

# the Broadside

## Nebraska Writers Guild

*Excellence in Writing Since 1925*

### 2012 Fall Conference a Hit

October 5-7, 2012

This year's Fall Conference was held at the Hastings Museum, featuring presentations by Ellen Struve, Dr. Jean Lukesh, and Sabrina Sumsion. More details are inside this issue.

### Write Across Nebraska Continues Record-Breaking Trend in 2012

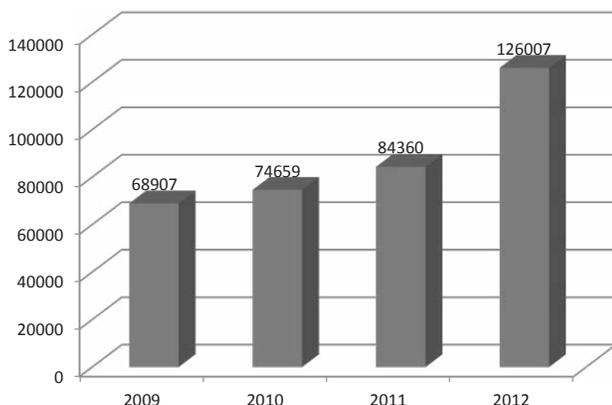
Over the weekend of July 14 and 15, Nebraskans once again gathered together to spend a weekend writing and learning.

Guild members and guests topped the hundred-thousand word mark for the first time this year. The total, which eclipsed last year's count of 84,360 words, was 126,007.

At the three host sites, writers not only created new work but had the opportunity to read it to others. Bellevue led the way with 35,676 words, while Hastings (24,673) and David City (23,392) both produced impressive totals.

Not to be discounted is the production of the writers across the state (or temporarily out of state) that added over 42,000 words to the count.

Congratulations are in order for event organizers Connie Crow (Bellevue), Robin Buckallew (Hastings), and Gina Barlean (David City).



***This year's results not only continue an upward trend but show a huge jump over prior WAN events.***



*Kathryn Herring-Gilmore presents the topic "Critique 101" to WAN attendees in David City.*

### Cards and Visits Requested

Lecia Motley, who is longtime member Jane Graff's daughter, wanted to send the word out to members of the Nebraska Writers' Guild that Jane's health has worsened and she's recently begun receiving hospice care at Greene House in Seward.

Given Jane's involvement in NWG for many years, Lecia is letting members know that either a card or a visit would be appreciated very much by Jane and her family. She's not up to phone calls, but can still take visitors at Greene House if anyone is in the area.

Jane's address is:

Jane Graff  
Greene House  
600 Church St., Apt. 106  
Seward, NE 68434

### 2012 Publications?

Have you had works published or performed during the past year? We want to include it in the Guild's website.

Send a list of your publishing credits to Lisa Kovanda at [lisakovanda@gmail.com](mailto:lisakovanda@gmail.com). Our list is broken into Fiction/Nonfiction and genres, so please include a classification of your work. You can refer to the 'Published in...' pages on the guild website for formatting guidelines.

Please *don't* send anything with copyright prior to 2012, or works accepted for publication but not due for release until 2013. We will list e-book and e-zine articles, but not blog posts.

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## Notes From Your Staff

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**From the President (Lisa):** It's been a scorcher of a summer. I don't know about the rest of you, but I've spent as much of it as possible inside with air conditioning and my laptop churning out pages. I am thrilled to report we have added 59 new members to our rolls since this Board took office in October. With the attrition we have from non-renewals, we are still in the growth phase. It's truly an exciting time to be a member of the Nebraska Writers Guild. WAN 2012 was an incredible success, with the word counts reported from the three WAN sites eclipsing last year's total. I'm looking forward to a fabulous turnout for National Novel Writing Month in November! We had a great Fall Conference, and Doug is already hard at work gathering speakers and agents for our Spring 2013 Conference. I do have some important things I need to let you all know about.

First of all, we have been working for over two years now trying to revive the Young Author's Conference. Mary Unger and Bev Teche have spent hundreds of hours trying to make contacts within the Nebraska Education Association, State Board of Education, Home School Associations, and contacting private and parochial schools to determine the best way to implement a program targeting 5th grade students across the state.

Unfortunately, all we have come up with are insurmountable roadblocks. What it comes down to is with the time and resources we have available, we have no way of getting the information to the teachers we need to reach without purchasing mailing lists and doing costly mailings. We discussed the feasibility at great length at our July Board meeting, and it was unanimously decided that while this was a noble endeavor, our resources would be better served in meeting the educational needs of our membership. We received a grant from Walmart for the Young Authors Program, and I have completed the paperwork to repurpose this grant for our general fund. I want to thank Mary and Bev for all of the work they put into this extensive feasibility study.

Bolstered by the reception of the annual July WAN events, the Board is looking at supplementing the on-line course offerings with some one-day mini-conferences. We would like to be able to offer more targeted educational offerings. This would include future events for, perhaps, screenwriters, playwrights, genre-specific speakers...you get the idea. I don't know yet how often we'll plan these events, but if it is something you'd like to see continue, the best advice I have is to PARTICIPATE!

We are looking at a couple of bylaw related issues. One thing we are considering is offering to have electronic-only options for the Broadside and/or Bulletin. For those who don't keep their issues, it could be a huge savings in print and mailing costs, money that could then go into providing budgets for our other educational offerings.

However, the bylaws currently state we must provide written notification to all members before any special voting issues. We've actually had to use this notification process twice since I took office in October 2011.

You have noticed that you didn't get an August Broadside. I do apologize for that! To make up for it, this issue is packed to the gills, which makes sense, since there is more information to share! It's an exciting time in the Guild, we are over 200 members, and that alone is exciting.

We have an amazing conference on tap in April. We'll be updating information on the Guild website soon. One thing we are doing is looking at your comments on breakout sessions. Consistently, what we hear is, "I wanted to go to ALL of them!" We are looking at ways to help ensure that conference attendees walk away with every bit of information they can get to help them build their careers.

We also have a committee looking into updating our bylaws to keep them current with the needs of the Guild, while staying compliant with all federal requirements.

It's time to think about elections again. Historian Judy Rosenkotter will be ineligible for re-election, so we know for certain we will need to fill that slot, but if you are interested in running for any Board office, please contact Nominating Committee chair, Robin Buckallew, or Gina Barlean.

**From the Secretary (Robin):** The Fall Conference is over, and it has been judged a success. The City of Hastings graciously hosted us, and even sent Mr. Kool-Aid over to welcome us to Hastings. 32 people pre-registered, and 30 attended. The speakers were great, and we learned a lot from them about writing, editing, and publicizing. The afternoon breakout sessions were lively, and everyone reported enjoying them very much. That evening, some of us met for a get together at Wine Styles, and continued conversations we had begun that afternoon, or started new ones. On Sunday morning, some of us took a tour of the old World War II Naval Ammunition Depot, and I have it on good authority that at least one new piece of writing came out of that tour!

For an update on our membership, see the minutes of the general meeting. We continue to grow and expand our horizons. Keep spreading the word!

Don't forget that dues are once again coming up in January. Dues are \$35 a year for active members and associate members, \$20 for students.

You can pay your dues online through PayPal, or you can mail me your check (Made out to Nebraska Writers Guild) at c/o Central Community College, 550 Technical Drive, Hastings, NE 68902. Getting your membership renewed early ensures you won't miss any of the valuable newsletters, server conversations, or other perks of membership.



### Staff Notes, Continued

**From the Treasurer (Victorine):** While I'm still settling into the position, things seem to be running smoothly. With next year's memberships coming up, it's a good time to remind the membership that all checks should be made out to the Nebraska Writers Guild. Checks made out to Robin will be returned.

**From the Vice President (Doug):** Greetings, fellow scribblers! To say that we live in amazing times is a masterpiece of understatement. Empowering new technology is now within the reach of millions, and the days of the all-powerful central authority in education, industry, and government are over. Publishing is no exception. We now find ourselves in the midst of a breathtaking and remarkable paradigm shift that will forever alter the publishing world. NWG members have discovered self-publishing. Smashwords founder Mark Coker lit a fire under us all at this year's Spring Conference.

Dear friends, you have no idea the lengths to which I have abased myself to entice this year's speakers and agent to come to our conference. But believe me, it was worth it! We've lined up speakers for next year's Spring Conference who can bring more self-publishing knowledge and show you how to succeed:

Nationally known self-publishing guru, author, speaker, and educator Joel Friedlander is the proprietor of Marin Bookworks in San Rafael, California, a publishing services company. He's also a book designer, blogger and the author of *A Self-Publisher's Companion: Expert Advice for Authors Who Want to Publish*. He's helped launch many self-publishers since 1994, and he will help you supercharge your self-publishing.

New York Times and International best-selling horror author Jonathan Maberry will be in the house. He's also a multi-Bram Stoker winner, author, playwright, and speaker. His book series, "Rot and Ruin," was just optioned for film. Jonathan is a wonderful teacher who will appeal to writers of all genres. He's looking forward to meeting us and sharing his special knowledge. You can read more about Jonathan at: <http://www.jonathanmaberry.com>

Alive Communications literary agent Lee Hough is among a very select group of American literary agents to have three collaborative books simultaneously on the prestigious New York Times bestseller list: *Heaven Is for Real – Going Rogue – and Same Kind of Different As Me*. He studied storytelling at the American Film Institute in Los Angeles while co-authoring for a bestselling pastor.

Over the years, Lee has earned the respect of publishers and peers through hard work, integrity, and a passionate dedication to his authors. That passion has resulted in numerous other bestsellers and critically acclaimed works. He will be on hand to hear your pitches. For more information on Lee and Alive Communications, visit their website at: <http://www.alivecommunications.com/our-agents/>

I can't wait until next Spring! It's never been a better time to be a writer—or a Nebraska Writers Guild member. Cheers!

**From the Historian (Judy):** On page five, there is an article detailing the requirements for submitting your work for inclusion in the Heritage Room.

**From the Membership Chair (Gina and Sue):** The Guild has launched its new website; see the article on Page 7 for details.

**From the Publications Chair (Greg):** Don't let the lag between issues fool you: we're still publishing the *Broadside*, and I still need contributions from members like you.

While we only have one *Member Spotlight* this time around, it's a good one. Please send me a 100-200 word writeup of what got you into writing, what you are working on, and past successes. If you haven't been featured recently, you're sure to get in. Don't think you have to have had a certain number of works published—or any at all. We're more interested in your motivation and passion for writing than your credits.

I'd also welcome your thoughts for the *Peer Pointers* section on the following topic: "As a writer, what do you do to maintain a balance between marketing and art?" As always, send your material to me at [mokuhina@gmail.com](mailto:mokuhina@gmail.com).

**From State Fair Chair (Charlene):** A great big Thank You to all who helped make this a wonderful year at the fair. Those in the Grand Island area were great to fill in whenever we needed it. And others drove many miles to spend some time in the booth. I have not done the numbers yet but I think we had a fantastic year. I know I had so much fun talking to all kinds of people and telling them about our group. More details about the State Fair are on Page 6.



## NWG General Meeting Agenda - 06 Oct 2012

### 1. Call to Order: Time 1:00 pm at Hastings NE.

### 2. Minutes of Last Meeting (14 Apr 2012, Mahoney Minutes were in the Broadside)

- Membership Totals as of 6 October 2012
  - 204 Current dues-paid (14 Apr 2012) :
  - 31 New since April
  - 10 life members 4 student members
  - 47 Non-renewals in 2012
- Life Members Report/Jane Graff has been awarded a life membership and testimonials are being delivered to her daughter

### 3. Treasurer's Report (Victorine)

- Reported balances as of 10/6/12

### 4. Historian's Report (Judy): Archives & Heritage Room

- NWG Contributions to the Nebraska Historical Society (NSHS), materials collected must be held 7 years from year of collection. Example NWG materials collected in 2011 are placed in packets which will be submitted to NSHS in Sept. of 2018. Judy has packets prepared for the years 2008, 2009 photos identified, 2010 photos identified, 2011 photos identified and 2012 now being collected
- Heritage Room requirements of the Bennett Martin Library in Lincoln. Any NWG Member desiring to submit their book for the Heritage Room must first contact the Heritage Room for their Contribution Form for Selection. When the NWG Member has the Form completed then contact the NWG Historian for further information and handling.
- Judy reminded us that her term is over in Fall 2013, and she is not eligible for re-election

### 5. Committee Reports

- **Publications, Greg Hall (4 Quarterly newsletters, 1 annual)/Lisa**
  - Next Broadside will be in November.
  - Send Peer Pointers, Member Spotlights, New Releases to Greg Hall by November 5<sup>th</sup>
  - Lisa recognized the work Greg Hall does on the Broadside, in spite of the little snafu
- **Membership Recruitment, Chair Gina Barlean/ Robin**
  - There's been a wonderful response to the new member welcomes and continuity
  - Gina is making an effort to make it really inclusive
  - Gina said she hopes everyone likes the introductions and makes an effort to say "hi" to new members
  - If you are having trouble with the Yahoo loop, contact Gina. She will help you.
- **Publicity, Chair Sabrina Sumsion/ Doug**
  - We have a full slate of speakers for the Spring 2013 Conference, so we have plenty of time to get publicity going
  - Lisa was able to book a New York Times International Bestseller on Facebook for the usual speaker's fee
- **Webmaster: Victorine Lieske**
  - Members-only area has customizable and updatable member profiles, plus a members forum. Victorine encouraged everyone to log in and create their own name and password.
- **State Fair (Charlene Neely),**
  - Good response to booth. 17 members helped man the booth, with 260 Guild brochures and 2,500 bookmarks given out. Also 55 member books sold, with others taken for consignment. We pay for the booth

### 6. Old Business

#### On-Line Class for August:

- Sally Walker's "Using Literary Skills" had 5 participants. Right now, no other classes are set up. If you can teach something, or there is something you would like taught, let Lisa know.

#### WAN 2012

- had three locations: Bellevue (Connie Crow); Hastings (Robin Buckallew); and David City (Gina Barlean). Highest word count to date for the weekend – over 100,000. the highest word count was from Hastings.

#### 2013 Spring Conference (Mahoney) Apr 12-13

- Joel Freedlander, Jonathan Mayberry, agent (recently repped Heaven is Real and Going Rogue).

### 7. New Business

- Would like to form a committee to evaluate the bylaws, which must be compliant with legal standards for non-profit organizations. Specifics to address include a code of conduct for members and e-mail options for member notifications and publications.
- We are exploring additional possibilities for educational opportunities based on member feedback, to include one-day mini-seminars on targeted topics.

**Adjourn: 1:34 pm**

**Respectfully submitted**

**Robin Buckallew, Secretary**

**Nebraska Writer's Guild**

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## Spotlight on Members

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### Judy Rosenkotter, Grand Island

Judy has been our NWG Historian since the fall Conference of 2009 and will be completing her term of office at the 2013 Fall Conference.

Judy graduated from St. Francis School of Nursing in 1960 after completing an enlistment in the U.S. Air Force. After passing her State Boards, she planned on having a military career as a Nurse Officer, but she met her future husband Harold. Making "the best decision of my life", Judy and Harold married and raised two children.

At the age of 43, Judy returned to the military as an Army Nurse Officer, and volunteered to be deployed for Desert Shield/Desert Storm in November of 1990. During her time in Saudi Arabia, Judy received a Bronze Star for Meritorious Service and was appointed by Governor Kay Orr as a Nebraska Admiral. At the conclusion of the campaign she returned to her Reserve Unit. Rejoining her husband and family, she decided to earn a Bachelors of Science degree.

Judy continues to perform interviews for the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. She belongs to the American Legion; ROA(Reserve Officers Association); VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars); and the Mid Nebraska Womens Veterans Group.

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## Heritage Room Procedures

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Staff at the Heritage Room have reported some confusion on the part of applicants looking to have their work included.

As a reminder of what the Heritage Room is (the official site can be found at [lincolnlibraries.org](http://lincolnlibraries.org)): The Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors was established to preserve and promote works by and about Nebraska authors, past and present. It's located on the third floor of the Bennett Martin Public Library in Lincoln. It's staffed full time by a team of volunteers.

That staff has asked members of the NWG to take the following steps to submit works for inclusion in the collection:

1. Print and complete the official "Certificate of Gift" form which can be downloaded from web site ([http://www.lincolnlibraries.org/depts/hr/HRbooklists/HR\\_Contact.html](http://www.lincolnlibraries.org/depts/hr/HRbooklists/HR_Contact.html))
2. Send the completed form and work to be considered to the current NWG Historian (Currently Judy Rosenkotter), and/or to the presiding NWG President (Currently Lisa Kovanda), who will deliver member works to the Heritage Room.
3. The copy of the work becomes property of the Heritage Room for preservation, use and disposal as the staff sees fit. The author's estate retains copyright per U.S. Copyright law and copying or reproduction of portions of any material will be strictly monitored by the staff according to "Fair Use" practices.
4. Materials other than published works (such as annotated first draft manuscripts or correspondence relative to a published work) may be *requested* by the Heritage Room Staff especially if the author has achieved a high level of renown. However, due to space limitations, acceptance of this type of material, if donated may be minimal. Questions may be submitted to the staff for clarification.

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### Professional Pointers From Our Peers: Contribute to the February 2013 Issue!

In the next issue, we want to return to featuring members' keys to success, and what's worked for them. The topic for the next issue is: *"As a writer, what do you do to maintain a balance between marketing/business and art?"*

Please forward your contributions to Greg M. Hall, publications chair, at [mokuhina@gmail.com](mailto:mokuhina@gmail.com).



## 2012 State Fair Report

At the 2012 Nebraska State Fair, members handed out 260 brochures and flyers and 2,500 bookmarks with the Guild website on the back. The bookmarks went to children with an explanation of the website to show their teachers. Many bookmarks also went to parents, teachers, librarians and other adults interested in the speakers bureau.

Sixteen members participated in manning the booth. Big Thank Yous go to Gina Barlean, Sabrina Sumsion, Fran Schaffer, Jim Buehler, Mary Elizabeth Anderson, Janet Nitsick, Gerry Cox, Mary Dey, Charlie Vogel, Vivian Damratowski, Kay Vetter, Dave Hufford, Rhonda Hall, Victorine Lieske, and Valerie Vierk.

Special thanks also go to Fran Schaffer, Jean Lukesh and Mary Dey for coming in several days to fill in as needed, sometimes at the drop of a hat when we got busy. A big thank you to Judy Rosenkotter and Jeanette Neely for all their help as committee members. And Very Special thanks to Harold Rosenkotter (Judy's husband) who made the pegboard backdrop, set it all up for us and even had our banner mounted on it when we arrived. Judy Rosenkotter found the display racks that allowed us to show the covers of all books.

Besides the sale of 55 books, some members made arrangements for consignment with a couple of book stores and Fran was asked to do some recipes for the beekeeper's newsletter. This is a great opportunity for members to network and sometimes some connections are made that no one would have otherwise considered.

We talked to countless Nebraska writers and aspiring writers, young writers and old writers.

It is amazing how often we heard 'I didn't know there was such a group'. It is such a good feeling to hear about all the interest in writing, especially among the schoolchildren. I even gave the website to a clerk at the drug-store who noticed my exhibitor's badge and asked about our group, she is an aspiring writer and was very interested in joining.

My personal highlights were talking to a young (late 20's is very young to me) poet taking a road-break on his move from Chicago to California, a screen-writer from Hollywood also taking a break in his trip from California to South Dakota (says he always takes the back roads and side trips as they are more interesting). He is a member of American Writers Guild and wasn't aware of any state organizations so took our info to share in California. Also, there was a poet from India who was visiting his daughter in Lincoln and they came to fair. I enjoyed sharing guild information with him and learning a bit about him and his poetry.

Others in the group talked to Mari Sandoz's 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> cousins and a man who collects pre-1870 printing presses and re-conditions them. There were so many interesting and interested in the Guild we can't list them all. Several members, past members and relatives of past members stopped by. Even *Noah Webster* stopped to talk to us. Noah is a Nebraska student who at the age of 14 has already written two chapters of his novel.

More highlights included Fran managing to get us mentioned during Dr. Lori's antique appraisal show and Judy and I being serenaded at our booth by a barbershop quartet (their booth was just behind ours so we often heard snippets; Jeanette was also serenaded by them at their booth)

Respectfully submitted by the State Fair Committee: Charlene Neely, Jeanette Bjerrum, and Judy Rosenkotter

### Presidential Screenwriting Success

Last month past President Sally J. Walker was happy to announce that her script for *The Gift Exchange* has been optioned. The agreed-upon option money provides the production company eighteen months to create a business plan/budget/shooting schedule; attract investors; recruit talent; and begin development or pre-production work. The WGA agreement also stipulates a 10% script sale price. The production company's anticipated shooting schedule is a year from now and filming will be done in Omaha. The producer is adamant about wanting to involve as many locals as possible to continue to promote film-making in Nebraska.

Current President Lisa Kovanda also recently found out that her script dealing with domestic violence, *Til Death Do Us Part*, received the Bronze Award for Oregon Screenplays in the Oregon Film Festival. Earlier this year, this script also made the top 25 Feature Scripts at the Slamdance Screenwriting Competition.

Sally and Lisa both credit Lew Hunter and his Screenwriting Colony as valuable to their success. Sally says Lew's "P-ing philosophy works! Practice, Patience and Perseverance will get you Produced and Published." Lisa adds: "Without a doubt, it was one of the most difficult things I have ever written about, and I know I couldn't have done it without Lew's encouragement and support."



### Late 2012 Honors for Jean Lukesh

On the evening of October 18, 2012, the MPLA Awards Committee will present the Mountain Plains Library Association's Literary Contribution Award to Dr. Jean A. Lukesh for her "outstanding accomplishments and literary contributions." The presentation will take place at the Joint Awards Banquet during the MPLA/NLA/NSLA conference in LaVista, Nebraska. (MPLA/NLA/NSLA stands for the Mountain Plains Library Association/Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska School Librarians Association.)

Then on November 10, 2012, in Traverse City, Michigan, Dr. Lukesh will receive the 2012 Gold National Moonbeam Book Award for Children's Poetry, for her book *The Doorstep Orphan: Eugene Field and a Trilogy of His Best Loved Poems*, a biographical literary critique of Eugene Field, the well-known newspaper columnist and children's poet of the 1800s, and how he came to write three of his best loved poems ("Wynken, Blynken, and Nod," "The Gingham Dog and the Calico Cat," and "Little Boy Blue," that are also included in the book). This is Lukesh's sixth national book award since 2005 and her fifth national book award in two years.

In between receiving those two honors, Lukesh is scheduled to give the keynote address at the Nebraska Press Women's conference in Grand Island on October 20, 2012, and to be the luncheon speaker at the Meridian Library System/Republican Valley Library System Workshop in Lexington on November 8, 2012. During that time, Lukesh will also have some Nebraska Native American articles published in the October and November Grand Island Silver Salute tabloids, as part of the Grand Island Independent and Trade West newspapers.

## New Website Attracts Members

Gina Barlean, David City

The Nebraska Writers Guild can proudly boast a brand new website, created by new treasurer, Victorine Lieske. If you haven't yet checked it out, please do so. It's attracting new members for the Guild and is a wealth of updated information. The Guild has gained around thirty new members since the first of the year, many directly from this website. These are impressive numbers, and the entire Guild can take credit and be proud of this. Do not hesitate to tell any writers you know to visit [www.nebraskawriter.org](http://www.nebraskawriter.org). The website alone will entice them to join the Guild!

On the home page of the new website are pictures from the Spring Conference. Victorine is doing a good job of making sure current information is on the home page, and the entire site. Learn about upcoming events and what those events are about. Register for the fall conference and find contact information and everything you need to know about helping out with the Nebraska State Fair in Grand Island. You can also learn about the committees of the Guild and what they do, benefits of membership, Guild affiliations, you can read the by-laws, and even read the broadside via PDF file!

What else does the website offer? Well, you can learn how to donate your books to the Heritage Room at the Bennett Martin Library, learn history about the Guild, learn about our board members, contact the board directly from the website, see a list of members, and even put up your own profile on the membership page where you can list your web or blog sites. As always, you can see a list of writing resources, find out who in our group is available for public speaking, talk on forums, and easily join the NWG or renew your membership.

Keep in mind, Victorine has told us, that the page listing those willing to speak is a copy of what was on the old website and has not been updated. If there are members who want to be added or removed from the list, they should let Victorine know. It might also be a good idea to list what the members are willing to speak about.

All in all, we owe many thanks to Victorine's hard and diligent efforts to create an up-to-date and incredibly informative site. I would like to encourage all members to direct potential members to this site. I would also encourage members to use the forums for chatting and sharing information. Use our website. You'll find it to be well worth your efforts.

## Nebraska Film Industry Growing

LB863 passed in the last session of the Nebraska Legislature thanks to sponsor Senator Colby Coash. That bill allows communities to use economic development grants to match a production company's money spent on local provisions such as food, housing and transportation.

This was just in time to attract Oscar winning Nebraska native Alexander Payne to film a major portion of his movie titled *Nebraska* in Norfolk and Lincoln. Members of the Norfolk Chamber of Commerce have even formed a Film Commission in anticipation of future productions. One of those will be *The Gift Exchange*, a script by the Guild's immediate past president Sally Walker bought by Schaller Studios, which will go into production a year from now in Norfolk and Omaha.

Both small local independent film-makers and larger production entities are flourishing with many more communities evaluating Payne's success in the state. The Nebraska Film Association has become a hub resource for all parties to connect to further grow the industry here.





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## TRY THE GUILD CRITIQUE LISTS

A year ago, the Guild launched online critique lists. In an effort to increase participation—which will not only make everyone's experience better, but will improve participants' skills as well as the quality of their work—below is a recap of the lists and the ground rules of using them:

Nine lists are now operational. Join and post parts of your works-in-progress, ask genre-specific questions or share some resources that might help your peers. The lists are:

[DramatistsNWG@yahoogroups.com](mailto:DramatistsNWG@yahoogroups.com) for screenwriters and playwrights

[Hist-WestNWG@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Hist-WestNWG@yahoogroups.com) for historical and western writers

[MysteryNWG@yahoogroups.com](mailto:MysteryNWG@yahoogroups.com) for mystery folks

[NonfictionNWG@yahoogroups.com](mailto:NonfictionNWG@yahoogroups.com) for tech writers, journalists, memoirs

[PoetsNWG@yahoogroups.com](mailto:PoetsNWG@yahoogroups.com) for poets and music lyricists

[RomanceNWG@yahoogroups.com](mailto:RomanceNWG@yahoogroups.com) for all subgenres of romance

[ShortStoryNWG@yahoogroups.com](mailto:ShortStoryNWG@yahoogroups.com) for fiction under 10,000 words

[SpecFictNWG@yahoogroups.com](mailto:SpecFictNWG@yahoogroups.com) for Sci Fi, Fantasy, Paranormal, Horror

[YA-ChildNWG@yahoogroups.com](mailto:YA-ChildNWG@yahoogroups.com) for Young Adult & children's lit of all ages

Common sense rules of giving and taking feedback apply. Here is the reality of writers helping writers. *If you want to get feedback, then you are obligated to give feedback.* All participants must not expect their peers to be a free editing service, but more of helpful guides who commiserate along the journey.

List owners Sally Walker and Rhonda Hall can explain how to critique and note your comments, if you need instruction. It is painless and 99% joyful. 1% is allowed for learning how to manage your ego. These lists are easier to work with than a no-nonsense editor!

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