



DECEMBER 2014

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### NOTES FROM YOUR STAFF

#### **From the President, Victorine Lieske:**

Wow, I can't believe we are close to the end of 2014. This has been a great year for the Nebraska Writers Guild! I'm overjoyed with the number of people who have joined our organization. Our Fall Conference was well attended, with over fifty people signed up, I think it was one of the largest Fall Conferences we've had. I was really impressed with our speakers. Our own member, Nanette Day, did a great job telling us about website building. I took a lot of notes from her presentation! Natalie Pao talked about publishing in today's market, and Steve Womack picked up where she left off. Tamsen Butler had the room in stitches with her presentation! I don't think I'll soon forget good 'ole Grandpa and his turrets. (Thanks, Doug. I laughed so hard I almost fell out of my chair with that one.) Tosca Lee had everyone furiously writing about our deepest fears and pulling from ourselves great things to add to our characters.

I'm super excited for this year's Spring Conference! We have such a great lineup of speakers. Literary Agent Deidre Knight, from the Knight Agency, Literary Agent Michael Carr, from the Veritas Literary Agency, Book Marketing Specialist Tim Grahl, author of *Your First 1,000 Copies*, Editor and Online Community Manager of ScriptMag.com, Jeanne

Veillette, and Career Coach for professional and emerging screenwriters, Lee Jessup. I'm thrilled to announce the event is going to be at a larger facility as well! We are going to hold the conference at the LaVista Conference Center - 12520 Westport Pkwy, LaVista NE 68128. There are a lot of great things about changing locations. I'm excited for the ability to book a one night stay at the hotel! More information is on the website at [www.nebraskawriters.org](http://www.nebraskawriters.org), and will be in the next Broadside.

I am looking forward to another year with this great organization. But I can't take the credit for any of it because this group is made up of such wonderful people, you guys really make the organization what it is. Thank you, everyone, for all you do. And a huge thank you to the board members and chair members for all your hard work! We would be nothing without all of you.

**Victorine Lieske**

#### **From the Vice President, Doug Sasse:**

Speaker Program for Spring Conference, 2015  
Fellow scribblers, our Spring Conference is Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015. You won't want to miss this one! New digs at the La Vista Conference Center, and an A-list slate of speakers:

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### Deidre Knight, The Knight Agency:

Established in 1996, The Knight Agency has gained worldwide recognition for the success of its authors. Its team has placed well over 2,000 titles across the entire spectrum of New York publishers, as well as at independent houses throughout the country. Though they have represented clients in virtually all genres, its areas of fiction expertise include women's, romance, young adult, literary, mystery, fantasy, and science fiction, as well as multicultural and inspirational/religious fiction. Its agents have also placed narrative nonfiction, self-help, health, memoirs, and financial/business titles.

The agency focuses on a broad range of client services, addressing all aspects of their clients' careers. TKA agents bring to bear their extensive experience and knowledge of subsidiary rights management in the areas of foreign, motion picture and television, audio, merchandising, and electronic rights. Additionally, its marketing and publicity department offers wide-ranging support in the areas of book promotion and branding. Deidre Knight herself will take member pitches!

### Michael Carr, Veritas Literary Agency:

Veritas is a full-service literary agency specializing in select literary and contemporary fiction and nonfiction. With active contacts in film, media and foreign markets, they actively pursue the channels that enable a title to reach its widest audience and realize its full potential. Veritas maintains the structure and spirit of old school literary agencies, where a close relationship between author and agent continued through all stages of a writer's career. Michael will take pitches from NWG members.

### Tim Grahl, Out:think:

Self-Publishing Authority, Author of "Your First 1000 Copies: The Step-by-Step Guide to Marketing Your Book"

Tim Grahl is the president of Out:think, a firm that helps authors and writers create their platform, connect with readers and sell more books. He works with top bestselling authors such as Daniel Pink, Chip and Dan Heath, Hugh Howey, Dan Ariely and even Pamela Slim. This spring he had five clients on the New York Times best seller list at the same time.

Tim's book, "Your First 1000 Copies: The Step-by-Step Guide to Marketing Your Book" is the definitive guide on how authors can build their online platform. At Body of Work LIVE, Tim will share what he has learned working with some of the most creative people in the world on what it means to share your work and touch people's lives.

Over the last five years Tim has worked with over 100 authors to help them build their platforms and sell more books. He's worked with bestselling authors across all genres and knows how any author can be successful in today's publishing world.

### Jeanne Veillette Bowerman, Editor of Script Magazine:

As well as being the Editor and Online Community Manager for [ScriptMag.com](http://ScriptMag.com), Jeanne has a regular column on the site entitled [Balls of Steel](#). There she chronicles her fearless journey as a screenwriter as well as shares stories of other writers in the trenches. When she isn't sharing her war stories in her column, she teaches screenwriting [webinars](#) for The Writers Store.

A graduate of Cornell University, she's written several spec scripts, including an Expo Screenplay Competition Finalist

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script — the adaptation of the 2009 Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *Slavery by Another Name*, with its author, Douglas A. Blackmon, senior national correspondent of *The Wall Street Journal*.

Beyond writing, Jeanne lectures at conferences and events on effective social media use for authors as well as the importance of facing fears, inspiring people to pursue their dreams. Jeanne is available for individual consultations as a “Screenwriter Therapist” to help writers understand what’s blocking them from achieving success.

Lee Jessup:

Author of Michael Wiese Productions’ *Getting It Write: An Insider’s Guide To A Screenwriting Career*, she is a career coach

### From the Secretary, Annette Snyder:

I had a great time at Fall Conference. I have a better handle on what needs done for our organization setting up at conferences, as I’ve helped with two, so I’ve got ideas to streamline some processes. I’ve got a few thoughts I’ll table at the next board meeting, like ways to assure good flow of pitch schedules, especially during our larger conferences.

I’ve just got a couple things to share this edition.

Our blog <http://nebraskawriters.wordpress.com> is working well to get the word out about all things NWG and lets our talented members share what they know with informative posts. I put notice on our media pages when I update the blog. Easy access tabs at the top of the blog hold all information for our events during the year—I just added a new tab for board meetings so we’d have room next year for more member posts! Speaking of next year’s member posts, if you’re interested in contributing, email or call me and we’ll discuss. I’m working up the 2015 blog schedule now. There’s limited spots

for screenwriters, with an exclusive focus on the screenwriter’s professional development. Her clients include WGA members, Golden Globe and Emmy-nominated screenwriters, writers who have sold screenplays and pitches to major studios, best-selling authors, contest winners, staffed television writers, as well as emerging screenwriters just starting on their screenwriting path.

Registration is open—now! I’m so excited; I’m going to go lie down.

**Doug Sasse**

available so, if you’d like to help with this project, don’t wait.

And speaking of 2015, now’s the time to renew your membership. There’s a renewal link on our blog and our website, <http://www.nebraskawriters.org> Use the tab at the top of the pages to link and fill out the quick form then arrange your choice of payment. It’s fast and easy. You can also send your renewal to Treasurer, Wayne Anson or me. We’ll get it where it needs to go and set you up for 2015. Renewing now, before the rush of the holiday season when there’s so many busy things going on, assures your standing in 2015 for our NWG publications and discounted NWG event rates. As always, if there’s anything I can help you with during my time as secretary, let me know.

**Annette Snyder**

## Nebraska Writers Guild Broadside

### From the NWG Historian, Mary Unger:

The Historian's role is to document and preserve accomplishments of members of the Nebraska Writer's Guild. Each year, copies of the Broadside and Bulletin, along with news articles about members are taken to the Nebraska State Historical Society archives where they are sorted and kept as a record of our members. Budgets and our by-laws and revisions are kept at the Historical Society as well. Please consider sending your writing awards, celebrations, and recognitions to the historian to be kept as a record for our future generations of writers.

**Mary Unger**

### From the Treasurer, Wayne Anson:

Happy Holidays to all my fellow members in the Nebraska Writers Guild. You are each very important because our strength comes from the whole. We are each one building on the past in our own lives and especially in the Guild.

I want to thank each person who participated in the Fall Conference. Your prompt payment of fees and ready communications regarding attendance kept the financial wheels turning. All conference related payments are now complete so we can look to building the fantastic Spring Conference at LaVista. May this be the year we break attendance records again. I'd like to see at least two hundred fifty attending.

We continue the envious position of being financially stable and are approaching our next audit with an admirable record and more funds available than at any time previously. What a testament to past and current leadership.

Spring conference registrations are already coming in!

**Wayne Anson**

**We encourage our Members to link  
to our media pages on the Web:**

 **Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NWGWriteAcrossNebraska/>

 **Google+**

<https://plus.google.com/b/106887104321602471919/>

 **Twitter**

@NebraskansWrite #writeNE

 **LinkedIn:**

[https://www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=6681100&trk=anet Ug\\_hm](https://www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=6681100&trk=anet Ug_hm)

 **Goodreads:**

<https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/133362-nebraska-writers-guild>

 **Pinterest:**

[www.pinterest.com/NebraskansWrite](http://www.pinterest.com/NebraskansWrite)

 **Wordpress**

<http://nebraskawriters.wordpress.com>

NOVEMBER 1, 2014 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**1. Call to order:** Time 5:17 pm Place: LaCarreta, Seward, Nebraska

Attending: Doug Sasse(VP), Victorine Lieske(P), Annette Snyder (S)

**Guests:** Charles Lieske

**2. Minutes of the last meeting:**

Excel data sheet for current members (have all of the new members been added?)

231 members-13 life members, 7 student members, 4 associate members, 220 General members-29 new members since July meeting and of those, 8 new members since October. Dennis Maloney will become life member in 2015-he joined in 1985

Annette started new tabs on membership list—members 2015 and pending 2015—all 2014 members are pending 2015 members and when a member pays for 2015, cut and paste from pending 2015 to member 2015—since its still 2014, Annette adds all new members to 2014, so they won't miss the final publications of 2014

Anderson Print file, email database for email delivery-new printer or are problems with Anderson being resolved? –anderson is still having problems with mailings/speed of mailings. Doug Sasse suggested a full service printing company and Victorine agreed to contact them for details

**3. Treasurers Report: as of 11/1/14**

For Members Only

**4: Historian Report:** Mary-NA-as of Fall Conference all materials are submitted for historical records

**5: Committee reports:**

-Publications, Greg. (Victorine) Deadline for Broadside, Due in December Must have Staff Notes. Peer Points -Annette asked about format for Broadside. If there's a format for the publication, she would take over for Greg as interim publications chair-temporarily until someone else is found. Victorine will discuss with Greg and let Annette know the details. Annette would be in charge of formatting next Broadside due in December.

-Membership Charlie. (Annette) membership listed above.

-Publicity Sabrina (Doug)-Doug plans to ask people to submit testimonials about conferences and guild membership so those testimonials could be listed on the website

-Fair, Charlene (Mary)-will plan for Nebraska State Fair 2015

**6. Old Business:**

1) Fall Conference 2014: with five speakers, two pitch sessions, entertaining readings and meal, Fall conference is declared a success. The speakers were informative and entertaining and the after conference reception at Chapters was welcome. Improve for next fall conference: Send schedule out more than one time. Look into Columbus or Nebraska City for future conferences. All present discussed having one large

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two day event with twice as many speakers and a pitch fest type event held at one location once during the year, instead of two smaller one day events that we have twice a year. That would require a bi-law change/vote/discussion among members. Present officers would rather leave that discussion to an incoming board that would, in fact, have to implement such change should it be approved by membership.

Final accounting of expenses/proceeds. Corrections/errors/total attended: Victorine didn't have the exact numbers as expenses weren't all submitted and Wayne Anson wasn't able to attend meeting due to schedule change but overall, it seemed the Fall conference, after food, speaker fees, hotels, etc. broke even which is a goal for NWG.

Surveys-Doug has surveys and he will tally the information and pass that on to Victorine. Victorine wants to see if anyone has expressed interest in taking the President and Vice President board positions in Fall 2015 when her and Doug's term expires. Also, she will check for interest in helping with conferences and see if anyone's expressed interest in Publication Chair.

One thing Board discussed was a scholarship award for conferences for members who forgo attending due to financial reasons. The Board discussed setting up an online form for those wishing to apply for a conference scholarship, which could pay a percentage of the conference fee in exchange for help at conferences. A limited number of scholarships could be available to members and awarded based on several factors including, but not limited to, financial need and years of membership. The form would be filled out by member requesting scholarship and that would then be discussed by the board to determine if a scholarship would be awarded. The board will continue to discuss this.

2) Greg Hall replacement? –discussed above

### 7. New Business:

1) Spring Conferences 2015: Dates: April 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015, La Vista Conference Center, Omaha, Ne. Spring Conference reservations will open online on NWG website as soon as the speakers are contacted about their presentation material. Doug will forward emails and addresses of speakers for Victorine to contact confirming presentations and pitch sessions. 5 speakers including one who contacted NWG in order to present. Annette has a file started for spring conference in drop box for presentations and conference info. Annette's idea for pitches spring conference: time sheets like at fall—seemed to work –give all pitch info to each person at check in –it was discussed that Mary will handle making sure all people wishing to pitch have the pitch information at check in. Joyce Sasse has volunteered again to handle corralling pitches and Mary could assist.

2)Elections: elections for President and Vice President will be held at Fall Conference 2015. Members wishing to fill those positions or who have expressed interest in filling those positions should step forward asap. We could put an announcement about this in the next Broadside.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 6:05 pm 1<sup>st</sup>: Annette Snyder, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Doug Sasse.



NWG BUSINESS ANNOUNCEMENTS

This newsletter is our quarterly member connection. It's packed full of the most current news. If you have some, we want to hear. If you've got a special announcement, we'd love to do a spotlight on you. Our quarterly Broadside is a great place to show other members what you've been up to.

Greg Hall, our NWG member who's been our Publications Chair for many years, now has constraints that don't allow the time he'd like to contribute to our publications. Until one of our talented members steps up to take over, Annette Snyder, NWG Secretary, has offered to compile our Broadside and Bulletin.

Some of you expressed interest in helping as Publications Chair when you filled out the Fall Conference surveys. We're interested in having you help. Email Annette [as42907@windstream.net](mailto:as42907@windstream.net) or call, 402-545-2049 if you've got questions about our publications process. Though Annette is happy to organize an issue or two, like all of our NWG members, she's got lots on her plate so, please, step up to help out. In the meantime, Annette is getting all the Broadside and Bulletin information together and organizing it to make it an easy, plug in process. Whoever decides to take on this task will only need to tweak the system to their liking.

Annette will post call outs on our social media pages and Yahoo loop when she's working on each issue so please watch for these announcements and send any information you've got to her email [as42907@windstream.net](mailto:as42907@windstream.net). You don't have to wait for the call; you can send your goodies whenever they cross your mind. If you've got a picture or a cover you want to push to our group, a new idea for publicity, an interesting avenue for your work, a sales idea that works that you'd like to share, we all want to hear. Annette will try to fit it in the issues as space permits.

Also, in each issue, we like to highlight our NWG members. As a writing professional and member of NWG, you can write a paragraph or two about yourself and your work and have it in our newsletter free of charge. Our newsletter goes out four times a year to our entire, ever-growing membership and any interested member is welcome to brag about what they do. If that appeals, send your spotlight article to Annette's email with pictures as attachments. She'll take them whenever they're sent and put them in the Broadside as space permits.

Our Broadside is a great avenue to strut your stuff and it's a great, free benefit of being a member of Nebraska Writers Guild.

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## A Short NWG Survey (TALLIED FALL CONFERENCE RESULTS)

The NWG is run by volunteers. While we enjoy putting in our time to help the organization run smoothly, many members already volunteering will be finishing up their terms soon! We would love to have more members of the guild step up to help out. Please fill out this survey and return it to a member of the board.

How satisfied have you been with your membership in the Nebraska Writers Guild?

Very Satisfied 22 Somewhat Satisfied 2 Not Satisfied 0

Do you feel the Nebraska Writers Guild could find improvement?

Yes 6 Maybe 12 No 6

How interested are you in coming to a board meeting, to give your input?

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Very Interested   2   Somewhat Interested  13  Not Interested   9 

How interested are you in volunteering to help with a conference in the future?

Very Interested   3  Somewhat Interested  17  Not Interested   3 

How interested are you in helping out with the Broadside and Bulletins?

Very Interested   2  Somewhat Interested   6  Not Interested  17 

How interested are you in serving on the board at some point in the future?

Very interested   0  Somewhat interested   7  Not interested  12 

What position might you be interested in?

President   0  Vice President   2  Secretary   2  Treasurer   1  Historian   2 

Comments: (SUMMERIZED):

Could help at Spring Conference

New member 1<sup>st</sup> time at Conference-2

Can always improve-3

New member interested in board member position in future

Teach more about social media/blogging/online avenues

Unfamiliar with Broadside and Bulletin

Exceeding expectations



**NEBRASKA WRITERS GUILD MEMBERSHIP INITIAL/RENEWAL FORM:**

Join or Renew your NWG membership using and mailing this form or go to [www.nebraskawriters.org](http://www.nebraskawriters.org) to renew electronically.

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS/CITY/STATE/ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Contact Information used for NWG Business purposes only)

New Membership   OR    Renewal Membership

**PAYMENT OPTIONS (Check One):**

I will mail a check

Mail Check Payment to NWG Treasure:

Wayne Anson, 642 N. Broadwell Avenue, Grand Island, Ne 68803

I will pay via PayPal

Visit [www.nebraskawriters.org](http://www.nebraskawriters.org) to pay online-use the Renewal tab at the top of the site

**PUBLICATIONS OPTIONS (Check One):**

I would like to receive both the Broadside and the Bulletin in my email box instead of printed and mailed to my physical address.

I would like to receive the Broadside in my email box. Please continue to mail a copy of the Bulletin to my physical address.

I would like all publications mailed to my physical address.



NEBRASKA WRITERS GUILD MEMBER NEWS  
**NEBRASKA WRITERS GUILD MEMBER NEWS**

Mary Unger: Even though I've been actively writing since 2003, I'm still a novice in the craft. I spend my writing time in 18<sup>th</sup> Century Scotland and whatever strikes my fancy in the National Novel Writers' Month. During the month of November, I also lead a group of young writers who participate in NaNoWriMo.

Glenda Fralin: keeps a blog for author interviews. A majority of the articles present both beginning and seasoned Nebraska authors. She's also had the good fortune to interview some authors from other parts of the nation and world. At <http://www.wordspings.blogspot.com> the reader gets to know something about the writer, drawing attention to the person behind the stories. Look back through the years to read Q and A interviews with such Nebraska authors as Mary Anderson, Marilyn June Coffey, and Sally Walker, to more recent chats with Dennis Timothy, Smashwords founder and author Mark Coker, and Ugandan Poet Denis Gadfly Muwoung. If you dig way back before the interviews, you will find some of Glenda's poetry hidden in those archives.

Lisa Kovanda: It's been a busy few months in spite of ongoing health issues. My newest book, "Walk Me Home," the true story of a man who faces the harsh realities of a life turned on end after his college sweetheart—the woman who taught him to overcome the dyslexia that got him kicked out of seminary—is murdered. His grief and anger dictate his decision process and destroy his family. In this true story, Russ must confront the murderer, Robert Williams, and decide whether to forgive, condemn, or to minister. The clock is ticking, as Williams is scheduled to die in Nebraska's electric chair. His decision will force him to face the demons of his own past, and the resulting inner journey will either destroy him or leave him forever changed. was released in ebook and print September 19th. The audiobook is in production and will be available in time for Christmas.

"Modified Flight Plan," co-written with fellow Guild member Brian Thomas, was released in audiobook format .

"Remission," the movie I co-wrote and worked on the production team for, has played at several film festivals, and the Ross Theatre in Lincoln, in addition to getting some nice reviews within the horror industry. November 20th, I was on Ghost Stalkers, a nationally televised paranormal investigation show for Destination America. It was a great experience being asked to be part of the show, make some great industry connections, and as soon as they update IMDb, it will be another credit on my list. It's nice to see that growing!

(Contact Annette Snyder to include your member news in future quarterly Broadside)

## Nebraska Writers Guild Member Spotlight



### G. M. Barlean

Whew, what a year I've had! The more I learn the more I write the more I accomplish. I firmly believe joining the Guild and what I've learned from other informative members has made all the difference. I love to read Frost's poem about the road not taken, but instead of traveling alone on less trodden paths, I've found when it has come to my writing, the more company on the trail, the better.

I know not everyone is a fan of social media platforms such as Facebook, but for me it provides a great timeline of my year. With a few clicks, I can review my entire year in writing by reviewing 2014 on my Facebook Author Page. It was a stroll down the not so distant past and it made me realize what a busy lane I've been walking in!

My year has included these high points.

- January 15—Author's Fair in Omaha. I attended not to sell, but to meet other authors. Julia Cook and Sean Callahan joined the Guild after I gave them information about our organization.
- February 19—Attended another Author Fair in Omaha. Sold a nice number of books and made contacts with many authors.
- February 23—I wrote an article published in the Nebraska Center for the Book Newsletter. The article addressed the benefits and purpose of the Nebraska Writers Guild.
- March 11—Spoke to a women's group at the Hillcrest Country Club in Lincoln. Sold and signed books.
- March 20—Published, Thorns of Rosewood, book 1 of a cozy mystery series.
- April—Helped with the NWG table and sold my own books too at the Seward Ag Pavilion.

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- April—Purchased promotion in EReader News Today for Thorns of Rosewood. Great sales throughout the month of April.
- April—NWG Spring Conference
- April 17—Guest blogger on Writing in Community Blog.
- April 23—Reached 1,000 sales of Thorns of Rosewood.
- April 28—Found out my book was placed on the library shelves of the Sutter Library in California.
- April 30—Invited to sell my books at A to Z Book Store in North Platte and The Bookworm in Omaha.
- May 2—Had an article published in FundsforWriters, C. Hope Clark’s Magazine.
- Created a new website to promote Indie Author’s book trailers. Promoted the first trailer from a submission.
- May 21—I did a radio interview for “It’s the Beat,” KOIL.
- May 26—Thorns of Rosewood is promoted in Publisher’s Weekly.
- June 1—Featured author on Bookworks.com.
- June 25—Published my first nonfiction book, Build a Writing Team.
- July 28—Created new website with help from NWG members, Nanette Day and Victorine Lieske.
- July 31—Publisher’s Weekly reviewed my book, Thorns of Rosewood.
- August 1—Presented a class on networking at Business of Writing Seminar in KY.
- August 24—My poem, Wind Fills a Void, is published in Fine Lines Magazine.
- September—Published, Moments of Clarity, a book of short stories collected from my blog posts. The Book Dork promotes it on their site.
- September—Spoke at Owls Club in David City.
- September—Spoke at Sertoma Club in Schuyler
- October—I published one, scary short story every week on my blog. At the end of the month I compiled the 4 stories in a small ebook and published it on Amazon.
- October—Fall Conference in Seward.
- November—Writer’s retreat in Schuyler at St. Benedictine Center
- November—Spoke to Delta Kappa Gamma, Teachers Sorority in David City.
- Working on Book 2 of the Rosewood Series. I hope to publish it in March of 2015.

Who knows what will happen in 2015, but I know learning about writing, and meeting more people in the writing industry will remain a constant! Thank you to the Guild for all they do for writers in Nebraska!

Remember, we’re all in this together. Support your fellow Guild members and spread the word about all of our books!

(Contact Annette Snyder or any NWG Board Member to arrange your member spotlight in this publication)



216 N. Lincoln  
PO Box 55  
Brainard, NE 68626