



Writing Pursuits

Newsletter of the Twin Falls Chapter, Idaho Writers' League • April 2005

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Upcoming Events

April 16, 2005
Regular Meeting
12 noon
Idaho Joe's

2005 IWL Conference
Sept. 22-24
Pocatello, ID

March minutes

Pres. Jay opened the meeting explaining the meeting format of a program one month and critiques the next. Members present: Carol Hunt, Cindy Snyder, Amy Ballard and baby, Roslyn Kinley, Jay Goemmer, Bill Strange, Carol Spelius, Marilyn Aggeler, Jack Lintelmann, Vaughn Phelps, Sherri George, and Linda Helms. Guests: Cheryl Hart, and Linda Bauer. Each person told what he or she were interested in writing. *Leagazette*, *Writing Pursuits*, and IWL writing contest information were shared with guests. (Cheryl joined IWL today.)

Treasurer Report: Bank balance: \$2526.97. This is \$5 less than our checkbook records. Linda will check with the bank regarding this. (The bank reports this was from two years ago when the before previous treasurer did not keep adequate checkbook balance.) We received the audit report from Bill, which was placed in the treasurer's account book.

Publications: Cindy has a "new gig", writing a column for a national ag magazine about commodity markets.

Announcements: Email from Mary Smith regarding Conference in Pocatello: plans underway with location, speakers, etc. Information is on the IWL web site.

Kitty Fleischman, publisher of IDAHO magazine wants all IWL members to submit non-fiction articles with pictures. Free resource for memoir class at Barnes & Noble University on the Internet. About every six weeks is a new writing class. B&N.com. Open Mike for short stories at Java, near Blockbusters, Thursday evenings, 7 to 9 p.m. and at Press Box Sunday nights, 6 p.m.

Linda said Alice Behr and Marvel Hadley, Richfield, interested in becoming members again. Linda showed books written by Alice and by Jack.

Old Business: Jack: regarding last month's critique, question about anatomy in his manuscript. The article was actually the "middle" two pages of the entire story so the reader did not have all the information. He stated this is a good example when only a part of the story is presented and the reader really needs to know the rest of the story to critique it appropriately. Jack's story was published in the IDAHO magazine in 2004.

New Business: Vaughn: Items missing from critique: when dealing with "middle" pages of a manuscript, hard for him to give any meaningful

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input. So we end up correcting spelling and punctuation, which should be done by the computer program and the writer before. In the short period of time we have, we don't get to deal with the important issues of writing: character development, dialog, time, space, plot movement, and proper setting.

The first few lines are what sells the story. Give more examples of the character development, dialog, etc. Start the story with the action. Comment: shorten the time for business meeting and spend more time on the learning how to write better and critiques. Manuscript format will be one of the upcoming topics.

Discussion: Regarding more in depth critique: Sherri will critique longer manuscripts outside the meeting time.

Question: Writing contest information regarding chapter president signature on cover page for new members. If dues were paid by the November 15 deadline, don't need signature. If paid after that, need signature because name would not be on the list for contest receivers. With email between local and state officers, there is a little leeway with that deadline so consider January 1 the cutoff line.

For those with Internet access, check the IWL web site for more information. The TF chapter will provide copies of information for those without Internet access.

Program: Cindy shared a poetry workshop from 2004 state conference presented by Poet of Year, Barbara Rostad on creating different types of poetry, To Rhyme or Not. Included were writing exercises of Haiku, Cinquain, and Free Verse. It is ok to take a published poem and change portion of the poem to make it original, such as using the first words of each line of the poem to write a new one.

Anyone needing a paper copy of this workshop presentation, let us know.

Critique items for April were distributed. Contest and Conference information will be shared. Jay will present manuscript formatting. Sheri will do a writing memoirs program for May. Next meeting: April 16, same time, same place.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Helms, Sec/Treas.

Volunteers needed!

Volunteers are needed to serve on a Idaho Writers League Nomination Committee. Because the current officer slate's term of office expires at the end of the year, it is time to find a new slate of officers. These officers are not eligible for another term in their current positions.

If you're interested in serving on the nomination committee, please contact:

Brian Cornett, IWL president
795 S. Shilling
Blackfoot, ID 83321-3366
208-785-7010
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IWL 2005 Contest

The **assigned titles** for the 2005 IWL contest are:

- "Off the Top of My Head, From the Bottom of My Heart"
- "It Will Never Happen Again"

The **assigned themes** are:

- "Writing: The Poetry of Life"
- "Epiphany"

The contest runs through June 2005. More details can be found at the IWL website.

2005 IWL conference information is available on the IWL website (sorry, I couldn't actually access it the day I tried).

Go to <http://www.idahowritersleague.com/Conference.html> and click on the Schedule link for the full schedule. For the registration page only, click on the Registration link.

Newsletter submission calendar

Here's the 2005 submission calendar:

May — Rex Rathbun
June — Jay Goemmer
September — Carol Hunt
October — Jack Lintelmann
November — Win Mobley
December — Bill Strange

Some marketing ideas for articles

By Linda Helms

You've written an article. You've re-written, edited, and corrected all grammar and punctuation. Now what do you do with it? First, decide a category for the article. Is it about animal life, camping, designing a new kitchen, landscaping, raising children? *Writer's Market* is published each year with listings of magazines. Writing Magazines list other magazines that need articles. Find a magazine to fit the article and send it according to their guidelines. Now sit back and wait for a response. No.

Write another article to send somewhere else, and another, and another. Also, you can rewrite the first article with a different emphasis and send it to another magazine.

Teenagers Jim and Rick and their parents went camping at the reservoir. They brought along a 13-foot Coleman canoe. While the parents watched from the picnic table, the boys donned their lifejackets, helped their four-year-old Labrador Retriever into the canoe and headed out into the water. They easily paddled the canoe along the shoreline, not going farther than 20 feet from shore. The dog jumped out of the canoe, putting it off balance and the boys into

the water. Jim and Rick popped up from underwater, grabbed the overturned canoe and took a deep breath. All of a sudden the canoe turned away from Jim and he went under water again. When he came up and caught hold of the canoe again, he asked Rick what happened, why had the canoe turned over again. Rick said he thought the dog was trapped underneath the canoe so he turned it over again. The boys swam to shore, towing the canoe. The dog was sitting patiently by the parents. He had never been under the canoe at all.

With slight changes this could be sent as a humorous piece to Readers Digest. With more emphasis on the type of canoe and ease in paddling and towing it could be sent to a boating magazine. The lifejacket issue could be one of safety. A travel magazine might want the story on camping and canoeing in the reservoir. The skill of the dog could be the main topic for a dog magazine. If the boys were Boy Scouts, the story could be sent to their magazine. Hometown newspapers need local interest stories so there is another possibility.

Trivia

From the Sunday, Oct. 24, 2004 Minneapolis Star Tribune.

Of the five finalists for the fiction category of the National Book Award, number that had sold more than 1,000 copies prior to the announcement of the finalists earlier this month: **1**

In a six month study of hardcover fiction sales by a Stanford University professor, median number of copies sold per week of a book on the New York Times bestseller list: **18,717**

Spring

"When a poet mentions the Spring we know that the zephyrs are about to whisper, that the groves are about to recover their verdure, the linnets to warble forth their notes of love, and the flocks and herds to frisk over vales painted with flowers."

— Samuel Johnson, *The Adventurer*, 1753

Speaker has new book out

Ken Rand, who spoke at our conference last September, has a new book out: *Fairy BrewHaHa at the Lucky Nickel Saloon* (Five Star Publishing). See cover art and the first chapter: www.sfw.org/members/Rand/. \$25.95. Hardback. ISBN: 1-59414-279-3. Order from your favorite independent bookstore from the publisher, from me, or most any source.

Like it? Tell a friend. Don't? Tell me.

"Rand is one seriously--no, one hilariously twisted fella..." — Spider Robinson.

"...magic unrealism at its hilarious finest." — Jay Lake.

"...I don't remember the last time I laughed as much." — Little Chicago Review.

"...snappy repartees and the zany situations..." — Blether book reviews.

"Anyone can say you can't write.
Let no one say you don't." — Ken Rand