

News & Views

April 2002

www.idahowritersleague.com

Inside this Issue

- 1** What Is Success?
Back to School – IWL Style
- 2** Nine Heads Are Better Than One
Out of the Past
- 3** IWL on the Web
Upcoming Events
- 4** Congratulations
Contests & Calls for Submissions
Chapbook Thanks
- 5** March Board Meeting Minutes
New Members
Honorary Members
- 6** 2002 Chapter Officers
2002 Chapter Budget

Questions or Submissions?
Email the Editor at
cdawriters@hotmail.com

Submissions are due to the Editor
by the 25th of the month prior to
publication.

What Is Success?

Mary Smith, Chapter President

As writers, how do we know when our material can be termed successful? For Sally-Jo Bowman it is when readers are touched, affected or moved. When we sit down to write, isn't our goal to stir at least one of those emotions inside our readers?

The question is – how do we stimulate such a personal result?

Try one of the following four suggestions.

Humor

Add some humor if at all possible. Readers like to laugh, chuckle or just smile. Wonderful lessons are taught with humor-spiced writing.

Outline

Write from an outline. It doesn't have to be a formal one, but knowing how you're going to get from point A to point Z is freeing, not binding as some may think.

Diversify

Be flexible. Adjust, modify and adapt your material. If you write poetry, try prose poetry; if you're into fiction, try non-fiction. It is stimulating to explore new genres and find you are good at them. By taking a risk in a different genre, we experience growth.

Persevere

Simply keep at it. Richard North Patterson says, "This lesson is an important one – writing is not magic, but perseverance."

Keep at it long enough, apply the other three tips expertly enough and eventually your submission will touch, affect or move an editor and you'll receive that glorious email or phone call - the one that says you are finally a publishable author.

Back to School – IWL Style

April Day Meeting Program

Patti Dickinson

Remember hearing the bell ring and racing down the hall to get to class on time? Well, no bells, no racing down the hall, and these classes aren't at some far-off campus. They are at the beautiful Jewett House on April 10th, but the opportunity to learn is just as exciting. Would you like to know the basics of writing poetry, how to structure and write short stories, or how to effectively critique in the context of a group?

Then sharpen your pencils and join us on April 10th. If you have friends who want to write but don't know where to start, bring them along. We will start promptly at 9:00 A.M. with a short welcome by President Mary Smith, then begin April's program.

We're going to present three 50 minute workshops, of which you may choose two. Not to worry, we'll have these speakers back so you can catch that one class you will miss. This format leaves sufficient time for us to read and have refreshments—can't forget refreshments! All workshops will have handouts.

Continued on Page 4

Nine Heads Are Better than One

Cd'A Members Co-Author an Adventure Novel

Patty May

The collaborative novel group is off and writing!

A handful of Cd'A IWL members met at the Hayden Public Library one Saturday and emerged hours later with a working title, Uncommon Threads, a pen name, Cord E. Lane, a loose plot outline and lots of enthusiasm for a co-authored adventure novel.

Emails flew like lightning at all hours of the day (and night!) between the nine of us as we explored the twists and turns our story could take. By the time we reconvened two weeks later, chapter

one was already in hand.

It can be quite a task keeping nine creative types on one track, but in that second meeting we hammered out more of the plot, fleshed out some characters and made great strides in charting our course.

But probably the greatest thing we took away from this past meeting was the realization that a group of writers as independent and outspoken as we are, can work well as a team and pool our collective strengths to combat our collective...well, *opportunities for improvement*. We will come away from this project not only with a finished, jointly-written novel, but a clearer understanding of the creative process and ties to many talented writer friends.

We're due to meet again soon where more chapter assignments will doled out. We'll keep you posted as we continue our trek.

Out of the Past

An IWL History Moment

Dottie Maley

In 1949, the Coeur d'Alene chapter hosted its first IWL State Conference. It was a successful three-day event held at the Desert Hotel on Sherman Avenue. Up-and-coming writer Louise Shadduck won honorable mention that year for her submission in the juvenile category of the writing contests.

Back then, just like today, new writers were quick to ask published ones how to get started. Sandy Klein, a speaker at the '49 State Conference answered, "Sitting down. That's where I shine."

By 1950, the budding Idaho Writers League of the 40s had blossomed into nine chapters with over 150 members, many of them poetry enthusiasts. The Cd'A chapter consistently won contest trophies with member authors such as chapter founder, Mrs. Jesse Allison, and Mr. Walter Jardine, known as "The Lumberjack Poet." That same year, Idaho writers were invited to submit work for a special section of a New York magazine, *The Literary World*.

During this time, the writer who put Idaho on the map was Vardis Fisher, whose sometimes-acerbic newspaper columns earned him the title "The Sage of Hagerman." A prolific writer with 36 published books, Fisher's work *The Children of God* was published in French, German, Italian, Spanish and Danish and his novel *Mountain Man* was the basis for the 1972 Robert Redford film, *Jeremiah Johnson*.

After Fisher's death, his wife established a much-coveted award for humorous writing that is presented each year at the IWL State Conference. Winners include Cd'A members Betty Rohrscheib and Marilyn Wagenius.

Who is the Idaho Writers League?

Purpose of the Organization

The Idaho Writers League is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes, for the promotion of social welfare, including:

- a. To promote and maintain a high standard of literary output and to recognize accomplishments of Idaho writers;
- b. To stimulate public respect and support for the art and profession of writing;
- c. To provide a unified organization for writers and those with serious interest in writing and literary skills;
- d. To encourage new writing talent; to exchange ideas through the League publication and local and state meetings;
- e. To stimulate writing by means of contests and recognition awards;
- f. To encourage regional activity among neighboring chapters.



IWL on the Web

One Member Browses IWL Connections

Judith Farrey

Checking out 65 web sites is awfully time consuming, but that's just what I did after doing a search for "Idaho Writers League" on my favorite search site, www.google.com. I was thrilled that the very first link was to IWL's homepage (www.idahowriters-league.com), created by our very own Cd'A member, David Hibberd. Just as exciting was seeing the second link lead to our Cd'A chapter's page on the IWL site.

Web sites for a number of published members from around the state, as well as IWL guest speakers and contest judges who list us in their credits popped up on the search list.

Patti Dickinson, for instance, credits IWL in her appearances on sites such as www.readthewest.com/pdickinson2.htm and www.womenwritingthewest.org/newsletter as well as a number of other sites where she is featured as an author or speaker.

Rosemary Hendrickson's listing in WSU Class Notes can be found at www.wsu.edu/hilltopics/june1996.classnotes because she too included a mention of her membership in IWL.

Likewise, member Sandy Smith's 2001 IWL presidency and conference chairmanship are highlighted in her bio on the Romance Writers of America's

Inland Empire Chapter web page and member Stephen Buhner lists IWL in his bio at www.authorsden.com.

David Hibberd's family webpage is one of the 65 search results because he mentions being the webmaster for IWL.

Former member Fran Turney's article about finding time to get her writing career into gear by housesitting in Cd'A is posted at

www.grandtimes.com/careers.html, where IWL is listed in her bio, while

another former member, P.M.H. Atwater, credits the Boise chapter for launching her writing career.

Past IWL president Eve Dickinson's first-prize winning poem, "The Hanging of MaryJo" can be seen on former

member Carol Jones' web site; search for cowpokingfun/maryjo.

Searching for IWL also brought up quite a few sites that include us on their community organization listings, including NICON.org, Log Cabin Literature Center in Boise, ruralnorthwest.com and inlandnwliving.net. A few sites were out of date, mostly listings for past conferences, but even those could lead potential new members to us.

A couple of hours of browsing through 65 web pages that popped up on my screen connected to the search "Idaho Writers League" reinforced my belief in IWL as a valuable asset to the writing community.

Stay tuned next month for the Idaho Writers Archive web site.



Upcoming Events

Wednesday, April 10

9:00AM, Jewett House

Cd'A Chapter Day Meeting

Suggested Writing:

Nonfiction (3500 words max)
or Science Fiction (3500 words max)

This is the monthly chapter meeting held during the day. See the article on page 1 about this month's exciting program covering short stories, critique groups and poetry.

Thursday, April 18

7:00PM, NICHE

Cd'A Chapter Evening Meeting

Suggested Writing:

Nonfiction (3500 words max)
or Science Fiction (3500 words max)

This is the monthly chapter meeting held in the evening. Be sure to note our new meeting place at the North Idaho Center for Higher Education (NICHE). It's in the Northern Lights Mall at the corner of HWY 95 and Haycraft (one block north of Appleyay).

Saturday, April 20

4:00PM, KUID channel 26

College Forum with Tony Stewart and Janell Burke

The IWL is featured exclusively in two 30-minute segments of *College Forum*, shown back-to-back on Saturday. The first segment will repeat Sunday, April 21 at 11:00AM on KSPS channel 7. The second segment will repeat Sunday, April 28 at 11:00AM on KSPS channel 7.

Continued on Page 5

Continued from page 1

Facilitators for the April program include:

Helen Campbell

Novelist, poet, award-winning short story writer; IWL 2001 Writer of the Year, Helen’s workshop is entitled “Short Stories, My Way,” with how-to tips for structure, plot and characters, plus mistakes to avoid. A member of both the Sandpoint and Coeur d’Alene chapters of IWL, Helen self-published her first novel, *No Legal Right*, in 1999.

Marlo Faulker

A fiction/non-fiction author, Marlo’s workshop is “Effective Critiquing” including how to get a critique group started, plus the what, why and how to improve manuscripts. A regular presenter of writing workshops and seminars, Marlo is also active in community events, such as helping to bring opera to Cd’A.

Betty Rohrscheib

IWL Poet of the Year and IWL Lifetime Achievement Award winner, Betty’s workshop is “Writing Poetry.” Betty has three books of poetry published, plus enough poems for at least that many more. A life-long lover of poetry, Betty will share her Poet’s Bag of Tools, form, stumbling blocks, rhythm, and what poetry is and is not.

Congratulations

Nikki Arana won fourth prize for her submission “Words” to the Whidbey Island Writers Conference.

David Hibberd won first prize for his short story submission to the Amazing Authors Showcase website titled, “TD-2100,” received a rejection from *Chicken Soup for the Outdoor Soul* and had a letter to the editor printed in the *Spokesman-Review*.

Janet See received honorable mention in February’s *ByLine* magazine for her submission to their personal experience article contest and sold a short piece on Manifesting to Susan James’ online magazine, *Manifesting 101 and Beyond*.

Let us know of your submissions, successes and even rejections (hey, you got you work read and that’s worth something). Email your information to the Editor at cdawriters@hotmail.com.



Contests & Calls for Submissions

Poetry: Spokesman-Review

Columnist for the *Spokesman-Review*, Cynthia Taggart is accepting submissions of poems about north Idaho. Call or email for more information.

Cynthia Taggart
608 Northwest Blvd, #200
Coeur d’Alene, ID 83814
Phone: 208.765.7128
Fax: 208.765.7149
cynthiat@spokesman.com

How-To Article: ByLine

Deadline: April 20, 2002
Word Limit: 1,500 maximum
Entry Fee: \$4
Prizes: \$40, \$25, \$15

Nonfiction that explains how to accomplish any goal or task. Examples: How to grow prize roses; writing the personal essay; teach yourself to be happy in five easy lessons. Entry details can be found at www.bylinemag.com.

Poetry: ByLine

Deadline: April 30, 2002
Entry Fee: \$3
Prizes: \$60, \$30, \$25

Any style, subject or length. Entry details can be found at www.bylinemag.com.

New-Talent Short Story: ByLine

Deadline: May 4, 2002
Word Limit: 5,000 maximum
Entry Fee: \$5
Prizes: \$50, \$35, \$25, \$15

Open to any writer who never has won a cash prize in any *ByLine* fiction category. Entry details can be found at www.bylinemag.com.

Chapbook Thanks

A very big thank you and congratulations are due to the Cd’A members who published this year’s “Chapbook” of chapter members’ writing.

Thank you to Nadine Boss, Betty Rohrscheib, Marilyn Wagenius, Eleanor Byerse and Rose Shearer!

March Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

Abridged

New Evening Meeting Location

Ron Elliott secured a free meeting location for the evening meeting: the North Idaho Center for Higher Education (NICHE) offices at HWY 95 and Haycraft. Cd'A IWL has reserved the space for the remainder of this year.

Treasury Report & Fundraising

Judith Farrey read the February 2002 Treasurer's report. (See the last page for this year's chapter budget.) Mary Smith suggested that the chapter could raise funds by finding free speakers for a low-cost workshop. Proceeds from the June event will be used to cover the cost of the luncheon.

June Event: A Writing Sampler

Nikki Arana offered to donate five scholarships to the chapter's June event, "A Writing Sampler & Luncheon" to generate interest and membership. The group discussed having a contest of high school seniors or NIC students to award the scholarships. Patti Dickinson favored a non-contest method, possibly coordinating with the Cd'A Public Library writing contest. Judith Farrey is designing a registration form for the event. Patti Dickinson is coordinating the speakers for the event and is working with the *Cd'A Press* to have the registration form printed in the paper twice at no charge. Sponsorship credit will be given to the *Press* (and any other donors) in the event program.

Day Meeting Program for May

Nikki Arana will give a 30-minute talk regarding her experiences at the 2002 Whidbey Island Writers Conference.

Lifetime Achievement Award

In addition to nominations by individuals, the board traditionally makes a nomination on behalf of the chapter for the lifetime achievement award presented at the IWL State Conference. The award is given for both published work and service to IWL. Suggested nominations included Michael Marsden and Sandy Smith.

Chapter Newsletter

Content for the upcoming issues of the chapter newsletter was discussed including the addition of monthly suggested writing topics/titles and the group novel project.

July Picnic

The July evening meeting is replaced by a chapter picnic in July. Patti Dickinson agreed to contact Dick Rifkind about the possibility of holding the picnic at Bumblebee Nursery.

If you have an idea or question that you'd like the board to consider, please contact Mary Smith prior to the Wednesday monthly meeting.

New Members

Richard R. Baker
5807 W Pinegrove Dr
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
208.667.5922
chaplainusa@lycos.com

Bette Poss
2411 Elmira Rd
Sandpoint, ID 83864
208.263.8240
randyp@televar.com

Honorary Members

Joe Butler
Marianne Love
Dave Matheson
Dick Rifkind

Continued from Page 3

Friday-Sunday, April 19-21 Sandpoint

Lost Horse Writers Conference **\$250 per person**

Join fellow writers at this local three-day conference. Call 208.255.1560 or email losthorsepress@mindspring.com for more information or to register.

Saturday, June 1

10:00AM – 3:30PM

A Writing Sampler & Luncheon **\$15 IWL members** **\$20 general admission**

Sponsored by the Cd'A Chapter for Sandpoint Chapter, Cd'A Chapter members and the public, this event will feature several speakers on topics including writing your family history, the children's book market and Christian mysteries. You are welcome to invite non-IWL guests.

Thurs-Sat, September 26-28 Idaho Falls

IWL State Conference

It's never too early to start planning for the annual IWL State Conference, hosted this year by the Idaho Falls chapter. Check the IWL web site www.idahowritersleague.com for details as they become available.

Birthdays

Rose ShearerApril 18
Bev ToelleApril 27

Do you know of an event we should list? Email the Editor at cdawriters@hotmail.com.

Date 2002

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Idaho Writers League
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
USA

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

2002 Officers

Mary Smith, President
762.4081

Patti Dickinson, First VP &
Program Director
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Kristin Howard, Second VP &
Newsletter Advisor
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Judith Farrey, Treasurer
623.2123

Nikki Arana, Publicity
773.9525

Jan See, Newsletter Editor
772.7646

Dottie Maley, Historian
762.2247

Secretary
(Position Available)

2002 Cd'A Chapter Budget

Projected Income

Dues.....	30 members @ \$25	\$750
June Event.....	50 members @ \$15	\$750
.....	20 guests @ \$20	\$400
Chapbooks	150 copies @ \$2	\$300

Total

Projected Expenses

State Dues.....	30 members @ \$15	\$450
June Event.....	75 lunches @ \$15	\$1,125
Chapbooks	150 copies @ \$2	\$300
Jewett House Fees.....	\$100
Chapter Roster	35 copies @ \$1	\$35
Chapter Newsletter	35 copies per issue @ \$.60 X 10 issues.....	\$210
Chapter Brochure.....	100 copies @ \$.25	\$25

Total

The Idaho Writers League is a non-profit organization (IRC 501c3).

If you have questions about the budget, please submit them to chapter treasurer, Judith Farrey. If you have suggestions for fundraising, please submit them to the board via chapter president Mary Smith.

