



Nebraska Writers Guild

Excellence in Writing Since 1925

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VOLUME 28 ISSUE 3

The State of the Guild

Fellow NWG Members:

The State of the Guild is one of transition. Beyond the recent transition in leadership, the growth we have seen over the past few years under Wayne's leadership has brought us to a point where we need to plan more strategically and rely on members more for the activities of the Guild.

At this time, your board is finalizing plans for a strategic planning session where we will be discussing, among other things, the mission, vision and values of the organization and its short-term and long-term goals. We will be discussing ways to strengthen the committee structure to help train up the next generation of Guild leadership. Building capacity in our members will allow them to be able to assume leadership positions and will give us a much stronger organization than by asking people to take on the responsibilities of a board or officer position without the benefit of past experience. We also need develop ways to turn over events to interested volunteers to relieve the burden on board members who serve.

As of the last board meeting, Guild membership was 293 with 26 active non-board volunteers. The Guild accounts were up slightly with combined balances of approximately \$12,000. The Guild continues to expand events and engage members. The report of events at the last board meeting included:

- Presentations and/or booths at
 - Midwest Paranormal Conference, August 18, Lincoln
 - 2018 Nebraska Festival of the Book, August 25, Lincoln
 - NLA/NSLA Conference, October 4-6, Lincoln
 - Constellation, April 26-28, 2019, Lincoln
 - Attendance count at Western Nebraska Writers Intensive, Scottsbluff: 52
 - 2017 Anthology readings and signings
 - 6/2/18 – Wilson Public Library, Cozad
 - 6/9/18 – Festival of the Arts, Broken Bow
 - 8/11/18 – LaVista Public Library
 - 10/28/18, 2-4 p.m., Chapters Books and Gifts, Seward
- 2018 Anthology submissions were strong
- 2018 Fur Trade Days Poetry Contest garnered 35 entries from 20 authors and 13 attendees at the poetry workshop and readings
- 2018 State Fair Booth was slated to have 31 authors participate with additional openings
- 2018 Greater Nebraska Writers Conference, October 12-13, Aurora
- 2018 Poetry Retreat, Nov 3, Nebraska City, 5 paid registrations with additional openings

Your board looks forward to seeing you all at the fall conference and for your participation at the business meeting on Saturday.

Respectfully Submitted,
Charles A. Lieske, President



Change in Officers and Board Members of The NWG

As shared via email a few days ago, Wayne Anson has resigned as President of the Nebraska Writer's Guild for personal reasons, but will continue to serve on the board in the role of Immediate Past President.

Section 6.4.2 of our bylaws reads "If the office of President becomes vacant, the Vice President shall assume the office of President or may act as interim President until the Board appoints another qualified General Member to complete the unexpired term. If the Vice President assumes the Presidency, the position of Vice President shall be filled by appointment in the manner described above...."

I worked with the board to determine which scenario would be most likely to benefit the guild moving forward, considering both short-term and long-term implications of the choice. As announced, I assumed the presidency and the board approved the appointment of Past-President Victorine Lieske to fill the remainder of my term as Vice President and for her to appear on the ballot at fall conference for that office.

In the announcement previously released, I promised further details about how we came to this decision. I plan for board business to be transparent and straightforward. I feel that this transparency is especially important due to the fact that the resolution to our situation was to put a husband and wife team at the top of the ticket.

Let me share with you some of the specifics items shared through individual and group discussions as we worked to reach consensus on this issue:

- 1) The board feels that this patch provides the best transition possible to an era of new leadership. My past experience with other boards will help us set a framework for future growth. Victorine's experience as a past Guild treasurer and president, and as an attendee and presenter on the national circuit make her the perfect candidate for the office with the main responsibility of planning conferences. Additionally, her experience and institutional knowledge will be valuable as she continues to serve on the board in this new capacity (having served most recently as Immediate Past President). Together we make a good team, along with our other current board members, to train up the next generation of Guild leadership.
- 2) There are checks and balances in place to protect the Guild. Financially, the Treasurer is responsible for the accounting of the Guild. The Vice President has not typically been an authorized signer on the bank account. It would be my expectation that the Guild Treasurer would receive statements and written communication from the bank and have uninhibited access to accounts online at any time without notice. A second board member could also be set up in the capacity as a second check to mitigate any concerns.
- 3) While the Guild bylaws do not allow for write-in candidates for Guild elections, should a problem arise, there are mechanisms within our bylaws that allow for the board or general members to remove an officer for cause. Our election cycle will also serve as a check, as I will be up for election in 2019 and Victorine would be up for election in 2020. We are in talks with a member who hopes to gain experience through committee work over the next two years in hopes of giving her a foundation for a possible VP run in 2020, if she is so inclined at that time.
- 4) There were concerns raised about the possible dynamic on the board with a husband and wife team at the top. Would board members feel free to raise objections if we were to bring forward a plan that they disagreed with? I have worked to assure the board that professionally, I surround myself with strong folks and I find robust conversation and differing views valuable in reaching the most creative solutions possible. It is my hope that as the board gets to know Victorine and me better as a leadership team, this concern will lessen.



Changes (Continued)

5) Another concern raised, though not directly related to us being a married team, is that we need to try and keep a balance of eastern and western representation on the board as we add new members. Victorine and I both being from the West creates a further lean that direction. Kim Stokely, who is on the October ballot for Recording Secretary is from Bellevue, and the individual we are in discussions with to serve as a Conference Committee Chair with hopes for a 2020 VP run is from the Omaha area as well.

The way I will need to function as President will look different than how Wayne was able to operate. I still work full-time and have other responsibilities outside the Guild. Victorine will be able to complement my limitations well as we work to groom committee leaders, members and new board members to lift the load during this transition and beyond. Additionally, asking someone to come forward and take on the main responsibility for conferences without the benefit of experience on that arena would not be fair and could jeopardize our main revenue stream.

With that being said, I was straightforward with the board, and want to be straightforward with the membership, in disclosing that Victorine and I had been working with Wayne on an expanded Spring conference that includes a writer's retreat, live broadcast and classes from The Writing Gals. This is a group co-founded by Victorine that has had an impact on attendance at other conferences. Victorine's cohosts have agreed to help the Guild build a financially successful Spring Conference by appearing without honorarium and minimal expense reimbursement. One of her cohosts even changed the location of their family vacation to Omaha to accommodate the event. I felt it important to disclose this as to avoid the appearance that Victorine's ascension into the Vice Presidency had any influence on these plans.

While I worked with the board to gain consensus on these issues, the vote was not unanimous. Of the seven voting members of the board at the time, four approved Victorine's appointment and addition of her name to the ballot, one voted no, one abstained and one did not vote. The member voting no was comfortable moving forward, noting a better solution could not be seen for the short-term needs of the Guild.

I would also like to say that if at any time any member has concerns related to board business, s/he should feel free to contact any board officer or member to bring these things to light. Also, as President, one of my duties is to set the agenda for board meetings. I will be looking into ways we can have general members join public portions of board meetings via technology or in person, and we can even establish a protocol for members to have floor time during the meeting.

On another note, I would also like to shine a spotlight on Carrie Gray. At the August board meeting we added Carrie as a new general board member. She is from Grand Island and will serve as the Social Media Chairperson. We are excited to have Carrie serve the Guild through her knowledge of social media and look forward to the fresh perspective she will add to board discussions.

The office of Membership Secretary (proposed to be changed to Membership Coordinator) remains vacant and eligible for appointment.

Your New President,
Charles A. Lieske



The Broadside is Now Twenty-Eight

The first Nebraska Writers Guild Broadside was dated July, 1990. That makes this the third issue of the twenty-eighth year. In the early editions, it was a “place look for answers to your writing questions, for information about other guild members, for advice on any variety of topics or for whatever else you see fit.”

The goal at that time was to make it a quarterly newsletter. At the time the Broadside was first produced, the Bulletin was the only guild publication, and it was sent out just before the two conferences. Those Bulletins had the program of the upcoming conference and a membership list, along with a summary of what the members had written or published.

The Broadside’s first issue included member news, a “state of the guild” article, an article on copyrights, requests for volunteers, and upcoming events. The Broadside’s first editor was a new member at the time, Jana Pedersen. Since its inception, the Broadside has had three masthead designs, the current one being first used in 2003.

A copy of the first issue is in the Nebraska Writers Guild archives at the Nebraska State Historical Society building at 15th & R Streets, in Lincoln. The archives is open to the public for viewing. One has to know what they are looking for and it is retrieved for use in the resource room on first floor. The cost is very easy on the pocket book, only a quarter per copy. Photos are free, if you bring your own camera.

Here is a “Did You Know?” that was in the first Broadside, I believe Robert Guenzel is the person who belongs to the initials. “To get to Denver from western Nebraska, you must drive downhill. In Kimball County, Nebraska reaches an altitude of over 5,400 feet. Denver sits at only 5,200 feet. So, driving from the Nebraska border to Denver requires a drop of about 200 feet! Personally, I love pointing that out to people from Denver. R. C. G.

Nebraska Writers Guild, A Sponsor of Nebraska Book Festival 2018

The Nebraska Writers Guild was one of nine featured sponsors of the Nebraska Book Festival. Beside having the NWG tables among the vendors, it had half of the eighteen presentation/lectures in a room designated as the Nebraska Writers Guild Room. The union auditorium was the other room for the presentations and speakers. The five presentations, by guild members included Margaret Lukas (editing manuscripts) Johnnye Gerhardt (dialogue writing) a writing prompts hands-on class by Katherine Wielechowski and Sarah Buhrman in the morning. Nancy Sharp Wagner with a lively presentation in the afternoon on public author events and Lisa Pelto, presented a class on self-publishing in the afternoon. All of the presentations were well attended.

Readers for guild were, Charlene Pierce, Kolleen Meyr-Krikac, Margaret Lukas, Johnny Gerhardt, Steve Bruttig, Laura Madeline Wiseman, and others not listed in the program. Stew Magnuson, Omaha-based author and researcher, spoke on the challenges of narrative nonfiction, and gave ideas to help the writer in that genre.

Cort Fernald was the guild representative moderating the Nebraska Writers Guild room activities, while Faith Colburn took the helm of the Guild’s booth.

Proposed Bylaw Changes

Section 3.3 of the current bylaws state that, “...Bylaws cannot be amended without printed or electronic presentation by the Board of Directors to all current members at least 30 days prior to either the annual spring or annual fall conference where any changes will be presented for approval during the business meeting....”

Because of the length of the proposed changes, we are presenting the changes electronically. NWG members may sign in to the NWG website and view proposed bylaw changes at: Nebraskawriters.org/content/law-vote



Life Member Spotlight

Starting with this issue, the Broadside is going to devote a page to a Guild Life Member. This issue we will be spotlighting the late Hannie Wolf. She passed away on May 21st of this year.

Hannie Wolf

Hanne Lore “Hannie” Wolf was born in 1925 in Ulm, a city in the south of Germany on the Danube in 1925. She was the only child of Felix Baer, a successful grain dealer and Hilde Frankfurter.

After Hitler rose to power in 1933, Jews were forbidden to associate with Christians. Hannie and her Catholic friend Rosemary, talked using the bathroom pipes in their building. During the lead up to the war, Hannie’s father was arrested and sent to Dachau concentration camp. Her mother showed proof that Felix was a veteran of the first World War and got him out.

They then bribed officials to get affidavits to come to America. They traveled through Russia and China to reach America. During the sea voyage, they were hit by a typhoon. Hannie always said she thought they would never make it. When they landed in Seattle, it was Halloween, amazing them with all the dressed up characters. Soon after that, they went to Portland, eventually reaching Denver, and Golden, Colorado.

She met her husband, Bob Wolf at a dance and they were married two weeks later. They moved to Albion in 1950 and had one son, Bill.

Hannie wrote a book, *Child of Two Worlds, an autobiography*. As a Holocaust survivor, she gave presentations to schools. One was in 2012 at the Archbishop Bergan Catholic High School in Fremont. It was covered by the Fremont Tribune newspaper.

The following story was written, in April, 1998, by NWG Life Member, Hannie Wolf. It was found in the Nebraska Writers Guild archives at the Nebraska State Historical Society Archives.

Common Ground

by Hannie Wolf

Mrs. B. Has been celebrating birthdays for well over 100 years. She is one of Nebraska’s better known citizens, who built her small furniture store into the largest furniture store in America.

Mrs. B. And I have a few things in common. We share December birthdays, though I admit to being a few years her junior.

Both of us reached America via a route not taken by many. We never glimpsed the Stature of Liberty or disembarked at Ellis Island. Instead, we traveled on the Siberia Express through Russia and China, coming by ship to Seattle, Washington.

By coincidence we both ended up in Nebraska where we live the good life.

There. Is a difference. Mrs. B. never met a carpet she didn’t like. I can’t tell one carpet from another. Her brain has a built-in calculator. I can barely add two and two.

What we do have in common, is an appreciation for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. She finds happiness riding around her vast empire in a motorized cart. I find happiness sitting in a cramped basement room, pounding the keys on my old typewriter.

It proves that happiness can be found anywhere if we are willing to search for it.



2018 Greater Nebraska Writers Conference

The 2018 Greater Nebraska Writers Conference will be held Oct. 12th-13th at the Leadership Center, 2211 Q Street (E Hwy 34) in Aurora, Nebraska. Friday's events run from 12:00 pm-9:00 pm. Saturday's events begin at 8:00 am and run to 5:00 pm.

This year we will have 22 classes available at the conference. They are listed on the website at www.nebraskawriters.org.

We are introducing something brand new this conference! Boot Camp! Friday evening readings have grown too large to accommodate everyone. We are sad about this, but excited to bring the members a new opportunity to read and get personalized feedback from experienced writers.

Boot Camp will be a great way to allow those who wish to read and get feedback a way to do so. We will be dividing up our group by genre. Each person will be sitting around a table full of writers and one experienced facilitator. Everyone will get a chance to read up to 2,000 words. This can be the beginning of your work in progress, or somewhere in the middle if you need help on a particular section.

After reading, the facilitator will direct feedback comments from the group. If you would like written notes on your reading, please bring six copies of your reading to share with the table.

We are excited about Boot Camp and hope to see you there!

Sign up via the Nebraska Writers Guild at www.nebraskawriters.org

Cost: (Includes Friday Classes, Boot Camp, Saturday Classes and Lunch on Saturday)

Non-Member Registration - \$199

Member Registration - \$99 Early Bird Before Sept. 13th - \$119 On Sept. 13th and after.

Paper versus Electronic

For those currently receiving a paper version of the Broadside, please consider switching to the electronic version mailed to your email inbox. This will save the Guild just over \$1,000 per year in printing and postage expenses. The membership application, now has a separate line item for a suggested fee of \$7.50 for receiving the paper copy of the Broadside and Bulletin. Send your mailing changes to dondingman@windstream.net



Annual Board of Directors Elections

Per the bylaws, election of the Board officers are done at the annual fall guild conference. This year the following offices are up for election. Please vote and submit your ballot as directed on the ballot.

Election Ballot	
Treasurer: Faith Colburn	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recording Secretary: Kim Stokley	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vice President: Victorine Lieske	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please either complete this ballot and mail to
Nebraska Writers Guild, PO Box 493 Scottsbluff, NE 69363-0493
by October 5th, or vote online at
<http://nebraskawriters.org/content/vote2018>

Thanks Wayne

Under Wayne's presidency, the Nebraska Writers Guild membership passed 300 members. The Guild has become a visible literary force in the state. The Guild has made great strides in publishing and promoting its members with the Voices from the Plains anthology, poetry retreats, chapbooks and contests, speaking engagements, television and radio appearances, newspaper articles, and many other innovative and progressive activities with libraries and schools. When you tell someone you are a member of the Nebraska Writers Guild they know who you are.

Thanks Wayne!

Blast from the Past

From the archives of the Nebraska Writers Guild, housed at the Nebraska State Historical Society, here are a few tidbits of guild history.

In 1925, Seventy talented men and women transformed their dream into a legacy during the age of Flappers and bathtub gin. They discovered that Nebraska's hardy climate nurtured writers and writing. Thus began the Nebraska Writers Guild.

In 1926, the guild membership roster listed 126 active, honorary and associate members.

In 1949 there were still three active charter members listed, Amy Bruner Almy, Laura Ennis, Bessie Streeter Aldrich.

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Writing Prompts



How did these blank covered books survive and what sinister, or holy, things are written inside?



Describe the occupants of this nice little cottage