

THE OWL's HOOT

A publication of the
Ozarks Writers League
501(c)(3)
www.ozarkswritersleague.org
Editor: Kimberly Gross
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100% ONLINE BEGINNING NEXT ISSUE

OWL NEWSLETTER GOES GREEN, JOINS ELECTRONIC AGE

Now that the wrinkles have been ironed out, the Owl's Hoot newsletter will go totally on-line at the OWL website (www.ozarkswritersleague.org) as of the February 2012 issue. This current November issue is being sent out to all members and is the last paper copy they will receive. The change should get the newsletter to the members earlier by about a month, giving them more time to make plans around the OWL events announced in the newsletter.

The newsletter has gone through a lot of changes in the last few years, and this is the next logical step. In the beginning, it was a small leaflet with basic information. Over the years, it's changed to the current eight-page, well-laid-out format, crowded with information relevant to the OWL members. The newsletter went partially on-line last year, with a few being mailed out to those that requested it. With the change to all on-line, members can print off a copy, or read it online, either from their computer or at their local library. No longer tied to the eight-page format, this change will also allow the newsletter to grow as it evolves. Moving the newsletter to the OWL website is only one way the Ozarks Writers League is joining the electronic age. Those who aren't aware of the OWL website, or OWL's Facebook page, should stop by both for a visit. Also, say thanks to the people responsible—Lou Turner for starting and maintaining the website for several years, and to Richard Howk for bringing it up-to-date, and for getting OWL a presence on Facebook. ~ Delois



TEDDY NORRIS ON EDITORIAL EXPECTATIONS

Teddy Norris will start the November one-day conference with "Editorial Expectations: Enticements

and Turn-Offs." She'll discuss editorial expectations and some simple things that give writers an edge when submitting their work. She will also share her experience of participating in manuscript preparation workshops.

Teddy is Professor at St. Charles Community College where she teaches creative writing and poetry, as well as literature and composition courses. For five years, she also edited *Mid Rivers Review*, the College's literary journal. Her poetry has won contests and has appeared in various journals and anthologies, including *Cuivre River*. She loves Elizabeth Alexander's definition of poetry as "language that shimmers" and believes this should be a goal of *all* good writing.

There's a possibility she may present her audience with an "exercise," if there's enough time—something that always stretches our minds and writing ability.

MARY HORNER ON EDITING YOUR WORK

Mary Horner will present the afternoon program in November. Her subject, "Editing for Clarity, Style and Meaning," relates to a problem writers frequently face. Learning to edit your work will increase its effectiveness and improve readability. Her presentation will help writers strengthen their craft by learning tips and strategies that may translate to more publishing credits.

Designed to teach how to remove words and phrases that don't carry enough weight, and how reading aloud helps catch those pesky dead words and phrases that get in the way of effective writing, her subject is one all writers—fiction and non-fiction alike—can benefit from.

Ms. Horner is an award-winning journalist whose work has appeared in more than two dozen publications. She is the former managing editor of *Solutions Magazine* and the *Journal of the American Optometric Association*. She also won the "Most Informative Article" award from the National Safety Council. She earned a writing Certificate from the University of Missouri-St. Louis, and an editing/writing



(Continued on page 7)

PRESIDENT'S PAGE



It's with mixed feelings that I write this, my last column as OWL president. I'd be lying if I didn't admit that I'm somewhat ready for a little rest. Yet, at the same time, I'll miss the involvement that being president entails. I'll be taking a large step back, but I know the new officers and board will do their best

to continue to bring the members great programs and interesting speakers. Overall, it's been a good experience for me, and I've had the satisfaction of seeing some of my ideas put into use.

Foolishly, I thought that during my term I'd get to know the individual members better. That only happened minimally. When you're dashing from fire to fire to put them out, you have no time to visit. So, sorry, to all of you I didn't get to meet.

The August program generated a lot of enthusiasm among our members. I can't remember when I've had so much positive feedback after a program. I'm happy everyone enjoyed it and learned from it. OWL's main purpose for existing is to bring educational, entertaining programs to the members. The officers and board try to do that each and every time. It doesn't always work out, but I think we manage it most of the time.

I can't write my last column without noting that this is the last paper issue of the OWL's Hoot—an historic event. It's going entirely online with the first issue of 2012. We've been working toward that for the past year, and the beginning of a new year is the perfect time to complete the process. My thanks to Kimberly

Gross who has served as newsletter editor for the past two years, and has helped get the newsletter onto the OWL website.

I'd like to also thank all the people who've helped out over the last two years. I'm afraid if I tried to name them I'd miss someone, but you know who you are. It doesn't matter if all you did was help Dusty haul sound equipment around, or help out at the registration desk, or a million other things that it takes to make an OWL conference happen. Your contribution was noticed and appreciated. The officers and board can't do everything necessary to put on our conferences. It takes the members' participation, too.

We're ending the year with two speakers in November that have a lot of information to share. Check out the articles on Mary Horner and Teddy Norris.

I'm looking forward to our awards dinner—otherwise known as “Hillbilly Formal” night. I found my costume today. Let's just say you'll be able to see me coming for a long distance. The number of entries was up again this year. This is only our second year to hold the contests this way, and I'm predicting that the entries will continue to increase next year. FYI for you newcomers, OWL used to hold contests throughout the year, and the participation was poor. In fact, some contests were canceled from lack of participation. That certainly hasn't been the case for the last two years. And, with the continued support of you OWL members, it can only get better.

Good luck to all of you in your writing ventures. And, remember, Triumph comes through perseverance.”

Delois



ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER

Election of new officers will be held at the Saturday, November 19 meeting.

The current slate of officers is:

President – Dusty Richards;

Vice-President – Jan Morrill;

Secretary – Ellen Withers;

Treasurer – Brenda Black.

Anyone interested in running for an office can be nominated at the November 19 meeting.

*Beloved outgoing
President Delois,
“Whew!”*





Owl News



NEW OWL'S HOOT EDITOR FOR 2012

Kimberly Gross, who has been the newsletter editor for the past couple of years, is leaving to pursue other interests. We thank her for her work. Taking her place is Jeanie Horn, who is well-known to most of the OWL members. She'll become newsletter editor after the November issue. Asked to share a few words with the membership, this is what she contributed:

As the incoming 2012 OWL's Hoot newsletter editor, I'll be approaching OWL members to visit. Please take time to chat a while. My camera goes with me everywhere, be ready to smile-pretty-please. I will, though, also be accepting submitted, (high quality) pictures from members who wish to share what they take at the meetings. I plan to do interviews and when space allows, publish short articles/profiles about OWL members. My phone number is 870-448-2499. Email: jeanhorn@windstream.net or jeanie771@hotmail.com. Mailing address: 116 Duvall Street, Marshall, AR 72650. See you in November. Jeanie Horn

FROM THE WEBMASTER

Attention OWL members: If you'd like to personalize your profile on the Member's page on the website, I need a photo and the text of what you'd like displayed. For those who don't have a digital pic, send me a photo with an SASE and I will digitize the photo and send it back. My address is Richard Howk, 2401 Beth Lane, Bentonville, AR 72712.



*The sage Fred Pfister at
August's open mic.*

CONTESTS FOR 2012

Contest chair for 2012 will be announced in the near future. Meanwhile, the contest rules will go up on the OWL website, www.ozarkswritersleague.org, as soon as they're ready.

There will be a contest brochure available at the meetings in 2012, but it will not contain the complete guidelines. Those will only be available on the website. In the past, there have been some discrepancies between what was on the website and what was in the brochure. Hopefully, by having the complete guidelines available in only one place, we hope to avoid such problems in the future.

There have already been requests from members who want to sponsor a contest next year. Anyone interested in sponsoring a contest should contact the new president for 2012. Sponsors need to sign up by the first week in January.

Catch a Writers Conference!

Oct. - 2nd weekend

Ozark Creative
Writers, Eureka
Springs

March - Free one-day

NWA Writers
Workshop, Fayetteville

April - 2nd weekend:

Missouri Writers
Guild in Various
locations

Feb., May, Aug., Nov. -

3rd Saturday Ozarks
Writers League,
Branson

May - 1st weekend

Oklahoma Writers
Federation, Inc. OKC

June - 1st weekend

Arkansas Writers
Conference, Little
Rock

July - 2nd Saturday

Ozark Romance
Authors, Springfield

August 18-20 - Ozark

Adventures Writing
Workshop, Hollister,
MO

Sept. - 1st Saturday

White County Writers,
Harding University



This n' That



MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

Since we have limited seating in the meeting room at the Boxcar Willie Inn, be sure to get your reservations sent in as soon as possible for the annual awards dinner on **Friday, November 18**. When the maximum number of reservations is made, reservations will be cut off. (If this keeps up, we may have to think about expanding. Hmm, wonder if that place where the Academy Awards are held is available?) Dinner begins at 5:30, with the awards ceremony starting about 6:30.

Anyone wishing to make dinner reservations, should **send a check for \$10.00** made out to OWL to our treasurer, Brenda Brinkley at 831 Plant School Road, Marshfield, MO 65706. Do that soon, so you don't miss out on all the fun.

We'll have dinner as usual, with the awards ceremony starting soon after. If you can't be there for dinner, feel free to show up for the ceremony.

Awards will be given to the winners of the annual OWL category contests. One happy writer will be awarded the coveted President's Trophy for the best of the overall contest winners.

And, remember, it's **Hillbilly Formal night**. Any combination of hillbilly and fancy dress. I'm fond of the comfortable jeans or overalls and tennis shoes myself. The **best costume** for female and male attendee will receive a gift.

We'll also be drawing names for a prize for a person who brought in a new member this past year. Hopefully, you've all done that, adding your name to the membership application.

We're looking forward to a night of fun, so don't miss out. Get that reservation sent in!



*Lonnie Whitaker
takes the (mic) stand*

NOVEMBER VOTE

PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGE

The Board of Directors have voted to make a change to the Bylaws, which now must be approved by the membership of the Ozarks Writers League at the November business meeting. Both the current section of the Bylaws and the proposed change will be posted in the auditorium on the day of the vote. The purpose of the change is to correct and clarify Article II, Section I, i.e. the number of directors, and to clarify how the board currently operates. The changed Bylaws would read as follows:

Article III, section I: The Board of Directors shall consist of (15) voting members, as follows: Four (4) elected officers, namely the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, hereinafter referred to as the Officers, who shall serve terms of one (1) year, such year of service to begin immediately following the close of the November board meeting. The only exception is the Treasurer who shall work with the in-coming Treasurer until year end. The out-going treasurer will close out the books at the end of the fiscal year on December 31 and then turn all financial records over to the in-coming treasurer.

Four (4) Past-Officers: the immediate Past President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall also serve terms of one (1) year. In the event the Past Officer's successor serves further terms, the Past Officer may serve an additional one (1) year, or more, but at the pleasure of the President and Board. For example: If a Treasurer is re-elected for an additional year, then the Past Treasurer may also serve an additional year, with the approval of the President and Board.

Should a current officer move to another position, he/she may serve as the Past Officer of the former position at the same time. For example: If the former Secretary is elected as in-coming Treasurer, he/she is also the Past Secretary.

Seven (7) appointed Directors. These Director positions, appointed by the President and with the approval of the Board, may include the Historian, Membership Director, and Publicity Director, whose terms are not limited and who may continue to serve from year to year subject to reaffirmation by a majority of League Members at the annual business meeting. The President may appoint other positions as needed, with Board approval. (See Article III, Sec. 2, re: Historian).

In the event one or more Officers or other members of the Board resign, the incoming President shall fill the vacancy or vacancies by appointment, subject to approval by a majority of the Board. Such appointees shall hold office until the next annual election. Each member of the Board shall have one vote.

Article III – Section 1: Board of Directors: The Board shall consist of fifteen (15) members as provided for in the bylaws, Article II, Sec. 1.

Board News

Skill Corner

OZARKS WRITERS LEAGUE Minutes of Board Meeting August 20, 2011

Members present: Delois McGrew, Dusty Richards, Fred Pfister, Brenda Brinkley, Jan Morrill, Patti Stith, Cliff Sain, Ruth Weeks, and Ellen Winters.

Absent: Regina Williams, Harold Pelton, Bob McGill.

Secretary's Report: May minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: Quarterly report approved. July 31 balance of \$7,310.23. Copies of the Federal and State tax information was filed for tax year 2010. Also Missouri Secretary of State Non-Profit filing.

President's Report: Newsletter editor is resigning. Motion made, seconded, and passed that the newsletter go entirely online, starting in 2012.

Officer elections will take place in November. Current slate is: President – Dusty Richards; VP – Jan Morrill; Secretary – Ellen Withers. Ruth Weeks is considering running for Treasurer. Nominations will be taken from floor at November meeting.

Membership Report: As of 8/19/11, we have 245 paid members, 57 new members, 1 student member. 14 honorary, 22 life. Total: 281. 93 people in attendance at today's conference.

Website Report: Richard Howk announced he will be doing member profiles, so members need to send him bios and photos.

Historian Report: Ruth now has complete set of Echoes of the Ozarks.

Old Business: Delois presented suggested changes to Bylaws. Motion to correct Bylaws with proposed amendment was passed. It will be voted on by the members in November.

New Business: Dusty proposed Jeanie Horn act as online newsletter editor, and be paid \$100. per quarter for her services. Motion passed.

Dusty announced Dan Case and Joan Van Arkle will speak in February. Dusty suggested another caterer be obtained. After discussion, Dusty is to check for other caterer's in next two weeks for same \$9 price and let Delois know if he finds one. Otherwise, same one will cater for November.



Discussion of keeping open mic time limit. Fred will send Delois information to go in newsletter.

WANT TO IMPROVE YOUR OPEN MIC READING?

Board member Fred Pfister shares with us a few rules for making a great impression on Friday nights at the open mic readings. So, thanks to Fred, and we'll all try to follow his simple, but common-sense guidelines.

1. Choose the reading carefully. It can be a scene, a poem, or an essay, and it should be somewhat self-contained and complete.
2. Read it aloud. Remember, this is a public, oral performance before a group, of material that would normally be experienced by a single reader in silent solitude.
3. Rehearse. Writing takes time and preparation. Reading writing takes time and preparation.
4. Read clearly, and with inflection. No one likes a monotone reading.
5. Time it. If you have 5 minutes, that includes introductory remarks and any closing remarks.
6. Don't go overtime. You're not the only one on the program.
7. Remember, you don't have to use all of your time. It's better to have 2 ½ minutes of good, well-read material than 5 minutes of poorly presented material.
8. Try to maintain eye contact with the audience. You should have read the material and rehearsed it enough so that it is practically memorized. Print out your selection in a large, easy-to-read font to make your reading easier, in case you're in a low light situation.
9. Stay on mic. Microphones vary a good deal in sensitivity and pick-up area. Watch those readers who come before you to learn about the mic's characteristics, and act accordingly. After all, you do want your work to be heard.
10. When you're not reading, remember your role as audience. Be quiet and attentive. You expect that as a reader, so provide the same courtesy to others.





Kudos to OWL Members!



VELDA BROTHERTON: ARTICLES: Washington County Observer (6, 7, 8/11); E-BOOKS: *Dream Walker* Kindle (7/11); *Montana Promises* Kindle (8/11); *Montana Dreams* Kindle (9/11); BOOK SIGNINGS, Books on Broadway, Siloam Springs Writer, (6/11); Book Signing, Innisfree Senior Center, Rogers, AR (7/11); Fayetteville Senior Center, West Fork Library (8/11); Writer's Panel, Ozark Writers Live, Fayetteville Public Library (9/11); WORKSHOP: *Publishing to Kindle*, Ozark Folkways, Winslow, AR, (10/11)

CAROLYN BOYLES: BOOK: *A Complete Plain-English Guide to Living with a Spinal Cord Injury: Valuable Information From A Survivor* on official list of resources for the Joni and Friends international Disability Center.

BETH CARTER: CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK: *What Do You Want To Be?* Mirror Publishing www.pagesofwonder.com (9/11).

SHANNON CAVANAUGH: Whispering Prairie Press Contest, ESSAY: HM (8/11).

ARLINE CHANDLER: White County Creative Writers Contest, CHILDHOOD MEMORY: 1st Place; KID'S STORY: 3rd Place.

GENEVA KING EMERSON: Whispering Prairie Press, POEM: HM; White County Creative Writers, ESSAY: 2nd HM; Central Arkansas Writers Award, SHORT STORY: 2nd HM.

SYLVIA FORBES: ARTICLES, *Prime Magazine* (8/11, 9/11); ARTICLES, *MWG News* (6/11, 9/11); Whispering Prairie Press Contest, ESSAY, HM; Arizona Authors Association Literary Contest, ESSAY, finalist; Managing Editor for *Well Versed: Literary Works 2011*, Columbia Chapter of the Missouri Writers' Guild; TWEETING about writing contests at @Missouriwriter.

RUSSELL GAYER: Whispering Prairie Press 2011 Writing Awards, FLASH FICTION: HM.

NANCY HARTNEY: ARTICLE: Arkansas Horsemen's Round Up (5/11); CONTEST: Whispering Prairie Press, HM (6/11); SHORT STORIES: Cactus Country Publishing (8/11); Voices Anthology IV (9/11).

DOROTHY HATFIELD: PRODUCTION: One Act Play, Center on the Square Theater, Searcy, AR (7/11); READING/SIGNING: Literacy Lab Revisited, Harding University, Searcy, AR (7/11); SPEAKER: White County Creative Writers Conference, Searcy (9/11).

BETTY CRAKER HENDERSON: Acquisitions Editor,

Sky High Tales (juvenile division of High Hills Press).

KAREN NELSON: Whispering Prairie Press 2011 Writing Awards: NONFICTION ESSAY, HM.

PATRICIA A. OPLINGER: Arkansas Writers' Conference, ESSAY: Swann Kohler 1st; ESSAY: Grand Conference II 3rd HM; POETRY: 1st On the Spot; Cape Cod Branch of National League of American Pen Women, HAIKU: Award of Merit; White County Creative Writers: SHORT STORY, 1ST HM, Children's Story 3rd HM; Pen Woman Magazine, Washington, D.C. (Sum/11); HAIKU; Arkansas State University, Hemmingway-Pfieffer Museum, Sound of Muses Anthology, (4-5/11); Calico Rock Artisans Co-op, Poetry Reading; Words Bookstore, Hardy, AR, Poetry Reading, Audio Book signing(6/11); Dogwood Days Festival, book signing.

NANCY PEACOCK: Storm Country Anthology: SHORT STORY

PATSY PIPKIN: COLUMN: Arkansas Democrat-Gazette (8/11); STORY: *AY Magazine* (9/11).

SUSAN K. SCOTT: ARTICLE: The Ozarks Mountaineer (7-8/11).

RICHARD O SNELSON: E-BOOK: *The Hawksbill Crag*: Infinity Publishing (5/11); Missouri Literary Festival: The Civil War, Springfield.

LAURA L. VALENTI: NOVEL: *The Heart of the Spring Lives On*, Infinity Publishing (8/11).

Way to go, OWL members!!

Reader/writer
Sylvia Forbes



Nancy Beverage
pauses for impact
at open mic

MEETING INFORMATION

Motel Accommodations

Boxcar Willie Inn, 360 Schaefer Dr., Branson, offers a rate of \$45.00 plus tax for two. Identify yourself as an OWL member when making reservations. Phone 417-337-7070. Check the Boxcar Willie website for directions.

OWL Meeting Place

Ozarks Writers League meets in the Plaster Auditorium at the College of the Ozarks. Through the entrance, follow Opportunity Ave. to Plaster Auditorium, the 3rd major building on the right. Registration at **8:30 a.m.**

Cell Phone Courtesy

As a courtesy to our speakers, please turn off your cell phone, or set on vibrate, during the meeting. **Please no conversations in the meeting room.** Use the lobby.

2011 OWL President:

deloism@gmail.com

Vice-President:

jymorrill@gmail.com

Treasurer:

831 Plank School Rd. Marshfield, MO 65706

Brinkley.brenda1@gmail.com (417) 468-5293

Secretary:

lnwithers@conwaycorp.net

Past President:

Regina Williams

Past Vice-President:

Vacant

Past Secretary:

Ellen Withers

Past Treasurer:

Brenda Brinkley

Directors: Fred Pfister, Dusty Richards, Cliff Sain, Bob McGill, Harold Pelton, Patti Stith, Ruth Weeks.

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Committee Chairs: Membership – Fred Pfister;

Historian – Ruth Weeks; Contest – Delois McGrew;

Publicity – Cliff Sain; Newsletter – Kimberly Gross;

Website – Richard Howk

ECHOES OF THE OZARKS ANTHOLOGY VOL. VII AVAILABLE IN NOVEMBER

Congratulations to all the OWL members who won publication in the annual Echoes of the Ozarks Volume VII. Publication date is set for just prior to the November meeting, so copies will be available there. Winners who are published in the anthology may order copies at the discounted price. Price for OWL members is \$10. They'll make great Christmas gifts, and it isn't too soon to be thinking about that.



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2011 OWL CALENDAR

Quarterly (Saturday) Meetings

February 19, May 21, August 20, Nov. 19

Members-Only Contests

Cliff Edom Photography (Things in the Ozarks)

Deadline February 19

Awarded in May

Anthology (Short stories, essays, poems)

Deadline September 1, 2011

All other contests: Deadline Sept. 1, 2011

See website for guidelines for all contests. Send all entries to Ozarks Writers League, c/o Delois McGrew, P.O. Box 9076, Fayetteville, AR 72703 **except for the Anthology entries**, which go to Lou Turner at **louturn@aol.com** (For Echoes of the Ozarks, you must have **Echoes Submission** in subject line.)

(HORNER Continued from page 1)

certification from the American Medical Writers Association. She teaches Communications at St. Louis and St. Charles Community Colleges, and blogs about writing at writRteachR.blogspot.com.

PROGRAM AGENDA November 19, 2011

- 8:30** Registration
- 9:00** Announcements, election,
door prize, vote on bylaws
- 9:30** Teddy Norris, *Editorial
Expectations: Enticements
& Turn-offs*
- 10:30** Break
- 10:45** Teddy Norris continues
- 11:30** Lunch break
- 1:00** Mary Horner, *Editing for
Style, Meaning and Clarity*
- 2:00** Break
- 2:10** Mary Horner continues
- 2:30** Meeting ends
- 3:00** Board meeting



DEADLINES FOR MEMBERS

ASAP – Make your reservation now for the annual awards dinner on **Friday, November 18**. Dinner at 5:30, awards ceremony at 6:30. Send \$10.00 check per person to Treasurer Brenda Brinkley at 831 Plant School Road, Marshfield, MO 65706.

February 18, 2012 – Cliff Edom Photo contest entries due. Theme: People in the Ozarks. See web site for details.

OZARKS WRITERS LEAGUE
831 Plank School Rd.
Marshfield, MO 65706