



# the Broadside

Nebraska Writers Guild

May, 2009

*Excellence in Writing Since 1925*

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## WRITE ACROSS NEBRASKA

## JULY 17-18-19

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### BROWNSVILLE

Friday, Riverboat  
Dinner on own  
Sunset Baggpipes & Cocktails  
Saturday, Lyceum  
Breakfast on own  
9am, Sally Walker, Subplots  
10am, Johnnye Gerhardt, Characters  
11am, Cyndy Salzmman, Organize  
Lunch on own (Lyceum)  
1-4pm Writing & Critiques  
5:30-7:30 Optional Dinner Cruise  
7:30-9:30 Optional Theater  
Sunday, Anywhere  
Breakfast on own  
Write/Tour area  
Lunch on own  
REPORT weekend's word count!  
2pm Public Readings at Lyceum  
Costs: Event free to EVERYONE  
Riverboat rooms, \$99+tax/night  
**Lodging Reservation deposits due July 1.**  
Other area motels available.  
Food on your own  
Sat Optional Dinner Cruise  
\$24.95/person  
Sat Theater \$10/person  
NOTE: All activities are optional if participant prefers to WRITE! Book rooms on your own. Register with:  
Charlie Vogel  
Charlie\_mystery\_writer@cox.net

### GRAND ISLAND

All events at:  
Howard Johnson Riverside Inn  
(308) 384-7770  
Friday, Inn's Restaurant/Bar  
Dinner Socializing  
Saturday, Location TBA  
Breakfast on own  
9am, Jean Lukesh, Your Niche  
10am, Monty McCord, Characters  
11am, Val Vierk, History Research  
Lunch on own  
1-4pm Writing & Casual Critiques  
Dinner on own  
Evening socializing or writing  
Sunday, Location TBA  
Breakfast on own  
Writing as much as you can  
Lunch, Inn's Restaurant  
Discussion: Year's Goals  
Report weekend's word-count!  
Costs: Event free to EVERYONE  
Inn rooms, \$89+tax/night  
Food on your own  
NOTE: All activities are optional if participant prefers to WRITE! Book rooms on your own. Register with:  
Jannice Roy, (308) 384-4704  
janniceroy@gmail.com

### CHADRON

All events at:  
Chardon State College  
Friday,  
Dinner Socializing  
Saturday, Location TBA  
Breakfast on own  
9-noon Writing as much as you can  
Lunch on own  
2-4pm Casual Talk & Critiques  
Dinner on own  
Evening socializing or writing  
Sunday, Location TBA  
Breakfast on own  
Writing as much as you can  
Lunch on own  
Discussion: Year's Goals  
Report weekend's word-count!  
Costs: Event free to EVERYONE  
Dorm rooms, \$33.50/night  
Food on your own  
NOTE: All activities are optional if participant prefers to WRITE! Book rooms on your own. Register with:  
Sarah Polak, Sandoz Center Director  
(308) 432-6401, spolak@csc.edu  
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**More details on NWG website**

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## Three New NWG Writers Groups

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Guild members residing in the southeast corner of Nebraska are gathering once a month (to begin with) at the Lyceum in Brownville. Contact Stephen Hassler, Peru, countryneighbor@windstream.net 402.872.6005, about the Brownville Writers.

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Up in the north central portion of Nebraska, writers are gathering monthly in Ainsworth. Contact Joanne Nickel, 402.382.3310, libertyj149@yahoo.com about the Sandhills Writers.

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Christi Nielsen, Grand Island, is establishing the On-Line Critique Group for the Guild. She is taking names of willing participants and collecting opinions on guidelines. If you are curious, please contact her at cmnielsen@huntel.net .

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### Deadline NOTICES:

\* Annual Dues Payable Jan 1-May 1

**DUES ARE NOW PAST DUE!**

\* **BULLETIN** Member Reports June 1

Please create your 200 word annual writing activities report in Rich Text Format. Send it to Johnnye Gerhardt JLG21447@aol.com before June 1.

200-word Maximum! Do NOT give life Bio or family activities. DO summarize and highlight activities & achievements in time period between Summer 2008 to Present. Website's "Published" Page is for listing & BULLETIN report is for summarizing for state historical record.

## NOTES FROM YOUR STAFF

**From the President (Sally):** I have asked each officer to create a concise handbook to help the person who follows them, due in Aug. Please refer back to "Goals" printed in the Feb BROADSIDE and make suggestions for achieving or exceeding. Christi Nielsen is organizing an on-line Critique group of Guild members, one more benefit of NWG membership! From bigger conferences to speaking opportunities to summer retreats to on-line services to visibility at writer & literary events, the Guild is charging into the 21st century! Thank you to the volunteers & participants. YOU are making this organization a success.

**From the Secretary (Connie):** 2009 dues are PAST DUE! \$25 General & Associate, \$15 Student, an inexpensive investment in your writing, considering all the benefits! Life Members will all be receiving the much-deserved new Certificate of Recognition. I am applying for a Humanities grant to advertise & provide materials and advertise 2010 "Write Across Nebraska."

**From the Treasurer (Rhonda):** The CPA's audit indicates we are in good shape, though conferences need to earn-out their expenses or we will be eating away at our working capital. Use of Quicken has stream-lined the record-keeping & reports. Pay-Pal is being used more. I appreciate the organized notebook Connie set-up for me. It has made my job easier.

**From the Vice President/Programming (Charlie):** Please read the summary of the 2009 Spring Conference. Looks like we are heading in the right direction. Val & Carolyn are on-track with the Guidelines and the Fall Conference will blow your socks off. The three July Retreat sites have terrific schedules planned out. We hope this will be another annual event for the Guild. I NEED Member Speaker evals for the June BULLETIN summary of our presentations across the state, PLEASE.

**From the Publicity Chair (Hugh):** NPR radio spots are being heard. People came to the Spring Conference because of them! Members will again be at the August State Fair in Lincoln, participating in the Nebraska Lit Fest in November, & representing us in the "Film In Nebraska" effort to attract film-makers to the state by passing legislative incentives. Newspaper presence is declining, but we will work to get some special attention on the organization as a whole.

**From the Membership Chair (Scott):** Here in May, we've gone over 200 (Sally's Oct '09 goal)! Well, if everybody renews. We are "working" on our members in "special interest" organizations to promote us & at events like "Mayhem in the Midlands." Members have formed two new writer groups in Brownville & Ainsworth. Maybe

the open summer Retreats will bring in more. Letters to former members have brought back a smattering of folk. Others have taken a wait-and-see attitude, but our success is pretty convincing!

**From the Webmaster (Lyle):** I'm just getting started, but hope to maintain the great website Andrew Lawlor created for the group. I have some ideas for tweaks and am open to suggestions. BUT, like Andrew, I am a volunteer with website savvy rather than specific website design capabilities, a very time-consuming endeavor. I see the Guild wanting an "information intensive" site rather than a "feast for the eyes." I only have time to practice the KISS principle, as in "Keep It Simple, Stupid." My first priority is to keep the roster current.

**From Nominating Committee (Stan):** With two others helping me, I am contacting each current officer privately to ascertain if they are running a second time in October elections. The office of Historian remains vacant. I would also like to recruit new people to consider running here in 2009 and/or in 2011. Just read job descriptions in the Bylaws each of you should have (or on website). Contact me if interested in serving.

**From State Fair Chair (Charlene):** Dates are Aug 28 – Sept 7. All data on the website from last year remains applicable. Please contact me if you wish to schedule service time. (poetrygrandma@yahoo.com/ 402.438.3182)

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## 2009 SPRING CONFERENCE REPORT

33 at Friday Reception with over 20 Reading

59 at Saturday Conference, of those . . .

21 Non-Members . . . 8 of those joining

4 Student attendees

20 paid via Pay-Pal

3 Speakers in morning conducted afternoon workshops

NOTE: All three said they'd love to speak again sometime

Significant info from Evals:

33 of 59 turned in

24-5's on Speakers, 9-4's

21-5's on Location, though need to change room set-up

Misc: More coming to next year's readings, worth cost, need conference social hour after lunch & morning coffee & rolls.

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DVD of Swanson & Boye Presentations available from Concierge Marketing, Lisa Pelto, 402.333.4693

Cost: \$12.50 plus \$2.50 Shipping = \$15

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DVD & print out of Butterman's Presentation available at: Butterman Communications, Dallas, 214.551.1798

Cost varies according to topic & media



Dear Members,

This open letter is being included in the Broadside to minimize postage expenses. This is the **last mailing to members who have not renewed their membership.** We will not be carrying people on the mailing list, the website or the active rolls as has occurred in years past. **ONLY paid up members will receive a copy of the 2009 Bulletin, which will come out in July.**

Members occasionally ask what benefits they receive for their membership in the Guild. Here's a short list of benefits that come to mind:

**Available for a long time:**

Quarterly BROADSIDE newsletter  
 Annual BULLETIN booklet (with directory and member annual reports)  
 Spring Conference at Mahoney  
 Fall Conference in the western part of the state  
 Advertising/marketing opportunities at August State Fair and NE Lit Fest (in Nov. this year)  
 Other members as resources for research and networking

**Evolved within the past two years:**

Website, perpetually updated and information-intensive  
 Yahoo list as immediate communication tool  
 Changing conference afternoons from roundtable social time to hands-on workshops with speakers  
 "Write Across Nebraska" July retreats in east, central and western locations, No fees  
 "Speakers Bureau" opportunities to speak/advertise to schools and civic organizations  
 Support/advertise new writing groups in under-served areas of the state  
 Peer Critique Service with Christi Nielsen directing (under development now)

We have received suggestions from members and the board for **new activities and programs** such as:

- Adding Sunday morning conference time of subject-specific booths
- Video-taping NWG conference presenters selling those on the website
- Investigating digital possibilities on our website
- Establishing a Contest Committee for guidelines and coordination of low-cost contest as source of revenue
- Find a Nebraska publisher to print and market an annual NWG anthology of poetry and short fiction
- Develop genre-specific support groups within the Guild (Poets, Playwrights, screenwriters, journalists, academics, fictions groups for Mystery, Western, Romance, Juvenile, Sci Fi-Fantasy, Speculative, etc)

**Board Decision:** The board will continued to take member suggestions and will put this discussion to the membership at the 2009 Fall Conference in Kearney. At this point, board members feel they are doing all they can physically do. Any additional services will require the commitment of specific members to take on the responsibilities of a new project or service.

Your guild membership gives you access to a wealth of knowledge from other members and services that will enhance and further your writing career. Please take the time to renew. You may send your payment to me (address on this letter) or go to the website and pay through PayPal. We don't want to lose anyone,

Respectfully,

*Connie Crow*, Secretary

## SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBERS

### **Zachary Foster, Kearny (Guild Member since 2008)**

Born and raised in Custer County, Nebraska. Zach graduated from Anselmo-Merna High with a class of only thirty students. He then earned a business degree from York College in York, NE. Zach didn't become serious about writing until in college but had always made up entertaining stories for friends and family.

He has a few works published in the *New Authors' Journal* and self-published a book of poetry as well as a book of his own "proverbs." He is particularly fond of that genre called "Cowboy Poetry." Look him up on his MySpace and a FaceBook pages.

### **Lew Hunter, Superior (Guild Member since 2005)**

Lew Hunter has master's degrees from UCLA and Northwestern University and a Doctor of Letters from Nebraska Wesleyan University. He has worked for Columbia, Lorimar, Paramount, Disney, NBC, ABC and CBS as a writer, producer and executive. Currently he is Chair Emeritus of the screenwriting department at UCLA where he professes Screenwriting 434 every Winter Quarter.

After twenty three years in residence at UCLA chairing and teaching, Lew and wife Pamela moved back to Nebraska. Using that mecca of corn and football as his home base, Lew, fellow UCLA professor Linda Voorhees, and Pamela established the Lew Hunter Superior Screenwriting Colony in Superior, Nebraska, population 2,137. From that vantage point, Lew continues to lecture and lead workshops around America and the world, establishing Lew Hunter Screenwriting Colonies in Italy, France and England. (see [www.lewhunter.com](http://www.lewhunter.com)) Lew continues to consult on and write screenplays for pleasure and money. "Not necessarily in that order."

### **Marcus Pelegrimas aka Marcus Galloway, Omaha (Guild Member since 2006)**

Marcus Pelegrimas has worked in several different genres of fiction including western, mystery, horror and fantasy. He has ghostwritten entries in a popular western series. His own western series (written under the pseudonym Marcus Galloway) includes *The Man from Boot Hill* (HarperCollins 2004), *Burying the Past* (HarperCollins 2005), *Dead Man's Promise* (HarperCollins 2006), as well as two upcoming sequels. He also has a second western series published by Berkley entitled *The Accomplice* which features Doc Holliday and will be published in 2007. Some of his short fiction can be seen in various anthologies including *Desperadoes*, *Guns of the West*, *Mystery Street*, *Greatest Hits*, and *Hear the Fear* on audiocassette. He is an avid member of Western Writers of America.

Marcus is thirty-four years old. He graduated with a degree in Criminal Justice and currently lives in Omaha, Nebraska.

### **Cyndy Salzmann, Omaha (Guild Member since 2008)**

Adding to multi-published credits in both fiction and nonfiction, Cyndy's latest project is a light-hearted mystery series set in Omaha which is published by Howard Books – the inspirational imprint of Simon & Schuster Publishing. *Dying to Decorate*, the first book of the Friday Afternoon Club mystery series was released in June, 2005. She is currently contracted for a yet-to-be-titled narrative nonfiction project set in the Jim Crow South

Ms. Salzmann is a popular national speaker at both women's events and writers conferences, a newspaper columnist and the host of a weekly radio feature aired on Moody Broadcasting. As part of the promotion of her books, she has appeared as a guest on more than 100 radio and television programs including Midday Connection, American Family Radio and Decision Today.

Before making the commitment to devote her energies fulltime to writing and speaking, Ms. Salzmann was the principal of the public relations and marketing firm she founded. Salzmann & Associates served a client list that included nonprofit organizations as well as Fortune 500 companies. She holds a Bachelor of Journalism from the University of Missouri, Columbia and has worked as a news reporter in both television and radio.

### **Joe H. Smith, Johnson (Guild Member since 2008)**

Forty-two years ago, Joe and his wife, Marta, moved to Nebraska from New Mexico, where Joe was born. He has farmed and run a welding shop most of his life. He has written articles for a couple of small local papers. One of his sidelines is teaching "dowsing" in several states. He and his wife have given talks at close to twenty conferences.

Joe's self-published book *My Life & Times as Harve Bodine* resulted from a past life reading he had while in Dallas, Texas, when he met himself as Harve. He didn't think too much about it until the Smiths stopped for coffee and a roll at the St. James Hotel in Cimarron, New Mexico. Joe entered the room to encounter a déjà vu vision. He was Harve witnessing men killed there back in the 1860's. He knew he had to write the story and just let Harve dictate it. That book took a long of time due to his two-finger typing. Marta corrected the spelling and sentence construction. She would be the first to tell you Joe was more interested in horses and girls when he was in school. Now, Joe is motivated to keep on with the storytelling, thus he joined the Guild.

### **Ruth Thone, Lincoln, NE (Guild Member since 1981)**

Former First Lady of Nebraska, Ruth Raymond Thone has authored *Women and Aging*, *Celebrating Ourselves*, *FAT: A Fate Worse Than Death*, and *Being Home*. She still writes a bi-monthly column for *Lincoln Journal Star's* Neighborhood Extra, as well as free-lances for the UNL Alumni Magazine and Nebraska Life. She is also a speaker for Nebraska Humanities Council. Her manuscript about life in politics is under consideration at University of Nebraska Press.

## PEER POINTERS

### Topic: Proofreading Techniques

#### Mary Jo Caffrey, Gretna

The global village and rising education levels worldwide contribute to the flood of submissions for every publishing inch available. With overflowing in-baskets, it's an easy editorial decision to reject submissions with spelling or grammatical errors. Our job as writers is to produce quality work that catches the editor's eye for the right reasons.. Proofreading is imperative.

Use every available resource to proof your work before sending it out. I use the "Tools" button on my computer menu, red-pencil a hard copy myself, and hand a final draft to other people for review.

The computer is your friend—use it! "Tools" has spelling and grammar checks, the latter including options like "word count," "number of sentences," and "readability." These computer tools help you see your work as the sum of its parts and how well those parts work together.

Your own hard-copy review must include reading the work aloud, to hear the rhythm and catch any computer software glitches, like an incorrect, but correctly spelled "their" for "there." People catch errors the computer misses. Ask fellow writers to review your work and/or smart relatives or friends. These fresh, knowledgeable eyes can find typos and make valuable content suggestions, as well.

This editorial triad of computer, self, and others provides the greatest value in producing a manuscript ready for submission. The proof is in putting your draft in the right hands.

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#### Maxine Isackson, Brady

I proof my work on the computer a number of times then print off a paper copy and proof that. When publisher sends me their final copy, I proof that again. I never seem to be through proof reading.

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#### Carolyn Scheidies, Kearney

No matter how good we are at editing, chances are we authors are not the best editors of our own work. I certainly am not.

If at all possible, I have others go over my manuscripts and take seriously suggestions made for changes.

I rely heavily on my writer's group which has developed into an excellent critique group. For longer works I seek out willing, competent individuals to go over my manuscript. My best "proof" technique is another pair of eyes.

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#### Valerie Vierk, Ravenna

As we all know, proofreading can be tedious because typos are insidious. It's all too easy to miss tiny ones like "it" when you mean "if". Last week on my 15<sup>th</sup> pass through a short book, I caught "bar" when I meant "ban". What works best for me is to let a document sit for a week or two, and then when you go back to proof it (again) the typos usually jump right out at you.

When I was writing my first book, I put myself into an imaginary time crunch, set a limit on when I absolutely had to send it to the printer—or else—and that caused exhaustion and missing of too many typos. Since some publishers charge you for each correction, this can get pricey.

Of course, letting friends who are good spellers read your work is also good if you can find someone who has the time. Tell your proofreaders to use red ink and not be afraid to write on the manuscript. (Tiny pencil corrections are easily missed.) If your book is historical and has lots of international geographic names that a proofreader might not be familiar with, give them a typed sheet of the correct spelling. Do the same for proper names with unusual spellings.

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#### Sally Walker, Ralston

To begin with, I reread previous day's pages to start new day and revise/proof as I go along, then reread each chapter when that's done, looking for misspelled words, typos, sentence variety. I have a daily page goal and force myself to push to keep that goal even as I proof.

Once completed, I read my manuscript eight more times looking for different "things" each time, my "problem areas": 1) First sentence of subsequent paragraphs for variety, 2) Word "Search" for passive "to be" forms, 3) read each main character from beginning to end (via "Search") looking for consistency of description & dialogue (read that aloud), 4) Look for story's signposts at reasonable intervals (going by Paradigm comparison to pages), 5) Skim for "white space" LOOK for an overall feel of balance of narrative density with dialogue, 6) Reread first & last paragraphs of chapters for hooks, 7) "Search" commas for proper use, 8) Spell check.

Finally, I ask at least THREE peers to read, people who are knowledgeable of the specific genre.

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#### Connie Crow, Bellevue

I've learned that if you have to proof your own work, you must come to the work with "new eyes". That means giving a space of time and activity between finishing the project and proofing it. At least twenty-four hours should pass between completion and final proof. The more time the better, a week works fairly well. Once the project has gone "cold" in your mind, you will see all the things your mind filled in or ignored while you worked. I'm always amazed and appalled at what I've missed.

## Short Notes of Interest to Writers

**FOGGED CLARITY MAGAZINE**  
[www.foggedclarity.com](http://www.foggedclarity.com)

Visit the website of this new literary magazine and check out its quality and submission policy for short stories, poetry and visual media. It is a monthly on-line magazine. From those issues they select and PAY for material for their three PRINT issues a year.

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**CREATIVE SCREENWRITING MAGAZINE**

An established publication for the film industry, *CREATIVE SCREENWRITING* has put out a call for freelance article pitches. More information can be found about their needs and process at: <http://creativescreenwriting.com/pitch.article.idea.html>

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**EDUCATING THE GOVERNOR**

Any writer interested in helping to GROW the film industry and its opportunities in the State of Nebraska can start by communicating your interests and concerns with your STATE SENATOR and GOV.DAVE HIENEMAN.

The Governor persists in thinking 1) any tax incentive bill takes money from the state and 2) the only ones who benefit are "foreign" companies. Neither concept is valid. Several states have booming film industries AND local independent film companies creating jobs and money flow.

For example, here in 2009 alone, Nebraska lost several productions to Iowa, Tennessee and Louisiana.

Learn more. "Film in Nebraska" <http://filminne.ning.com> is a group of Nebraska film professionals working to create a viable tax incentive bill to present to the 2010 Legislature. They are conducting presentations on exactly how film making in our state can bring revenue to local communities and the state as a whole, and how independents in our state will benefit.

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