

"Writing Pursuits," IWL Twin Falls, April 2004

Prior to convening the meeting, President Jay Goemmer handed out copies of his 1,500-word short story "Going the Distance" to the on-time arrivals for critique session during the May 15th meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 12:20 p.m. – a delay due to the late arrival of members key to the business at hand.

Members in attendance: Marilyn Aggeler, Jeanette Chambers, Sherri George, Linda Helms, Jack Lintelmann, Cindy Snyder, Carol Spelius, Neva Tanner, E.I. Williams. Visitors Helen Cutler and Eric Jackson were also on hand.

Secretary-Treasurer Jack Lintelmann provided the monthly treasurer's report.

Linda Helms reported progress on her family historical background to be printed in the Twin Falls Centennial book.

Old business: Cindy Snyder reported on the costs of doing a publicity brochure for the chapter regarding type/paper weight/ number of copies/photos/color versus black and white. Jay will work on the copy and Cindy will do the layout. A motion was made by Jeanette and seconded by Marilyn that Jay and Cindy have the authority to work with J&D Printing Enterprises of Castleford to determine the print specifications of the final brochure. Motion was approved. A motion was made by Sherri that the final draft of the publicity brochure be reviewed in depth and approved, or not, by the vote of chapter members at the May 15 meeting. Motion was seconded by Linda and passed by majority vote. Photos of members in attendance were taken by Cindy for inclusion in the forthcoming brochure.

Linda challenged a proposal by the State IWL to change existing bylaws regulating when contest entries are returned. A lively discussion ensued and the proposal was unanimously defeated by the membership. Our representatives to the IWL Conference in Coeur d'Alene will vote accordingly.

New business: Cindy and Sherri reported on progress regarding the chapter's fall workshop to be held in conjunction with the Twin Falls Centennial. Two panels of local speakers were suggested along with a speaker from the Writers Digest speaker bureau. One panel would address historical research/writing and the second would discuss publishing options. The workshop is tentatively scheduled for September 10-11 with October 8-9 the second choice.

Sherri reminded members that titles for next year's writing contest are now welcome. Several suggestions were offered along with a few Sherri threw out to get ideas flowing.

All in attendance were entertained with original poetry readings on selected spring/Easter observations as follows: Marilyn's "Ode to Spring," Jeanette's unnamed poem, E.I. Williams' "Night Unto Day," and a haiku and tanka from Cindy.

The May 15 meeting is a critique session. President Goemmer adjourned the meeting at 2 p.m. plus.

Jack Lintelmann, Secretary/Treasurer

Writing tip: Spotting danglers

A dangler is a word or phrase (a group of words) that's in the wrong place at the wrong time so it ends up describing the wrong thing.

Tail wagging merrily, Bertie took the dog for a walk.

Tail wagging merrily is a dangler because it's attached to the wrong thing – Bertie instead of the dog. Rewrite the sentence as,

Tail wagging merrily, the dog went for a walk with Bertie, and you eliminate the dangler.

Although a dangler may be found anywhere in a sentence, danglers are most often right at the beginning of the sentence. Always suspect an *-ing* word if it's near the front of a sentence.

Adverbs can also get misplaced, watch for words that end in *-ly*.

Miraculously we watched as the surgeon operated with a plastic spoon.

As written, the miraculous part was the watching. Rewriting the sentence to, *We watched the surgeon miraculously operate with a plastic spoon,* eliminates the dangler.