

SPRING 2018

#weareowfi

owfi.org

The Report

50 Years of OWFI
1968 - 2018



Celebrating Our Legacy
Forging Our Future

OWFI Report, Spring 2018

In This Issue

- 3 Letter From the President, Sabrina Fish
- 4 Flash Fiction Photo Prompts
- 5 2018 Keynote Speaker: Michael Dahl
- 6 All About the 50th OWFI Conference
- 7 Conference Schedule
- 10 50th OWFI Conference: Meet the Faculty
- 14 OWFI Spotlight
- 16 Guest Column by Linda Apple
- 17 Slack Platform
- 18 Registration for 50th OWFI Conference

Officers

- President
Sabrina A. Fish
- Conference Chair
Staci Mauney
- 1st Vice President
Aleasha Shelnutt
- 2nd Vice President
Shelley Pagach
- Secretary
Julia Mozingo
- Treasurer
Vinita Eggers
- Grants Director
Vivian Zabel
- Publicity Director
Jennifer McMurray
- Parliamentarian
Wayne Harris-Wyrick
- Past President
Christine Smith-Jarmola

Staff

- Webmaster
Jack Burgos
- Newsletter Editor
Ariel White

The Report is the newsletter of the Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc., and is published three times per year. Submission guidelines are available upon request and questions or submissions should be directed to the newsletter editor.

Printed by Schatz Publishing Group.
Please send changes of address to the OWFI
Treasurer,
owfitreasurer001@gmail.com.

Founded in 1968, the Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc. (OWFI) is a non-profit federation of writers' groups dedicated to promoting higher standards for the written word. We believe that the literary profession has come of age and merits a fair share of the critical acclaim so generously lavished on other worthwhile arts. OWFI shall seek to coordinate and encourage professional writing within and without its organization and promote the recognition of outstanding contributions to the written language.

Contributing Writers

- Sabrina A. Fish
- Linda Apple



*Help make dreams come true!
Sponsor an OWFI Contest Category.*

*Full Sponsorships \$105 per category or Half
Sponsorships \$55 per category*

*All contributions are sincerely appreciated, and
tax deductible.*

*Sponsorships can be made online at
www.owfi.org/contest2018/sponsor/
or contact vck@cox.net*

From the President

Hello OWFI,

Can you believe there are only a couple of months left until OWFI 2018?!! What a great year to be your president! I'm so honored to have been chosen for our iconic 50th year anniversary. I've got the best team on the board with me and I'm looking forward to you enjoying the benefits of our labors. This is my last Report as your president, so I thought I'd share a little about what I've learned the last two years between being the 2017 Conference Coordinator and now the 2018 President.

First, I've learned that a good team around you is ESSENTIAL! And I've been honored with THE BEST team both last year and this year. From our treasurer who keeps our bills paid in a timely fashion, our webmaster who makes our online presence so attractive to those writers who find us online, our PR chair who gets the word out across social media and local news outlets about our various activities, and all the other officers and chairs who do their part to help make OWFI the amazing organization it is, I'm extremely thankful. And don't get me started on our VPs. The writing contest is an extremely important part of any writing organization and ours has had the benefit of amazing VPs to run it the last two years.

Second, I've learned that choosing a Conference Coordinator you can trust to

do the job and also enjoy spending time with makes ALL the difference between success and failure! Thank you to our 2017 President, Christine Jarmola, for teaching me that valuable lesson. Last year as Christine's coordinator and this year with Staci, my own coordinator, I've had such a great time not only working to organize two great conferences, but also in gaining two more close friendships that I'll treasure even after I'm no longer president. We worked like well-oiled machines in a partnership that was invaluable for getting the million-and-one little tasks that a conference attendee never sees, but would notice if they were absent.

Third, I've learned that being FLEXIBLE is absolutely essential to a president's sanity. In 2016, at the beginning of my stint as Christine's conference coordinator, Christine lost her mother and was, understandably, distracted from her duties as president. Flexibility became our mantra. But it wasn't until just this past few weeks that I fully understood how important being flexible is. Your two options are to bend or break when adversity hits. I'm so thankful that Christine taught me how to bend with poise and a smile on my face.

And finally, I've learned that though daunting, accepting the role of president of such a huge organization has been a blessing. I've learned that I'm even more capable than I realized, and that I'm actually



going to miss this hectic, sometimes stressful, yet extremely satisfying responsibility.

Thank you all for choosing me as your 2018 OWFI President. I've truly enjoyed getting to know many of you better and look forward to seeing you around the various OWFI activities even when my time as president has passed.

Warmest Regards and Happy Writing,
Sabrina A. Fish is the OWFI President for 2017- 2018.

SLEUTHING COSTUMES ENCOURAGED



WHERE: OWFI 2018

WHEN: MAY 4TH

TIME: LUNCH SESSION(TICKET REQUIRED)

Flash Fiction Prompt

It's back!

Are you ready to try your hand with a story idea?

Use one of the two pictures below to inspire a story. Write something about it - a flash fiction piece, an opening paragraph, a poem, a conversation, an article - whatever strikes you. Keep it under 500 words and give it a title. We will have a new set of pictures up every month. We'll print our favorites in the next copy of The Report and on our Facebook page.



Find full rules and information on OWFI.org. Click Fiction Prompt under the What's New tab.

If you have a photo you have taken you would like to submit, contact OWFIreport@gmail.com.

There is still room for your logo to be put on our conference bags for OWFI 2018, as well as our OWFI website, in our conference program, etc. The cost is just \$50. We'd love to see more of our affiliate group logos/ names on those bags.

**YOUR
LOGO**

Sign up at
www.owfi.org/sponsor/

2018 Keynote Speaker Michael Dahl

Michael Dahl is the author of more than 200 books for children and young adults. He has won the AEP Distinguished Achievement Award three times for his nonfiction, a Teachers' Choice award from Learning magazine, a Seal of Excellence from the Creative Child Awards, several Moms' Choice awards, the Moonbeam Award, and had been short listed twice by the Agatha Awards for his middle-grade mysteries. He has written *The Everything Kid's Joke Book* and *Gotcha Covered!* (with Kathleen Baxter) on nonfiction books that get kids excited about reading. His Finnegan Zwake mystery series published by Simon & Schuster won rave reviews. *The Chicago Tribune* called it a "wisecracking riot" and "golden!"

He is the author of the bestselling *Bedtime for Batman* and *Goodnight, Football* picture books. His *Library of Doom* adventure series has been the number one hi-lo series read in US schools for years. His latest picture book *Sweet Dreams, Supergirl* was recently reviewed by *Booklist* as "a perfect introductory graphic novel for picture-book readers," a guaranteed bedtime favorite for



your little supersleeper," and "as admirably diverse as the rest of the series."

Dahl has spoken at schools, libraries, and conferences across the US, including ALA, Texas Library Association, the Tulsa Reading Council, Oklahoma Young Writers Association, the Massachusetts School Library Association, the Bank Street School, and at the New York Public Library. He currently lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in a haunted house.

What's your favorite genre?

Mythology, with mystery a close second

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have?

The Great Gatsby.

Whose author fan club would you be the president of?

I'd be the president of the Agatha Christie Fan Club.

Best writing-related advice you've ever gotten?

You will never run out of ideas. Trust your imagination.

Favorite thing about conferences?

Meeting people from places I've never traveled.

You're a super hero. What is your superpower?

Too many to choose from! I'm a big comic book fan from my earliest childhood, especially DC. One? Well, I'll start with the power of teleportation.

What is one funny, strange, and/or out-of-the box thing we should know about you?

I live in a haunted house, and I have seen the ghost. Her name is Helen.



All About the 2018 OWFI Conference

Volunteer

Want more from your conference? The people who get the most out of OWFI are our conference volunteers. Check the HOW TO VOLUNTEER section of this newsletter, then go to the VOLUNTEER link nested under the CONFERENCE header on the OWFI website to contact the committee in which you're interested.

Any questions?

Check our website often at owfi.org to keep updated on conference news. We also have a very active Facebook group (search for "Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc. (OWFI)" or find the link on our website). If you have questions that aren't answered there, contact our president, Sabrina Fish, or conference coordinator, Staci Mauney.

What to Wear

- There's no dress code, but most people choose business casual clothing for the daytime sessions.
- The Friday night banquet features a costume contest*. If you'd rather not enter, slacks, a dress, or even nice jeans are okay. *See the graphic on page 15.
- Attire for the Saturday night banquet is usually fancier. If you aren't into formal wear, business casual clothing is fine, too.

What to Bring

- Business cards, if you have them.
- Notebook and pen, for taking notes during the sessions. Laptops are welcome, too, but many rooms don't have accessible outlets.
- A sweater or light jacket. The rooms can be chilly.
- Your ID, if you want to indulge during happy hour.

Other Tips

- During sessions, people often need to come and go due to pitching appointments or volunteer assignments. Please make sure the doors close gently behind you.
- Please silence cell phones during sessions.
- Water is available in seminar rooms, and coffee can be purchased in the hotel restaurant.
- If you have any questions, ask the volunteers at the OWFI registration desk or anyone wearing an Officer or Volunteer ribbon on their badge. We'll be glad to help.

How to Volunteer

The more you put into the OWFI conference, the more you'll get out of it. Volunteering is a great way to network, meet conference faculty, and grow your skills. Whether it's your first conference or your twentieth, we have a place for you on our team. Many options are listed below. Be sure to check out what the conference has to offer you as well as ways that you can help in return. Contact the committee chairs listed below to sign up.

Don't wait—the best jobs go fast!



- Basket Silent Auction— Chair: Jayleen Mayes – Keep an eye on the basket area and help people place bids. Sign up for one-hour shifts on the OWFI website. •

- Registration – Chair: C.J. Miles – Greet conference attendees, hand out registration packets, and take payments. You can sign up for two-hour shifts on the OWFI website.



- Pitch Room – Chair: Traci Schafer – Help with scheduling, time keeping, and ushering. You can sign up for 30-minute shifts on the OWFI website.
- Shepherds – Chair: Eric Reitan - Assist our conference speakers. You will introduce your speaker and help as needed during sessions. If another attendee doesn't ask them to lunch, you'll buy them lunch. Your duties may also include picking speakers up from the airport and sitting with them at the banquets. If you want to spend one-on-one time with a publishing professional, you may never have a better opportunity. If you're interested, go to the VOLUNTEER tab under conference on the OWFI website to contact the chair with your preference.

Meet the President - Elect

Meet your President - Elect: Staci Mauney



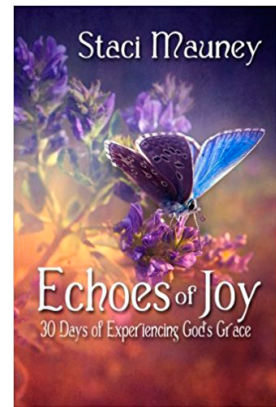
Currently the OWFI Conference Chair for 2018, Staci Mauney holds

a Master of Education in Secondary Education from Cameron University and a Bachelor of Arts in English from Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU).

She grew up and spent most of her life in southwestern Oklahoma and enjoys traveling around the United States to visit family and see new sights. She likes to take her sassy Yorkie, Lilly, for long walks in the park. She is active in LifeChurch and volunteers in her local community.

She runs a freelance editing business, Prestige Prose, which can be found online at www.prestigepro.com.

She is the author of *Echoes of Joy: 30 Days of Experiencing God's Grace* and *Echoes of Joy: A Daily Devotional at Christmas* and maintains a Christian devotional blog of the same name. She has had short stories published in *Chicken Soup for the Shopper's Soul*; *Owl Hootings, Vol. II*; and *Oklahoma: The Fountain of the Heartland*.



50 Years of OWFI Conference Schedule Thursday, May 3rd

<p>5:00 P.M. LOBBY</p>	<p>Registration Opens</p>
<p>6:30 – 8:00 P.M.</p>	<p>Diane Drake Pre-Con Workshop What's the Big Idea: Creating a Strong Logline</p> <p>A compelling logline can be key to both keeping your screenplay on track and to selling your material. This workshop will briefly cover the definition, purpose, and ingredients of a good logline, and then have attendees engage in a couple interactive exercises designed to practice crafting them. After that, we'll have some time for Q&A on screenwriting and the film business.</p> <p>OPEN TO PUBLIC - \$20 (Not included in conference registration. Must purchase a separate ticket.)</p> <p>Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door. (Cash only at the door).</p>

50 Years of OWFI Conference Schedule

Friday, May 4th

Registration, Lobby Area, 8:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. Pitch Room, 2:00 – 5:30 P.M. Bookstore, Pre-convene area, 10:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.				
	ROOM A	ROOM B	ROOM C	ROOM D
8:30 A.M.	Opening Session—Opening Skit: Christine Jarmola Welcome: OWFI President Sabrina Fish			
9:10 – 10:10 A.M.	Agents & Editors Panel Ask our lineup of agents & editors questions		Stephanie Hansen Traditional Publishing: Insight from an Agent	Arlene Gale Legal and Business Considerations in Writing
10:20 – 11:20 A.M.	Melissa Edwards Contracts, Copyright, and Intellectual Property... Oh My!	Rhonda Penders & Ally Robertson Where Does the Story Start?	Samantha March How to Effectively Use Social Media	Adriana Mather Writing Suspenseful Plots
11:30 – 12:30 A.M.	Set up for WhoDunIt? luncheon		Diane Drake Get Your Story Straight: Structuring Your Screenplay to Sell	Vickey Kennedy Story Building Blocks: The ABCs of Story Structure
12:30 P.M.	Box Lunch Workshop with Mark Alpert— WhoDunIt? How to Write a Science Thriller Room AB (Prior ticket purchase required, no walk-ins)			
2:00 – 3:00 P.M.	Henry Cline The Art of Songwriting	William Bernhardt Creating Character	Jack Burgos You.com – How to Get Your Name on the World Wide Web	Linda Apple Writing from Your Soul
3:10 – 4:10 P.M.	Brian Roe Working with a Professional Cover Designer	Mariana Llanos What Everyone Should Know About Multicultural Children’s Literature	Tara Lynn Thompson Get Your Name in Print	Adrean Messmer This Kills the Monster: Dissecting Horror
4:20 – 5:20 P.M.	Tamara Grantham The Fantasy Formula: How to Build a Realistic Fantasy World	Hannah Joy Wilkinson Writing Historical Fiction	Erin York Publishing Your Poetry	BJ McMinn Formatting for Kindle
5:30 – 6:30 P.M.				
7:00 P.M.	Banquet Keynote: Michael Dahl			
~ 9:00 P.M.	LIVE MUSIC with Henry Cline (9pm-10pm) Buzz Sessions (informal come-and-go talks) Locations and topics will be announced at the close of banquet			

50 Years of OWFI Conference Schedule

Saturday, May 5th

Registration, 8:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.		Pitch Room, 1:30 – 5:00 P.M.		Bookstore, 10:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.	
	ROOM A	ROOM B	ROOM C	ROOM D	
8:30 – 9:30 A.M.	Ally Robertson How to Know When Your Work Is Ready for an Editor	Melissa Ann Singer Writing Series Fiction	Rachelle Gardner Book Proposals that Sell	Samantha March How to Build a Platform	
9:40 – 10:40 A.M.	Courtney Knight First Impressions Matter: On Queries	Mark Alpert Putting Real Life in Your Fiction	BJ McMinn Publishing on Amazon	Jack Burgos Tales from Bedlam – Mental Illness in Storytelling	
10:50 – 11:50 A.M.	Set up for 50 th Anniversary Luncheon		Michael Dahl		
12:00 P.M.	Box Lunch Workshop: 50th Anniversary with Linda Apple, Marsha Preston, & Wayne Wyrick Room AB (Prior ticket purchase required, no walk-ins)				
1:30 – 2:30 P.M.	William Bernhardt Dynamic Dialogue	Adriana Mather Making Book Trailers	Linda Apple Using Fiction to Tell the Truth	Arlene Gale What is a Writing Coach and Why Might I Need One	
2:40 – 3:40 P.M.	Tamara Grantham Newsletters, Street Teams, and Websites	Henry Cline Young Adult Mystery/Thrillers	Adrean Messmer The Red Write Hand: Fanfiction 101	Hannah Joy Wilkinson Writing Christian Fiction	
3:50 – 4:50 P.M.	Brian Roe The Basics of Book Cover Creation	Tara Lynn Thompson A Writer for the Senses	Mariana Llanos Secrets of a Hybrid Author	Erin York Fanfiction: Fine or Finned?	
5:00 – 5:20 P.M.	OWFI Board Meeting Officers and delegates, please attend				
5:20 – 5:30 P.M.	General Membership Meeting All members welcome & encouraged to attend				
7:00 P.M.	Banquet: Contest Results (The 2019 OWFI Keynote Speaker will be announced)				



Don't forget

All schedules and up-to-date information pertaining to the 50th OWFI Conference can be found on our website!
www.owfi.org/conference2018/schedule

50 Years of OWFI Conference

Meet the Faculty

Do you ever get tongue-tied when you meet the conference speaker you've been looking forward to meeting? Sharing your work with an agent? Dazzling an editor with your wit? Have no fear and learn a little more about them—and what you may even share in common.

Diane Drake, Pre-Conference



What's your favorite genre? Comedy, especially the more dry, understated kind (THE OFFICE, LOCAL HERO, etc.)

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have? Not to brag, but I actually have read quite a number of classics because years ago I decided that when people referred to them, I wanted to have some understanding of what they were talking about. That said, probably *CATCH-22* or *FAHRENHEIT 451*.

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Beryl Markham

What's the best writing-related advice you've ever received? "Write as though no one's going to read it; rewrite as though everyone's going to read it."

What's your favorite thing about conferences? The people

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? I think time travel would be pretty cool.

What is one funny, strange, and/or out-of-the box thing we should know about you? Between high school and college, I worked for the California Conservation Corp, digging post holes, chipping brush, etc. and decided then and there that I never wanted to be a forest ranger.

Rachelle Gardner, Agent



What's your favorite genre? Contemporary fiction and suspense

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you

probably should have? *Anna Karenina*

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Kate Chopin

What's the best writing-related advice you've ever received? Take your time. There's no rush

What's your favorite thing about conferences? Meeting writers.

Melissa Edwards, Agent



What's your favorite genre? I don't have a favorite genre necessarily, since there's a time and place for everything. When I was a kid, I grew up reading mysteries

and thrillers because I would steal those books from my dad and grandpa. They hold a special place in my heart. Currently for my personal relaxation reading, outside of work, I enjoy quiet women's fiction.

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have? I own *ANNA KARENINA* and I've tried to finish it a few times, but I have never succeeded.

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? I used to write emails to Daniel Silva when I was a teenager. His wife, news correspondent Jamie Gangel, would write back and it was an absolute thrill. It made me want to be involved in publishing because I wanted access to authors!

What's the best writing-related advice you've ever received? What do your characters want v. what do they need?

What's your favorite thing about conferences? I love talking to authors at meals about topics unrelated to publishing. Just getting to know new people in a new place feels like an incredible opportunity.

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? I am "super" at knowing what other people are good at!

What is one funny, strange, and/or out-of-the box thing we should know about you? I am obsessed with taking kettlebell classes.

Rhonda Penders, Editor



What's your favorite genre? Romance. In particular contemporary romance.

What book have you not read even though it's

a classic and you probably should have? *Pride and Prejudice*

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Probably Susan Wiggs

What's the best writing-related advice you've ever received? If you write one page a day in a year you'd have a 365 page book. There's no excuse to not be able to do at least 1 page a day.

What's your favorite thing about conferences? Meeting and talking to writers, authors and anyone connected to the writing world. .

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? To be able to transport myself anywhere in an instant.

What is one funny, strange, and/or out-of-the box thing we should know about you? I was born and raised in Upstate NY but in my heart I'm a Texas girl. I was a member of the San Antonio Romance Authors. I'm never happier then when I'm in the Hill Country riding horses.

Melissa Ann Singer, Editor



What's your favorite genre? Don't have one. I am a big reader of genre fiction and always have been, and wander happily from genre to genre as a

reader and as an editor.

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have? There are probably dozens, if not hundreds, of supposedly-classic works I have not read, or that I read once in high school, never looked at again, and barely remember. I don't get worked up about this; not all books are to everyone's taste.

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? I adore the work of many writers, but I can't see myself doing this. I think this may be because I started working in publishing when I was 18. I've had the great luck to be able to work with a few of the writers whose work heavily influenced me when I was young, which has never failed to thrill and delight me.

What's the best writing-related advice you've ever received? I don't write, so I've never gotten any writing-related advice.

What's your favorite thing about conferences? Meeting people and talking to them about things that they are excited about.

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? Flight. No question on that. My daughter lives in another country, so if I could fly, I could see her more than once a year.

What is one funny, strange, and/or out-of-the box thing we should know about you? I spent about a decade, from my mid-20s to my mid-30s, studying stage combat (rapier, broadsword, quarterstaff, hand-to-hand, and more) and performing, for free, once a year in New York's Central Park. (Also, I am fascinated by chickens.)

Vivian Zabel, Editor



What's your favorite genre? Mystery/suspense. I grew up on Nancy Drew.

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably

Where: OWFI 2018 When: May 5th Time: Lunch Session(Ticket Required)



should have? *Pride and Prejudice*

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Now, that's a difficult question since I would want to be president of several: J.A. Jance, William Burnhardt, Merlene Lovelace, Tess Gerritsen, Stuart Wood, Steven James, and Steve Berry to name a few. Oh, did I say my favorite genre is mystery/suspense?

What's the best writing-related advice you've ever received? Write first for yourself.

What's your favorite thing about conferences? Just one thing? I love the networking, but I always learn something that helps me improve as a writer.

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? I can read minds when I want to do so. I would first begin with reading my own mind.

What is one funny, strange, and/or out-of-the box thing we should know about you? Not funny but known by few people, but I am a singer or was before asthma took away my breath control.

Linda Apple, Speaker

What's your favorite genre? I guess it would be easier to say what my least favorite is because I like so many.



What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have? *Wuthering Heights*

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Richard Paul Evans

What's the best writing-related advice you've ever received? Learn the rules before breaking them. Then, by all means, break away and develop your writing voice..

What's your favorite thing about conferences? People, great information, writerly talk.

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? Speak every language in the world.

What is one funny, strange, and/or out-of-the box thing we should know about you? It is a family legend that we are related to Elvis Presley. You know? I can kinda see that in one of my sons!

Meet the Faculty continued
on page 12 & 13

50 Years of OWFI Conference

Meet the Faculty

William Bernhardt, Speaker



What's your favorite genre?

I like everything (good).

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should

have? *Little Women*

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Bernard Cornwell

What's the best writing-related advice you've ever received? Don't wait. Do it now.

What's your favorite thing about conferences? Meeting readers (and writers).

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? Immortality. I still got too much stuff to do.

What is one funny, strange, and/or out-of-the box thing we should know about you? I read *Moby Dick* when I was eight.

Arlene Gale, Speaker



What's your favorite genre?

As part of my business and day-to-day work, I love to write and help other people write nonfiction, especially memoirs

and business processes, systems, and how to books.

What's the best writing-related advice you've ever received? Just write! Keep writing and you'll get better and better at it.

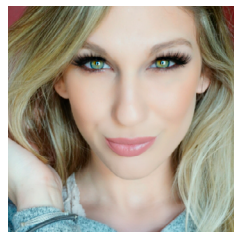
What's your favorite thing about conferences? Meeting new people and finding out what genres they write and where they are on their writing journey. Finding new writers who I can help.

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? Super speed. I would love to accomplish more every day, more things for me, my family, my business, my clients, and my community. Of course, along with the super power of super speed comes the

energy to run fast for long periods of time.

What is one funny, strange, and/or out-of-the box thing we should know about you? I love to write and teach. I have kept a journal since I was about 8 years old. I wrote about my hopes and dreams, and drama and trauma in my life. I also wrote about the fictional lives and adventures of my stuffed animal friends. At about that same age I remember lining my dozens of stuffed animals up on my bed and lecturing them on subjects like team work and responsibility.

Samantha March, Speaker



What's your favorite genre?

Chick lit!

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have? *The Great*

Gatsby – I KNOW!

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Emily Giffin!

What's the best writing-related advice you've ever received? Just start. Even if you don't have a plan, a plot, an ending - just get the ball rolling!

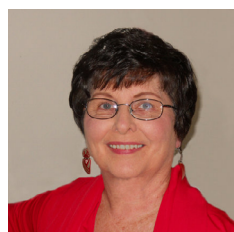
What's your favorite thing about conferences? Meeting new people!

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? The ability to stop time!

What is one funny, strange, and/or out-of-the box thing we should know about you?

A fun fact about me is that I performed in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade in NYC as a senior in high school as an All-Star Cheerleader!

BJ McMinn, Speaker



What's your favorite genre?

Romance

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should

have? *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Hannah Howell

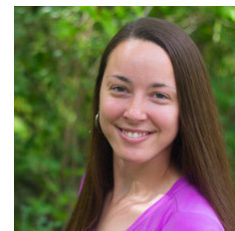
What's the best writing-related advice you've ever received? Keep it short (sentences).

What's your favorite thing about conferences? Attending classes

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? To write a novel without editing

What is one funny, strange, and/or out-of-the box thing we should know about you? I sleep with my eyes open (so watch out).

Hannah Joy Wilkinson, Speaker



What's your favorite genre?

Christian Historical fiction because I love learning while I read and being encouraged at the same time!

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have? I always think of *Catch-22* because I say the phrase but have never read the book!

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? Elizabeth Gaskell's because I have recently been enjoying her work and feel that she should be as popular as Jane Austen!

What's the best writing-related advice you've ever received? You are successful if you enjoyed writing the book regardless of the financial or popularity outcome. It's more about the journey than the destination!

What's your favorite thing about conferences? I love meeting other writers and finding out that we all struggle with similar things. Writing can be lonely until we all come together and encourage each other!

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? I have the ability to fly and

50 Years of OWFI Conference

Meet the Faculty

explore all the places in the world that no one can reach otherwise!

What is one funny, strange, and/or out-of-the box thing we should know about you? If I am planning to do something, I only like to start the activity on the hour or the half-hour. If it's 12:43, I have to wait to start writing at 1:00! Much procrastination happens this way...

Erin York, Speaker



What's your favorite genre? It's hard to pick just one! I love poetry, LGBTQ+ fiction, young adult, fantasy, horror, and sci-fi.

What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have? I've never read a single Virginia Woolf book all the way through...

Whose author fan club would you be the president of? I would LOVE to be the president of Tamora Pierce's fan club. Though I began reading her work at age 14, her strong female protagonists who don't need a love interest to save them or help them find fulfillment still inspire me and my writing to this day.

What's the best writing-related advice

you've ever received? Write for yourself, not for an audience. Your audience will find you if you stay true to your heart and your voice.

What's your favorite thing about conferences? I get to nerd out with people who also talk to the voices (er, characters) in their heads! Everyone else thinks I'm crazy.

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? I can stop time and bring others into my timeless bubble. Obviously, I've thought this through.

What is one funny, strange, and/or out-of-the box thing we should know about you? Hmm. I always say I'm a published author when I'm normally asked this question. I guess I'll go with I'm covered in tattoos, but you'd probably never guess where!

Mark Alpert, Speaker

What's your favorite genre? Science thrillers. I write them, and I like to read them too.



What book have you not read even though it's a classic and you probably should have? *The*

Adventures of Tom Sawyer

Whose author fan club would you be the

president of? Robert Penn Warren, author of *All The King's Men*, one of my favorite books.

What's the best writing-related advice you've ever received? This advice came from my wife: "You should write about a main character who's like you, because you're not so bad."

What's your favorite thing about conferences? Meeting new writers

You're a super hero. What is your superpower? Definitely flying. Including the ability to fly into space, which Superman can do. That would be cool.

What is one funny, strange, and/or out-of-the box thing we should know about you? Here's something I usually don't admit: I used to be a mime. When I was an undergrad at Princeton, I was a member of the college's mime company. We did two shows a year on campus, and in the summer of 1982 we traveled to Scotland and performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. And we were a huge hit! We made enough money from the ticket sales to pay for the whole trip, and we appeared on BBC.

Thanks to all contributing faculty for playing along. See you at the conference!



50th Anniversary t-shirts will only be for sale until April 1st and we will NOT have any extra available at the conference. If you want one, you can purchase it via the conference registration page. Just fill in your information, select your size, and pay. Easy!

<https://www.owfi.org/register/>

Affiliate Spotlight: Nevermore Edits and Norman Galaxy

One of the best benefits of OWFI are the many affiliate groups that are associated with us. This month, we're taking a closer look at the Nevermore Edits and the Norman Galaxy groups.

Nevermore Edits

Website: <https://www.nvmedits.com>

FB Fan Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/nevermoreedits/>

Twitter: @NevermoreEdits



OWFI: How long has your affiliate group been active and how often do you meet?

Nevermore Edits: 2013 and Every Friday, 7 PM, Mammoth Comics in Tulsa (4614 E. 11th St., Tulsa, OK 74112)

OWFI: Do you have a critique group?

Nevermore Edits: We're primarily a critique group! We have a unusual process we use for our critique, and we actually shot a short film to share with new people. Find it on our website!

OWFI: How many active members does your group have?

Nevermore Edits: By our most recent count, we have about twenty-five active members. At any given meeting, we can have about fifteen people.

OWFI: Do you hold any annual contests?

Nevermore Edits: We do! We are currently running a Flash Fiction contest. Entries are accepted through April 1st. See our website/Twitter/Facebook page for more details!

OWFI: What are some of the ways your group has contributed to OWFI since becoming an affiliate member?

Nevermore Edits: You can often find our members running the registration table at the conference! We've sponsored a number of contest category over the last several years. We plan on continuing.

OWFI: Are there any titles or upcoming releases from your members??

Nevermore Edits:

- *Dies Infaustus* edited by Shannon Iwanski (from A Murder of Storytellers) (Available April 13th)
- *Stroking Alter Egos* edited by Gio Lassater (Available March 1st)
- *Copper and Gold* by Jessica D. Coplen (Available March 29th)

Thanks to Mac Boyle, President with Nevermore Edits for answering our questions!

Norman Galaxy of Writers

Website:

www.normangalaxyofwriters.org

FB Fan Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NormanGalaxy/>



OWFI: Do you have a mission statement?

Norman Galaxy: The mission

of Norman Galaxy of Writers is to provide a venue for published and unpublished writers to develop and refine their writing skills through quality educational programs, mentoring, and networking with other professional writers.

OWFI: How long has your affiliate group been active and how often do you meet?

Norman Galaxy: 1969 and Second Saturday of the month at 10 AM

OWFI: How many active members does your group have?

Norman Galaxy: About 30

OWFI: Do you have a critique group?

Norman Galaxy: Yes, Friday Writers meets Friday mornings at 10 AM at the Senior Citizen's Center (in Norman)

OWFI: Who is your next speaker and when?

Norman Galaxy: March 30, speaker TBA

OWFI: Do you hold any annual contests?

Norman Galaxy: Yes, in the fall

OWFI: What are some of the ways your group has contributed to OWFI since becoming an affiliate member?

Norman Galaxy: Galaxy sponsors a category, and always participates in Basket Wars

Thanks to Susan Cogan, President with Norman Galaxy of Writers for answering our questions!

If you would like more information about these groups, feel free to contact them with their listed information above. If you would like your affiliate to be in the spotlight next, contact owfireport@gmail.com

Spotlight Member at Large

Member at Large:

LMG Swain (Larry Michael Garmon Swain)

Member Since: 2004

Website: LMGSwain.com (it's up, but it's being revamped; reopening sometime in March); FastFoodFiction.cafe (flash fiction using ten random words, one each from ten different people)

FB Fan Page: lmgswain; PopinjayNovel

Twitter: lmgswain

Instagram: lmgswain

My love of reading began with reading comics as a kid, especially the Classics Illustrated comics, Archie, DC and Marvel, and even the romance comics of the 1960s. I also learned vocabulary from comics because comics are often written on a high level than children's and YA novels.

OWFI: Have you been an OWFI volunteer/ sponsor/contest sponsor since you joined? In what ways?

LMG Swain: I enjoy being a shepherd and getting to know our guests on a personal level. Often, it's the personal

contacts that lead to openings and success.

OWFI: What are you reading right now?

LMG Swain: Phillip K. Dick Mega Pack (short stories); just finished this past month *A Scanner Darkly*, *Cloud Atlas*, *The Man in the High Castle*, *The Left Hand of Darkness*, and *The Handmaid's Tale*

OWFI: What is the best advice you've received since the beginning of your writing escapades?

LMG Swain: I think it was Sinclair Lewis who was invited to address an audience of would-be authors. He showed up somewhat drunk, asked those attending, "Who here wants to be a writer?" All raised their hands. Then he said, "Then why the Hell aren't you home writing?" Then he left the stage.

OWFI: When do you find time to write?

LMG Swain: I write full-time on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 7 AM-5:30 PM. I have alarms to take breaks in morning and afternoon, for lunch, and when the "work day" ends. On Tuesdays and Thursday, I teach at a private school until 3 PM, and then I take care of the business of writing until supper time.

OWFI: How has OWFI helped you in your writing endeavors?

LMG Swain: When I attend, I get juice to keep going on, not to give up, and to



learn from others, both their successes and mistakes.

OWFI: Any titles or upcoming releases?

LMG Swain: Popinjay, Thanksgiving 2018

Thanks to LMG Swain for answering our questions this month!

If you would like to be the next Member At Large in the spotlight, contact owfireport@gmail.com



Guest Column by Linda Apple

“Who’s that laughing?”

It wasn’t unusual to hear people laughing at our annual Tyson Foods company gathering, but this laugh? It was thunderous.

“It’s Dusty Richards.”

Neal, my husband, pointed to a table at least a football field away from us. “He works for field services. He also gives the farm report for channel 40/29.”

I walked closer to get a better look. Amid the crowd of people a giant of a man wearing a white cowboy hat regaled the group with his stories. That was the last time I saw him at Tyson Foods functions. Even so, he was hard to forget.

A couple of years later my friend, Lois Spoon, joined a critique group and asked me to come along with her. Imagine my surprise when I walked into the room, and there sat Dusty. He stood and offered his huge hand. “Welcome to the group, Buddy.”

He’s a writer? Who knew?

I returned each week and soaked up all he had to say. I became one of *Dusty’s Girls*, a moniker given to us at conferences. When someone asked, “Who is she?” The answer was, “Oh, that’s one of Dusty’s girls.”

Many writers basked in the dynamic energy of this man. And what a mentor! He warned us to avoid the words *was* and *that*. Oh how I struggled, and still do, to avoid those words. Dusty also advised us against *burying the dialogue*, and for gosh sakes, watch for those *prairie dogs*, the repetitive words continually popping up, such as the aforementioned *was* and *that*.

Dusty never allowed timidity. If anyone stood at the door of novel writing to intimidated to enter, he’d put his virtual boot between the dismayed writer’s shoulder blades and give a big push. He did that for me. And when I stumbled in the publishing arena he was there to pick me up, brush me off, and lead the way.

Dusty got me my first agent. At a conference he walked up to me and said, “Hey, Buddy, send your manuscript to Terry Burns. I’ve already told him about you.” I did, Terry accepted, and boom, I had an agent. I can only imagine what Dusty said to Terry about me. Whatever it was, Terry took me on.

Almost everyone who knows anything about Dusty knows he was a prolific writer, a multiple Spur winner, a licensed auctioneer, a rodeo announcer, and one of his books was made into an award-winning movie. But over the past twenty years, I learned other things about him, such as his love for trout fishing. At conferences and the yearly Writer’s Christmas party held in our home, he and Neal would go off in a corner and talk about the fish they’d caught since the last time they’d spoken. Dusty’s was always as big as his arms could span. They’d share their favorite springs and secret fishing spots. On many occasions he advised us about investments and how to prepare for retirement. He was also a great businessman.

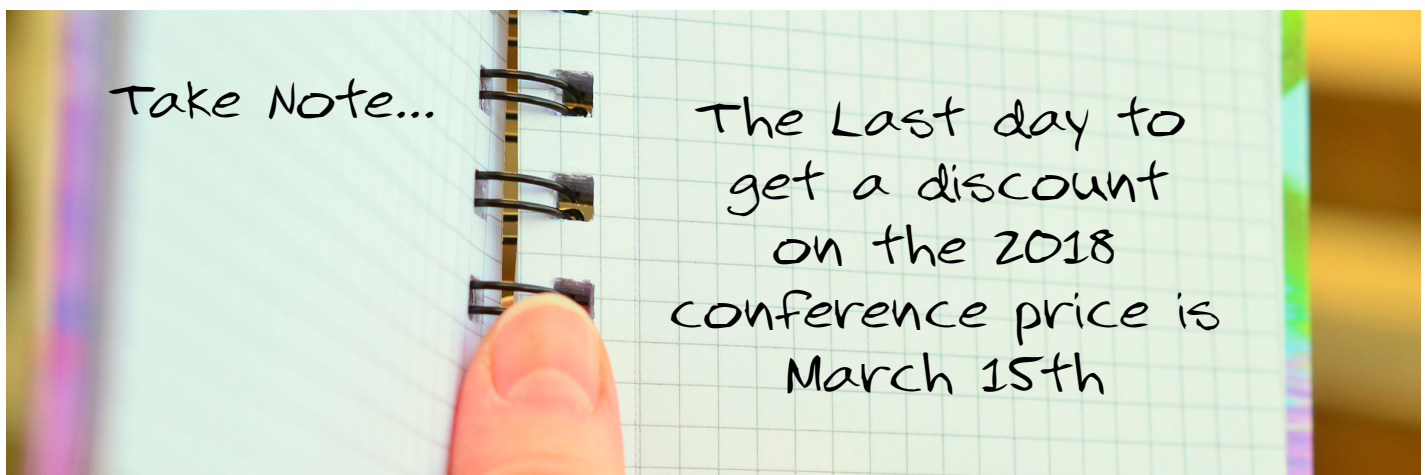
He really enjoyed a good joke. Many times he’d sit next to me, lower his head in a conspiratorial manner, and murmur an antic before palming the table and exploding with laughter. My ears still ring.



When I think of Dusty, I see him as a roaring fire in the hearth. It didn’t matter where he stood or sat, people were drawn to him. Like a fire, his light illuminated us about writing. He warmed us with his generosity and acceptance.

As I write this, I still can’t believe he has ridden off into the sunset. But he lives on in all of us who have enjoyed the privilege of being mentored by him. Hundreds of us—perhaps thousands. And even though I’ll never stand in his giant shadow on this earth again or delight in his bear hug of a laugh, I am and will always be a *Dusty’s girl*.

Linda Apple, OWFI Lifetime Member



Virtual Workshops via Slack



Search Slack on your phone store application or go to slack.com on your desktop.

When promoted, enter: OWFI as your-workspace-URL.



Slack is available for your affiliate groups to use as well.

A great source for help on using or utilizing this app is available at get.slack.help

What is Slack?

This is a digital workspace where OWFI hosts virtual workshops every few months or so for members.

You can use various platforms from your cell phone to your desktop.

OWFI has a group board where members can reach out, network, or chat and private ones for workshops.

You can send direct messages to other members, like our dedicated board members.

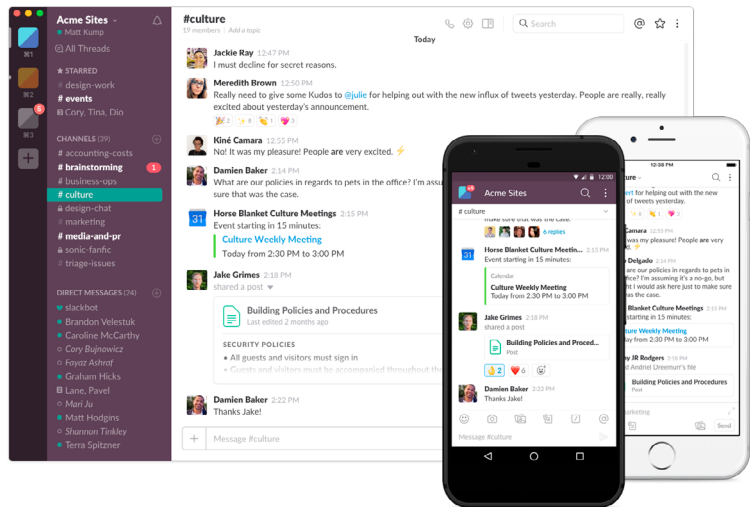
There is the option to send documents and images via the application as well.

We have had three past speakers and you can read the transcripts of those chats via the OWFI website.

- Jennifer McMurrain on Confession of a Contest Junkie
- Ben Montgomery - Sounding the Gong
- Bess Cozby - The Revision Process

Go to the following website to learn more and see information about current and past workshops!

[/www.owfi.org/virtualworkshops](http://www.owfi.org/virtualworkshops)



THIS SECTION IS FOR OFFICE USE ONLY. DO NOT WRITE HERE.

Rcvd date _____ Check # _____ \$ _____ Full _____ PreCon _____ F-S _____ F-L _____ F-B _____
S-S _____ S-L _____ S-B _____ \$ Due _____ Club _____ Initial _____

50 Years of OWFI 2018
Oklahoma Writers' Federation Conference
May 4 & 5
Embassy Suites, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

NAME (type or print clearly) _____
STATUS (circle): ATTENDEE JUDGE SPEAKER OWFI OFFICER SCHOLARSHIP VEGETARIAN MEAL
EMAIL ADDRESS _____ **PHONE NUMBER** _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____
AFFILIATE CLUB _____
Members at Large, please indicate MAL.

FULL REGISTRATION (includes Fri/Sat seminars and both Friday night and Saturday night banquets)

Non-member	\$200 each × _____	\$ _____
OWFI Member, postmarked by March 15, 2018	\$175 each × _____	\$ _____
OWFI Member, postmarked after March 15, 2018	\$200 each × _____	\$ _____
Full-time Student with ID (<i>25 years old or under</i>)	\$125 each × _____	\$ _____

SINGLE DAY SEMINARS & BANQUETS

Non-member Friday Seminars and Banquet	\$125 each × _____	\$ _____
OWFI Member Friday Seminars and Banquet	\$110 each × _____	\$ _____
Non-member Saturday Seminars and Banquet	\$125 each × _____	\$ _____
OWFI Member Saturday Seminars and Banquet	\$110 each × _____	\$ _____

EXTRA BANQUET TICKETS

Friday Banquet	\$50 each × _____	\$ _____
Saturday Banquet	\$50 each × _____	\$ _____

EXTRA WORKSHOPS

Thursday 7:00–9:00 p.m. Pre-Con Workshop (<i>no meal</i>)	\$20 each × _____	\$ _____
Friday Box Lunch Workshop (<i>meal included</i>)	\$25 each × _____	\$ _____
Saturday Box Lunch Workshop (<i>meal included</i>)	\$25 each × _____	\$ _____

OWFI CONFERENCE T-SHIRTS



Small	\$12.50 each × _____	\$ _____
Medium	\$12.50 each × _____	\$ _____
Large	\$12.50 each × _____	\$ _____
X-Large	\$12.50 each × _____	\$ _____
XX-Large	\$14.50 each × _____	\$ _____
XXX-Large	\$15.50 each × _____	\$ _____

Total Amt. Enclosed \$ _____

If you registered more than one person to the OWFI conference, please enter the names and affiliate clubs for each additional person you registered. At right, check the applicable boxes, marking what type of registration you purchased for that person as well as their meal preference.

Name _____	Affiliate _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Full <input type="checkbox"/> FC <input type="checkbox"/> SC <input type="checkbox"/> FB <input type="checkbox"/> SB <input type="checkbox"/> V
Name _____	Affiliate _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Full <input type="checkbox"/> FC <input type="checkbox"/> SC <input type="checkbox"/> FB <input type="checkbox"/> SB <input type="checkbox"/> V
Name _____	Affiliate _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Full <input type="checkbox"/> FC <input type="checkbox"/> SC <input type="checkbox"/> FB <input type="checkbox"/> SB <input type="checkbox"/> V
Name _____	Affiliate _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Full <input type="checkbox"/> FC <input type="checkbox"/> SC <input type="checkbox"/> FB <input type="checkbox"/> SB <input type="checkbox"/> V
Name _____	Affiliate _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Full <input type="checkbox"/> FC <input type="checkbox"/> SC <input type="checkbox"/> FB <input type="checkbox"/> SB <input type="checkbox"/> V
Name _____	Affiliate _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Full <input type="checkbox"/> FC <input type="checkbox"/> SC <input type="checkbox"/> FB <input type="checkbox"/> SB <input type="checkbox"/> V
Name _____	Affiliate _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Full <input type="checkbox"/> FC <input type="checkbox"/> SC <input type="checkbox"/> FB <input type="checkbox"/> SB <input type="checkbox"/> V
Name _____	Affiliate _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Full <input type="checkbox"/> FC <input type="checkbox"/> SC <input type="checkbox"/> FB <input type="checkbox"/> SB <input type="checkbox"/> V
Name _____	Affiliate _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Full <input type="checkbox"/> FC <input type="checkbox"/> SC <input type="checkbox"/> FB <input type="checkbox"/> SB <input type="checkbox"/> V
Name _____	Affiliate _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Full <input type="checkbox"/> FC <input type="checkbox"/> SC <input type="checkbox"/> FB <input type="checkbox"/> SB <input type="checkbox"/> V

Full = Full Conference Registration (Member or Non-member)
 FC = Friday Seminar & Banquet only
 SC = Saturday Seminar and Banquet only
 FB = Friday Banquet only
 SB = Saturday Banquet only
 V = Vegetarian Meal

Registration available at www.OWFI.org, or mail completed form and check payable to **OWFI** to:

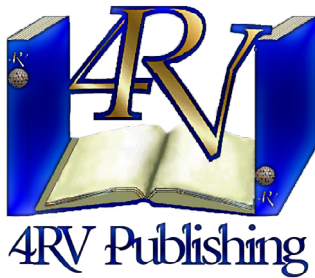
2018 OWFI Conference Registration
 c/o CJ Miles IV
 1536 East 58th Street
 Tulsa, OK 74015

Book your hotel room through www.OWFI.org to receive the preferred OWFI room discount.

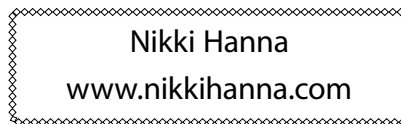
Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc.
Vinita Eggers, OWFI Treasurer
Route 7, Box 51
Mena, AR 71953

Traci Ison Schafer

Author



Prestige Prose



**FULL INTEGRATION
COACHING**