

Wyo-Writer

Official Newsletter of:
Wyoming Writers, Inc.



Volume 36 Number 1

JAN/FEB 2010



WYOMING WRITERS STAY ON THE MOVE

By Joe Megeath, Board President

The Board was asked by the WWInc membership to revise the By-laws. Those newly drafted bylaws appear for your review in this issue of the newsletter and on the web site. I congratulate the Board and our parliamentarian, Pat Forbis, for completing this task. It was a necessary, but laborious project. Thanks again to all who contributed, suggested, and critiqued this reorganization over the past few years. And, thanks to those who will continue to look for ways to improve the way we manage ourselves.

Meanwhile, back to our basics: Our annual WWInc contest provides a fabulous way for members to practice their writing skills. The critiques, deadlines and formats all help provide an annual stair step to sharper writing habits. If you have never entered before, try it. Remember, you're among friends. Contest Chair Ann Herberlein and her group have prepared material in this newsletter and on the WW, Inc web site for all the details and rules.

Mark your calendars for the 2010 conference in Cody, June 4, 5, and 6. This year I'm planning to make a circle through Yellowstone National Park and drop down into Cody by Thursday evening, June 3. That will hopefully leave time to see some of Cody's attractions. Robert Roripaugh, Lee Ann Roripaugh, and Max McCoy are on the faculty docket at this point. Time is also planned for pitch-to-the-agents sessions. Stay tuned to the newsletter and web site for developing information and news about this year's don't-miss-it event.

And the seemingly endless time and energy we spent at the 2009 conference discussing how to organize ourselves? Well, I think that 'endless time and energy' will prove to have been well spent. It's a steep learning curve, but it's looking promising. You'll be relieved to know that a more minimal time should be needed in Cody for the 'business' end of all this.

Keep Scribblin'.

Editor'sNote~~~

Hi, Writers! I hope you're all busy creating and making plans for our annual conference. This issue of the newsletter is devoted to articles about our annual contest, changes to our by-laws, our awards and the nomination process, and conference-related news. I can't tell you how exciting this conference is going to be! Our next issue will contain conference registration materials and a full schedule of events. Our conference brochure will also be available electronically, and by mail. If you're willing to distribute hard-copy conference materials in your community, please contact me so I can put you on the mailing list. For now, I'm just Linda

Contact: lgvernon@aol.com or by phone at: 307-631-1911

The Board of WWInc has rewritten the Bylaws to meet the concerns expressed at the June, 2009 Business meetings in Casper. The Board encourages comments, suggestions and questions concerning the proposed new Bylaws. Please contact any one or all of the Board members with such concerns.

Thanks to all of you for your patience and thoughtfulness during this lengthy process. Joe Megeath, Board President

Proposed BYLAWS

Draft date: 6-9-09

Second draft: 6-30-09

Third draft: 9-15-09

BYLAWS OF THE WYOMING WRITERS, INC.

ARTICLE I

Name and Designation

The name of the organization shall be Wyoming Writers, Inc. (WWInc). WWInc is a 501(c)(3) non-for-profit corporation, with fiscal year from July 1 to June 30.

ARTICLE II

Objective

The objective of this organization shall be to inspire and assist members who write for publication or as a hobby; and to encourage and promote interest in writing.

ARTICLE III

Members

Section 1. Eligibility: Any person who has not violated ethics of professional writing, such as plagiarism or copyright infringement, is eligible to join WWInc.

Section 2. Dues and fees: Dues are payable upon joining and annually thereafter as prescribed by the Board of Directors. Persons who do not renew their annual dues by July 31 shall be automatically dropped from WWInc membership. Fees shall be determined by the WWInc Board of Directors and are payable upon notice.

Section 3. Privilege:

(a) WWInc members in good standing are eligible to vote.

(b) Proxy voting is not permitted.

(c) WWInc members are eligible to receive an electronic copy of WyoWriter, the official publication of WWInc.

Section 4. Resignation from membership. Any member desiring to resign from WWInc shall submit his/her resignation in writing to the Secretary, who shall present it to the Board of Directors for action.

ARTICLE IV

Board of Directors

Section 1: Composition

Continued on page 3, BYLAWS

BYLAWS, continued from page 2

- (a) The Board of Directors of WWInc shall be composed of seven members in good standing including the immediate past president.
- (b) The officers, President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, shall be elected by the Board of Directors. Board Presidents may not succeed themselves.
- (c) In June 2010 three members for one-year terms and three members for two-year terms shall be elected. At each succeeding annual conference three members for two-year terms shall be elected. Board members may run for re-election.

Section 2: Election

- (a) The election of the WWInc Board of Directors shall take place at the annual meeting of WWInc members.
- (b) The WWInc Board of Directors shall be elected by plurality vote of the members present and voting.
- (c) Proxy voting is not permitted.

Section 3: Officers

- (a) The officers of WWInc are the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Immediate Past President.
- (b) Officers shall be elected by the Board of Directors.

Section 4: Duties and Powers

- (a) The Board of Directors shall be the governing body of WWInc.
- (b) Board members shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws, the policies and procedures and by the parliamentary authority adopted by WWInc, with the exception that each member of the board shall have one vote when determining the business of WWInc, with the exception of the president, who shall vote only to break a tie.
- (c) They shall meet annually: immediately prior to the annual conference, immediately following the annual conference to include incoming and outgoing Board members and at other times and places determined by the Board of Directors. Meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President or two board members.
- (d) Except in case of emergency, three days' notice shall be given and an agenda provided.
- (e) A Director may conduct or participate in a regular or special meeting through the use of any means of communication by which all participating directors may simultaneously communicate with each other during the meeting.
- (f) A director participating in a meeting by this means is deemed to be present in person at the meeting.
- (g) The Board of Directors shall make recommendations and reports to the members of WWInc following Board meetings.

Section 5: Quorum

- (a) A quorum of the Board of Directors shall be at least four members in attendance at a meeting.
- (b) Proxy voting is not permitted.

Section 6: Term of Office

- (a) The members of the WWInc Board of Directors term of office shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected.
- (b) Terms shall be staggered.

Section 7: Vacancies

A vacancy in any elected office shall be filled by appointment by the WWInc Board of Directors.

continued on page 4, BYLAWS

BYLAWS, continued from page 3

ARTICLE V

Meetings of Members

Section 1: Meetings of members

- (a) There shall be an annual business meeting and conference for WWInc members; it shall include the election of Board members, the receiving of reports of officers and committees and for any other lawful business.
- (b) The meeting date shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 2: Special meetings

- (a) Special meetings may be called by the President or be called upon the written request of ten members of WWInc.
- (b) The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the call.
- (c) Except in case of emergency, three days' notice shall be given.

Section 3: Quorum

A majority of members in attendance shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VI

Committees

Section 1: Ex-officio members

The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

Section 2: Appointment

With the exception of the Nominating Committee, Committee Chairpersons shall be appointed by the President, with approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 3: Nominating Committee

- (a) Five WWInc members in good standing shall be selected by the Board of Directors to serve on the nominating committee.
- (b) A slate of nominees shall be presented to the Board of Directors at the meeting immediately preceding the annual meeting and convention.
- (c) The slate shall be announced to the members by the Nominating Committee Chairperson during the annual business meeting of members.

ARTICLE VII

Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern WWInc. in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order WWInc may adopt.

ARTICLE VIII

Amendment of Bylaws

Section 1: Amendments

- (a) The Board of Directors may amend bylaws. Ratification of such amendment(s) by WWInc members would take place at the next annual meeting of members.
- (b) These bylaws may be amended at the annual meeting of members by a two-thirds vote of members present and become effective immediately.
- (c) Proxy voting is not permitted.

continued on page 5, BYLAWS

BYLAWS, continued from page 4

Section 2: Proposed amendments

- (a) Proposed amendments must be presented to the President in writing at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting of members.
- (b) The President shall present proposed amendments to the Board of Directors for determination whether said amendments will be presented to members for action.
- (c) Proposed amendments shall be posted at the annual meeting of members or published in WyoWriter if adequate time allows.

Section 3

Should the Board of Directors decline to introduce a proposed amendment as provided for in Section 2, members may introduce the proposal before the annual meeting of members, provided five members sign a written request for consideration of the proposal.

ARTICLE IX

Dissolution

In the event that WWInc should be dissolved, the treasurer shall, after paying all legitimate expenses, disburse remaining funds to the University of Wyoming to be used specifically for creative writing scholarships.

Full Steam Ahead For WWInc. Writers' Conference

The Wyoming Writers, Inc. 2010 Writers' Conference is shaping up to be a 'no miss' event. Thanks to the hard work of our Conference Chair, and our equally-hardworking Board, we will again be featuring a diverse and exciting faculty.

Our conference venue this year is beautiful Cody, Wyoming. Located at the foot of the Grand Tetons, and just minutes away from Yellowstone National Park, Cody is home to The Buffalo Bill Historic Center as well as many other regional attractions. Our conference is scheduled for June 4-6 and, thanks to input from our membership and our many attendees last year, has some changes in format sure to please.

Western author and award-winning investigative reporter, Max McCoy; Spur Award-winning novelist, Robert Roripaugh, and nationally and internationally recognized and award-winning poet Lee Ann Roripaugh are only three of the members of this year's faculty. Our Conference Chair is completing negotiations with other faculty at this time, including New York-based literary agents, who will be available for one-on-one pitch sessions at the conference. That means, in addition to enjoying outstanding workshops, you need to get busy dusting off and honing your best 'pitches'.

Watch for more information in upcoming issues of the Wyo-Writer. For more information, visit our web pages at: <http://www.wyowriters.org>.



2010 Wyoming Writers, Inc. Awards



Call for Nominations

Nominations are open for the four major awards of Wyoming Writers, Inc. and will be accepted through **April 30, 2010**. These awards honor those who have accomplished outstanding achievements in their writing careers and/or inspired and served Wyoming Writers selflessly. Any questions or nominations should be directed to **Aaron Holst, WWI Awards Chair, 1508 Hill Pond Drive, Sheridan, WY 82801**. He may also be reached by telephone, 307-674-5565, or by email, awards@wyowriters.org. (If you send nominations by email, please indicate in the subject line the communication concerns WWI Awards.)

The **Western Horizon Award** and the **Milestone Award** are open to current members of Wyoming Writers, Inc., and each award may have multiple recipients, as they are non-competitive. Since the **Western Horizon Award** and the **Milestone Award** recognize individual achievement, these awards do not require another member's nomination and must be made by the member seeking the award.

The **Western Horizon Award** recognizes a writer's first major work published between May 2009 and May 1, 2010. For a first book, include the title, ISBN, the publisher, and publication date. (The book must have an ISBN to qualify for this award.) For a first article/story/essay/poem in a major publication, include the title of the work, the name of the periodical, and date of publication. The periodical must be national or literary, and have a subscriber base. The member seeking the award makes this nomination.

The **Milestone Award** recognizes published writers for ongoing achievements of personal significance in their writing careers. Submissions should succinctly express the breadth and depth of writing career as well as an explanation of what specific events took place that launched the milestone. The member seeking the award makes this nomination.

For the **Arizola Magnenat Award** and the **Emmie Mygatt Award**, the recipients (one each) are chosen from nominations submitted by the current membership of WW Inc.

The **Arizola Magnenat Award** is given to any adult, organization, business, or other entity that has provided special encouragement and motivation to writers. A nominee for this award does not have to be a member of WW Inc. If you know an adult, an organization, a business, or other entity that has given much encouragement and motivation to writers, they would be eligible for the Arizola Magnenat Award (open to non-members). The nomination must include a letter explaining why the nominee deserves this award.

The **Emmie Mygatt Award** is given to a WW Inc member for outstanding service to the organization, in honor and memory of one of WW Inc's founders. Past recipients and the outgoing president of WW Inc are ineligible for this award. The nomination must include a letter explaining why the nominee deserves this award.

Send your nominations to: **Aaron Holst, WWI Awards Chair, 1508 Hill Pond Drive, Sheridan, WY 82801**. These must be postmarked no later than **April 30, 2010**. Awards will be presented at the annual WW Inc conference banquet, June 2010, in Cody, WY.



Join Wyoming Writers Today!

Membership in Wyoming Writers is open to anyone interested in writing or writers. We currently have almost 200 members, writing in many genres: fiction, non-fiction, children's, poetry, romance, mystery, science fiction, technical, and many other categories.

Members of Wyoming Writers receive the following benefits:

- ◇ Electronic newsletter
- ◇ Discount to the annual conference
- ◇ Notification of writing opportunities
- ◇ First-rate workshops
- ◇ Chance to meet with others of similar tastes and ambitions

We invite you to join Wyoming Writers today! Simply send this form, along with \$25 annual dues to:

Pat Frolander
 19652 U.S. Highway 14
 Sundance, WY 82729
 307-283-2813
 pfrolander@rangeweb.net

Make checks payable to Wyoming Writers, Inc. All memberships expire June 30th of each year, regardless of when you join.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Phone (Day) _____

Phone (Night) _____

E-mail _____

Web Site _____

Writing Category _____

WYOMING WRITERS, INC. 2010 CONTEST ANNOUNCED

WW, Inc. Contest Chair, Ann Heberlein announces the **Wyoming Writers, Inc. Annual Writing Contest**. With extraordinarily low entry fees and a streamlined entry process, the WW, Inc. contest is an opportunity that shouldn't be missed. Below, you'll find the official contest rules, followed by Manuscript Preparation Guidelines on page 8. You can also find all this information at our web pages located at: <http://www.wyowriters.org>. Remember, **WW, Inc. members get reduced entry fee rates**, so, along with your entries, be sure to include your membership (the membership form is on page seven). Don't forget to enter soon!~~ed



WYOMING WRITERS 2010 OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES

Deadline: Hard copy entries must be postmarked by **April 2, 2010**

Entry Fee: **\$2.00** for each entry for members of Wyoming Writers, Inc.; **\$5.00** per entry for non-members. **Non-members are encouraged to join the organization; the membership application is available on page seven, herein.**

No limit on the number of entries allowed. Include one check for the total amount. **No entry fees will be refunded.**

Send entry to Ms. Chris Williams / WWInc. Contest / 3229 NW Gumwood Ave. / Corvallis, OR 97330.

Eligibility: The contest is open to all Wyoming residents as well as non-residents. All works must be original and in English. Previously published material or work accepted or under consideration for publication elsewhere, or entered in another contest simultaneously is NOT eligible. Work that has previously placed or received honorable mention in a Wyoming Writers, Inc. contest is NOT eligible. Work may be submitted to other contests or for publication after the contest deadline.

Length: Not more than 3,000 words per prose entry; not more than 40 lines per poem.

Categories:

Adult Fiction (includes: sci-fi, mystery, romance)—NO Horror or Erotica)

Fiction for Children

Novel Segments

Humor

Non-fiction (includes: Articles, Essays, and Creative Nonfiction)

Traditional Poetry

Free Verse

Prizes: Each winner will receive a certificate. Winners announced at WWInc.'s 2010 Conference at the Holiday Inn in Cody, WY.

Any questions please email Ann Heberlein at abalan1@bresnan.net – be sure to include WWInc Contest in Subject line. *continued on page nine, CONTEST MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION*



*Here you'll find the rules for the preparation and submission of your Contest entries. Please read and follow these rules **carefully!** People sometimes ask why the rules are so important. Well, simply put, the ability to follow directions is really important as your writing career evolves. Virtually all agents and publishers use guidelines to which submitting writers must adhere in order to be read.*

And so it goes with writing contests. Look at these rules as practice for professional submission elsewhere. Following the rules is just another part of the contest~~an important part to which all entrants must adhere. So read carefully, and if you have a question do not hesitate to ask. We're here to help!

WYOMING WRITERS, INC. 2010 WRITING CONTEST

MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION

Cover Sheet: Each entry must be accompanied by a cover sheet on 8-1/2X11-inch paper and must contain the following:

- (1) Category entered,
- (2) Title of work,
- (3) Word count or number of lines,
- (3a) Total number of entry's pages, if prose,
- (4) Author's name,
- (5) Author's address,
- (6) Author's telephone number, and
- (7) Author's email address.

Prose Entries: 3,000 words MAX. Author's name must appear only on the cover sheet, NO where else. Use standard manuscript format: double-spaced with 1 ½ inch margins all around. Start the first page halfway down. Title and page number must appear on each page (header). Times New Roman or Courier font required. Do not staple. Use paper clips to keep each manuscript together. No binders.

Poetry Entries: 40 lines MAX. Author's name must appear only on the cover sheet. Poems may be single-spaced, but margins should be at least 1 inch. Keep to one page (not to exceed the 40 line max requirement.) Do not use all caps. Times New Roman or Courier font required.

All Entries: Manuscripts must be on ordinary 8 ½ X 11-inch white paper (no color). No unusual fonts. Keep copies of your manuscript entries as they will not be returned.

Send entries to:
Ms. Chris Williams
WWInc. Contest
3229 NW Gumwood Ave.
Corvallis, OR 97330.

Manuscripts not following the format above, exceed the 3,000 word length, or do not indicate the correct category will be disqualified and discarded.

Winners will be notified.

Any questions please email Ann Heberlein at abalan1@bresnan.net – be sure to include WWInc Contest in Subject line.



MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND AIDS DESERVING WRITERS

Emmie Mygatt Memorial Scholarships are Available

by Midge Farmer and Shelly Ritthaler

The Memorial Scholarship Fund doesn't get much publicity, but it is very important to our organization; scholarships from this fund are awarded each year to provide Wyoming Writers, Inc. Conference tuition to writers with financial needs. Donations to the Fund can be made at any time by anyone. Most, but not all, donations are memorials. The principal of the Fund is never touched, thus the Fund keeps giving and giving, much as the woman whose name it bears did during the course of her life.

The Fund was started in 1977 with a donation of \$500 from Emmie Mygatt. Emmie was a published author when she moved to Big Horn from the east coast in the late '60s. She taught a creative writing class at Sheridan College that was so popular the members continued meeting after the class ended. Emmie was leader of and advisor to this group which evolved into the Sheridan Range Writers. She envisioned a state writers' organization and encouraged her group to start one, which they did in June, 1974—Wyoming Writers, Inc.

Emmie was a kind, caring, lovely lady who believed writers could live anywhere. She helped others believe it as well, helped writers to learn their craft, and encouraged us all to help each other. When she knew she was dying in 1977, Emmie gave the gift of \$500 to be "joyously spent for an unusual opportunity approved by all." With great foresight, and with Emmie's blessing, the Board created the Emmie Mygatt Memorial Scholarship Fund. For clarity, the name was shortened in June, 1994.

Each year the number and dollar amount of the scholarships change depending on donations received and interest rates realized. Over 60 scholarships have been awarded in the years since 1978. These scholarships (and one award) have helped writers throughout Wyoming.

Although WWI members receive first preference, non-members may also apply for a scholarship. If you or someone you know needs help attending the conference, please share the application.

Questions?

Contact Scholarship Chair Nancy Wall at scholarship@wyowriters.org or 208-238-8079.

'~~~The cowboys have language intelligible only to the initiated. They call a horse herder a "horse wrangler", and a horse-breaker a "bronco buster". Their steed is often a "Cayuse", and to dress well is often to "rag proper". When a cowboy goes out on the prairie he "hits the flat". Whiskey is "family disturbance", and to eat is to "chew". His hat is a "cady", his whip a "quirt", his rubber coat a "slicker", his leather overalls are "chaps" or "chapperals", and his revolver is a "45". Bacon is "overland trout", and unbranded cattle are "mavericks".~~~'

Finney County Democrat, 26 March 1887~~~

**WYOMING WRITERS, INC.
2010 OFFICERS**

Executive Board

President: Joe Megeath.....Email: president@wyowriters.org
Vice President: Mike Shay.....Email: vicepresident@wyowriters.org
Secretary: Katie Smith.....Email: secretary@wyowriters.org
Treasurer: Patricia Frolander.....Email: treasurer@wyowriters.org

Board Members:

Ann Heberlein
Julianne Couch
Past President (Ex-Officio): Jeanne Rogers.....Email: pastpresident@wyowriters.org

Committee Chairpersons

2010 Conference Chair: Nancy Ruskowsky.....Email: conference@wyowriters.org
Wyo-Writer Editor: Linda G. Vernon.....Email: wyo-writer@wyowriters.org
Emmie Mygatt Memorial Scholarship Fund: Nancy D. Wall.....Email: scholarship@wyowriters.org
Adult Writing Contest: Ann O. Heberlein.....Email: contest@wyowriters.org
Anthology: VACANT Contact president@wyowriters.org to volunteer for this position.
Awards: Aaron Holst.....Email: awards@wyowriters.org
Membership: VACANT Contact president@wyowriters.org to volunteer for this position.
MPBA: John Nesbitt.....Email: mpba@wyowriters.org
Parliamentarian: Pat Forbis.....Email: parliamentarian@wyowriters.org
Publicity: VACANT Contact president@wyowriters.org to volunteer for this position

2009 PROPOSED CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS(see proposed changes to bylaws on pages 2, 3, 4, and 5)

WYOMING WRITERS, INC. CONSTITUTION

Preamble

Be it known that the Wyoming Writers, Inc. (WWInc) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization of persons who write for publication or as a hobby, banded together for mutual help and inspiration. WWInc seeks to encourage and promote interest in writing. The organization will not impose rules or regulations upon its members regarding literary style or content nor will it impose restrictions on its members' personal or private dealings with agents, editors or publishers.

Aims and Purposes

In addition to the basic concepts set forth in the Preamble, the **Aims and Purposes** of the Organization shall be

- to hold an annual conference at which members may meet for the enjoyment of each other's society, for the exchange of ideas, and for the discussion of projects, programs, and other activities tending to promote the welfare of the Organization and its members; where lectures and workshops may be conferred, and officers for the ensuing year elected and installed;
- to prepare and distribute a publication, the WYO-Writer, designed to keep members informed;
- to hold other writing workshops and activities that will educate, inform or promote Wyoming writers.

In order for WWInc to accomplish the purposes stated in this Constitution, Bylaws have been prepared. The Bylaws and amendments to them will be accepted by the general membership of WWInc and will govern the activities of the Organization. At no time may the Bylaws conflict with this Constitution.

Policies and procedures may be adopted by the Executive Board to supplement the Bylaws. Policies cannot conflict with the Constitution or Bylaws.

Adopted by the members of Wyoming Writers, Inc., June 3, 1995
Revised 2009

Old Fashioned Humor

By Roxie Olmstead

In researching old, small town newspapers to write historical articles I get carried away looking at their humor items. Mark Twain wrote, "Humor is mankind's greatest blessing." I hope you feel blessed as I share this humor with you.

March 9, 1888: A substance is said to have been discovered three hundred percent sweeter than sugar. The substance is about eighteen years old and wears a bustle.

October 25, 1907: The Roosevelt hunting party killed three bears and let two get away. Those that escaped missed the opportunity of their lives to die a glorious death.

December 6, 1907: Government scientists announce that hydrophobia is a disease. What had they thought it was – a pastime?

April 10, 1908: Few enough people trust in God. There are less who God can afford to trust.

March 12, 1909: As we grow older, it is very comforting to assure ourselves that wrinkles are merely the dimples of second childhood.

April 25, 1909: Woman is considered the weaker vessel – and there is an old maxim to the effect that the weaker the vessel the thicker the paint.

May 28, 1909: Our grandchildren will have fun looking back at the hats their ancestors wore. The truth is the hats only look like peach baskets. If they really were peach baskets they could be bought for eleven cents a dozen, instead of costing an average of \$15.33 each.

Wyo-Writer

L. G. Vernon, Editor

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