



Nebraska Writers Guild

Excellence in Writing Since 1925

March, 2017

Writers Guild Planning A Busy Year

The Nebraska Writers Guild is planning to use 2017 to expand the visibility of the guild to the public. The Guild has an activity planned for every one of the first eight months of the year. At this time only September and November/December Have no specific Guild activity planned.

Our many members have been and are volunteering and presenting at different conferences and events throughout Nebraska during this year. So much that, our members are having to come up with new answers to the age old question of how they find time to write.

Nebraska Writers Guild Spring Conference Coming Next Month

Plan on attending the Annual Spring Conference April 7-8 in LaVista, NE. Registration forms are on line and in this newsletter. Last year's conference was well attended and we actually ran out of room for author tables. This year's conference has speakers with topics that will be beneficial to all areas of writing.

Naturally there are breaks scheduled for participants to socialize and network. Friday activities will begin at 3:00 for Guild members only, with short seminars presented by NWG members and verbal pitch practice sessions with reviews by NWG members.

The evening will begin with registration and socializing. During this time members will sign up for short readings from their works. Members are getting more involved with this and the number of readers is limited. Come prepared to read. Just to remember to put your name in the hat before you leave the registration table.

Don't Forget
2017 Annual Dues are required to be paid by March 31
in order to receive member discounts.

Words from the NWG President

Hope this Broadside finds our entire 258 present members alive and writing well. What an amazing year this has been already. Surely by now all of you have begun to share the excitement of the Six Corners of Nebraska, our Nebraska Writers Guild's gift to all Nebraskans celebrating our 150 years of Statehood. People can't believe we are bringing such a large event to their towns and corners of the State. Thirty-four NWG members are readers, workshop leaders, special presenters, or fundraisers for one or, in several cases, more than one of the six locations. All total you have signed on from 105 active slots, but we have opportunities left for more of you to get involved.

Now, you might think that seems unbelievable, but opportunities to serve and get your writing showcased keep coming in. The Author Showcases at the Red Path Gallery, organized by Gina Barlean to share Guild Authors with the community will occur every month for the remainder of the year. They are already booked.

Starting from two members wanting to touch base at the 2017 Constellation Science Fiction Conference, we now have volunteers staffing a Nebraska Writers Guild booth at the event. The booth will be two tables as we have invited the Nebraska Film Association members to jointly sponsor the booth. And, yes, we have a great enthusiastic group of authors that are members of both organizations.

Add to those events, the 2017 Nebraska Festival of the Book. The Festival organizers invited us to be an exhibitor and to sponsor workshops. At last count we have 11 members to staff the exhibit (and sell their books). Our California/Alaska member sent a case of books to give away. Three members volunteered to do the two writers workshops for the event (that's two-thirds of the free workshops). And other members have scheduled book signings. You folks are stepping up your visibility and we are proud to provide the opportunities.

Nancy Sharp and Jean Lukesh invited NWG members to add books to their exhibit at the Nebraska State Readers Association, 2017 Annual Conference. They will also share our NWG program materials. This is yet another generous offer we are thankful to have.

When Spring Conference rolls around, check out our own new Nebraska Writers Guild Book Release and Activities Notification Program. My personal goal is to add 1,000 names to that database in 12 months and eventually grow it to reach well beyond our state's borders. Then, when you publish or republish your materials, we can notify the network and help increase your outreach.

Now, I know I am forgetting something, but you can see the opportunities to share your work keep growing as people bring opportunities to us as an organization. But, if you did not take advantage of the opportunities, none of this would matter. Look how you are stepping out. Exciting!

In Memoriam

On January 12, 2017 The Guild received word that Lifetime Member Leatta Stortvedt had passed away. The Guild extends their sympathies to her family on their loss. Many of you may remember her stories and poems about angels. She was often called the Angel Lady.

Membership Spotlight

Marilyn June Coffey

I decided to market myself as a StoryTeller. To do this, I imagined a program about my writing life where I'd pass out a list of questions to my audience, then answer whichever questions interested them. A typical question: Why did Good Housekeeping fire you?

I tried out this program for several groups: a Kiwanis club, a Lions club, a group of university women. The feedback to my program pleased me. "Everyone enjoyed it" was the common response.

So now I have a poster, brochures, and a list of questions ready to go. To help me find interested groups, I recently applied to the Nebraska Arts Council's touring program and to the Humanities Council.

I love giving this lively improvised program, which is mostly from my memory. I spread my books, some photos, and a few notes on a table, stand behind it, and wait to hear what my audience will demand.

Carolyn R Scheidies

Last year I continued to rework and bring out books for which I'd received rights back from publishers. This time, there are Kindle as well as print versions. I continue to write a regular column for the Kearney Hub. In December, I was the speaker for the Kearney Christian Women's Connection (KCWC). I continue to write articles, and sometimes poems, for their monthly newsletter. A couple of times a week, I send out update blogs about what's going on in my life and with my writing.

Connie Spittler

The Erotica Book Club for Nice Ladies - is a finalist in the Mystery & Mayhem competition. It is the only mystery contest I could find that has a category for Blended Genres.

Jim Misko

Hey buddies and writer. Pleas to this site ans scroll down to see my appearance at Southern California Writers Conference. <http://writersconference.com/sd/staff/> I'm in two places so keep scrolling after you read the first one under Special Guest Speakers. Second section down is the workshop I'm teaching on "The Crucible," under Authors and Industry Experts. Hope I do justice to the topic. Has little to do with not using adverbs or showing instead of telling, but I'm sure I'll figure out a way to et it in there. May it go well with you.

**2017 Nebraska Writers Guild
Spring Writers' Conference Schedule
LaVista Conference Center
12520 Westport Pkwy, LaVista NE 68128**

Friday, April 7th - LaVista Conference Center

MEMBERS ONLY:

3:00pm - 5:30pm - Verbal Pitch Practice with review

Open to the Public:

6:00pm - Register and Meet and Mingle

7:00 - 9:00pm - Readings from NWG Members. A wonderful way to get a taste of what members are writing about. Sign up at the door!

Saturday, April 8th - LaVista Conference Center

Must Register to Attend

8:00am - Registration

8:30am - Welcome and Announcements

8:45am - Malaga Baldi - What I've Learned, What I tell Writers, and What I'm looking for; an Agent's perspective on Publishing

10:00am - Break

10:30am - George Ayoub - Mistakes or Other Things that Reveal an Author is a Newbie

11:45am - Break for Lunch (not provided)

1:15pm - Business Meeting

1:45pm - Break

2:00pm - Andy Ross - Slush Pile Derby

3:15pm - Break

3:45pm - Danny Manus -

5:00pm - Evaluations, Raffle Drawings, Closing - Don't leave early—you'll miss out on some great prizes!

And don't forget to fill out an evaluation and tell us how we did. Let us know what you liked. Let us know where we can improve. Share your ideas. Do you have a talent that you would like to share with the Guild? Let us know. As the Guild grows, we'll need more volunteers!

2017 Spring Conference Registration

Spring Conference Early Registration - Cost for Members: \$80 - Cost for Student Members: \$68

Registration After March 31st - Members: \$95 - Student Members: \$81

Non-Member Registration - \$95

(Membership dues for 2017 must be paid to receive the "member discount.")

Raffle tickets will be awarded for early registration. Four for registration and payment before February 29, three for registration and payment before March 15. After March 31 only one ticket per attendee with an opportunity to purchase more at the conference.

ATTENDEE INFORMATION

FULL NAME _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

COUNTY _____

Dates/Times Attending

- I will attend Friday afternoon for Pitch Practice I will attend Friday evening for Mingling and Readings
 I will attend Saturday for the Conference

Membership Status

- My membership dues for 2017 have been paid I will pay my 2017 dues with this registration
 I will attend the conference as a non-member

Agent One-on-Ones *(formerly called pitches, agent one-on-ones include giving pitches or merely asking advice)*

- I would like to pitch to Andy Ross. (Members only.)
 I would like to pitch to Magala Baldi. (Members only.)
 I do not want an agent one-on-one at this conference.

Refer to the NWG website for items that each agent is looking for.

Agent One-on-Ones are scheduled on a first come first served basis. We cannot guarantee an Agent One-on-One. If the slots are full, you will be put on the waiting list and if the agents can work you in, we will do so.

Dietary Restrictions _____

Payment _____

Mail all payments to: **Nebraska Writers Guild - 803 West 8th Street - North Platte, NE 69101-2805**

2017 Six Corners of Nebraska Registration

Each workshop is limited to 12 participants. Individual's slots will be reserved on a first registered first served basis.

Cost is \$50.00 per workshop

ATTENDEE INFORMATION

FULL NAME _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

COUNTY _____

- SIX CORNERS OF NEBRASKA – NORTHEAST
“Formulating Story Ideas and Story Structure”
Lisa Kovanda, Facilitator
April 2, 2017 (1:00 pm – 5:00 pm) Northeast Community College 801 E Benjamin Ave, Norfolk, NE
- SIX CORNERS OF NEBRASKA – SOUTHEAST
“Nuts and Bolts and Beyond”
Margaret Lukas, Facilitator
May 7, 2017 (1:00 pm – 5:00 pm) Sarpy County Museum 2402 Clay St, Bellevue, NE
- SIX CORNERS OF NEBRASKA - SOUTHWEST
“Throwing Rocks: Creating Obstacles in Story”
Sarah Buhrman, Facilitator
June 4, 2017 (1:00 pm – 5:00 pm) McCook Public Library 802 Norris Ave, McCook, NE
- SIX CORNERS OF NEBRASKA - BIG SPRINGS CORNER
“Playing Around with Words: Poems, Stories, and the Creative Process”
Twyla Hansen, Nebraska State Poet, Facilitator
July 2, 2017 (1:00 pm – 5:00 pm) North Platte Public Library 120 W 4th St, North Platte, NE
- SIX CORNERS OF NEBRASKA - PANHANDLE SOUTHWEST
The Rim of the Prairie: A Writing Practice Marathon
N. L. Sharp, Facilitator
August 6, 2017 (1:00 pm – 5:00 pm) Kimball Public Library 208 S Walnut St, Kimball, NE

Payment _____

Mail all payments to Nebraska Writers Guild - 803 West 8th Street - North Platte, NE 69101-2805

Fundraising Appeal to Membership

The Nebraska Writers Guild is seeking donations via a Go Fund Me account to defray costs and ensure we can offer our members top quality speakers, useful educational seminars, workshops and tools to improve as writers, poetry retreats and conferences with agents and speakers to help achieve the goals of publishing our creative work. This account is a secondary funding source and will keep the costs of Guild events affordable to members. Among the projects that will benefit from this funding are the Fall Conference; Poetry Retreat and a proposed literary anthology featuring Nebraska writers from the Guild. Nebraska Writers Guild is a non-profit so all donations are tax deductible.

The Go Fund Me site can be reached at:

<https://www.gofundme.com/fall-conference-anthology-fund>

Please share on Facebook or other social media.

Thank you for your support

New Membership Benefit to be Announced at Spring Conference

There is a new membership benefit that will be announced in detail at the 2017 Spring Conference.

Remember to Utilize Our NWG Website Tools Available to Member

<http://www.nebraskawriters.org>

Event Listing

Add Your Publications

Add Your Awards

Add Your Name to Our Speakers Bureau

Add Your Expertise to Our Member Services List

Member Listing Name and Genre

Message Section-Send/Receive Private Messages Directly to/From Other Members

Instructional Videos and Members Only Section

Resource Links for the Writing Business

Most Current Broadside

Most Current Bylaws

Online Membership Join and Renewal

Quick Link to Our Blog

Nebraska Writers Guild
803 West 8th Street
North Platte, Nebraska 69101-2805

Writing Prompts



From *Only in Nebraska* Facebook post

You are following a dear friend whom you feel is depressed. They enter the fog and you follow. Write a story/scene/poem on what is in on the other side of the fence **WITHOUT** ghosts or paranormal entities.

Write a story about two childhood friends who spent many an hour together playing on this bridge and how they are when they meet there again years later.

Photo by Jeanie Dingman