



Nebraska Writers Guild

Excellence in Writing Since 1925

September, 2017

Fall Conference Changes Names

The Fall 2017 Nebraska Writers Guild conference has changed its name to Greater Nebraska Writers conference. This name better reflects the intent of the By-laws for the fall conferences. The NWG board decided that the name change would be more attractive to the public.

The conference is scheduled for October 20-21, 2017 at The Leadership Center, 2211 Q Street in Aurora, Nebraska. Early registration for members is \$65 (before October 1) After October 1st, registration will be \$85. Non-member registration is \$85.

Cost does not include lodging and for an additional \$14.00, (paid to the Nebraska Writers Guild in advance) you may eat lunch at the center on Saturday.

Please visit our website, www.Nebraskawriters.org, to register. A detailed schedule is also posted there. The four keynote speakers and their subjects include: Linda Camacho-How to Keep Going in This Tough Business; Alan Wilkinson- By Hook or By Crook-Making a Living as a Writer ; Rachel Aukes,-World Building at Your Fingertips; Tamsen Butler-Writing for the Internet: The Benefit of Brevity.

As the Guild did with the Spring Conference, there will be some small seminars on Friday afternoon. These small presentations were well received and we look forward to more of them. If you have a subject you would like to present, please let a board member know.

Elections at the Fall Business Meeting

According to the By-Laws of the Guild, Board positions under the 2016 Revised By-laws are approved in alternating odd and even years at the fall business meeting. The following are the positions up for renewing/filling this fall and the nominees being presented by the Nominating Committee:

President - Wayne Anson

Membership Secretary - Charles Lieske

Historian - Traci Robison

Don't forget to volunteer for the Guild's activities and think seriously about being on the Guild's Board of Directors. Only with your help can the guild grow. Remember each board member serves only a two year term, three terms max. It will make you more aware of the goings along behind the scenes and will give you valuable networking experience. See Article on page 2 for a related change to the Guild's by-laws.

Proposed By-Law Change Up for Vote

A proposed amendment to the current By-laws will be presented at the Greater Nebraska Writers Conference (fall conference).

Present Wording:

7.1.5. Election. The members of the Guild must elect the individual officers of the Guild. Officers may not be elected as a slate. Voting is only permitted by General Members and Life Members. The Official Written Ballots will be mailed to all eligible members at least 30 days prior to the Fall Conference meeting and include a stamped addressed return envelope. Ballots must be returned before or at the time of registration at the Fall conference to be included in the final count.

Proposed Wording:

7.1.5. Election. The members of the Guild must elect the individual officers of the Guild. Officers may not be elected as a slate. Voting is only permitted by General Members and Life Members. An official written ballot, link to a printable official ballot, or link to an online voting forum will be distributed to all eligible members at least 30 days prior to the fall conference business meeting. Completed ballots must be received by the Guild, or electronic voting completed by the end of the scheduled registration time at the fall conference to be included in the final count.

NWG 2017 Anthology Book Receives a Setback

Several months ago, the Nebraska Writers Guild announced the production of a 2017 anthology of our members' writings. Things have moved along well with the exception of one problem, financing.

This project is above and beyond our membership fees. At the time of the announcement, a GoFundMe page was set up to raise the necessary capital for this project to be completed. A nominal submission fee above the go fund me page may not raise enough funds to proceed and meet the original "by Christmas" timeline.

At the last NWG board meeting, it was decided to postpone the project until sufficient funding is available. The GoFundMe page is still active and any donations are tax deductible since we are a 501c(3) non-profit.

If you still want this 2017 Nebraska Writers Guild Anthology by Christmas, we will have to raise the funds quickly. We hope to have submission instructions out by September 15, 2017. Any donation can advance the cause and help prevent delaying the Anthology publish date until the Spring Conference, 2018.

Did You Know?

Dr. Louise Pound (1872-1958) compiled her selections for the book Nebraska Folklore, printed by the University Press not long before her death?

Report from the Guild President

Yes, I am very tired after the Six Corners of Nebraska events. I owe a big thanks to Cort Fernald my co-planner and live events coordinator, the many Guild authors who did readings and staffed authors tables, the fourteen special presenters, and the six writers workshop leaders. We now have a list of twelve or more requests for additional programs in the far flung corners of our state. But, let's talk about the future. Due to the 33% loss in attendance at the Annual Spring Conference over the past two years, we are in dire need to spend more wisely and rebuild our capital on hand.

The Board has been discussing this since the first big loss last year and will be initiating new policies related to support of speakers, fund-raising, conference registration costs, and hopefully creating some new money making opportunities. After all in the past two years, our memberships, membership benefits, and services offered to the community have grown rapidly.

Our profile statewide has never been higher and possibly never as positive within such a wide range of people, organizations, and businesses. Likewise, the depth of resources available from our own members is amazing as is your willingness to offer assistance, workshops, and other programming to benefit your fellow members. We plan to highlight those professional skills by taking you up on your offers. The Nebraska Writers Guild is all about supporting and helping one another in any way we can from the new person exploring writing through those well established in their writing careers.

Self published authors received 40% of the revenue from publishing last year according to some reports I have read. Look for better balance of agent/publisher one-on-ones as we bring our opportunities into the new realities of publishing. Self-published authors received 40% of the revenue from publishing last year according some of the reports I have read.

By the way, look over the new six elective workshops at the Greater Nebraska Writers Conference. This is the second time six electives have been made available at a conference. These are possible because we now begin the conferences at 3:00 pm on Friday.

And, please note the new name for what was formerly called Fall Conference. To acknowledge our awareness and support for authors beyond the metro areas and to communicate the respect and value we have for our members from those areas, fall conference is now known as the Greater Nebraska Writers Conference. Last year the attendance in the fall began to rival that of our Annual Spring Conference. Hmm...

Writers Guild Members Take on the Heat at Nebraska Book Festival

Several members of the Nebraska Writers Guild spent a very hot day on the Union Plaza in Lincoln, July 15. The heat kept a huge crowd from the event but the guild's drawing for books went over well. All of the books were given away. There were several persons interested in the guild. Thanks to Don, Faith, Doreen, Jason, Nancy, Kolleen, and Jennifer for manning the booth. This was also the Write Across Nebraska weekend. I know many words were not written by those who manned the booth, but if each bead of perspiration was a word, they wrote quite a few pages worth.

Six Corners of Nebraska is a Hit

The Six Corners of Nebraska project, Nebraska Writers Guild’s gift to Nebraskans celebrating our 150 years of statehood, ended August 6, 2017. This NE 150 Commission Signature Event took place in Nebraska’s Northwest (Chadron), Northeast (Norfolk), Southeast (Bellevue), Southwest (McCook), Big Springs Corner (North Platte), and Panhandle Southwest (Kimball) from March 1st through August 6th. The total on-site attendance statewide counted 479 individuals. 129 young people from at least 29 schools participated in the “Future Great Writers of Nebraska” Contest and/or attended one of the six events.

This thirteen month long project – from first planning till last event – was supported by over 126 volunteers and gave voice to 71 authors and presenters. The project cost \$13,631.22, received \$5,937.40 in donations, \$4,373.00 in grants, and \$1,850.00 in direct income. In addition over \$34,819.47 of in-kind (printing, time, travel, travel expenses) services are not reflected in those figures.

Reviewing the new memberships that followed each event, it appears that 30 new members signed up most of them from west of Grand Island. Requests to sponsor new activities poured in and our profile statewide grew exponentially. People often stated they did not know we existed. Thanks to the participation and support of the Nebraska Writers Guild members, we provided a topnotch program.

Future Great Writers of Nebraska Participants

Congratulations to all of our participants

Bellevue

Rebekah Turnbull Sydnee Bell Chloe Bergsten Chloe Louise Workman Clara Pohlman McKenna Sender
Tesa Weddle McKinzie Rine Arron Redding Hanna Jemison Jonathan Tichenor Lindsay Wirka
Paige Arnold Deja Everhart

Kimball

Bailie Staab Briell Alwin Tanner Whetham Christopher Martin David George

McCook

Trace Piska Madison Cervera Maloree Graf Adrienne Labay Avery Johnson
Becca Tietz Ethan Broker Addison Broz Kailynn Rodewald
Julia Broker Connor Sandall Sophia Johnson MacKenzie Smith

North Platte

Simran Shaw J.T. Bradley Trace Piska Gabriell Kissell McKenzie Stefka
Abigail Wiest Sara Smith Anna Olson Christian Urugutia Christopher Martin

Chadron

Emma Cogdill Morgan Rutledge Alexis Conboy Hanna Walker Kennedy Trueblood
Kadence Wild Kenzie Robinson Madeline Pelton

Norfolk - no participants

Spring Conference Update

The 2018 Spring NWG Conference is scheduled for April 6-7, 2018. It will be held at the Carol Joy Holling Retreat Center in Ashland, Nebraska. This center is located just west of Mahoney State Park. Unforeseen circumstances kept us from the LaVista Conference Center for this year.

If you have ideas on what you would like to see at the conference, now is the time to speak up. Contact any of the board members. They are currently discussing tweaks to the conference. If you would like to volunteer to assist working at the conference, give a presentation, etc, let the board know. This is your guild, let us know what you want.

New Reader-Event Notification Program

Please sign up for the Reader-Event Notification Program. Sign up at www.nebraskawriters.org. Then, let us know when you publish or republish a book, have a film coming out, are offering a training program, or are just participating in an author event such as readings or book signings. We notify people in our database. This can help you reach new sales and contacts, help find paying customers for your event, inform you of opportunities in and out of the Guild, and help the rest of us support you at your author events or attend events, workshops ,and conferences with you. Let's get 1000 people signed up for the Reader-Event Notification Program. That's 3 new people for each one of you. We can easily provide you paper copies to take with you to events to help this program grow and go nationwide.

NWG to have Booth at Nebraska Library Association Conference

From Brigid Amos,

I'm organizing the NWG booth at the Nebraska Library Association conference this year, October 12 and 13 in Kearney. At this point I would just like to get a sense of who's interested and put you on a mailing list, so no commitments yet. The shifts will be two to three hours, depending on the number of people who work the booth, and two to three authors at a time depending on traffic. Exhibits are open 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 12th, with an Exhibitor's Reception from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. On Friday, October 13th, exhibits will be open from 8:00 a.m. to Noon. You can sell books and/or give books/swag away during your shift. The nice thing about this event is that the attendees are librarians, so yes, they are interested in books.

Please email me at brigidamos@gmail.com if you are interested in working a shift at the NWG booth at the NLA/NLSA conference. Thanks!

Question

If walking is a series of controlled falls-Is falling a series of uncontrolled walks?

Membership Spotlight

Marilyn June Coffey

I've led the most amazing life, lately. Cataract surgery on both eyes. But kept working on my latest book, THAT PUNK JIMMY HOFFA! Then my sister died. I shuddered, but I kept right on plugging away on my book. Her son's death—suicide from grief—really shook me, but the last minute changes on THAT PUNK JIMMY HOFFA! needed to be made, so I made them. At last, on July 30th, I launched my book, to the prerequisite bells and whistles. Then, after a 15-year relationship, I put down my cat. Cancer.

Don't send any condolences. I'm doing okay. I have a new cat and my just-launched book looks swell. The back cover copy of THAT PUNK JIMMY HOFFA! reads this way:

Award-winning Great Plains writer Marilyn Coffey recounts her family's intricate dance with the Teamsters, beginning with her dad's tiny trucking company spawned on a front porch in 1929, in a David-and-Goliath encounter that spanned decades.

In 1956, Tom Coffey knuckled under Jimmy Hoffa's six-month-long Teamsters strike. He sold his twenty-seven-year-old truckline, Coffey's Transfer Company, rather than sign Hoffa's contract.

But the story didn't end there—and Hoffa didn't win after all. In 1958, the Coffey family gathered in Washington, DC, to see Tom testify against Jimmy Hoffa before then-Senator John F. Kennedy and Robert Kennedy, the Rackets committee's counsel who had sworn to put Hoffa behind bars.

Get the exclusive insider's perspective with Marilyn's firsthand narrative of the feud in THAT PUNK JIMMY HOFFA!

On July 30th, I welcomed into the world my latest book, THAT PUNK JIMMY HOFFA! Hoffa himself stalked my father's small, regional trucking company in Nebraska for years. He caused great distress to my family, even death threats with typical Teamsters' dirty tricks and shyster lawyers to shut down my father, who never knuckled under the giant Teamsters' thumb. I attended congressional hearings and state legislative deliberations where I watched my father beat Jimmy Hoffa. And I was delighted when Hoffa was found missing—many years after my father had to sell out and move on.

A journalist by training and storyteller by craft, I tell my father's story in a memoir with plenty of colorful dialogue based on the history of the Teamsters versus Coffey's Transfer in tiny Alma, Nebraska—a real David and Goliath story because, in the end, my family won. I also tell my own brutally frank coming-of-age story set in New York's Greenwich Village during the bucolic hippie days and the stirrings of equal rights and gay rights movements.

THAT PUNK JIMMY HOFFA!

A slice of history with Nebraska roots

Did you Know?

The hangar at the Naval Air Station, Lakehurst, New Jersey where the Graf Zeppelin Hindenburg was held inside and where it crashed in 1936 is still in service with the Navy? It has been noted for decades that, depending on the weather, clouds form inside of it. This not to mention the ghost sightings reported by sailors on watch at night.

Membership Spotlight

Carolyn R. Scheidies

I continue to write my columns for the Kearney Hub and contribute articles and poems to the monthly KCWC Newsletter. I've continued to update and republish some of my works for which I now have the rights again. I am also working on a book of writing, updating and integrating the many years of published articles on writing, plus the classes taught at UNK and CCC and at conferences over the years. I'm finding the book more of a project than I first envisioned. (Famous last words.) Website: idealinhope.com

Cort Fernald

I have just released *Keeper: Trial & Vengeance*, a continuation of the Keeper series started with *Keeper of an Ordinary*. *Keeper: Trial & Vengeance* is an international thriller set in Omaha and the Chicago area, as well as Delhi India and Odessa, Ukraine.

Richard Rice, investigative reporter, is an average Joe. Ask Rich his name and he'll reply: "I'm Rich, Richard, Richie...don't call me Dick, Rice." But Rich's life changes when he writes a series on the Russian Mafia's human trafficking and prostitution in the Chicago area. The Russians come after him. After an attempt on his life, Rich flees Chicago, hiding out in South Omaha and running a bar named The Ordinary. He is off-the-grid, and known only as Keeper. The Mafia boss is a Ukrainian woman named Irina 'Suka' Franko. It's her crazy son Nicky Franko who finds Rich and is killed in a shoot-out at The Ordinary. Suka is wounded and escapes to Russia on a Great Lakes 'saltie' freighter. She then hides out at an abandon KGB villa in India.

Rich is subpoenaed to appear before a grand jury. When the grand jury's findings aren't to the Russian Mafia's liking, they kidnap and kill Rich's wife, Gisele. Vowing revenge, Rich travels to India to kill Suka. He will keep his promise to Gisele, even if he is killed in the attempt.

Anashta Celovich

It was a long, hard road lasting two and a half decades. With encouragement from loved ones, I finally put all seriousness into publishing my literary children on the first of June. I am a third-generation author. My mother has published three Christian novellas and my grandmother's children's book was recently posthumously published.

Metamorphosis is a collection of over 110 pieces of deeply psychological poetry that began as a way to cope with the traumas I experienced throughout my life. Writing poetry eventually morphed into something I both need and enjoy today. Although there are some humorous pieces and a few love poems in the book, for the most part the pieces in this book are not pretty. They claw deep into the filth of my psyche and bring to light parts of me I didn't want exposed to the world, initially.

Most of the pieces are presented so the trauma itself is not named or described, but the emotions are addressed throughout the pieces abstractly. They were birthed from emotional release, which allowed me to navigate the troubled waters of life without drowning.

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Writing Prompts



Write a short story about these relaxed wild turkeys by the side of the road.



Describe the events that will happen when the truck and car hit the traffic ahead.

What would happen when you went to sleep and started dreaming and woke up-only to find that the dream wasn't a dream but is now your real life?