

# OKLAHOMA CITY WRITERS, INC.

## January Speaker:

**Vickey Malone Kennedy**

### Topic: Story Structure

Vickey Malone Kennedy (aka vck) won 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Genre Fiction in the 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Writer's Digest Competition. She won a Darrell Award for Best Mid-South Short Story and she is an OWFI Crème de la Crème recipient.

She earned a BA, in Theatre, Acting/Set Design, from the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, and continued her Graduate Studies, in Theatre, Acting/Light Design, at Oklahoma State University.

She is a former Editor-In-Chief of 4RV Publishing, former President of Oklahoma Writer's Federation Inc., and a proud Yard Dog Press author.

A retired Licensed Nurse, vck is now a full time Science Fiction/Fantasy and Paranormal Romance Author, a full time Granny, and a part-time movie extra.



"Prowling about the rooms, sitting down, getting up, stirring the fire, looking out the window, teasing my hair, sitting down to write, writing nothing, writing something and tearing it up..."

—Charles Dickens

"It took me fifteen years to discover that I had no talent for writing, but I couldn't give it up because by that time I was too famous."

—Robert Benchley

"One sure window into a person's soul is his reading list."

—Mary B. W. Tabor

## President's Message

**by Traci Schafer**

Hello Fellow OKC Writers!

Thank you for trusting me to be your 2018 president. It's truly an honor. I felt at home here the very first day I walked into an Oklahoma City Writers' meeting and have looked forward to each and every one since. You all welcomed me like an old friend and I appreciate that more than you know.

Having a writing community is so crucial to this passion we call writing. We all know writing is a solitary calling and though we may have family around, unless they're writers themselves, they don't understand the kind of self-doubts many of us face when we leave our secure story worlds and come back to reality. Are we really good enough writers? Can we really get published? What if we *do* get published and nobody likes our work? Am I just kidding myself? I'm here to tell you – YES, you are good enough...YES, you can get published...YES, people will like your work...and, NO, you are NOT kidding yourself. YOU CAN DO IT. That's what a good writing community is all about, knocking away those doubts and supporting your charge forward. I'm not saying throw the first thing you scratch down on a napkin out into the world. But if you're driven to write, having that passion is half (maybe more) of the battle. However, you need to polish (and continue to polish) your craft, too. The first draft I ever wrote was a passive, was-filled mess. But my characters wouldn't stop telling me their stories, so I didn't let lack of craft knowledge cause me to quit. And neither should you. Put in the time you need to learn the craft (you're not in a race, so be kind to yourself) and stay connected with the kind of writing community that will tell you, YOU CAN DO IT! I've found that kind of community here at OKC Writers.

Thank you for that.

## Elected Officers

**President: Traci Ison Schafer**, 937-760-8446, traci1@hotmail.com  
**1st VP, Programs: John Biggs**, 728-0198, johnbiggs73162@yahoo.com  
**2nd VP, Membership: Shelley Pagach**, 496-8749, sepagach.ocwi@gmail.com  
**Treasurer: Nelda Paden**, 833-2611, neldapaden@aol.com  
**Secretary: Lorelei Sawtelle**, 317-7845, lsawtelle@cox.net

### Appointed Officers

**Newsletter: Inez Phillips**, 946-0981, inezbowman.cox.net  
**Publicity Chair: Peggy Farris**, 203-0284, wwillows@pldi.net  
**Webmaster: Lorelei Sawtelle & Bill Boudreau**  
**Nominating Chair: TBA**  
**Yearbook Chair: Shelley Pagach**, 496-8749, sepagach.ocwi@gmail.com  
**Contest Chair: TBA**  
**Historian: Office of the President**  
**OWFI Reporter: TBA**  
**Workshop Chair: John Biggs**, 728-0198, johnbiggs73162@yahoo.com  
**Audio/Visual: Bill Boudreau**, 946-6588, billboudreau@flash.net

### OWFI Delegates

**Linda Shelby**, 390-1451, okielas@aol.com  
**Shelley Pagach**, 496-8749, sepagach.ocwi@gmail.com

### OWFI Alternates:

**Carolyn Leonard**, 740-1632, buffalo234@cox.net



“A mind needs books as a sword needs a whetstone, if it is to keep its edge.”

—George R. R. Martin

“Being a good writer is 3% talent, 97% not being distracted by the Internet.”

—Anonymous

## December Meeting

by Lorelei Sawtelle, secretary

The regular monthly meeting of Oklahoma City Writers, Inc. was held at St. Luke's United Methodist Church on December 16, 2017 at 10:15a.m. in room 130. We will continue to meet at this venue on the third Saturday of each month through December of 2018.

**President Shelley Pagach** called the meeting to order and introduced our guests and new members.

### Old Items of Business were discussed as follows:

1. OWFI Conference is Thursday, May 4 through Saturday May 6. The cost is \$200 after March 15. You may not be able to pay at the door. Get registered as soon as possible. Jay Asher will be the keynote speaker. Friday night's banquet theme is 50 years of Characters. Saturday night the contest winners will be announced.
2. OCWI is an affiliate of OWFI. Affiliate memberships are \$25, Members-at-large are \$30 per year. New this year, STUDENTS ARE FREE. We will sponsor a category at the contest as well as the conference. The Basket Wars support the scholarship fund. Please consider making a basket to advertise your most recent success with words or simply a basket of goodies that a writer would love.
3. Staci Mauney is this year's conference coordinator.
4. Webinar (text message chat online) Use the app SLACK. This time the theme is Contest Junkie. January 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00.
5. Shelly introduced our guests and new members. We are so glad to have them with us.
6. Paulette introduced our speaker and friend Marcia Preston who talked to us about The Structure of Fiction.

Marcia shared that, "Writing a novel is like driving at night in the fog. You can see only as far as your headlights, but you can make the whole trip that way." by E. L. Doctorow. And, that W. Somerset Maugham said, "There are three rules for writing a novel. Unfortunately, nobody knows what they are." (con't page 3)

(Con't from page 2)

She talked about a new method for organizing your novel. Story Arcs are very important and we've heard that for years, but, she stressed the importance of the Character Arc. Similar to the natural arc of the story, but focused rather on the hero/protagonist rather than the plot. When the arcs of several characters culminate at or near the same moment, that is the natural apex of the story. She cautioned us that that peak is not the end of the story. Readers need to be eased slowly down from that point, not dropped suddenly. She also talked about Archetypes. Her hand-outs were fantastic resources for us. Most of her lesson came from Christopher Vogler's THE WRITER'S JOURNEY. She highly recommends that book.

**By unanimous acclamation we adjourned** at approximately 11:45. Several members headed to Hideaway Pizza for lunch.

## Member News

**Barbara Shepherd** won the following in the Norman Galaxy of Writers contest – Second Place in Children's Fiction for "Dinosaur Hunters"; Second Place in Nonfiction for "William Scott Receives Quilt of Valor." Her short story "Octavia's Secret" won First Place and the Creme de la Creme prize.



"Here is a lesson in creative writing. First rule: Do not use semicolons. They are transvestite hermaphrodites representing absolutely nothing. All they do is show you've been to college."

--Kurt Vonnegut, A Man Without a Country

## The Fall Writers Conference

Bill Bernhardt announced that his annual writers conference is moving from Rose State College to the fabulous Renaissance Hotel in the pedestrian Bricktown area--restaurants, shops, movies, boats, music, sporting events, lots of fun. Since the conference is over the Labor Day weekend (Aug 31-Sept 2), you can relax and enjoy without worrying so much about getting back to work. Please check out the all-new conference webpage to see what we have planned.

Check the Red Sneakers newsletter for more information.



**You may mail your \$25 dues to the treasurer or hand it to her at a meeting.**

Only dues paid **after** September 16, 2017 are counted as 2018 dues.

**Nelda Paden, Treasurer  
621 NW 32<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73118**



"Start writing, no matter what. The water does not flow until the faucet is turned on."

— Louis L'Amour

"If you can write each day, do it, and meet a quota. Minimum 350 words a day. A baboon can do 350 words a day. Don't be shown up by a baboon"

— James Scott Bell

"What really knocks me out is a book that, when you're all done reading it, you wish the author that wrote it was a terrific friend of yours and you could call him up on the phone whenever you felt like it. That doesn't happen much, though."

— J.D. Salinger, The Catcher in the Rye

January 2018

Inez Phillips  
6200 N. Quapah Avenue  
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

## Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

Saturday, January 20, 2018

Coffee at 9:45      Meeting at 10:00

We meet in the St. Luke's Methodist Church at NW 15<sup>th</sup> and Harvey, Oklahoma City. Enter through the north door by handicap parking and go to Room 130.

January Speaker: Vickey Malone Kennedy

*Topic: Story Structure*

