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# Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

## October Speaker~~Karen Coody Cooper

**Topic:** The Challenge of Writing History Books

Karen Coody Cooper is Tulsa-born and retired from the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. She worked in Oklahoma at the Cherokee Heritage Center (Tahlequah) and Museum of the Great Plains (Lawton) plus museums in Maryland and Connecticut. The University of Oklahoma awarded her a Master of Liberal Studies with museum emphasis. Her published works include *Fault Line* (Oklahoma Writers Federation 2010 Best Book of Poetry), *Spirited Encounters: American Indians Protest Museum Policies and Practices*, *Cherokee Wampum War and Peace Belts 1730 to Present*, and the children's book *Woodchuck Visits Algonquian Cousins*. Cooper is a Cherokee Nation citizen, finger weaver, and wampum belt maker, and just signed a contract to publish Oklahoma Cherokee Basket History.



### President's Message

This week I underwent corrective eye surgery related to a drug used in chemotherapy. (Some of you may have noticed that I usually carry a Kleenex around to stop the flow of excessive tears, a condition that has become extremely annoying over the last six months.) This problem has made me realize more than ever how important our eyes are. Writers depend on their eyes to transmit words to paper so their creative efforts can be appreciated. Eyes are said to be "the windows of the soul" because in them we can perceive so much about a person's nature. Eyes allow us to see the world around us and draw conclusions about our place in it. The visual is a powerful tool in learning.

I am grateful for good vision and plan to preserve mine as long as possible. I also am indebted to specialists who have studied the eye and made it possible to alleviate problems such as mine. I believe as writers we can all agree "the eyes have it."



## Member News

Richard Mullins's book, "Real Oklahoma Outlaws," has been published, and is now available on Amazon. It is the story of two Oklahoma crimes families during the '50s, '60 and '70s. None of characters have been written about before.

Winners in the Writing Short Course Contest at Rose State College include:

**Inez Phillips** - 2nd place, Flash Fiction

**Barbara Shepherd** - 2nd place, Fiction

**Nelda Paden** - Honorable Mention, Fiction

**Trina Lee** placed third in watercolor with a painting of a the tree. She placed second with a pastel of poppies at the State Fair of Oklahoma.

At the annual business meeting of the Poetry Society of Oklahoma, three OKC Writers' members were elected to offices.

**Trina Lee** 1st Vice President

**Anna Sterling** Recording Secretary

**Patti Koch** President



## Contest News

*All of the categories made this year. The nagging, threatening, and whining paid off.*

*The winners will be announced during the November meeting. The first place winners will be asked to read their manuscripts.*



## August Speaker

by Paula Severe, Secretary

A familiar one of our own, Carolyn Leonard led this summer presentation with audio and lovely visual aids that created interest as she spoke on Genealogy.

Her topic was: **Four Secret Words to Successful Writing:**

**HEY:** First words matter. Hook "em quick and never let go. Start with the best part and fill in back story later.

**YOU:** Why the reader should care and keep on reading.

**SEE:** Here is how it happened.

**SO:** or So what. Tell your story. Why it happened. Ha! Then tighten up. Omit needless words. Simplify.

**Ten Steps to a Compelling Story:**

1- Write for yourself. Tell what you want to read. Study the

- market. Decide who would want to read it. Your genre.
- 2- Don't start thinking it will be a best seller or that you will get rich quick. Expect 10 readers.
- 3- Start with a beginning, middle and an end. Don't sag in the middle. End by reflecting back to the beginning.
- 4- Show – don't tell. Never let Joe bite an apple when he could chew fried rattlesnake with strong expression.
- 5- Use short declarative sentences and avoid clichés.
- 6- Never use a 50 cent word if a 10 cent one will do.
- 7- Eliminate negative words and *got*.
- 8- Avoid vulgar words: *it*, *things*, *stuff*
- 9- Stay active, not passive.
- 10- Wrap ending back to the beginning.

Carolyn involved the audience in an impelling way and kept us all involved.

Thank you, Carolyn.



"When writing a novel a writer should create living people; people, not characters. A character is a caricature."

—Ernest Hemingway

"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."

— Dr. Seuss

There is a wonder in reading Braille that the sighted will never know: to touch words and have them touch you back.

--Jim Fiebig

Easy reading is damn hard writing. --Nathaniel Hawthorne

## 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



## September Speaker

By David Severe, husband of the  
Secretary  
One of our own members,  
Mariana Llanos was our speaker.  
She came with a great deal of  
energy and excitement to share  
what she has accomplished in  
writing six children's books, and  
connecting with people in distant  
places through Skype.  
Her topic was platform building.  
How we reach out into the world  
and meet people, share your  
thoughts, and receive their insights.  
She has done fifty-five conferences  
using Skype. And although her first  
language is Spanish, she wanted to  
do these in English.

Her books were in English  
because she wants her children to  
read her work and their first  
language is English. However, she  
did publish her books in both  
languages.

Mariana urged us to "find your  
strength," and then to share that  
using social media. She gave a  
brief outline of what is out there that  
we should consider using to widen  
our circle, share knowledge, and  
hopefully, sell our books. She  
briefly described the following  
media:

(cont'd in column 3)

## 2016 Dues Are Due

It's time to pay our 2016  
membership dues to the treasurer,  
Ed Doney. It is \$20 which pays for  
the newsletter, Membership  
Directory, and helps with the  
contest.



"I'm writing a book on  
Procrastination. I hope to start it  
tomorrow. I've been thinking about it  
for almost six years now."

— Ron Moore

1. Twitter- It is fast and fierce  
but it can gather a quick  
and wide following
  2. Blab - A four-person chat on  
line
  3. Periscope - Streaming of  
stories, and sharing. Can  
be a teaching device
  4. Instagram - A place to post  
pictures
  5. Pinterest - A place to share  
ideas, projects, discoveries
  6. Website - We all should  
have one, and include its  
address in all our  
communications
  7. Google Plus - A place to  
discover and participate in  
different communities
  8. Facebook - She thinks  
some exciting changes may  
be coming to this media
  9. Newsletters - You will be  
surprised at how many  
people are interested in  
your ideas
  10. Blogging - She admitted  
that it isn't easy to keep up with  
a blog, but it holds promise
- Mariana reminded us that we  
are a global people. You will be  
read by people from the United  
Kingdom to Greece to many  
other places. She reminded us  
that when we are on line in any  
media that there is an etiquette  
to follow:
- a. Be humble, don't brag
  - b. Be grateful
- Her final word to us was, "Don't  
be shy."



A book is a version of the world. If  
you do not like it, ignore it or offer  
your own version in return.

—Salman Rushdie

Always read something that will  
make you look good if you die in the  
middle of it. —P.J. O'Rourke

A good novel tells us the truth about  
its hero; but a bad novel tells us the  
truth about its author.

—Gilbert K. Chesterton

# **OKLAHOMA CITY WRITERS, INC.**

**Time: 10:15**

**Date:** Saturday, October 17

**Meeting place:** In the cafe area of

**Full Circle Bookstore**

1900 NW Expressway in  
50 Penn Place  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

**September Speaker~~Karen Cody Cooper**

**Topic:** The Challenge of Writing History Books

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**Inez Phillips**

**6200 N. Quapah Avenue**

**Oklahoma City, OK 73112**