

# Coeur d'Alene Chapter Idaho Writers' League

Celebrating our 60th Anniversary - 1943-2003

## Lakegazette



June/July 2003

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Questions or Submissions?  
Email the Editor at  
[cda@idahowritersleague.com](mailto:cda@idahowritersleague.com)

Submissions are due to the Editor by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication. Send submissions to [Jan19522@hotmail.com](mailto:Jan19522@hotmail.com)

### President's Corner

Mary Smith, President

I fear the poets in our group are feeling neglected with the emphasis that has been placed on fiction and fiction techniques in non-fiction. This month, I would like to give this corner over to remedying that neglect. A paucity of well-chosen words in the poetry Barbara Rostad wrote and read to us at our May meetings touched us in ways paragraphs of prose could never have. The words, like humming birds, came and went so quickly we asked to have them read again and again to appreciate their full meaning. And with each reading, we discover another layer of meaning, a new image, another sensual experience, a forgotten memory.

How does she do it, we murmured, and could not imagine ourselves creating such emotion in so few phrases. I have found a wonderful book, which has given me hope. It is *Writing from the Heart* by Lesea Newman. Though Newman says the book is for women, I can't believe a man wouldn't gain much from its pages.

Here are a couple of exercises I found fascinating. 1) Choose a place that is familiar to you and fully describe it by only using one of the five senses. **Example:** *My Grandmother's Bedroom* (describe using only the sense of touch). Then, start over and use a different sense, sight, sound, smell, taste. I found taste very difficult. Bedrooms don't have a lot of tastes for me. Now, a bakery, kitchen, berry picking, etc., would be fun. 2) Choose someone and describe one part of her/his body in

great detail so that something about the character is revealed. Try describing your character's hands, elbows, ears, feet, etc. Try describing several different people by their hands. **Example:** *My Husband's Hands*. At the kitchen sink, Ken wets the nail brush, runs it over a bar of Lava soap and scrubs the black St. Helen's ash from under his fingernails. Lava cleaning away lava ash. His fingers are misshapen, not by old age, but from clawing his way out of the flight engineer's compartment as his airplane crashed into the Bay of Japan in 1945.

These are writing exercises, prose or poetry, that can be done anywhere, any time. You will begin to see a difference in your writing skills if you decide to take this challenge. You will find it easier to create those phrases which give luster to your writing. I guarantee it.

### KALEIDOSCOPE BOOK SIGNINGS

Successful Sales & Future  
IWL Appearances

by Patti Dickinson

You've heard the song, "99 bottles of beer on the wall?" Apply that to book signings and we have, "Two book signings to sing about and (how many more is anybody's guess) 97 to go." Plans are to do signings at **Aunties in Spokane** and **Barnes & Noble in Spokane Valley...plus as**

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# June 2003 History Moment

By Dottie Maley, Historian

In 1983 Grace Roffey Pratt, who the previous year had been presented with a lifetime membership in the chapter, became its president. The chapter had 17 members, ten of whom became published in the first few months of that year. Marilyn Wagenius won six prizes in the league contests, matching her 1981 record in which she also won the coveted Vardis Fisher Award. The membership continued with its popular monthly book reviews at the Hayden/Dalton Library, and Linda Hutton was nominated Writer of the year. Linda took a test from Writers Digest and found she was an editor rather than a writer, although she does both. She edited Rhyme Time Newsletter and its Story Time supplement. In the fall of 1983, she started a new venture called Mystery Time Anthology. As a writer, she has been published in Artisan, ByLine, Unicorn and Midwest Poetry Review, and had two published books of poetry to her credits. That year she was also named contributing editor of By-Line Magazine.

In the assigned title contest, the local chapter brought home 25 of the sixty prizes available at the conference held in McCall Idaho. Poetry Day was celebrated at Dave's Family Restaurant and ten members and their guests enjoyed a report on the McCall conference and reading of poems written especially for the occasion. At the Christmas Party, Linda Hutton was nominated president for 1984.

The following is an article written in 1983 by Beulah Strobel, historian of the chapter. It deals with the area around the Jewett House where we hold our meetings.

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many others as we can arrange. Details as soon as they are available.

Our first signing at the **Inland Northwest Wine Experience**, was a tremendous success with over 250 copies sold at our IWL table. We sold 31 copies at the Borders signing on Sunday, May 18th. The figures are still coming in, but with sales to Vehrs employees and distributors, all told for the May 17-18th weekend approximately 500 copies of *Kaleidoscope* were sold! Those are terrific numbers; everyone should take a bow! Tom and Marge Murphy and Tinka Schaeffer are delighted.

So is **Patrick**, the Community Relations Coordinator for the local Borders. He was excited with sales and the energy we created at his store. **SO excited**, in fact, that beginning **Friday July 18th** and continuing during the summer, Patrick wants us to be a regular **Borders "Cafe Event."**



## Refreshments:

June 11th	Elizabeth Brinton
June 19th	Betty Rohrscheib
July 9th	Diane Mizell

We encourage everyone to participate in bringing refreshments. With the large number of members attending our regular meetings, if each person volunteered for treats twice a year, we would have two to three people bringing treats each time, cutting down on the amount of treats each person would need to bring. Please remember to get a replacement if you are unable to fulfill your commitment. Thank you. To volunteer please contact Barbara Rostad at 777-1030.

That means that on the 3rd Friday evening of every month--beginning in July-- from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M. we are invited to read our stories and poetry from *Kaleidoscope*, or we can read other of our works. This invitation includes ALL members of our chapter, not just those published in *Kaleidoscope*. If the weather is nice, Patrick will set up the event outside, with mike and all. He will offer an "open mike," meaning others from the audience can volunteer. But CdA chapter members are the "main event." He's going to advertise this in the Borders newsletter, so stop by and pick up a copy of the newsletter for your personal portfolio. We'll talk about the Cafe Event at the next meeting and put together a line-up.

What fun! Congratulations, gang. We made a great impression.

## From the Editor

By David E. Hibberd Co-Editor

After a whirlwind month of May, things are settling down. The projects that have occupied our efforts since the beginning of the year are coming to a close. If you hear a big, collective sigh of relief, it is probably Mary and the rest of the board taking a moment to catch their breath.

This is a combined June/July newsletter. We will be taking July off and catch a little r & r, as opposed to a Big R & R.

We will not be holding our July evening meeting, or the August day meeting.

Enjoy the summer. Get you entries in to the IWL writing contest. Even though we are taking some time off from our IWL duties, we will continue to write and look forward to all the stories, poems, etc. that will be shared at our meetings in August. We expect that you will all have things to share with us then.

## Marvelous May

By David E. Hibberd

What can I say about the past month? How about *Kaleidoscope*? Or Student Writing Contest? Maybe we can try Writer's Fair?

These are just some of the things that have all made May a huge success for all of us. Many people contributed their time and talents in putting these events together.

Patti Dickinson, Larry Telles, our authors, and editors brought about the completion of *Kaleidoscope*. Tom and Marge Murphy opened their home to many of us as we autographed copies of *Kaleidoscope*.

Borders invited us to autograph *Kaleidoscope* at their store and they are so impressed with our members that they have invited us to be part of an ongoing book reading beginning in July.

Sixteen talented student writers brought 100 people to our May evening meeting for the Student Writing Contest awards banquet. (See picture on page 7) Every student winning an award was there with family members. Many of those family members were not aware that their students won awards in a county-wide contest, and not just a class project.

The month ends with our 2nd Annual Writer's Fair and the airing of the two half-hour interviews with some of our members and representatives from the Children's Village. This is another of the North Idaho College Forum programs we have been involved with.

As for the Writer's Fair, we have authors, editors, a publisher, and an agent coming to share their knowledge and expertise with us. We will participate in a panel discussion, hear speakers, attend workshops, and visit exhibitor booths.

## June and July Programs

By Mary Smith

Karen Dunlap is a professional editor who recently moved to our area. She is a doctoral candidate at Emory University. We are very fortunate to have Karen as a speaker for both June meetings. She will speak to us about the three types of editing.

Karen Dunlap has worked with scores of writers as an editor, consultant and instructor. Previously the managing editor of a nationally distributed financial magazine, she is an expert in the edit process. When does the material need a substantive edit, or a line edit? What is the difference between a copy edit and a proofread? Learn what kinds of editing a writer can do himself or herself and when it's time to seek professional help. Karen knows how to get a great idea ready to go to press.

The July 9<sup>th</sup> day meeting will be a change of pace. Elizabeth Brinton volunteered her husband to talk about how writers can torture their bodies into health problems. Elizabeth will then give us a lesson in *Yoga and Creativity*. Wear comfortable clothes made for stretching.

For our reading time, we would like to hear some of the poems and prose you entered in the IWL writing contests. And if you didn't enter the contests, then please share with us some of your practice exercises describing a setting using just one sense or describing a body part in a way that shows the character of the person. These ideas were suggested in the President's Corner. At any rate, this should be a fun time.

Because the cost of a place to hold a picnic has escalated out of sight, the board has cancelled the July picnic and also the Wednesday day meeting in August. We will gather again on August 21<sup>st</sup> at the Mormon Church in Hayden. The program for that night will be announced in the August newsletter. Have a great summer. You've earned it.



## Upcoming Events

### Wednesday, June 11th 9:00 AM Monthly day meeting of the Coeur d'Alene Chapter

Our regular Wednesday meeting will have Karen Dunlap speaking about editing. See Mary's article about the June and July programs. The location remains at the Jewett House.

### Thursday, June 19th 6:30 PM Monthly evening meeting of the Coeur d'Alene Chapter

We will again hear from Karen Dunlap about editing. This is held at the LDS Church at Honeysuckle and Maple.

### Monday, July 9th 9:00AM Monthly day meeting of the Coeur d'Alene Chapter

Learn about the aches and pains we get ourselves in and how we can deal with them. This is at the Jewett House.

## IWL 2003 Writing Contest

Assigned Titles:  
Caught in the Act  
Second Fiddle

Assigned Themes:  
Shadows  
Crossroads

**Last call for entries.  
July 1 is the final deadline for submissions to the writing contest.**

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## GEORGIE OAKES WHISTLE STILL BLOWS

“If you listen, you can still hear one of our Lake Coeur d’Alene steamboat whistles blowing today!” The pioneer gentleman spoke with conviction. I had just arrived at the Coeur d’Alene Historical show in 1965, and was attracted to the fine collection of steamboat pictures. They were like old friends of mine.

I had been born and raised on the hill just east of Lake Coeur d’Alene, where my parents, Mr. and Mrs. George M. Stowe, owned a large orchard. I had grown up watching these boats and listening to their individual whistles.

Our dad knew the boat builders of those pioneer days, and helped his children learn the names and whistles of the boats. We had a panoramic view of the lake. Oftentimes, we watched the boats as they appeared from behind the point of Tubbs Hill. They steadily and gracefully followed their course up the lake, finally disappearing beyond the narrows

Sometimes around the supper table, we didn’t have much news of the day, but we made the best of what we had. One youngster would announce, “I saw Georgie Oakes going up this morning and she came home again awhile ago – her whistle sounded happy!” Dad chuckled with appreciation.

Soon after the turn of the century, there were at least 50 steamboats on the lake, many with beautiful and

interesting names. They carried passengers, supplies of every kind, and through the years, tons of Dad’s cherries and apples were shipped to his customers in the Coeur d’Alene mining area and the St. Joe country.

Our “Queen of the Lake” was the 160 foot Georgie Oakes and was built in 1891. She was a stern-wheeler and was named for a daughter of the president of the Northern Pacific Railroad. Her first trip was made on May 21 1891, from Coeur d’Alene to the Cataldo Mission on the Coeur d’Alene River.

Georgie Oakes’ span of years was the greatest of all and she became the most popular excursion boat. Trainloads of people from Spokane arrived in the morning hours with their picnic baskets, to spend the day on Georgie Oakes.

The years went by, and very sadly we saw the steamboats, our old friends, gradually disappear from the lake. Many of their faithful passengers and admirers wept.

No more would we hear their brave whistles. But today, the pioneer gentleman’s statement about still hearing a steamboat whistle remains accurate!

Quite a number of years ago, the Atlas Tie Lumber Mill Company, which is located just west of Coeur d’Alene, purchased the Georgie Oakes whistle. It is heard several times during every weekday.

“The Georgie Oakes Atlas Tie Mill’s Whistle” is still happy, vibrant, powerful, deep-throated energy. It is alive!

I did further research on the Atlas Tie Lumber Mill and after many phone calls was put in touch with Jack Durdee. Mr. Durdee had been associated with the Atlas Tie Mill during its early days and happily stated that we do indeed hear that whistle even today. The Atlas Tie Mill eventually became the Stimson Lumber Mill which is located in the same location, across the road from the NIC campus.

## OLD STAMPS ARE USEABLE

*By Marion Lillie*

Contest Time is coming up sooner than you think. And Contest Time means envelopes within envelopes. And all those envelopes need stamps of the right amount.

I would guess that many writers, who have been at the trade for more than a few years, would have orphan stamps; stamps that served a period of “interim” when the pundits could not decide whether or not to raise the price, and didn’t add it to the stamp.

Since I have been writing for more than forty years, it follows that in my desk, in a little plastic folder, a handful of orphans awaited rescuing.

In a moment of sheer brilliance, I called the post office and asked questions of the polite postman “What does the eagle with the capitol D stand for?” I got the answer, along for six other orphans, wrote them down, used a couple of the stamps, and lost my answers. To the back of the drawer they went, added to from time to time, until the day I needed extra postage and decided to consult my computer this time.

Now my computer and I have an understanding. Anything new takes awhile and I must be patient. I went through “stamps” and found instructions on stamping gift cards.

I went through postage and found out how much it cost to send First Class Mail; Non-automation. I found information on mailing letters, flats and parcels.

Nothing about stamps lacking the “cost”. So I did what I always do, yell very loud “Hey Barbara!” and my computer-knowledgeable

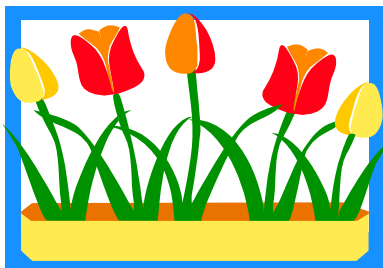
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daughter comes, looks over my shoulder, asks what I'm looking for, gets Google, adds Gov., post office, then to Quick Service Guide 022 Non-denominated Postage. And there we have it. (You can simply tell Google the "Quick Service Guide 022.")

Two whole sheets of stamps without "denominations"! Pictures of each. Date of issue. Here I have a tulip and a big F—it's 29 cents, "F stamp" (don't know what that means) issued January 1991. My blue dove stamp is worth 3 cents. Issued Dec. 1994, as a G stamp make-up rate. The G stamp for first class mail is worth 25 cents, issued Dec. 1994. Do you have a Love stamp, with a thoughtful little angel leaning on an elbow? Worth 32 cents, issued Feb. 1995. I had a strip of ten Uncle Sam Hats, inscribed USA H, 33 cents, "U. S. Addresses only", November 1998.

Any stamp can be used in any combination if you know its original worth. They don't change as they age. Maybe if you check your desk drawer, you'll find enough oldies to send a couple extra contest entries. Do it soon!



## Birthdays:

Deborah Gardiner 6/13  
Helen Campbell 6/14

66 chapter members  
29 chapter members with birthdays  
37 chapter members w/o birthdays  
Sorry you don't have birthdays.

## Bits and Pieces

The Coeur d'Alene chapter has a new PO Box. The address is PO Box 1113, Hayden, ID 83835.

Email for the chapter can be sent to [cda@idahowritersleague.com](mailto:cda@idahowritersleague.com).

Marlo Faulkner has resumed her byline as one of the contributors to the Spokesman Review series, "Panhandle Profiles." Her latest magazine article, on the architectural development of Victoria and Vancouver, B.C., is in the current issue of Style 1900, a niche magazine for readers interested in the Arts and Crafts Movement in Europe and North America. She volunteers as publicist for Opera Plus! and for 3 C's as well as edits the American Association of University Women's Bulletin. The end of June will find her, once again, in Southern California for a week on the faculty of The Santa Barbara Writer's Conference.

Dean Bennett of NIC sent the following:

I am working on the schedule for next year's **Writing Aloud** program and need your help. We are looking for featured writers. If you or anyone you know writes poetry, short stories, novels, children's books, music, plays, poetry slams, or any written works, we would love to have you participate. We plan to hold the sessions on Tuesday nights this year. Listed below are the dates available.

Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Dec. 16,  
Jan. 20, Feb. 17, March 23, April 20,  
May 4

If you are interested in participating on one of these dates please email me and I'll get you on the schedule. Also, if you know of someone who would like to be a part of this program please forward me their information and I'll make contact with them.

Last year's program was a wonderful experience for all who participated. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. Thanks for all your support on this.

Dean R. Bennett  
Director, Student Activities

Edminister Student Union  
North Idaho College  
1000 W. Garden Ave.  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83854

[dean\\_bennett@nic.edu](mailto:dean_bennett@nic.edu)



## Member Profiles:

### Robin Valaitis-Heflin

Freelance writer **Robin Valaitis Heflin** had an article published in the April/May issue of *Northwest Woman* magazine, titled "So You Want to Be a Writer." In addition, she writes regularly for North Idaho *Spokesman Review* and she recently had three articles accepted to *Imagine*, a new national women's magazine set to debut in the fall of 2003.

When she's not writing newspaper and magazine articles, she writes fiction. In 1999, she self-published a novel called *The Messenger* about a man who travels between life and the afterlife. It garnered an Honorable Mention in the 1999 *Writer's Digest* Self-Publishing Awards Competition. She has won two other awards: Best Fiction at the 1996 Southern California Writer's Conference in San Diego and second place for fiction in the Coeur d'Alene Public Library Competition in 1997. She is actively engaged in writing and submitting short stories. Her short story, "Catnapped," is included in IWL's *Kaleidoscope*.

Heflin holds a B.A. in journalism from California State University,

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Northridge. Her career began in journalism when she worked as a newspaper reporter and then assistant editor. She later switched careers and went into public relations and worked for a non-profit organization, an aerospace corporation, and an insurance company.

She lives atop a hill in the woods of North Idaho with her husband Den-



nis, a retired L.A. City firefighter. She enjoys reading, home decorating, and traveling.

## Nikki Arana

**Nikki Arana** is an award-winning author of essays, poetry, articles, and faith-based fiction. Her work has been published in the United States and Canada. She is a member of the Idaho Writers League, American Christian Romance Writers, and Romance Writers of America. Her first book, winner of the Idaho Writers League statewide Novel competition, is currently under full review by Tyndale House Publishing.

Nikki lives with her husband of twenty-seven years and her two sons in Post Falls, Idaho. She has been a real estate broker for thirty years and helps people find the home of their dreams as a sales agent for Century 21 Beutler & Associates. Though writing takes most of her free time, she also enjoys playing the piano and working in her rose garden. You can visit her website at <http://www.writingwithfire.com>. She'd love to hear from you.

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**Suggested Writing for June is:**  
Short Humor (Max 1500 words)

**Suggested Writing for July is:**  
Brainstorm

### North Idaho Public Forum IWL/Children's Village Interviews

**1st half-hour segment:**  
**Saturday May 31st 4:00 PM**  
KUID Ch. 12 CdA-Ch. 26 Spokane  
**Sunday June 1st 10:00 AM**  
KSPS Ch. 7-CdA & Spokane

**2nd half-hour segment:**  
**Saturday June 7th 4:00 PM**  
KUID Ch. 12 CdA-Ch. 26 Spokane  
**Sunday June 8th 10:00 AM**  
KSPS Ch. 7-CdA & Spokane

**The Citizens' Council for the Arts' 2003 Summer Writing Institute.** All classes to be held at North Idaho College

**July 16th-19th: Memoir Writing \$90.**  
Classes held from 1:00 PM—4:00 PM  
Taught by Mary Clearman Blew

**July 28th-31st: Poetry**  
\$70. Classes held from 1:00 PM—4:00 PM  
Taught by Gloria Vando Hickok

## Poetry Corner

We would like to hear from our many talented writers. If you have short-short stories or poems, send them in so that we can let others enjoy your works. If you have articles on the craft of writing from 250-500 words, please submit them to Janet See at her above email address.

This month's poem is from Kelsie Funk, the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade 1st Place winner in the Student Writing Contest.

### The Diverse Idaho

Our state Idaho is diverse and grand,  
From its frigid waters to it's rugged land.  
For those who have lived in only one place,  
You have missed out on Idaho's true grace.

Up north vivid stories are heard and still rein,  
About miners who struggled and their heartache and pain.  
The stories of treasures you hear of their time,  
The silver hungry settlers covered with grime

In the middle you'll see as it sits untouched  
Hell's canyon, rivers, wilderness and such.  
Although it was found and stated as claimed  
This rugged terrain has yet to be tamed.

In the south distressing stories of farmers trying,  
And pioneers walking and searching and crying.  
In-between, lava flows; you'll find sagebrush grows,  
Near rows of sugar beets, wheat, and famous potatoes.

With all that it offers our state could be three  
The dessert, the mountains and glorious trees.

Each section is different in its own way,  
But we are all happy to live and to stay.  
Secretly supportive we are to each other,  
Like brother to brother supporting another.

Not even knowing that's what is so great,  
Idaho, nothing short of just great,  
this gem state.

## Students Shine in Writing Contest



These are the sixteen winners in our Student Writing Contest along with the committee members, Judith Farrey-Chairperson, Jenni Hearne-Committee member, Bill Kersting-Committee member, and David Hibberd-Committee member. Over 120 attended the awards banquet at our May 15th evening meeting. Thanks to Larry Telles for the photo. The Idaho Community Foundation funded the contest.

### Contests and Writing Ops.

Writing-World.com is a site that offers writers many valuable aids. Located at <http://www.writing-world.com>, they have contests, classes, articles, writing ops and more. Check it out.

ByLine Magazine sponsors four writing contests each month. Entry fees range from \$3-\$5. This is an excellent way to get your writing

out there and see how well you can do. We have had chapter members writings selected as winners in the past and expect to see many more. Patti Dickinson is the Idaho rep for ByLine Magazine. For contest info go to <http://www.bylinemag.com/contests.asp>.

Those who submitted stories for the Children's Village book that were not able to be published might check out the Juvenile Short Story contest that ends June 25th. Here is an opportunity for those, like my-

self, who wrote for the younger children to show our stuff.

Writers Journal also sponsors ongoing contests. The website is at <http://www.writersjournal.com/contests.htm>. Each contest has its own guidelines and deadlines.

<http://www.proofpositive.com/contests/writecontests.htm> has links to various contests.

- Paying market for articles, fiction & poetry
- Contests with cash prizes
- Practical tips on writing and selling
- Annual Poetry Chapbook Competition
- *ByLine* Short Fiction & Poetry Awards

Welcome to

## ***ByLine***

*The Best Little Writers' Magazine in America*

One year (11 issues) \$22

*ByLine* \* PO Box 5240 \* Edmond, OK 73083-5240

[www.ByLineMag.com](http://www.ByLineMag.com)

Contact: Patti Dickinson, Idaho Representative

[pattid@imbris.com](mailto:pattid@imbris.com)

Meet Editor & Publisher Marcia Preston  
at the Writers' Fair on May 31 in Coeur d'Alene.

Coeur d'Alene Chapter  
Idaho Writers League  
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Hayden, Idaho 83835  
USA

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## 2002 Officers

Mary Smith: President  
762-4081

Patti Dickinson: 1st VP & Co-Program Director  
667-8912

David E. Hibberd: 2nd VP & Newsletter Advisor  
509 928-5528

Judith Farrey: Treasurer  
623-2123

Dottie Maley: Historian  
762-2247

Barbara K. Rostad: Hospitality Chair  
777-1030

Sandy Smith: Publicity, Immediate Past IWL President  
263-7207

Patty May: Co-Program Director  
687-3537

Jan See: Newsletter Co-Editor  
772-7646

Jenni Hearne: Special Events Treasurer  
772-1766

Larry Telles: 60th Anniversary Book Project Chair  
762-2548

Secretary:  
(Position Available)

## *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.