



Missouri Writers' Guild News

Bringing Writers Together

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



So in April we had this planning conference, and we had reps from most of the MWG chapters. All kinds of things were discussed, and nearly all of them were implemented. Some, of course, are still in the pipeline, and some simply take longer to execute.

But we've heard very little feedback from our membership. And, in spite of nearly 10K website hits per month, members are only logging on to the site roughly every two months.

Sure, I get that everyone's busy, but there's a problem here—and we want to know what you want to see on the site. What would be useful? What would make you want to come back more often?

Our Facebook page, on the other hand, is very active as far as likes and reach are tabulated, but we'd sure like to have more interaction. Yes, we have a lot of "likes" there, but we want to see our members engaged with the Board and with each other.

Only six chapters have uploaded their information to the website.

Only eleven members have added their profiles and social media connections.

Only forty books are listed in the bookstore—that's about half of the membership who have published books and it isn't counting multiple titles.

Remember that the MWG is a professional organization, a networking and promotional opportunity for our members, and we are made up of published authors and writers. Our chapter system is intended for those who are pursuing publication for the first time and those who are just beginning their careers; chapters do not stand alone, but are a local extension of the state organization.

I'd like to encourage all members to take advantage of the website and the benefits of membership, and to consider both their chapter memberships as well as their inclusion in the MWG. Promotion is a two-way street, after all.

So here's what you can do:

Log in and click the Members' Only section; if you need help, there is a FAQ and a Help page.

Look at the menu on the right for all the things you can do.

Do them. Read them.

Take a look at the public side of the site. Read that.

"Like" us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter; promote the MWG on both sites by sharing our stuff.

Send us lists/links to groups or organizations or companies connected with writers for our Resource page; send these groups, etc., information on becoming a corporate member of the MWG.

And finally, if you'd like input on the direction of the MWG, please email. Or volunteer for a committee or a Board position . . .

Robin Tidwell, President
Missouri Writers Guild

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Submit

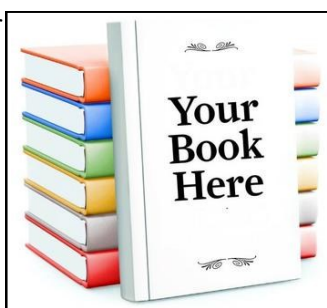
News, articles, and conferences/events to the newsletter!

Deadlines:

August 15
(Sept. newsletter)
November 15
(Dec. newsletter)
February 15
(Mar. newsletter)
May 15
(June newsletter)

To:

mwg.press@gmail.com



CONTESTS

Foreword Reviews

The 2015 [INDIEFAB Book of the Year Awards](#) is calling all indie book publishers and authors, including university presses, e-book publishers, and self-published authors, for its annual competition recognizing the best in indie book publishing.

Entries are now being accepted for books with a 2015 publishing date in 66 categories with more than 100 booksellers and librarians determining the winners.

WEBSITE

At the planning conference in April, many things were discussed and many changes and additions to the website were requested. If you're not on social media, you may not be aware that now you can:

- Read the FAQ
- Read the annual meeting minutes
- Apply for a chapter grant
- Write a blog post
- Upload your book info
- Read the By-Laws
- Read the blog
- View member profiles
- Enter your own profile
- Read the monthly Board notes
- See planning conference results
- Add yourself to the Speakers Bureau
- Update/add Chapter information
- See writer resources

In addition, on the public side, there is contest info, conference info, new and improved bookstore, and a help desk. Now, it's YOUR turn. Add your information, add your books, let's make a great website!

Fall Flash Fiction Contest

A huge thank you to all of you writers who entered the MWG Semi-Flash Fiction Contest. I thought we had a great contest. I am so glad I wasn't the judge! I read every

entry, and you guys are so good, I ~~would~~ wanted to have everyone win! The winners are:

1st Place, Claudia Mundell, "Buffalo Tale"
2nd Place, David Burton, "The Church Critic"

3rd Place, Billie Holladay Skelly, "First Do No Harm"

Our judge was Ron A. Austin. The following is from his website: "Ron holds a MFA from the University of Missouri St. Louis, has served as a contributing editor at River Styx, and currently serves as a senior editor for December. His stories have been placed in Ninth Letter, Black Warrior Review, The Masters Review, Midwestern Gothic, Natural Bridge, December, Gulf Stream, Drafthorse, and other journals. He teaches creative writing at the Pierre Laclède Honors College while completing his first collection of short stories: Avery Colt Is a Snake, a Thief, a Liar. He resides in his hometown of St. Louis with his wife, Jennie, and their dog, Carmen." Ron was a joy to work with. He is very professional in his undertakings. I hope some time to have the honor of meeting him in person.

I would be interested in feedback on the contest. We did get it done, even if I had to ask several of you to resend entries using alternative options. All of you responded so generously of your time and effort. Thank you for that. There wasn't but one I couldn't download.

I hope this answers any questions. If it doesn't, just email me at bcwjudy@gmail.com and ask away. If any of you are interested in the President's Contest, it is limited to MWG members, but if you are not a member, we'd love to have you join. Guidelines, including how to join, are on the website. Thanks again, to all of you, for being such a great bunch to work with.

Judy Stock
Contest Chair
MWG Semi-Flash Fiction 2015



2016 President's Contests

You've been waiting for the President's Contest 2016. It is now up and open for business; if you are an MWG member who published in 2015, you are eligible to enter the President's Contest. We have ten categories from which to choose:

The Walter Williams Major Work Award is aimed at a book of high literary value, possibly requiring a lot of research.

The "Show Me" Your Best Book Award is for a book incorporating the people, culture, whatever, of Missouri in some way.

The President's Choice this year is the Juvenile Book Award.

The Chapter Anthology Award is for the best anthology published by a chapter; this would most likely go to the managing editor of such a tome.

The Best Magazine Article is geared toward the best magazine article, regardless of which magazine ran it.

The same can be said for the Best Newspaper Article, regardless of newspaper.

The Best Column Award is for the best column, magazine, or newspaper, independent of subject or which magazine or newspaper published it.

Best Short Story will go to the best story published in an anthology, magazine, whatever.

The Juvenile Short Work (not a book) is for the best juvenile story, poem, or whatever published in 2015.

The Best Poem award is for the best poem published in 2015.

Check them out! There should be a place for your published work to find a home in this contest. Read the guidelines and jump on in! If you have questions, email Judy Stock, Contest Chair, at bcwjudy@gmail.com.

New Board Member

Hello,
I'd like to introduce myself. Some of you may already know me from my membership in the different chapters. As Board Liaison officer for the Missouri Writer's Guild, I'll try to be a mediator between the guild and chapter organizations, communicating activities and providing information stemming from the parent organization. I'll also meet with the local chapters, if requested, as a representative for the Missouri Writer's Guild. If you are no longer on the board for a chapter, please let me know and I'll remove you from the distribution. If you happen to know who replaced you, please reply with an email (to me only) with their name and email address. If you're on the board of your chapter, then no need to reply, unless you wish to update your address.

Sheree Nielsen, Board Liaison Officer

EXPERIENCE NEEDED

Do you know someone who does cover design, publishing, editing, or marketing? Would you recommend them to another writer?
If so, please send their website and/or contact info to mwg.press@gmail.com for inclusion on our Writers' Resources page on the website.

Corporate memberships are also available for businesses in the writing industry—please see our website for more information!



NOTES

Members—be sure to upload your books to the website!

Chapters—add or update your information!

Please send any info for our writers resource page to president@missouriwritersguild.org
Follow us on Facebook and Twitter—we'll like/follow back!



HELP WANTED

Anyone who is interested in applying for the **Treasurer** Board position, please email president@missouriwritersguild.org.

CHAPTERS

The St. Louis Writers' Guild is one of the MWG's largest and most active chapters; they recently celebrated their 95th year.

They meet regularly on the first Saturday of each month for workshops and lectures, the second Tuesday for an open mic night, and the third Thursday for podcast author interviews.

They also host four annual writing contests and a mini-conference every August, Writers in the Park.

But the really big news is this: in 2017, the SLWG will be hosting the Gateway to Publishing conference and convention:

Direct access to sell books to readers;
Workshops for writers;
Master classes;
Pitch sessions with agents and editors;

Networking with vendors for self-published and traditionally published authors; and
A debate featuring experts on the future of the publishing world.

Attendees will be able to:
Connect directly to their audience.
Improve their craft.
Showcase the literary organizations in St. Louis, the St. Louis Writers Guild, and our friends and partners in the community.
Reach agents and publishers and access vendors who can help in the self-publishing career.

Explore the maze of the future of the writing and publishing industry.

Very exciting stuff! Check out their website to learn more about the SLWG!

BOARD LIAISON OFFICER

In the far left column is a letter from our new Board Liaison Officer, Sheree Nielsen.

Her job is to help Chapters communicate with the MWG and assist in any way possible. Or, more formally:

The Board Liaison officer is a mediator between the Missouri Writer's Guild and chapter organizations to communicate activities and utilize resources. They also provide information stemming from the parent organization and distribute to the chapter organizations. Occasional face-to-face contact with the chapters, upon request.

So please do take advantage of the resources of this new position, and drop Sheree a line if you have questions at all or any concerns that you feel should be brought to the Board's attention, particularly in the area of Chapter relations.

You can reach her at shereenielsen@gmail.com

MWG 2016 CONFERENCE!

Sneak Peek of the Missouri Writers

Guild 2016 Conference

April 29-May 1, 2016

Hilton—Kansas City Airport

8801 NW 112th Street, Kansas City,
Missouri, 64153, 816-891-8900

Here's a sneak peek at the faculty for the most exciting MWG conference ever! Some session topics are still being decided, but here's what we have lined up so far, with more to come. You won't want to miss it! We have adult and children's tracks.

The Children's Track includes:

Crystal Allen, author of *The Laura Line* and *How Lamar's Bad Prank Won a Bubba sized Trophy*, "From Zero to Series"

Gwedolyn Hooks, author of 17 books for children. "Nonfiction for Kids and Work for Hire"

Rachel Renée Russell is the New York Times bestselling author of Scholastic's *Dork Diaries*, novels for middle school age readers. It's sold more than 35 million copies in more than 32 languages and has been recently optioned as a movie by Lionsgate Summit Films. Banquet Keynote

The Adult Track includes:

Terry J. Allen has a Ph.D. in playwriting from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and is an Emeritus Professor of Theatre Arts at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, where he taught acting, directing, and playwriting. "Dramatic Dialogue" and "Character Development Through Dramatic Action"

Barbara Bartocci, a motivational speaker, author, and spiritual life coach, is the author of nine inspirational books and is frequently published in popular national magazines. "Writing Memorable Memoirs" and "Writing About the Spiritual Journey"

Pam Grout writes books (17 at last count including the international best-seller, *E-Squared: 9 Do-it-Yourself Energy Experiments to Prove your Thoughts Create Your Reality*, and articles for CNN Travel, Huffington Post, and People Magazine. (Keynote) "Creating Magic and Miracles in the Writing Game" and "Travel Writing"

Eric McHenry, Kansas poet laureate and associate professor of English at Washburn University, will lead two poetry breakout sessions.

Tom Poland's columns, essays, and features find their way into books, magazines, and online journals throughout the United States. He's published more than 1,000 magazine features and columns, as well as ten books. "Essay/Column Writing," as well as another breakout session and Master Class

Harvey Stanbrough is an award-winning writer and poet who has been nominated for the Frankfurt Book Fair Award, the Foreword Magazine Engraver's Award, the Pushcart Prize, the BEA Book of the Year Award, and the National Book Award. "Punctuation for Writers" and "Heinlein's Rules for Fiction" (Master Class) and "Writing Off Into the Dark"

Agents/Editors:

Janelle Walden Agyreman is a literary agent with Marie Brown Associates literary services. She has represented fiction and non-fiction books for children and adults. Her client list includes New York Times bestselling children's author Sharon M. Draper, as well as authors who write for adults. "How To Get an Agent" and "First Pages"

Eileen Robinson is editor and publisher of Move Books, which focus-es on middle-grade novels for boys. She began her editorial career at Scholastic Publishing and also worked at Harcourt. "Writing Middle Grade" and (Master Class) "Kids Book Revisions."

Adriana Dominguez has 20 years of experience in publishing. Prior to becoming an agent, she was Executive Editor at HarperCollins Children's Books, where she managed the children's division of the Rayo imprint. Before that, she was Children's Reviews Editor at *Críticas* magazine, published by Library Journal.

Angela Cervantes' short story, "Pork Chop Sandwiches" was published in *Chicken Soup for the Latino Soul* in 2005. In 2007, she won third place for Creative Nonfiction in the Missouri Review's audio competition for her story "House of Women" and Kansas City Voices' Best of Prose Award (Whispering Prairie Press) for her short story, "Ten Hail Marys". In 2008, she was recognized as one of Kansas City's Emerging Writers by the Kansas City Star Magazine. In 2014, she was named one of the Top Ten New Latino Authors to Watch by LatinoStories.Com.

April Roy, branch manager of the Bluford Branch Library, recently named librarian of the year in New York and sits on Caldecott and Coretta Scott King committees.

Registration Open Soon!

