

# Oklahoma City WRITERS INC.

## August Speaker:

### Melanie Larson

**Topic:** Book Publishing: From Start to Finish

Melanie will discuss what happens after a manuscript has been accepted for publication. She's worked as an editor at Nicci Jordan Hubert Editorial for a number of years and has edited for several publishers since she graduated from Abilene University with a degree in journalism.

Nicci Jordan Hubert Editorial, located in New York City, is a team of professional substantive editors and copyeditors who have served many critically acclaimed, award-winning, and bestselling authors.

## President's Message

by Traci Schafer

After a writers' meeting and a family commitment, I was looking forward to getting home and knocking off a few items from my list of writing things to do. I owed my new cover designer (I parted ways with the first one, but that's another story) some information. I also needed to address some feedback I'd received earlier in the week on a short story I was working on for my e-mail subscribers. That was just for starters, I also had other business items to take care of.

Well, I arrived home to find that one or both of my dogs had diarrhea and couldn't wait for me to get home to go potty. I'll leave it at that. While dealing with this situation, I turned on the tv because I'd heard we may have bad weather, and yep, it was coming. Immediate situation taken care of, I crank on my laptop and started bringing up the files and sites I needed to do my writing tasks. Before I could get anything even started, I realize just how fast the storms were coming my way and decided I'd better just shut down and get ready to head to the shelter. Lap top had to be ready to go. Even if I didn't make it, I was heaving the laptop down (shelter door was already open, just in case it got to that). My files are backed up every way imaginable, but hey, I still wasn't taking any chances of losing all that writing. Sure enough, just as I slipped the laptop into its bag the sirens started blaring and off we went. Me and two dogs almost as big as I am (with active "situations") climbed down into a shelter about the size of a shoebox.

A tornado did hit not far from me, but we were spared and eventually crawled out of our hole. I tried to get some work done, but by then it was late and I was tired (and did I mention I had a monster of a head cold?). So, around midnight I gave up and went to bed thinking I'd get a good night's sleep and get an early start the next morning. (It was a weekend, so I had another shot.) Enter stage right—the "situation." There was no good night's sleep to be had. I still made it out of bed relatively early and, while shoving French toast into my mouth, started bringing up the files and websites that never ended up getting touched the day before.

My point in all this is that sh\*t happens (sometimes literally). Keeping up with a writing life (or any passion) on top of a "day job" and other obligations can be tough on the good days. Give yourself permission to have a bump or two without letting it get you down. You will reach your goals, whatever they may be, as long as you don't allow setbacks to cause you to give up.

#You Can Do It!

## **Elected Officers**

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**OWFI Alternates:**  
**Carolyn Leonard**  
**Marcia Preston**

## **Member News**

**Traci Shafer** won the National Indie Excellence Award in Science Fiction and was a Finalist in their New Adult category for her novel *The Anuan Legacy*

**Susan Kite's** book *Realms of the Cat* will be available as of Monday.

## **Opportunities for Writers**

### **Red Sneakers and Write Well Sell Well**

have merged and will be holding their conference August 31-Sept 3 at the Marriott Renaissance Hotel in Downtown OKC. Headliners include Dan Millman, author of *Way of the Peaceful Warrior*, noted literary agent Donald Maass, and three other agents. Pitch sessions available.

Here's a link: <http://www.redsneakerconf.com/>

**Oklahoma Festival of the Book** will be held on Saturday, October 20th. The email address is [www.okbookfest.org](http://www.okbookfest.org)



## **Fall Contest Deadline Is Nigh**

The deadline for the annual Oklahoma City Writers contest is Saturday, September 15. The contest chairs, Sandra Soli and Judith Rycroft, encourages us to submit our work for this year's contest.

Entries will be accepted between August 18 and September 15. You may mail your entries to either of the contest chairs or bring the items to the August or September meetings.

Your submission must be submitted with self addressed envelope (SASE), an official entry form, and a \$10 check. The contest is for paid up members only. The \$10 entry fee allows you to enter all of the categories.

If you want your manuscripts returned by snail mail, you must include sufficient postage.

Be sure to check the **Contest Rules and Guidelines** in the membership directory.

## July Meeting

by Lorelei Sawtelle, Secretary

Announcements:

**The regular monthly meeting** of Oklahoma City Writers, Inc. was held at St. Luke's United Methodist Church on July 21, 2018 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.

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

1. Announcements

2. Mary Brannon talked about Norman Galaxy of Writers and their upcoming speakers. Their contest ends in October. Check them out on Facebook. They always meet on the second Saturday of the month.

3. OWFI's conference is the first weekend of May 2019. This year's theme is *Turn the Page; The Next 50 Years*. The theme for Friday night's costume contest is Good vs. Evil. (protagonist vs. antagonist). Contest opens 12-1-18, ends 2-1-19. There is a \$30 fee to enter an item in each category. You cannot enter any item in more than one category. They also have an INSTAGRAM contest. July 26, 7:00 online workshop, \$5—Vic Malone Kennedy will be the speaker—SLACK. com. Non-affiliate membership is \$30; affiliate memberships are \$25.

Our new VP of Programming, **Lacy Liter** introduced our July speakers, Jack Burgos and Adrean Messmer. Today's talk was over anthologies. Many anthologies have their own nuances. Find one that fits you and write your short story/poem/etc.

The Writer's Market is an excellent source for finding an anthology that will fit you. The main reason to submit to an anthology is to get your name out there so you will have more awards to put on your vitae.

GET TO WRITING! Pay attention to every single one of the rules. Generally speaking, use the William Shunn formatting guidelines. Use a basic font. Follow the rule even if you don't agree with it. Follow editors/publishers on Twitter and Facebook. People will be nicer to people they know.

Once you get the editor to read it, make sure that first sentence is beautiful. WRITE that first sentence after you finish the book/article/story.

REJECTIONS: These are very important. Make a game out of it. Harry Potter was rejected 17 times. Gone With The Wind was rejected 172 times. Rejection doesn't always mean your story is bad—although it might mean that—it might mean that your story simply doesn't fit the current needs of the publisher.

DO NOT email the publisher after a rejection. (only on Twitter or Feedback—then the only thing you say is, "Thank you.")

Publishers share bad emails. Tumbler, Instagram, Twitter.

*Do not* spell an editor's name incorrectly.

The best way to get your book out there is to market it yourself. Darkmarkets.com

Thehorrorree.com

Submittable.com

Duotrope.com

Their website is [www.amurderofstorytellers.com](http://www.amurderofstorytellers.com)

His website is [www.jackburgos.com](http://www.jackburgos.com)

[www.splatterhouse5.com](http://www.splatterhouse5.com)

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In writing a novel, when in doubt, have a man come through a door with a gun in his hand.

~~Raymond Chandler

Never believe the first twenty publishers who reject your work. For the twenty-first, submit something new.

~~Garth Nix

Ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it.

~~Raymond Chandler

August 2018

Inez Phillips  
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## Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

Saturday, August 18, 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.

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