

the Broadside

Nebraska Writers Guild

An Official Writers Organization of Nebraska Since 1925

November 2008

ARE YOU WRITING FOR THE JUVENILE MARKET?

The Nebraska chapter of the Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators (SCBWI) will hold its annual conference on March 28, 2009, at the Durham Western heritage Museum in Omaha. For more details, contact Nona Morison (nonaedits@yahoo.com or 402-763-9662).

If writing for Young Adult & Middle School readers, you will want to check out a three-part series hosted at the St. Benedict Retreat in Schuyler, Mar 22-24.

"First Drafts" will be taught by Elaine Alpin, a multi-pub & Writers Digest book author.

Oct 4-6, "Revising" will be conducted by SCBWI regional adviser Darcy Patterson. The final part, Apr 18-20, 2010, "Selling" will be presented by Harper-Collins Editor Jill Santoplo and Stephen Barbara of the Donald Maass Literary Agency.

Registration deadline is in Feb but only the first 12 will be accommodated.

Contact Nancy Wagner (nsharpwriter@yahoo.com or 402-721-0241)

Our Own "Nebraska Cattleman"



Life member Robert Howard of Alliance with his four volumes of bound interviews of 225 Nebraska homesteaders from the NEBRASKA CATTLEMAN Magazine, 1952 to 1987, under consideration by Bison Books.

Did you publish ANYTHING in 2008?

If you published a poem, article, book or had a stage play, film script or song first performed in in 2008, PLEASE send the title, publication/performance information with your name to Sally (sallyjwalker@cox.net or 8032 Main Street, Ralston, NE 68127) before Jan 25, 2009. A website page will be constructed in February to feature the listing of all materials published/produced in the previous year written by NWG members.

Listings will be alphabetical by author name under the genres of "Drama" "Fiction" Non-Fiction" and "Poetry/Song." Please designate the genre of the listing. It does not matter if you had several poems, articles, essays, books. Each will be listed. DO NOT send any information if the copyright is prior to 2008 OR if it is being released in 2009. We only want 2008 works. E-books and e-zine articles are acceptable but BLOGS are not, despite the argument that some say those are essays.

Univ of NE Press publishes 2008 Nobel Prize Winner

J. M. G. LeClezio, one of France's best contemporary writers, has been awarded the 2008 Nobel Prize in Literature. The University of Nebraska Press has published this man's ONITSHA and THE ROUND AND OTHER COLD HARD FACTS among their 200 books translated from five other languages.

Don't Forget: Dues are payable in January, 2009.

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Mark your Calendars:

New mid-summer program —

Write Across Nebraskasm

July 17-18-19

Details coming in February.

NOTES FROM YOUR STAFF:

From the President (Sally): 2008 has been a year of reconfiguring the business of the Guild. 2009 will be aimed at expanding programming. The North Platte people proved a fantastic conference could light the membership fires. We will carry that flame forward with several new programs across the entire state. We are purposefully, avidly advertising the Guild and its members, as well as recruiting members. Our mission is to infiltrate every corner of our state and explode our enthusiasm for writing in all its forms. We NEED every member to fully participate and not just be an observer! YOU need to talk about the Guild and your writing, engage kids in the process, share in a writers group, pursue your craft education, and commit yourself to attend every event the Guild sponsors. Only through YOUR efforts will this organization remain a vital component in the literary life of Nebraska.

From the Secretary (Connie): We have almost doubled in size this past year, providing new members with a packet of useful information of how to get involved, how to keep informed. Our brochures are now being distributed at the visitor centers of founders Cather, Neihardt, Sandoz and Aldrich. Your 2009 Renewal Letter will include the Annual Members Financial Report for 2008, as well as a postcard asking for your feedback on how we're doing. And I am putting my Grant-writing education to use for the Guild to seek more monies to help in our expanded programming goals.

From the Treasurer (Lea): With the 2008 budget being a pure "guess-timate," we were pleased that the additional expenses of printing and mailing were balanced by the increase in new memberships. Sally and I will be better prepared to plan a realistic 2009 budget. The Spring and Fall conferences were close to self-supporting. We are currently in a solid financial position to maintain the status quo. However, in order to provide "bigger and better" conferences that will mean higher conference fees, as painful as that may sound. Support NWG by paying your dues between Jan 1 and May 1 and coming to the conferences. Your participation will only benefit you. And buy the NWG merchandise from Cafe Press. We made almost \$100 from that, plus you advertised the organization.

From the Vice-President/Programming (Charlie): The Spring 2009 Conference at Mahoney in April MIGHT surpass North Platte's great conference. Val and Carolyn already have the 2009 October conference in Kearney almost carved in stone. Both committees are using the new NWG CONFERENCE GUIDELINES as a checklist to make the process smoother. The NWG Speakers Bureau has enthusiastic members doing presentations every single month somewhere in the state. The evaluations of speakers and schools have been gratifying. I am particularly looking forward to the July event that will have retreats held on the same weekend in Brownville, Grand Island and out in the panhandle. I didn't know what I was getting into when I volunteered, but I have no regrets so far!

From the Publicity Chair (Hugh): We will be using the NE Press Association Directory to advertise in 2009 and will continue to rely on the good press we've been getting from the Omaha World Herald and its affiliate papers across the state, as well. Please send any clippings you see in your local papers so we know we are reaching the right places. The NPR ads I recorded have been running periodically. We hope to get them to other outlets. Besides the State Fair, we have had booths at other Nebraska events. Consider contacting your county fair organizers or any literature or book fest committees in your area to set up your own table to advertise the Guild and yourself. If there is a fee charged, contact any of us on the Board to see if we have it in the budget to help.

From the Membership Chair (Scott): Now that we've gone over 150 (yeah) members, I want to go after former members to give us another look. We have so many new opportunities to network and grow as writers. I have gotten addresses out of recent past BULLETINS and will be sending out "Come on back" letters over the next few months. Though few, I am pleased that teen students and teachers have come to us following presentations by our speakers. And, our members who belong to national organizations are encouraging their peers in those groups to give NWG a try. In supporting the various writers groups around the state, we hope to see their members supporting us in turn.

From the Webmaster (Andrew): Time management is the master of our destiny, at least in my life! Right now, it does NOT look like I will have the time to create the much anticipated "Bios" pages for each member. Only the quarterly updates to the website fit into my professional schedule. My apologies. One simple addition will be the "Published in 2008" page coming to the website in February. Hopefully, that will help those of you published/produced in the past year get some much deserved recognition. I appreciate the kind comments Sally has been forwarding me.

Nebraska Sales Tax – Summary of selected information as of September 30, 2008

By Gayce Janky, CPA (17124 Patterson Dr., Omaha, NE 68135 Phone 402-880-4393)

This is not intended to be a comprehensive overview of sales tax, but was prepared to answer specific questions regarding "direct sales of books" by the book author. For a complete listing of regulations contact the Nebraska Department of Revenue or your tax advisor to determine how the Nebraska sales and use tax laws pertain to your situation.

Overview

Generally, there are NO exceptions under Nebraska law for payment of sales tax on the sale of tangible personal property. Even if you make only one sale at \$14.95 you are still responsible to collect and remit sales tax.

The "occasional sale" exception applies to once/year garage sales (your personal stuff – tax was paid at the time of the original purchase).

Sales tax rates are reviewed and possibly changed at least annually. As of September 2008 the rates are:

State of Nebraska 5.5%

Omaha, Lincoln and North Platte rates today 1.5%

City rates vary from 0.0% to 1.5% there is a "Sales Tax Rate Finder" on the Dept. website

One form is filed with the Department for both the state and local (city) tax you collect. You must separate the local tax by taxing authority. For example Omaha, Lincoln, North Platte.

The tax rate that applies is based on where the "physical sale" takes place. If you are selling books at a venue in Iowa or Colorado, the rules for that state apply AND there is no Nebraska tax to collect and pay in.

Once you are registered to collect and remit, the Department sends out the forms BUT YOU are responsible for remitting the form and money timely – even if the form is lost in the mail

Once registered, you are in the system and forms will automatically be sent until you notify the Department your business has closed.

Complete and mail ALL forms you receive – even if there are no sales and nothing to remit
Be sure to keep a copy of the form you submit

If you are initially registered as an "annual filer" YOU are responsible for advising the Department if your sales volume goes up and you need to be remitting taxes on a more frequent basis.

How to get started

To collect and remit sales tax in Nebraska you must first register your business by completing Form 20 (Nebraska Tax Application) found on the Nebraska Department of Revenue website: <http://www.revenue.ne.gov>

On the Home page click "Businesses" then "Business Registration" for Form 20

Form 20 is a "one size fits all"

All applicants must complete Sections 1-12 (page one) and Section 16 on page two

Section 13 pertains to sales tax - the other sections may or may not apply

Form 20 can be completed on-line but must be printed, signed and then faxed or mailed in

Keep a copy of the completed Form for your records

Then What?

Keep books and records to support the sales you made and the tax you collected (seven years).

If your business changes, be sure to discuss the changes with your tax advisor to determine your tax status.



3823 Coffey Ave
Bellevue, NE 68123

Check out the New Website: <http://www.nebraskawriters.org/>

Write your state senators. . .TODAY!

DO YOU KNOW YOUR STATE SENATOR?

Find out your state senator's name and address, whether newly elected or returning to the State Legislature in 2009. You have a job to do. You are being asked to write a succinct letter to both your representative and the Governor regarding the need for film-making tax incentives similar to those that have brought revenue, business and creative opportunities into the State of New Mexico.

Previous bills have stalled or were defeated because of skewed concepts of exactly who is pocketing money, the film-makers or the citizens of the state. We want to change that concept to entice big production companies and to help our own home-grown independent producers to use Nebraska sites and artists, as well as spend money in Nebraska

communities. Why are members of NWG asked to do this? Because some of our members are screenwriters who want the opportunity to be involved in productions. This is a matter of writers helping writers.

EVERYONE needs to get involved in writing these letters, from your local newspaper editor to your own Chamber of Commerce. The Omaha Chamber of Commerce already has their ducks lined up. Film makers and entertainment personalities with Nebraska roots are preparing to come home to speak to the legislators. We are living in tough economic times and these people WANT to bring money into the state.

Senator Nantkes will be restructuring his new bill after the January session begins. When it goes before the Revenue Committee, four

main representatives of the film industry will speak. When the bill goes to floor, we will want as many people as possible in those galleries urging passage. Let's convince our legislature that film-making in Nebraska is needed and welcome!

Write to the Governor at:

Gov. Dave Heineman
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 94848
Lincoln, NE 68509-4848

And write to your representative **NOW** . . . It takes only a few moments to type out a message, print it, sign it, fold it into an addressed envelope and affix a stamp. Help bring writing opportunities to Nebraska writers!