2015

We look forward to seeing you during our exciting program with over 40 acclaimed writers from the South! Use the links to acquaint yourself with our fully customizable 2015 CSL schedule and to learn more about this mainstay event. <http://southernlitalliance.org/celebration-of-southern-literature>

### KENTUCKY WRITERS BOOK FEST & CONFERENCE, Bowling Green KY

April 17 & 18, 2015

Authors who will be participating in the Book Fest on Saturday, April 18, 2015 will give attendees at the Writers Conference the benefit of their wisdom on Friday, April 17, 2015. Free workshops on a variety of writing topics will be presented during this day-long event. Sessions run for 75 minutes and the day begins at 9:00am and ends at 3:30pm. The conference is open to anyone who would like to attend. <http://sokybookfest.org/about-2/writers-conference/>

### LUCIDITY POETRY RETREAT

Eureka Springs, AR  
April 22, 23 & 24, 2015

Details at: <http://fortbendpoets.wix.com/lucidityozarkpoetryretreat> or email [birmacastle@yahoo.com](mailto:birmacastle@yahoo.com)

(It is very affordable.)

—Submitted by Faye Adams

### ARKANSAS LITERARY FESTIVAL 2015, Little Rock, AR

April 23-26, 2015

Prestigious award-winners, big names, GRAMMY nominees, filmmakers, journalists, and artists are among the diverse roster of presenters who will be providing sessions at the twelfth annual Arkansas Literary Festival, April 23-26, 2015. <http://www.arkansasliteraryfestival.org/>

### WRITERS' WORKSHOPS, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

Summer 2015

Anyone may apply for non-degree summer coursework offered; this summer, the Workshop will offer courses in two separate summer school sessions. The application deadline for both sessions is March 3, 2015.

- Three-week Intensive May Session: May 18 – June 5, 2015
- Eight-week Summer Session: June 15 – August 6, 2015

<http://writersworkshop.uiowa.edu/summer-programs/summer-programs>

### CAMPBELL CONFERENCE, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

June 12-14, 2015

Events include a mass signing by the attending authors and editors. Using the theme of "From the Ghetto to the Classroom: What's Next in SF Education?" we'll discuss the current state and future of science-fiction education. <http://www.sfcenter.ku.edu/campbell-conference.htm>

### MIDWEST WRITERS WORKSHOP Ball State University, Muncie, IN

July 23-25, 2015

We have 35+ different instructional sessions with top quality faculty during our three-day program on everything from fiction to nonfiction, marketing, and ways to get your creative juices flowing. <http://www.midwestwriters.org/>

### ALL WRITE NOW! CONFERENCE Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, Missouri

July 11, 2015

The Heartland Writers Guild and the Southeast Missouri Writers' Guild invite ALL writers of ALL genres to join us for the Second Annual *All Write Now!* conference Saturday, July 11, 2015, 8:00a.m.—5:00p.m. We will meet at the University Center on the campus of Southeast Missouri State University. Speakers include:

- Luncheon Keynote Speaker: New York Times bestselling author, Angie Fox
- Eileen Dryer, New York Times bestselling Romance author
- Ellie Searle, The Publishista, professional book designer
- Jan Cannon, Author, Technical Consultant, and Platform Builder
- Alison Joseph, SIU-C Associate Professor, Poetry writing
- Margo Dill, Children's Author and Editor

Other events include pitch sessions, networking opportunities, book selling and signings, and MORE!

Lunch and morning and afternoon refreshments are included in the \$55 registration price.

The writing contests include four categories: fiction, poetry, non-fiction, and flash fiction. You do NOT have to attend the conference to enter the contests. You may enter different pieces in multiple categories, but please limit entries to three (3) submissions per category—\$10 per entry submitted. Deadline: Wednesday, June 10, 2015.

The *All Write Now!* website is now taking electronic registrations. By the end of February it will be taking electronic submissions for the writing contests. Check it for the latest conference information <http://www.allwritenow.wix.com/allwritenow> or contact Donna Essner or Mary Rechenberg at: [allwritenowconferecemo@gmail.com](mailto:allwritenowconferecemo@gmail.com)



# What Does it Mean to be a MWG Officer? (Excerpt from the MWG Bylaws)

## ARTICLE III

### DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The President shall preside at all business meetings of the Guild and serve as the chairman of the Board of Directors. The President shall determine, in cooperation with the Board of Directors, the date and location of the spring meeting and any special meetings of the full membership. The President shall have the powers and duties usually incumbent upon such an officer and may fill by appointment vacancies in any office, such appointees to hold office until the next business meeting of the Guild. The President is automatically chairman of the Membership Committee. The President, in cooperation with the Board of Directors, will conduct the awards and contests. The outgoing President shall authorize the annual auditing of all funds at the end of the fiscal year, which runs from the end of the spring meeting to the end of the next spring meeting.



Section 2. The Vice President shall take the place of the President in the absence of the President and shall succeed to the office of President in the case of a vacancy in that office. The Vice President shall serve as chairman of the Meetings Committee as heretofore described under Article II, Section 2, with the duties therein assigned.



Section 3. The Secretary shall take the place of the President in the absence of both the President and the Vice President and shall succeed to the office of President if there is no Vice President to succeed to the office. The Secretary shall also record the minutes of the Board of Directors' meetings, the annual Missouri Writers' Guild spring meeting, and the proceedings and results of the annual awards banquet and ceremony. The Secretary shall also assist the President and Treasurer by issuing correspondence that either of these officers deems necessary.



Section 4. The Treasurer shall act in accordance with the duties usually

incumbent upon such an officer and shall make expenditures only for the purposes authorized by a majority vote of Guild members present and voting at any business meeting or by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Bills for expenditures must be approved by the President. The Treasurer shall take the place of the President in the absence of the President, Vice President, and Secretary.



Section 5. The Publicity Director shall be responsible for all Guild publications and publicity, serving as Editor-in-Chief of the official publication, The Missouri Writers' Guild News, and may appoint assistants in this work with the approval of the President.



Section 6. The Historian shall act in accordance with the duties usually incumbent upon such an officer, serving as custodian of past records and adding to them appropriate materials during his term of office.



Missouri Writers' Guild