

---

# Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

## May Speaker~~Jim Laughter

Topic: *Finding time to write*

Jim Laughter is a retired U.S. Air Force Master Sergeant, father of three, grandfather of four, author of ten novels and one children's book. He is the creator and author of the Galactic Axia young adult sci/fi series as well as the Keller & Morris thriller series. In 2010, he wrote the kindle best-seller *From Victim to Hero -- The Untold Story of Steven Stayner*. His sci/fi novels are available mainly as Kindle eBooks. *The Apostle Murders, A Killer in Time, From Victim to Hero, and Polar City Red* are also available in paperback. His children's book, *Strangers in the Stable*, is available only in paperback. Several of his books are available at Barnes and Noble and in Nook formats.

Jim is President of the Tulsa NightWriters, a premier writing group that has been helping authors get published for over 60-years. He currently lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma with Wilma, his wife of 43 years.



## MAY RAFFLE

Bill Boudreau upgraded and has donated his unneeded Kindle Fire Oklahoma City Writers for a fundraiser. Raffle tickets will be \$1 each or 6 for \$5.00. The winner's name will be drawn at the May meeting. The only catch—you must be present to win. Since the Kindle is used, Oklahoma City Writers does not provide a guarantee. Its specs: *Amazon Kindle Fire HD 7" Standing Leather Case, Onyx Black, Dolby Audio, Dual-Band Wi-Fi, 16 GB. includes charger and Stylus.* Bought in 2013 Reason for upgrade: *Using Windows 8.1 app to read Kindle downloads.*

## President's Message

by Dana Seaton

"I am convinced more and more day by day that fine writing is next to fine doing the top thing in the world." So wrote John Keats in 1819. Nearly two hundred years later, at the 47th Annual Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc., Conference, it was clear that fine writing is still a zealous pursuit of writers in all genres. This was my first OWFI conference in several years. Previously I had missed attending due to conflicts with other life events, but this year I promised myself I would be present. Immediately upon stepping into the hotel lobby I felt the familiar thrill of seeing so many fellow writers in attendance. The air crackled with enthusiasm as conference-goers chatted about upcoming agent appointments, speaker sessions and current writing projects. As I listened to the various speakers on such subjects as young adult fiction, writing the psychological thriller, book cover design, revising, the art of formatting, I was impressed with the range of knowledge imparted for the benefit of writers at all levels. With such wisdom at hand, what writer could resist the spirit of fine writing? I came away with renewed vigor for a craft I have at times neglected but which has been a part of my psyche forever. Here's to fine writers and writing everywhere!

~~~~~

## Coming Soon

Pam Foster will speak on sense of place and point of view at our June meeting.

## April Speaker

by  
**Paula Severe, Secretary**  
 Minutes of Meeting  
 April 18, 2015

The Oklahoma City Writers met in the Circle Book Store meeting room at 10:00 a.m. with thirty-two present including four visitors.

Wayne Wyrick-Harris has a new book coming out titled "If You Swallow That Seed." John Biggs' latest book, "Popsicle Sticks" was a finalist in the Oklahoma Center for the Book contest. We celebrate with them.

Dana Seaton, president, announced the sale of raffle of tickets for a donated pre-owned Kindle Fire to be given at our meeting in May, next month. Tickets are \$1, or 6 tickets for \$5.

She also reminded the group that those attending the OWFI Conference will have a table together at the banquet labeled OCWI.

John Biggs, Program Chair, introduced: OGHMA Publishers, Marketing and Promotion, from Fayetteville, Arkansas, Casey Cowan and Mike Miller. Casey opened by saying that we authors have more power than publishers want us to know. Their firm offers all we might need in the way of our needs for logos, business cards, design for the right book covers, etc. They do e-books, soft back, and hard backs. One can negotiate a contract with them. Then the distribution is through someone like Ingram or Bailey. They print on demand. Mike talked about blogging, saying that it is too time-consuming. We should limit it to once a month, and then use it for getting your pictures and

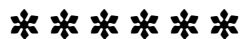
ideas out. Facebook is better with authors being present at book signings and selfies taken with other people. Events are important to readers. They publish only by referral from other authors they have published or personally known.

The members were excited to see some of the books and authors present who had used this publisher.



## Save the Date

Short Course on Writing  
 at Rose State College,  
 September 18 -20.



Bill Bernhardt is teaching one-day seminars for the first time, and some of our members have asked me to address these topics, so they might be interested. People can register by visiting his website (or calling/emailing him):  
[http://www.williambernhardt.com/writing\\_instruction/small\\_group\\_seminars.php](http://www.williambernhardt.com/writing_instruction/small_group_seminars.php)

*All of the meetings will be held in the ParkLawn Office Park, Suite 400C, Midwest City.*

**May 23-27, 2015**

Five-Day Small Group seminar

**May 30, 2015**

The Secrets of Independent Publishing

**May 31, 2015**

Writing Episodic Fiction

**July 18, 2015**

Breaking into Traditional Publishing

**July 19, 2015**

Creating Character

## Member News

Congratulations to **Terri Cummings** for her first publication. Her poem *Grey Abbey, N. Ireland* will appear in the literary journal, *Red River Review*. Her poem, *Column Addition*, has been accepted by *Screamin' Mamas*, a magazine for mothers of school children.

**Maria Veres's** poem, *Living Sacrifice*, was accepted by *Kansas City Voices*, to be published this fall. Maria's second poetry chapbook, *Wake Up Singing*, is now published.

**Barbara Shepherd's** won the following in the Kansas Christian Writers Contest: 1st place, Poetry, "In the Land of Make Believe" 1st place, Children's Nonfiction, "Learn to Write a Haiku Poem" 3rd place, Children's Fiction, "Francisco and the Mayan King" 3rd place, Adult Fiction, "The Silent War"



Making people believe the unbelievable is no trick; it's work. ... Belief and reader absorption come in the details: An overturned tricycle in the gutter of an abandoned neighborhood can stand for everything.

—Stephen King

If it sounds like writing, I rewrite it. Or, if proper usage gets in the way, it may have to go. I can't allow what we learned in English composition to disrupt the sound and rhythm of the narrative.

—Elmore Leonard

When your story is ready for rewrite, cut it to the bone. Get rid of every ounce of excess fat. This is going to hurt; revising a story down to the bare essentials is always a little like murdering children, but it must be done.

—Stephen King

**Elected Officers**

**President:** Dana Seaton,  
376-0762, dana.seaton1@att.net  
**1st VP, Programs:** John Biggs  
728-0198  
johnbiggs73162@yahoo.com  
**2nd VP, Membership:** Shelley  
Pagach, 603-3903,  
shelbell.sp@gmail.com  
**Treasurer:** Ed Doney,  
341-0031, cell 416-3439,  
eddoney@gmail.com  
**Secretary:** Paula Severe,  
943-4338, paula12@cox.net

**Appointed Officers**

**Newsletter:** Inez Phillips,  
946-0981, inezbowman.cox.net  
**Publicity Chair:** Barbara  
Shepherd, 478-0919,  
okcwriters@aol.com  
**Webmaster:** Pam Morgan  
401-2019,  
pamelanred@outlook.com  
**Nominating Chair**  
David Severe, 946-4838,  
dsevere@cox.net  
**Yearbook Chair:**  
VP of Membership  
Shelley Pagach  
**Contest Chair:** Inez Phillips,  
**Historian:** Office of the President  
**OWFI Reporter:** Wayne  
Harris-Wyrick, 603-6566,  
wizardwyane@juno.com  
**Workshop Chair:**  
TBA  
**Audio/Visual:**  
Bill Boudreau  
**2015 OWFI Delegates:**  
Bill Boudreau, 946-6588,  
bill@billboudreau.com  
Linda Shelby, 390-1451,  
okielas@aol.com  
Shelley Pagach, 603-3903,  
shelbell.sp@gmail.com  
**2015 OWFI Alternates**  
Dana Seaton  
Carolyn Leonard

**OWFI Winners**

**Judith A. Rycroft -**  
2nd place, Poetry Unrhymed -  
Short, "Haiku"  
1st HM, Poetry Rhymed - Short,  
"Moonrise"  
2nd HM, Inspirational, "Ann"  
**Lynda Stephenson -**  
2nd HM, Poetry Unrhymed -  
Long, "Upon Attending the  
Funeral of Your First Ex-  
Husband"  
**Carolyn Leonard -**  
2nd place, Essay, "You Can Go  
Home Again"  
3rd place, Inspirational, "The  
Best Antidepressant Has Four  
Paws and a Tongue"  
3rd place, Feature Article,  
"Escape from Viet Nam"  
**Una Townsend -**  
1st HM, Essay, "The Importance  
of Reading to the Young Child"  
**Barbara Shepherd -**  
1st place, Technical and /or  
How- To Article, "How to Turn  
Ninety in Style"  
**Natasha Tinsley -**  
3rd place, Short Story Adult,  
"Chicken Skin"  
**Marlys Gallagher,**  
2nd HM, Prose Humor, "Family  
Reunion at Razor Beach"  
3rd place, Essay, What Am I  
Doing with a Gun"  
**Shelley Richter -**  
3rd HM, Memoir/Nostalgia,  
"Autumn in Eureka"  
2 HM, Poetry Rhymed-Short,  
Nature's Best"  
**Maria Veres -**  
2nd place, Technical and/or How-  
To Article,  
**Brenda Thomas -**  
1st HM, Short Story Adult, "The  
Sacrifice"

~~~~~

It's none of their business that you  
have to learn to write. Let them  
think you were born that way.  
—Ernest Hemingway

**Fall Contest**

The essay category did not  
make in the 2014 contest.  
Apparently several of our members  
think the category requires an  
essay like the miserable five-  
paragraph assignments we suffered  
through in high school English  
classes just hoping to get a passing  
grade so we could get out of the  
class. Not so. The best description I  
could find is the one for the OWFI  
essay category.

"Essay (Any subject of  
contemporary interest.) — Essays  
are personal opinion pieces using  
narrative form to convince the  
reader of a certain point of view, or  
at least to better understand that  
writer's view. There are formal, fact-  
driven essays (George Will), and  
informal, lighter essays (Erma  
Bombeck) . . . Sometimes an  
opinion can be presented, a point of  
view expressed, an argument  
driven home, in a novel or unusual  
way: by telling a story or seeming to  
take the opposite point of view, or a  
fable with a clear moral at the end.  
Limit 2000 words."

When you submit your essay to  
Oklahoma City Writers, you will get  
a critique which will help you  
prepare for the OWFI contest in  
January. Winning is a fantastic ego  
boost and, if you place 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or  
3<sup>rd</sup>, the check adds to the joy.

**Membership Directory**

Shelley Pagach is busy proofing  
the final document. It will be  
ready for the June meeting.

\*\*\*

Remember: Plot is no more than  
footprints left in the snow after your  
characters have run by on their way  
to incredible destinations.

—Ray Bradbury

I do not over-intellectualize the  
production process. I try to keep it  
simple: Tell the damned story.

—Tom Clancy

The first sentence can't be written  
until the final sentence is written.

—Joyce Carol Oates

# OKLAHOMA CITY WRITERS, INC.

**Time:** 10:15

**Date:** Saturday, May 16

**Meeting place:** Across the hall from

**Full Circle Bookstore**

1900 NW Expressway in  
50 Penn Place  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

**Speakers:** Jim Laughter

**Topic:** *Finding time to write*

---

**Inez Phillips**

**6200 N. Quapah Avenue**

**Oklahoma City, OK 73112**