

The Owl's Hoot

Official Newsletter of
The Ozarks Writers League 501(c)(3)
ozarkswritersleague.com ozarkwriters@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Anne Roberts - areadywriter2@gmail.com

February 2018 **Volume 32, No. 1**

Contents:	
Out on a Limb/President's Bio	1
Why I Write	2-4
To Do List	3
Legendary Cowboy	4
Author Update	5-6
Kudos	6-7
Survey/Totes/Fundraiser	7
Ozarks Writers League Minutes	8
Conference Agenda	9
Guest Speakers	9-10

Out on a Limb OWL Has a Purpose

By: **Lori Ericson**



I make my way to Branson from the northwest corner of Arkansas several times a year and never go home disappointed. It's not just the speakers I learn from, but also other OWLs. The sharing of knowledge about the business of writing and the openness of OWLs on their passion for the art, inspire me every time I make the trip. Because of that unwavering comradery, I am honored to take the helm.

Soon after I agreed to accept the nomination to president of Ozarks Writers League, I looked up the bylaws, printed them out, and made notes in the margins to highlight what I thought was important along with a few surprises. As a former newspaper reporter and now a city planner, I was frankly surprised to find the stated purposes of OWL pretty much match how I've seen it function. Often, purposes for which organizations are formed are lost as the years go by.

The first purpose of OWL listed in its bylaws is "To bring into closer relationship the writers, photographers, and artists of the Ozarks so that the members may receive mutual inspiration, information, and amusement; that distinguished writers, publishers, editors, agents, photographers, and artists may, from time to time, be entertained by the League; that the members may speak through the League as members on matters relating to the welfare of their calling, to the end that the high principles established by its individual members may be maintained and perpetuated." Done!

Another stated purpose is "To promote writing, literacy and expression of the human experience through the activities of writing, photography and art." Yes! That is OWL!

One thing I learned by studying the bylaws was the emphasis the organizers of OWL had on "preservation of the written and historic traditions of the Ozarks." I believe we have that covered by the writings of many OWL members. Other purposes include the raising of funds and the methods the

League can use to promote its goals such as owning property or rights to articles, etc. The final stated purpose talks about supporting youth "literary efforts and literacy through scholarships, contests, community involvement, and any other activity deemed appropriate by the League." Our annual youth writing contest addresses that goal along with OWL's open arms and low-cost student membership fees to welcome young writers.

Despite all the vital rules that follow the stated purposes of this wonderful organization, I believe the purposes listed in the beginning are the most important part of the bylaws.

However, the rules are absolutely vital. They keep OWL functioning. I promise as president to read the bylaws before every meeting of the OWL Board of Directors and do my best to uphold the rules that make these goals and purposes possible.

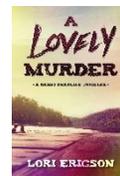
I also want the membership to know how much I appreciate my fellow board members and officers who do the work to make our quarterly meetings possible. Those efforts support OWL's purposes and goals.

Thank you for your faith in me. I'm honored and proud to be an OWL!

PRESIDENT BIO:



Lori Ericson grew up in her family-owned cemetery and spent years as a newspaper reporter, but isn't sure which experience helped more to shape the dark stories that spill from her head. The author and her husband, Lloyd, live in northwest Arkansas with their rescue dogs Charlie and Otis, where she often drags them all off to walk through old cemeteries occasionally. Lloyd insists those walks occur during the daylight hours.



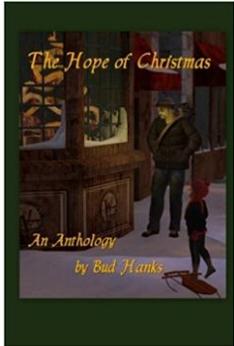
A Lovely Murder received The President's Award and 1st Place in the Unpublished Manuscript contest from Ozark Writers League in 2015. *A Lovely County*, the first novel in the *Lovely* series, was published in January 2015. Look for *A Lovely Grave* in 2018 from Pen-L Publishing.

Contact Information: loriericson.author@gmail.com
loriericson.com

Why I Write

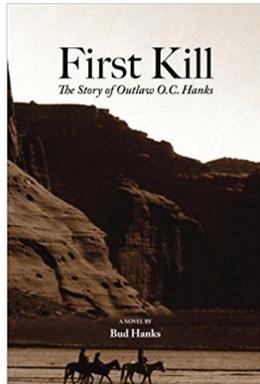
By: Bud Hank

Could it be because I might die or be handicapped if I didn't? In my case that is a truism, due to a hemorrhagic stroke on June 5, 2006. I lost my right side and slurred my words. After sitting around the house until the end of June, I decided to research myself and came to the conclusion that the best defense was a strong offense.



I went to the golf driving range, took a Velcro strap and tied my right hand to a golf club and hit balls. I started writing short stories, poems, and working on a novel I had set aside. I also started writing with both hands.

The middle of September 2006 I went back to playing golf and continued writing. I went to my Neurologist and he was amazed that I had recovered as well as I had. He told me that I must have reprogrammed my brain with crossover thoughts/actions. He said he would have to research how that worked.



Writing saved my life!

Bud has two books on Amazon: *The Hope of Christmas* and *First Kill, The story of Outlaw OC Hanks*. He is currently working on a faction about his time in the Navy at Gitmo and Cuba for the Bay of Pigs.

Contact Information: budzzzz@hotmail.com

Why I Write

By: Sandy Jordan

A shy, four eyed, six-year-old child sat on a pear tree limb holding a book. She felt like she was meant to write, wanted to write and could write. Her first attempt was rejected. Her family discovered what she had done and their ridicule drove the dream deep inside, as a dry spring waiting to burst forth. It was in her senior year of high school that her first short story was printed in the local paper for their Christmas issue.

That was in 1972. Because of the critics remarks I was never confident in my abilities. Recently, sitting in my office, holding my latest article in the Standard, a take home Sunday school paper for adults, a realization swept over me. That dream had come true. This small article of 850 words was going out in the spring lesson packets. That article would be seen by every Nazarene adult in every Nazarene church all over the world.

Even though I have been published in many forms and places I had never thought about who would be reading it or how many. I had been creating word search lists for Kappa for around ten years. How many thousands of people bought those books and worked those puzzles. How many people had read my various columns? Over the years how many people had stopped me to comment on something I had written or asked if I was still writing?

What about the Crowder Quill. I and a handful of students had a dream. We wanted people to have a launch pad for their writing. That miracle of seeing your words in print, and the magazine was born...I christened it the Crowder Quill. That poor magazine has grown, morphed into an award-winning publication. I and my family have been in 80% of the issues. My youngest daughter took the class and I am even mentioned in the text book.

Granted greeting cards, word searches and columns are not as prestigious as a novelist with a string of books and even movie titles but the readership is as vast or even vaster. I do have a novel series that is seeking a publisher. My Cherokee Rose series is dear to my heart and I believe it will be published.

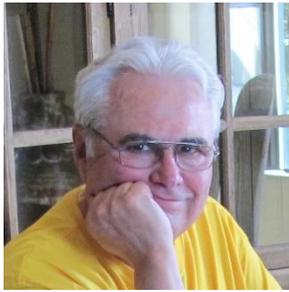
I realize that that little girl's dream has come true. I am touching lives, making, perhaps, a difference.

Critics will undermine you. Even now family members ask, "How much did you pay to be included, or have it published?" Then there are days like this Christmas when my grown granddaughter said to a critic, "My grandmother is an author, she has been published." The pride in her eyes, her face was more precious than a chocolate diamond.

Why do I write? To bring glory to God, to share what grows in me and runs freely as the dry spring in due season. I write because I breathe, it's a part of me, a large part of who I am, without it I am incomplete.

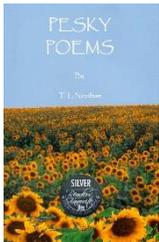
Contact Information:
osandybear@wildblue.net.

Why I Write



By: Terry Needham

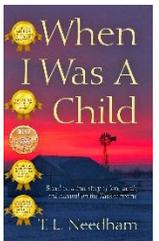
I am a new member to OWL. My wife and I moved to Lake Ozark 1.5 years ago. It was the fulfillment of the top goal on our bucket list. We were high school sweethearts, then life took us in different directions. We reconnected ten years ago on Classmates.com and within two years we got married at Tan Tar A. Yet, we lived in Chicago suburbs then. So, after a few years, we decided to move to the lake. We both grew up in Kansas City. I started writing full-time right after I retired. My books have all won awards and continue to do very well.



In 2008, I published a collection of poetry – **PESKY POEMS**, which was awarded a **SILVER MEDAL** by **READERS FAVORITE**.

As a child I heard tales of survival of my mother's family, who endured life during the 1920s and 1930s in western Kansas.

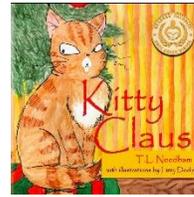
This inspired me to write a historic memoir, *When I Was a Child*, which I published in 2011, after ten years of research. It has received numerous honors, including: **GOLD MEDAL** and **HONORABLE MENTION**, **BEST COVER-GLOBAL EBOOK AWARDS** – History, Non-Fiction; and a **FINALISTS** by **USA BOOK NEWS** –



BEST BOOKS AWARD in the category of **History-USA**. Plus, it was awarded the **BRONZE MEDAL** by **READERS FAVORITE**, a national book review/literary critic/author services firm, and an **HONORABLE MENTION**— **WRITERS DIGEST SELF PUBLISHED BOOK AWARDS**.

My most successful book, *When I Was a Child*, is now also an award-winning screenplay. It relates the non-stop action in a U.S. paratrooper's tale of love, death, and survival, from the plains of Kansas to the battlefields on D-Day. I spent two years writing this screenplay and now seek a production company to make it a film. The screenplay was a **Semi-Finalist** in 2017 - **THE CANNES GOLDEN PLUME INTERNATIONAL** Screenwriting

Competition. Also, a **Quarter-Finalist** in the **WriteMovies Spring 2017 International Screenwriting Contest**.



In 2012, I published an illustrated Christmas story poem — **KITTY CLAUS**, which was awarded a **GOLD MEDAL** by **READERS FAVORITE**. This is a charming children's story-poem book, with wonderful illustrations.



Then in 2015, I published a novella — *The She Wolf*. It is a coming of age fantasy, about a boy, desperate to find his lost dog, enters the woods, only to find a realm beyond his world. Along the way, he discovers an inner strength and resolve, and comes to appreciate and love the natural surroundings of this new home and

its inhabitants. This book received an **HONORABLE** award from **READERS FAVORITE**.

Terry is an award-winning author and a native of Kansas City. He is the author of – *Winning and Keeping Relocation Business* (1986). Needham founded the *Relocation/Realty UPDATE* news magazine during the 1980s and 1990s. He also was an owner, editor and publisher of *Kansas City Parent* magazine. He has a degree in Economics.

Contact Information:

Email: needham@accessus.net

Website: <http://tlnedham.com/>

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/author/tlnedham>

TO DO LIST

- **REGISTER** for the meeting at www.ozarkswritersleague.com
- **Sign up** for a book table (Email loriericson.author@gmail.com)
- **Sign up** to read at Open Mic on Friday evening (Email loriericson.author@gmail.com)
- **Order lunch** on the OWL webpage www.ozarkswritersleague.com
- **Make room reservations** at Honeysuckle Inn— link at OWL website.
- **Write a haiku** about OWL or a favorite book.
- **Invite your writer friends!**

Why I Write

By: Cindy McIntyre

When I read the email to compose a haiku poem for the February meeting, I was inspired. Then I read we could share a short essay for “Why I Write”. I have decided to combine them both into one—why I write told in a series of haiku.

Writing is freedom
Liberating to the soul
With healing powers

The empty pages
Imagination covers
Word by word fulfilled

Page by page it flows
Describing internal strife
Concluding in hope

Stories transport us
Into a different place
Rich with characters

Words are powerful
Tools to share and tools to learn
Writing them can heal

Cindy’s first book *Eulogies Unspoken: Stories of Worth* is available through the publisher and online.

Contact Information: cmcintyre@lebanon.k12.mo.us
missouriauthorcindymcintyre.com

Why I Write



By: Barb Thoma

I write because I can’t help it. What else am I supposed to do with all this great stuff God puts in my head. Oh...and I’m funny. I’m *really* funny!

Barb has written two plays for youth theatrical productions: *A People Blessed*, a Thanksgiving pageant based on the diaries of William Bradford, and *The Mystery of the Missing Minister*, a three-act mystery/comedy. Both plays are specially written to provide for large casts and varied ages.

Contact Information: rbjthoma@gmail.com
For Midwest Storyteller: barb@midweststoryteller.com
www.midweststoryteller.com
Instagram: @midweststoryteller
Twitter: @mwstoryteller
Pinterest: @mwstoryteller
Facebook: Midwest

Legendary Cowboy

DUSTY RICHARDS

1937-2018



Dusty Richards was one of the founding members of Ozarks Writers League and the longtime auctioneer for the former OWL annual auction. He was a loud and spirited cowboy who could definitely tell a story and keep the reader captivated with his way with words. As most OWLs know, he did the same with a room full of writers eager to learn the craft. Dusty’s story came to an end on January 18th, just eight days after the death of his ever-present and supportive wife Pat. They both died from serious injuries caused by an accident in the week before Christmas. Even though Dusty had stopped participating in OWL events, his positive mark on the organization and many OWL members will never be forgotten. We all became better writers because of him.

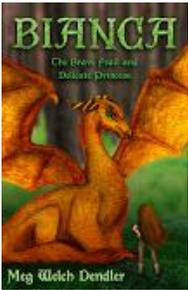
We wave and call out a big “thank you” from OWL as our legendary cowboy rides off into the sunset, his lovely bride at his side.

Author Update



By: Meg Dendler

Meg's latest book, *Bianca: The Brave Frail and Delicate Princess*, came out last December. It is a middle-grade fairy tale about Princess Bianca. This book is Story Monster Approved. It can be found on Amazon in paperback, Kindle or hardcover. Autographed copies can be purchased at <https://megdendler.com>.



Meg's novel, *Bianca*, joins the *Cats in the Mirror* series with: *Why Kimba Saved the World*, *Vacation Hiro*, *Miss Fatty Cat's Revenge*, *Slinky Steps Out*; along with companion books *Max's Wild Night*, and *Dottie's Daring Day*.

Contact Information:
meg@megdendler.com

www.megdendler.com

Author Update



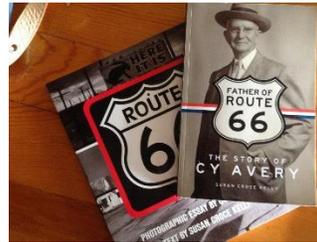
By: Susan Croce Kelly (Susan Kirkpatrick)

Susan is the new managing editor of OzarksWatch, the Missouri State U's magazine of Ozark history and culture. Anybody with an idea for the magazine is encouraged to submit through the website as it has all the specs for what they require. The OzarksWatch is published twice a year, subscriptions are \$16 per year, and are available for sale via the website or at Barnes & Noble in Springfield.

Upcoming issues are about:

- Henry Schoolcraft (Spring 2018),
- Ozark death and burial traditions (Fall 2018),
- Moonshine and Prohibition (Spring 2019),
- Ozarks waterways—the good, the bad, and the ugly (Fall 2019), and
- Chroniclers of the Ozarks (Spring 2020).

Also, Susan will be giving a talk about the *Race that Made Route 66 Famous* at the public library in Allen, Texas, on April 12th, at 7:30 p.m., **and** again at the Springfield Green County Library Center on May 17th, at 7:00 p.m.



Susan is the author of two award-winning books on the early days of the old highway, *Route 66, The Highway and Its People* and *Father of Route 66, the Story of Cy Avery*.

Contact Information: susancrocekelly@gmail.com
<https://ozarkswatch.missouristate.edu>

Author Update



By: Lonnie Whitaker

Lonnie's children's picture book, *Mulligan Meets the Poodlums*, was published by Little Hands Press in November 2017. It is the story of two poodle puppies whose nemesis is a chili-loving tomcat.

Also, in November 2017, his short story, *A Story Finally Told*, was published in *Mysteries of the Ozarks Vol. V*. It is a ghost story set in the Ozarks.

Lonnie's short story, *Coffin Nails in Callaway County*, has been accepted for the first Five Star Press anthology, which will be published June 2018. It involves a post-Civil War murder and trial.

Contact Information: lwhit@msn.com

Author Update



By: Russell Gayer

The residents of Nasal Falls, Wisconsin, went through a lengthy process to find the perfect idiot, but OWL author, Russell Gayer, has made it easy for you to find yours. Simply show up at Fayetteville Public Library on Sunday, February 11th, for the official launch of *One Idiot Short of a Village*. The festivities begin at 2:00 p.m. in the Walker Room. Russell will give a brief talk on writing humor and share some select passages from the book. After the presentation, books will be available for sale and signing.

Contact Information: russell.writes2@gmail.com
<https://russellgayer.com/>

Kudos. . .For the Success of Our Members!

Kudos. . .Barb Thoma

Barb is beginning her research and writing for a children's book and a memoir in a novel form, based on a true love story of the 1920s. She started blogging this year. She also has a three-novel series with a working title, *Morgan's Landing*, a women's historical fiction, set in Missouri and Georgia around 1905. Currently the series is in the hands of three agents and one editor who requested it. Meanwhile, she waits...

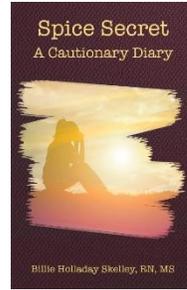
Contact Information: rbjthoma@gmail.com

Kudos. . .Mary Nida Smith

Mary's poem, *Cowboy Jo*, was published in the 2017 publication of *SILO*.

Contact Information: marynida@suddenlink.net
<http://marynidasmith.blogspot.com>
<https://www.facebook.com/submarinestories>

Kudos. . .Billie Holladay Skelley



Billie's book, *Spice Secret: A Cautionary Diary*, has been selected as the Outstanding Abuse Awareness Book in the Director's Choice Awards of the 2017 Human Relations Indie Book Awards.

Contact Information:
bhskelley24@gmail.com

Kudos. . .John Crawford

Dr. John Crawford made three presentations of his recent book, *Female Voices from the Bible*, and two to be made in late January. He won 2nd place and two honorable mentions in Arkansas Poetry Day contests. He has also been nominated to be the next Poet Laureate of Arkansas. John will have three poems in the next issue of *Lucidity* which is published in Texas.

Contact Information: docshakespeare@gmail.com

Kudos. . .Michael Koch



Michael won third place and a cash award in the Tulsa Nightwriters 500-word flash fiction contest in December 2017, which began with the line, "It wasn't my fault".

Contact Information: packers52@valornet.com

Kudos. . . Award winners in the Rock Springs Review 2017 Contest

Judy Stock, editor/publisher, announced the launch of *Rock Springs Review ~ 2017*, in time for Christmas 2017! It is available on Amazon.

Congratulations to the Award winners in the Rock Springs Review 2017 Contest.

Awards went to Fiction:

First: "The Rose," Jane Hale

Second: "Monster Slayers," Billie Holladay Skelley

Third: "Freedom Lobster," Valeri Paxton Steele

Poetry:

First: "Arabic," Mary Silwance

Second: "Tea for Two," Billie Holladay Skelley

Third: "Ledger," Mary Silwance

Nonfiction:

First: “Five Unique Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States,” Elizabeth Davis

Second: “The Lord Gave You a Brain to Use,” Billie Holladay Skelley

Third: was not awarded

Judges:

Fiction: Susan Satterfield

Poetry: Larry Allen

Nonfiction: Donna Volkenannt

Thank you, judges. I think I had the easy part.

More congratulations to all of you writers who took the plunge. We pulled off a really good book. Now, it is time to look forward to bigger and better things.

Rock Springs Review (RSR) announces the RSR 2018 Contest and Anthology. The deadline is April 30, 2018, at 11:59 p.m., so get started on those entries. Awards will be \$50 for First Places, \$30 for Second Places, and \$20 for Third Places.

Guidelines should be available on OWL and MWG websites and other places. Of course, you can always email me at bcwjudy@gmail.com, and I will send you a copy.

Spread the word. We want to make Rock Springs Review ~ 2018, an anthology, even better than 2017.

Note: For our next newsletter, if you’d like to share with us your achievements, releases, progress, or just what you’re currently working on, please email the editor. We’d love to share and be encouraged by your success!

Seeking Your Opinion

The Ozarks Writers League Board of Directors is looking to pick your brain. A survey is being circulated by email in an effort to see what OWL can do better for its members and supporters.

Feel free to open up! We truly want to know!

There’s even an Amazon gift card as a prize if you don’t mind providing an email address. The survey is otherwise anonymous.

If you haven’t taken the survey, it’s a few minutes of your time to answer several questions. There’s room for open comments as well for anyone with more to say.

If you didn’t get the survey invitation, contact me at the email below. I’ll forward the link.

Hard copies of the survey will be available at the February meeting.

Thank you for your support and your thoughts!
Lori Ericson
OWL President
loriericson.author@gmail.com

OWL Shirts and Tote Bags

You can visit the website below to order your own OWL t-shirts and tote bags! Go to: <https://www.ozarkswritersleague.com/products>



**Grab Some Sweet or Grab Some Dry
OWL Annual Chocolate and Wine
Fundraiser**

OWLs are once again invited to bring in a wrapped box of chocolates or a bottle of wine for the annual chocolate and wine fundraiser! It’s a HOOT to participate! It’s also easy!

Drop off your wrapped donation and later in the day we’ll hold an OWL Grab. For a small donation, you’ll get your pick of a surprise box or bottle wrapped up by another OWL!

Don’t miss the Grab Some Sweet or Grab Some Dry fundraiser at OWL’s Feb. 17th conference day at the Honeysuckle Inn & Conference Center in Branson.

The wine and chocolate grab, like OWL auctions, help support the organization’s effort to bring in speakers and offer quality conference opportunities. Thank you for your support!

Ozarks Writers League Minutes

From: November 18, 2017

CALLED TO ORDER BY: Diane Yates at 3:15 p.m.

THOSE PRESENT: Jan Vanek, Russell Gayer, Caroline Giamanco, Duke Pennell, Ronda Del Boccio, Rochelle Fields, Lori Ericson, Beth Ulrich, Diane West, Diane Yates, Rick Yates and Lloyd Ericson.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: All present agreed they had read the minutes of the August 18, 2017, board meeting and they were acceptable.

MOTION to Approve Secretary's Report: Duke Pennell

SECONDED: Diane Yates; **MOTION PASSED**

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer reported an amount of \$3,000 in the account for Ozarks Writers League.

DISCUSSION: Questions over donations, memberships

MOTION to Approve Treasurer's Report: Diane Yates

SECONDED: Jan Vanek

MOTION PASSED

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: The Board discussed membership recent membership changes. The report found a few new members, renewals, and early pays for 2018 dues.

MOTION to Approve Membership Report: Russell Gayer; **SECONDED:** Duke Pennell; **MOTION PASSED**

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion of draft survey developed by Lori Ericson and Beth Ulrich. Decided on the following:

1. The survey will be available online with a link sent out to members and hard copies at the February meeting.
2. The on-line member survey will be created in GOOGLE FORMS and accessible through an e-mail link. Ronda Del Boccio volunteered to create the Google form based on the draft and comments noted during Board's discussion. Ronda and Rick will coordinate to ensure access by website.
3. To provide incentive to members to fill out the survey, we will have a drawing for an Amazon Gift Card among all entrants who include their e-mail on the survey.
4. A test version of the survey will be provided to Board members for review and comment. All agreed the survey should move forward as planned, and as previously voted on.

Lori Ericson then commented on the makeup of the 2018 Board.

MOTION by Lori Ericson to name OWL Board

Members-at-Large Brenda Black and Lloyd Ericson.

SECONDED Rochelle

MOTION PASSED

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Diana West commented on the Youth Writing Contest, which was still going on. The deadline is Dec. 30th. The Board discussed the need to make sure the information is listed on OWL's website.

2. The Board also discussed the February Conference and the plan to hold another wine and chocolate grab fundraiser.

3. Additional fundraising efforts discussed, including the possible need to order more T-shirts.

4. The Board discussed the possibility of videotaping conference sessions for posting on the OWL website for members to access.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Special thanks to Jan Vanek who donated a really nice projector.

Special thanks to Duke Pinnell for his many years of faithful service to OWL.

MEETING ADJOURNED BY: Beth

TIME OF ADJOURNMENT: 4:19 p.m.

2018 Board Members:

President: Lori Ericson

Vice President: Russell Gayer

Secretary: Kent Bonham

Treasurer: Beth Ulrich

Historian: Fred Pfister

Membership & Webmaster: Rick Yates

Youth Writing Contest Director: Diana West

Adult Writing Contest Director: Rochelle Wisoff-Fields

Art & Photo Contest Director: Jan Morrill

Fundraising Director: John Crawford

Publicity Director: Ronda Del Boccio

Newsletter Editor: Anne Roberts

Past President: Diane Yates

Board Member at Large: Brenda Black

Board Member at Large: Lloyd Ericson

Reserve a Table for Book Sales

Reserve a table by contacting: Lori Ericson at loriericson.author@gmail.com

February 16-17, 2018
OWL Conference Agenda
Honeysuckle Inn & Conference Center
Branson, Missouri
www.OzarksWritersLeague.com
****Pre- Registration Required****

“FOR THE LOVE OF WRITING”

Friday

7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Open Mic

Join your fellow OWL members for an evening of entertainment and fun. The Open Mic is a great time to hear and cheer on your OWL friends as they read from their work.

Saturday

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Registration and OWL Coffee Social
9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Greetings from OWL President Lori Ericson

10:00 – 10:45 a.m. Caroline Giammanco, “Making it Happen with Book Signings”

10:45 – 11:00 a.m. OWL chat and book table browsing

11:00 to 11:45 a.m. John Crawford, “Five Commandments for Effective Writing”

11:45 – Noon OWL Haiku

Noon – 1:00 p.m. LUNCH

Advance-purchase required! \$10.50
Pre-order before 6:00 p.m. on the 15th
www.ozarkswritersleague.com

Order your delicious lunch now and dine with fellow writers and artists without ever leaving the conference.

1:00 – 1:45 p.m. Tamara Hart Heiner, “Finding Your Successful Publishing Path”

1:45 – 2:00 p.m. OWL Wine and Chocolate Fundraiser

2:00 – 2:45 p.m. Tamara Hart Heiner, “Finding Your Successful Publishing Path, Part 2”

2:45 – 3:00 p.m. OWL Haiku and closing

Pre-registration (Required):

Please register online via the registration tab at <https://www.ozarkswritersleague.com/registration>.

Conferences are still free to members and \$10 at the door for non-members.

Accommodations:

The Honeysuckle Inn & Conference Center is the feature hotel for OWL events. Book your room for an overnight experience to complete your conference weekend. Website: HoneysuckleInn.com
Special OWL Rate - \$65 + tax
Includes complimentary breakfast



Make reservations with:

Honeysuckle Inn, 3598 Shepherd of the Hills Expressway, Branson, Missouri, USA, 417-335-2030.
Email: reservations@honeysuckleinn.com

Guest Speakers:

TAMARA HART HEINER



“Finding Your Successful Publishing Path”

There's more than one path to publication. But each way has its advantages and disadvantages. Tamara Hart Heiner took what she learned from working with a traditional publisher and applied it to self-publishing. Find the best of all the worlds and discover your own route.

Tamara Hart Heiner lives in Arkansas with her husband, four kids, a cat, a dog, and a bird. She would love to add a macaw and a sugar glider to the family collection. She graduated with a degree in English and an editing emphasis from Brigham Young University. She's the author of the young adult suspense series, PERILOUS, INEVITABLE, the CASSANDRA JONES saga, and a nonfiction book about the Joplin tornado.

CAROLINE GIAMMANCO



“Making It Happen with Book Signings”

Writing books is just the beginning. Now you need to get them into the hands of readers. Marketing and promoting books may seem overwhelming, but they are critical in today’s publishing world. Learn the basics of how to arrange and conduct successful book signings from an author who has had dozens of Barnes and Noble book signings. Find out some other marketing tips along the way.

Caroline Giammanco is an author, educator, and criminal justice reform advocate. She grew up on a farm in the Missouri Ozarks, the daughter of a deputy sheriff. Caroline graduated from Ava High School and then moved to Arizona where she attended the University of Arizona in Tucson, earning a bachelor’s degree in Political Science with a minor in English. Caroline has been a public school educator for twenty-five years. Her books explore the unseen dark corners of the criminal justice system. Author of *Bank Notes: The True Story of the Boonie Hat Bandit* and *Guilty Hearts: The World of Prison Romances*, Caroline’s work in progress is *Inside the Death Fences: Memoirs of a Whistleblower*. Caroline is the mother of two sons, Rick and Kevin, and two step-daughters, Elise and Marissa, and is the wife of Keith Giammanco.



JOHN CRAWFORD



“Five Commandments for Effective Writing”

Planning one's subject is necessary. Good ideas come from much reading, not bright lights or guardian angels. Researching is imperative. Authorities must be checked thoroughly to avoid “fake news”. Structuring the work is required. “A house built on sand will not stand.” Reviewing one's work is essential. Few writers are Shakespeare. And finally, bring it to an end with a concrete summary. Tell the readers again what you have written with precise concrete language.

Dr. John W. Crawford has earned degrees in literature and writing from Ouachita Baptist University, Drake University, and the Oklahoma State University, with additional studies at the University of Colorado and a summer writing seminar at the University of Iowa. Crawford has been writing poetry and essays since 1963 and numerous works of his have been published. He has won countless prizes in poetry and fiction from various writers’ conferences. He taught English studies and writing for 47 years in Iowa, Oklahoma, and Arkansas, now holding the status of professor emeritus of Henderson State University (AR). Crawford has three books published on the actresses of Shakespearean plays, romantic traits in Shakespearean plays, and the intelligence of females of the Shakespearean era. He has four volumes of poetry from various presses, his latest titled *Female Voices from the Bible*. He has been a member and past officer of the Arkansas Poets’ Roundtable for 50 years and is a charter member of the Missouri Poetry Society.