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:


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

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**Appointed Officers**

**Newsletter:** Inez Phillips, 946-0981, inezbowman.cox.net  
**Publicity Chair:** Barbara Shepherd, 478-0919, okcwriters@aol.com  
**Webmaster:** Pam Morgan 401-2019, pamelenred@outlook.com  
**Nominating Chair:** David Severe, 946-4838, dsevere@cox.net  
**Yearbook Chair:** VP of Membership Shelley Pagach  
**Contest Chair:** Inez Phillips, Office of the President  
**OWFI Reporter:** Wayne Harris-Wyrick, 603-6566, wizardwyanne@juno.com  
**Workshop Chair:** TBA

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**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)

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**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

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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."

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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
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

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