



Nebraska Writers Guild

Excellence in Writing Since 1925

December, 2017

2017 Anthology Almost Ready

In October the Nebraska Writers Guild started work on its first-ever literary anthology: *Voices from the Plains*. After an email crash and the smoke cleared on the deadline Oct 30 more than 60-plus authors from the Nebraska Writers Guild had submitted a wide variety of material, from Works in Progress excerpts, to poems and essays and journalism articles.

Production work is now in process for the anthology, with a tentatively scheduled publication date of Dec. 15, 2017. Just in time for the smart NWG Christmas shopper.

Thanks go out to Faith A. Colburn for fee coordination and editorial advice, Victorine Lieske for cover work, Cort Fernald for coordination and production and especially to all who submitted material.

Check out the Nebraska Writers Guild website, Facebook page, and Yahoo groups page for ordering information coming soon.

2017 A Success For NWG

2017 was a banner year for the guild. Not only did it host the two annual conferences, but also hosted the Six Corners of Nebraska writing events. This was in conjunction with the Nebraska Sesquicentennial Commission. All but one of the events had entries for the writing contests. See the last *Broadside* for a list of contest participants.

The fall 2017 Greater Nebraska Writers Conference held October 20-21, 2017 had a record attendance of 78 participants. Like the guild offered at the 2017 Spring Conference, there were free workshops on Friday. All were well received and attended. The Leadership Center has been a nice facility for the past two years. After a reconciliation of our membership lists, we have 272 paid members/life members for the year. There are six more on the payment pending list and 70 on the pending renewal list.

We have been having an unprecedented response by volunteers that has helped up our profile and programming. This has put an added, but welcomed, burden on the activity coordinators. Great volunteers means that our guild is doing a good job promoting the art of writing in the state of Nebraska.

NWG President's Message

Dear Nebraska Writers Guild Members,

As the Fourth Quarter of 2017 races forward, I gasp and try to catch my breath. Historically, this quarter provides a breather from activities – planned activities that is. But since July 1, 2017, we grew by 54 New Members and 21 Late Renewals, awe inspiring numbers. Twenty-eight of those additions occurred in the last seven weeks raising our current paid membership to 282 individuals. This broke every goal, organizational and personal, I had for the year and it is not yet over. Wow people, you rock.

This quarter our traditional fall conference which now targets the Greater Nebraska Area outshone all previous events. Attendance only fell 15 people short of the 2017 Spring Conference. Who could have dreamed that? Two “can’t miss” conferences per year, the Nebraska Writers Guild stands for quality like never before.

And, as for those historically less activities? Well, our first annual anthology remains in hot pursuit of the press. The Nebraska Writers Guild Reader and Event Notification Program for the general public passed the 200 mark on its way to 1000. More Book/Event Notices have been sent so far this quarter than in the last two quarters. Immediately after the Greater Nebraska Writers Conference, a Life Members Support Program began. Likewise, the annual Bulletin production got underway. And don't forget planning. This quarter plans for at least ten programs for 2018/2019 moved forward.

Historically a breather? Who has time to review the past? Thank goodness, Don Dingman, our Broadside and Bulletin editor shoulders that task. It has been a glorious quarter with another six weeks to go as of this writing.

Election Results from the Fall Business Meeting

The NWG members at the annual business meeting at the Greater Nebraska Writers Conference elected/re-elected the following members to serve on the Board for the guild.

President - Wayne Anson Membership Secretary - Charles Lieske
Historian - Traci Robison

Other board members who have not reached their full terms and remain on the board are

Vice President - Brooke Brouillette Treasurer - Faith Colburn
Recording Secretary - Scott Childers Member at large - Cort Fernald
Immediate Past President - Victorine Lieske

Membership Spotlight

Carolyn R Scheidies

The last months I've been working on three different book projects. Over the years, I've written articles on writing, taught classes in the media department at UNK and adult enrichment writing classes at CCC. I've also taught numerous sessions at writer's conferences and published a series of writing booklets. This year, I chose to combine all that information into one book on writing. It is getting closer to the release stage and will be entitled: "Especially for the Christian Writer." I have also been working on a contemporary romance that is moving forward. In the beginning stages is a devotional. I continue to have my regular column in the Kearney Hub and also contribute to the monthly newsletter for the Kearney Christian Women's Connection group.

How I Wrote That Punk Jimmy Hoffa!

By Marilyn June Coffey

You could say That Punk Jimmy Hoffa! began in 1977 when my father died and my mother gave me reams of his papers, including those from the Senate when Dad testified against Jimmy Hoffa before the Rackets Committee, including both Kennedy brothers.

Or you could say it started in the 1990s when my university boss insisted I write the book with a working title of I Watched My Dad Beat Jimmy Hoffa. Then I drove to Sidney, NE, and Fort Collins, CO, interviewing the people my father worked with as city manager.

Until I actually began to write, my memoir existed as a vast bubbling mass. Ideas would surface and then disappear. I'd jot a few tidbits. This went on for years.

I pushed my Hoffa book out of the way to write Mail-Order Kid and Thieves, Rascals & Sore Losers. Then in 2015, I began to write.

I wrote draft after draft of some 100 pages long, tossing each as I looked for the book's beginning. My NightWriters group helped me, reading and asking, "What do you want to put that it for?"

Once I found the beginning, the rest just stretched logically ahead of me. Soon I had a full draft, ready to be proofed.

Did you Know?

The only true north/south street in Deadwood, South Dakota is the block long stretch of Sherman Street in front of the post office and Adams Museum.

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Reminder-
2018 Nebraska Writers
Guild membership fees
are due between
January 1 and March 31.

Writing Prompts

Write a story/poem that includes the following words: rescue, plain, butterfly, crazy, woman, erotic.



Write a story about how you would make this cave your home or what you would find under a rock inside.



Describe your walk or bike ride across this strip of land.
(Yes it is possible, and has been done.)