



Writing Pursuits

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

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Newsletter submission calendar

Oct.— Jack Lintelmann
Nov.— Win Mobley
Dec.— Bill Strange

Upcoming Events

Sept. 17, 2005
Regular Meeting
12 noon
Idaho Joe's
Guest speaker —
Jennifer Devine

June minutes

Pres. Jay conducted the meeting. Members present: Marilyn Aggeler, Bill Strange, Carol Spelius, Jack Lintelmann, Art Selin, Jay Goemmer, Sherri George, Carol Hunt, Armin Sutterland (Herman), and Linda Helms. Visitor: Forrest Lampe, who became member.

Treasurer Report: Bank balance: \$2561.41, which includes \$1.53 interest. No expense or income this month.

Publications: Forrest's article regarding Shoshone in the May 2005 *IDAHO* magazine. Linda: Live History Day articles pre-LHD.

Announcements: This is Jay's last meeting as president. Sherri will assume the duty in September. Jerome County Historical Society sells the *IDAHO* magazine. Back issues are \$1. Virginia Ricketts' new book—*Shoshone Falls*—is available at the JCHS museum. Jack's article in *Backwoods Country* May issue is still available at B&N. Jay was actually on television last evening with his daughters in a Father's Day presentation.

Conference: Linda shared other items from IWL Internet regarding conference.

Old Business: At the September meeting we need to look at updating the TF Chapter Bylaws, which have not been updated since 1996. Linda

will mail the present bylaws to each member so they will have a chance to look at them to make changes where necessary.

New Business: Since the chapter needs to have two delegates at conference, we voted to pay half the registration for Jay and half for Sherri.

Discussion: Stephen King's book *On Writing* is recommended for learning to write. This is a biography. Write what you like, not to the market. Write the very best you can. Shop it as much as you can to everyone you can.

Question: What does passive voice mean? When the subject of a sentence has the action of the verb performed on the subject. The ball was thrown by the boy, rather than the boy threw the ball. Active voice is clearer and not as formal. Look at the verb "to be" in your manuscript and try to change to a more aggressive verb.

Question: What is the "soul" of a place or thing? Instead of describing what an item looks like on the outside, but describing what its presence makes you feel like inside. Write what you know, but if you don't know about something you're interested in writing about, do a research.

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Minutes, continued from page 1

We discussed having Q&A sessions, roll call writing, two-minute critiques, program each meeting.

Program: Critiques of Bill Strange and Carol Spelius.

Comments for everyone: critiques are “another pair of eyes” looking at the work. Get to the point where the readers want to know what happens next to the characters.

Critique is only opinion. If a writer changed the story to fit all the suggestions, is it still his story? Change what you want to change and leave the rest. The idea and story is still the author’s. Once an author is published and make a lot of money, sometimes then they just write without editing, just to sell books.

State conference September 22, 23, 24 in Pocatello.

*Respectfully submitted,
Linda Helms, Sec/Treas.*

Regular chapter meetings resume Saturday, Sept. 17. Our guest speaker will be Jennifer Devine, who just published a children's book called *Scardust*.

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Summer Birds

Look, Mom, Look. Baby birds, tiny birds that have fallen from their nest. Can we keep them, Mom? Can we? Yes, Son, yes. Let’s keep them warm and feed them, but one day when they’re ready, then we’ll have to set them free.

Look, Mom, look. They’re so cute when they eat. Can I hold them, Mom, can I? Give them to me. No, Son, no. If we hold them too much they’ll never want to go. They don’t belong to us, Son. One day when they’re ready, then we’ll have to set them free.

No, Mom, no. I don’t want to feed the birds again. I’m so tired of feeding and cleaning. We’ve had them several weeks. Are they ever going to fly, Mom? Yes, Son, yes. Any day they’ll fly now and eat by themselves, then we’ll have to set them free.

Look, Mom, look. There they go. They’re flying to the trees. They can take care of themselves. They’ll be okay, Mom. Yes, Son, yes. I think so too. Can I have a hug, Son? No, Son, no. I’m happy and sad. These are bittersweet tears. The kind we shed for spirits that we care for briefly and then set free.

Carol Hunt