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## Notes From Your Staff

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**From the President (Lisa):** Wow, it has been a roller-coaster couple of months! I'm still riding the writing-high from the Spring Conference at Mahoney. I learned so much from all of the speakers. Both Anita Mumm from the Nelson Literary Agency, and Mark Coker, CEO of Smashwords, told me how much they enjoyed the conference. Mark, in particular, was thrilled that he got a taste of Nebraska tornado weather. Anita attended a good part of the Friday evening readings, and she was quite impressed with the level of talent represented both in those who read, and those she took pitches from. We're taking a breath, and then we will be right back at it as we start lining things up for next year.

With the Spring Conference in the books, now we're on to Write Across Nebraska. Gina Barlean has already made some great strides in organizing a David City WAN, as has Robin Buckallew in Hastings and Connie Crow in Bellevue. Keep an eye on your email inbox and the web site as we get all of the details finalized for WAN 2012.

I'm really excited to see Guild members stepping forward to volunteer for so many things, including Gina Barlean and Sue Tatby for Membership, Sabrina Sumsion for publicity, and Victorine Lieske for Treasurer. Love their enthusiasm, and the great ideas they bring to the table.

Keep writing, and I'll see you on the email lists!

**From the Secretary (Robin):** My, this has already been a busy year! Just wanted to touch base, and let you know how our membership is doing. At this time, we have 156 members, nine of them life members. We had 68 members attend the Spring Conference – good work, Doug! – and got four new members at the conference. We are currently sending out follow-up letters for non-renewals, so if you know anyone who has forgotten to send in their renewal, please give them a gentle nudge. We wouldn't want them missing out on all the good things they get from being members of the Guild.

**From the Treasurer (Mari):** Greetings to all NWG members and new members! I am pleased to present the annual NWG Financial Compilation (on Page 3) for your review. It has been a time of growth and development for our organization. It has never been a better time to be part of NWG! Our on-going activities, conference and professional development opportunities are increasing and have greatly enriched the lives and writing of all of our members. I am happy to report that with this Financial Compilation and the filing of our 990EZ we have completed the final reporting components necessary to maintain our non-profit status. I am very appreciative of the efforts of all previous and current leadership for their help, encouragement and

patience as we gathered all the information needed to complete these final steps. Thank you!!

I would also like to take this opportunity to let you know that I have resigned my position as NWG Treasurer. In my short time as Treasurer I have come to realize how crucial this role is to the organization. It truly requires a 100% time commitment. Due to the numerous hats I wear in my current life, I am unable to give the undivided time and attention the role of treasurer requires. NWG member and talented writer Victorine Lieske has graciously agreed to take on the role. I want to thank her for agreeing to step in and for her enthusiasm. She will do a fine job! I want to thank the current NWG Board for their leadership, friendship and support. It has been an honor to contribute to the positive growth of our organization and I look forward to seeing you all at WAN and future conferences.

**From the Vice President/Programming (Doug):** With my first Spring Conference now in the rearview mirror, I've had a few weeks to reflect. It was a pleasure meeting everyone, finally putting faces to names that I had only known through Facebook or through the NWG listserv. I'm proud of the effort that everyone made to make this year's Spring Conference a success, but we want to make upcoming events even better. If you have an idea, know of a speaker that you'd like to bring to a future event, or a suggestion to help improve everyone's Nebraska Writers Guild, please let us know.

After some very kind encouragement from a number of you, I've decided to turn my book and screenplay trailer presentation material into a book. I already have the preliminary outline completed, and I'm working up a project plan. I have to tell you, I haven't been this excited about a project in a long, long time.

I had some thoughts that I wanted to share with you all when we were together at the conference. Unfortunately, as I often do, I prattled on a bit too long during my presentation, and didn't get a chance to share them. I thought I would share them with you now. I wanted you all to know the admiration I have for the commitment that you have to writing. It is not an easy thing. It often seems that life itself senses when you begin a writing project, and then does everything in its power to keep you from finishing it. Frustrations are many, and rewards can often be few. But never forget that the work you do has value, whether you breathe life into a character, plot a screenplay, pen a verse, or mine the emotional archaeology of a family history. You help give our generation its voice. You are its chroniclers, poets, and storytellers. It's a pleasure to be in your company.

*(Continued, Page 3)*

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**From the Historian (Judy):** On February 10th a visit to our Archives completed the listing of all NWG Officers from 1925 to present. This list will be available on the Guild website ([www.nebraskawriters.org](http://www.nebraskawriters.org)). The new list is more complete than the one previously posted.

Charlene Neely, Harold Rosenkotter, and I reviewed all of the archived Bulletins and Broadcasts and other materials that might have mention of officer names. We found a copy of an Anthology, appropriately titled "ANTHOLOGY Number One", which is a collection of some of the published work of NWG members. The Co-Editor was Marion Marsh Brown, and it was printed in our state's Centennial Year of 1967 by Cornhusker Press. Finding this anthology begs the question: is there, or was there ever, a plan for a "Number Two" Anthology? Perhaps someone has an answer to this question or would like to consider organizing such a volume.

**From the Membership Committee (Gina and Sue):** We have created a plan of action and sent it to the Board for approval. We have many ideas of how we can encourage new membership, and plan to work on those goals over the next year.

It is our hope that when someone joins the Guild, they'll be formally introduced to the group, and existing members will make those new members feel welcome. This will help existing members know who just arrived at the party, and help all of us learn more about each other.

In between welcoming new members, we will also introduce existing members. We feel this will benefit new members. Very much like a party, the host introduces the new guest and in turn, introduces the guests already in attendance.

It is our sincere hope that when a new member is introduced, NWG members on the loop will jump in and say hello. A hearty welcome is some of the best promotion for this organization we could possibly do. A sense of belonging will encourage new member involvement.

**From the Publications Chair (Greg):** Year one of the Canadian Gulag is nearing its end, but the only insight I have to its duration is that my work permit is only valid until May 2014. Thankfully, the internet remains in working order and has kept me connected. I've fallen behind schedule for the February and May *Broadside* issues, so to keep me on track with the 2012 *Bulletin*, please start filling my hopper now. Send your annual 200-word writing report to me at [mokuhina@gmail.com](mailto:mokuhina@gmail.com) before June 15. If you're a new member and want an example of what we're looking for, just send me an email and I can provide examples.

**From State Fair Chair (Charlene):** An article about the 2011 State Fair is on Page 1.

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NEBRASKA WRITERS GUILD, INC.

STATEMENTS OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND NET ASSETS – CASH BASIS

DECEMBER 31, 2011

STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT, REVENUE, AND EXPENSES – CASH BASIS: DECEMBER 31, 2011



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## 2012 NWG Goals

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As presented and approved by the Board in the May 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting

1. Growth:
  - a. Goal is to recruit 30 new members, and offset losses.
  - b. All existing members renew by March 1; e-mails to non-renewals
  - c. Send out brochures
2. Member Sharing
  - a. Expand WAN this year
  - b. Look for growth in online critique lists
3. Member Promotion
  - a. New column of Broadside dedicated to new releases and accomplishments of Guild members, including self-published authors.
  - b. Online classes (Sally Walker will teach two)
4. Publications and Website
  - a. Lisa is learning how to help update and maintain the website; will be able to help keep it current
  - b. Anderson will continue to do the mailings; Robin to receive extra Broadside
5. Financial
  - a. Renew 501(c)3 – Completed, approved by IRS.
  - b. Break even on conferences
    - i. Increase fee for non-members
    - ii. Apply for grant from City of Hastings for Fall Conference
6. Publicity
  - a. Recruit – work with Sabrina
  - b. Reach out to area news organizations
  - c. Maybe a “trailer” on YouTube to promote the Guild
7. State Fair
  - a. Look at the costs and benefits
  - b. Continue to promote guild through the fair, if it’s a good investment
8. Young Authors
  - a. Meet all deadlines for 2013 kickoff



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**Write Across Nebraska: Individual Site Details**


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**Bellevue-Connie Crow, Chair**

Friday, July 13-Meet at the MicroTel Inn (Danelle Crossing Shopping Center) 3008 Samson Way, Bellevue, 68123. Phone: 402-292-0191. Coffee, pop and whatever treats Connie decides to create.

Saturday morning, July 14th

6:30-8:30 am Hot Continental Breakfast

8:30-9:00 am Welcome

9:00-10:30 am Writing--Conf. room

10:30-11:30 am *Connie Crow*: E-Publishing, a Different Perspective/E-Readers Update

11:30-12:30 Write on your own—Conf. Room

12:30 to 1:30 pm Lunch on your own

1:30-3:30 pm Write on your own—Conf. Room

3:30-4:30 pm Critique (if wanted)

4:30-6:00 pm Write on your own—Conf. Room

6:00-7:00 pm Pizza party/dinner on your own

7:00-9:00 pm Write on your own—Conf. Room

9:00- ? Final gathering and Reading from participants to entire group.

Particulars: Connie has saved a block of 10 rooms under her name for Nebraska Writers Guild. If you book a room before June 20, they are \$70.15 a night. After June 20th, the reserved rooms will be released and the price goes up to \$78/night. You'll need to book early to guarantee a room. The rooms have one bed, and are nice, but not extravagant. Wi-fi and workout room are available. Let Connie know ASAP when you book a room.

**David City-Gina Barlean**

All events at:

Hruska Memorial Library

399 5th St

402-367-3100

For more details, visit the event site at <http://wandavidcity.wordpress.com> or contact Gina at [ginabarlean@gmail.com](mailto:ginabarlean@gmail.com).

**Hastings-Robin Buckallew**

All events at:

Hastings Public Library

517 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street

402-461-2346

The event will begin at 9AM on Saturday with a presentation by a local author. By 4 PM participants will have the opportunity to read their work in an open mike format. For more details, contact Robin at [imagineinopossessions@charter.net](mailto:imagineinopossessions@charter.net).

**I Love Research****Glenda (GK) Fralin, Wymore**

How does a 56 year-old woman sitting in her living room write about a main character's experience in Egypt? She does research. Research is one word that makes many people, including writers cringe. We remember the research papers of high school, or the long thesis we had to write in college. Those are our training.

Research is resource to life. As babies, we researched our world with our mouth and hands. As toddlers we started asking questions like "mommy, what that," and "why."

When we were in school, our teachers wanted us to include information in our reports including: Who, What, Why, Where and How. Doctors and nurses do case studies as do Lawyers. Writers do research for the purpose of credibility in their story.

I did an article titled "What is a Lahar" for Helium's online magazine. It was one of many choices of articles in a category. I found the word interesting. In the simple version, a Lahar is an avalanche type slide of material down the side of a volcano. Now you know one more piece of trivia. To a volcanologist, that information is the reason for their chosen study.

If you ask me why I'm placing my main character in Egypt at all instead of keeping her where I live, its background. If my characters were only allowed to live within the space that I'm expert about they would all say, welcome to my living room. Most of my life is lived inside my house. I have many memories and experiences from life now and then to bring to my work, but I like to stretch my reach psychologically, geographically, and emotionally beyond what I know.

I like to go there and I want to take my reader with me so they can see it for themselves.

*I'm fighting the desire to grab the last bottle of water out of my friends backpack. Nobody ever told me just how thirst can drive a person crazy. I feel almost homicidal and the weirdest part is it's fascinating me. Why would I think that way? I'm a gentle person. I like to help people heal. I can't believe I am considering depriving my friend of water and possibly life over a bottle of water. Nevertheless, I will do it.*

or

*"Sheridan and Mark Easterly had taken their place among a group of archaeologists in Northern Egypt. Most of them were digging for ancient graves and tombs among the sands. However, Sheridan, an anthropologist, studied the people. Not only could she record their recent customs, but also their ancestry as they lived and breathed their history into the ancient past. Most significant, Sheridan and Mark searched their knowledge and records of the Holy family's flight from Herod's order to kill all boys under age two."*

These short paragraphs may be all I use of my research, or I may possibly keep my main character centered on an event in the desert. Whatever I do with it, I want to do the research to entertain my own curiosity as well as to give my readers believability.



## Appeal To The Masses

### *A Summary of Members' Available Work*

While the pages of the Broadside have traditionally made a distinction between self-published and publisher-approved work, this can obscure the success many members have had in reaching completion and making their work available to the public. Both types of work are featured here.

**R.K. (Rosalie) Vetter, Lincoln** recently self-published "5-Star Citizen: Raising the Civic-Minded Child". It's available at Amazon, CreateSpace.com, and ProceedForOthers.com.

Sanguine Publishing has made *Two Days of a Dream* by **Kathryn Gilmore, Dwight**, on Kindle Direct at Amazon.com

A number of poems by **Charlene Neely, Lincoln** have appeared in the pages of periodicals and on the web. "The Poet Goes Fishin' with Her Long Lost Father" was published in the Spring 2012 issue of *Persimmon Tree: An Online Magazine of the Arts by Women Over Sixty* ([www.persimmontree.org](http://www.persimmontree.org)); and "Once In a Graveyard" was published in the Spring 2012 issue of *The Lincoln Underground*. Additionally, "Grandma's Big Stone Mixing Bowl" and "I Would Have to Tell Them..." were featured in *CELEBRATE*, Volume XVI (March 2012).

**C.K. Volnek, Seward** released *A Horse Called Trouble* and *The Secret of the Stones*, fiction stories for tween readers. It's available in both e-book and paper through Kindle Direct/Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Smashwords. Both works were published by MuseltUp Publishing.

**Mary Elizabeth Anderson, Lincoln** has compiled teacher and student study guides to accompany her book *Gracie Gannon: Middle School Zero*, a book regarding bullying, belonging and dealing with insecurities. For information contact the author directly at [mary.anderson349@gmail.com](mailto:mary.anderson349@gmail.com) or visit her website at [www.meanderson.com](http://www.meanderson.com). The study guides will enhance the communication experience in the book as well as present many creative opportunities for readers.

*Cedar in Seattle*, a diabolically intense short story by **Lisa Kovanda, Lincoln**, is available for download at Smashwords.com and Kindle Direct at Amazon.com.

**Janet Syas Nitsick, Springfield** has released an inspirational historical romance, *Locketts and Lanterns*, published by Tate Publishing and Enterprises.

Three works have been released by **G. M. Barlean of David City**: *Prelude – Casting Stones*; *Casting Stones*; and *Conclusions—Casting Stones*. All three are available (or soon will be) at Smashwords.com, Barnes & Noble, Kobi, iTunes, Amazon, and CreateSpace.

Also available at Smashwords.com is *The Water Peddlers*, a short work of science fiction by **Greg M. Hall, North Bend**, previously only available in print at *Golden Visions Magazine*.

*More publishing milestones on Page 8!*

## Member Blog Spotlights

Many of our members put some great work out on the web for all to see, but Blogs are still a relatively new forum for our members' work. Here are a few highlights:

### **Gina Barlean** <http://gmbarlean.wordpress.com>

"It was still light out and my father was mowing the yard...my mother was bathing in the big claw-foot tub in the bathroom just off the kitchen. I was cleaning the silverware, and yes, that is an odd thing for a six year old to be doing. Every time my mother wanted to keep me busy and out of her hair, she would get this light blue lunch box down from a top cupboard in the kitchen. It was filled with "silverware", which in truth amounted to a bunch of old silver knives and forks and

mismatched spoons, which I'm sure we never used. I have no memory of how I cleaned them. Maybe I never actually cleaned them. Maybe I just played with them."

### **Rhonda M. Hall** <http://rhondamhall.wordpress.com>

"People so eager to accomplish one goal, they forget the real reason they are there. These women should be happy to celebrate the marriage of a good friend, but instead they are thinking, "I must have bouquet...small children... old women watch out... the calla lilies and baby's breath are mine!" I went to a wedding where women rolled around on the floor fighting for the bouquet. Sssh... this part is a secret... it's no guarantee of marriage. Pardon my elbow in your side, but I'm at a Wedding."

*If you'd like your blog featured, send a link to Greg Hall at [mokuhina@gmail.com](mailto:mokuhina@gmail.com).*



Robin Buckallew, Secretary  
c/o Central Community College  
550 Technical Boulevard  
Hastings, NE 68902-1024

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### Spittler Wins Award

Connie Spittler, Omaha, received the top award for her nature book *The Legend of Brook Hollow* at the 2012 biennial conference of the National League of American Pen Women, which was held in Washington, DC.

### Omaha Authors Featured in Fiction Works Releases

The Fiction Works of Corvallis, OR, announced the releases of two works of fiction by Omaha authors, first in many electronic formats with trade paperback print versions to follow. Look for them on Amazon or at [www.fictionworks.com](http://www.fictionworks.com).

Charlie Vogel's second book of the Bob Norris mystery trilogy, *SEARCHING FOR HARPIES* was recently released as his fourth TFW work of fiction. "Now a wealthy entrepreneur and working artist, Bob finds himself attracted to the much younger, reformed streetwalker Lori Saint. In the midst of trying to figure out their relationship, they are drawn into the convoluted action-packed hunt for a powerful and vicious serial killer of prostitutes."

Young Guild member Aaron Loyd's first novel *INTERNSHIP WITH A VAMPIRE* breaks recent vampire story traditions to present a rollicking romp. "All Nick Zink wants is to get a simple job to earn some money for college. Instead he gets a job working for a Hawaiian shirt-wearing vampire named Lenny, who hangs out with a proctologist/wizarding hobbyist and a zombie who runs a vineyard. On the same day his boss decides to open a "ghost-and-strange-stuff" detective agency, Nick meets Cara Archer, a hot emo girl whose CPA-turned-vampire hunter father has a critical deadline: kill one vampire in the next three days or face death himself. Can Nick save his boss and his own love life?"

Kent Seivers, Omaha World-Herald photographer is helping to create the cover for Aaron's first book, which will be released in June.

In addition, TFW will soon be electronically publishing NWG member Jim McGowan's *Repenter*, a work of Science Fiction featuring a sentient virus, multi-dimensional characters in more than a literary sense, and more action than a pair of Hollywood blockbusters being simultaneously projected onto the same screen.

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