

# Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

October 2018

## October Speaker ~~ John J. Dwyer

**Topic** ~~ *How to Make Every Mistake in the Book and Still Get Your Book(s) from Your Computer Screen Into Complete Strangers' Hearts.*

John J. Dwyer, who grew up in Duncan, has been adjunct professor of history and ethics at Southern Nazarene University since 2006. He is the author of *The Oklahomans: The Story of Oklahoma and Its People, Vol. 1, Ancient to Statehood*, winner of the 2017 Will Rogers Gold Medallion Award, a Fort Worth-based national literary contest, for Western non-fiction. Dr. Bob Blackburn, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Historical Society, calls *The Oklahomans* "The best Oklahoma History book ever."

His other history books include *The War Between the States: America's Uncivil War*; and the upcoming Vol. 2 of *The Oklahomans, World War I-Present*. His historical fiction includes the Oklahoma-centered Dust Bowl-World War II-era novel *Shortgrass* (nominated for the upcoming 2018 Will Rogers Medallion Award for inspirational fiction); the Civil War-themed historical novels *Stonewall* and *Robert E. Lee*; the novel *When the Bluebonnets Come*; and the upcoming sequel to *Shortgrass*, the World War II aviation epic, *Mustang*. John is the former editor and publisher of the *Dallas/Fort Worth Heritage* newspaper.

John is a popular speaker at libraries, historical societies, and civic groups across Oklahoma. His website, which includes many Oklahoma History articles, book information, preview and presentation videos, and much more, is [johnjdwyer.com](http://johnjdwyer.com). He hosts the "Oklahoma History" Facebook group page and a "John J. Dwyer Author" page. He has a "John J. Dwyer" author page on Amazon. His email is [redriverdwyer@gmail.com](mailto:redriverdwyer@gmail.com)

## President's Message

By Traci Schafer

The holidays are fast approaching and with that comes Black Friday, small business Saturday, and any number of other holiday sales opportunities. I know most authors are introverts and have a hard time "pushing" their books, but don't look at it like that. You aren't just pushing a product, you have put lots of time, sweat, and, yes, probably even tears into your work and you have something of value to provide. Books offer people an escape from their "real" world. They offer adventures, romance, mystery, and other experiences that people can only get from your books. So, don't look at it as "selling a product," look at it as providing your readers with unforgettable experiences that can only be found on the pages of your book(s).

Good luck with those holiday sales!

## Member News

**Kathleen Gibbs** spoke at the Pioneer Woman Museum in Ponca City, September 15th, as part of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the 1893 Cherokee Outlet Land Run. Her book *Last Real Cowboy* is about her main character making this run.

**Lorelei Sawtelle** was the guest speaker at the Mustang Library on Tuesday, September 18.

**Paul Wesseldorf** won first place for fiction at the Red Sneaker/Write Well Sell Well for his story "Sophie". Also, he was interviewed by an agent.

**Barbara Shepherd** presented session at Red Sneaker/Write Well Sell Well on *Contests*. She won the following at the White County Arkansas contest: HMs in short story for "One Cold Night", Poetry for "Wind", and Article for "How to Turn Ninety in Style

# OWFI Notes

by Staci Mauney, 2019 President

It's time to renew your OWFI membership! If your membership has lapsed, we would love for you to join us again. Being a member of OWFI gives you access to a variety of opportunities: marketing and networking opportunities; the annual writing contest; virtual workshops; *The Report*; transcripts; and presentations from conference speakers.

Memberships are valid from October 1, 2018, to September 30, 2019. You can choose from two options: auto-renewal or a one-year membership. If you choose auto-renewal, you will be charged automatically for your membership each year on the anniversary of your initial registration date. If you choose a one-year membership, it will expire on September 30 no matter when you purchase the membership.

If you are a member of an affiliate group, your OWFI membership rate is only \$25. If you are not a member of a local affiliate group, then you can renew your OWFI membership as a member-at-large for \$3



## October Meeting Notes

by Lorelei Sawtelle, secretary

Speaker: Tiffany Gobble

Topic: Rejection

No one can understand the devastation that rejection can cause better than a writer.

Encouragement emanated from every word of Tiffany's presentation.

She shared with us how often some popular writers have been rejected. For example, James Patterson was rejected 31 times before anyone took a chance on him and now 1 of every 26 books is written by him. Mary Higgins Clark had 40 rejections over six years. And now she's \$64,000,000 richer because she stuck with it.

### After the rejection-then what?

The emotions that follow a rejection are many of the same ones that follow grief; anger, depression, denial, pain, defeat, helplessness, hopelessness, and finally a breakdown. Then, we pick ourselves up and decide to go on. We try again. We answer the question, "What now?"

Some rejections are rude or horrible.

~~Your work may be good, simply not what they needed at the time

~~Be grateful when you get a rejection letter.

~~look for truths in the rejection letter and fix the problem

### **REJECT REJECTION**

I will pick myself up and send it to someone else.

~~It is their loss—keep moving.

~~Your work may be good, simply not what they needed at the time

~~Confront the reasons

~~Edit your work well

~~Rejection is only fatal if you don't

~~learn from them.

~~I will make it strong enough that they will send me a rejection letter.

~~Editors can be brutal, too.

Two years and dozens of rejections later, I got a contract.

~~Your words become you.

~~non-writers don't get it

~~Each "no" means you're closer to a "yes". ~~"No" means Next!

~~Don't allow success to puff you up.

~~TAKE rejections to heart but not personally.

~~Don't let pride keep your good work from becoming great.

~~Be brave enough to make the changes

~~Get out of your pity party

~~The publishing world is ruthless. They don't remember you. Don't take it personally.

You will get rejection letters. It will happen.

~~Do your *Then Whats?*

~~Keep your hope alive (Don't quit.)

~~You will make a difference

~~It only takes one "Yes" out of a sea of "No's"



Writing is an exploration. You start from nothing and learn as you go. ~~E. L. Doctorow

I'm writing a book. I've got the page numbers done.

~~Steven Wright

The most important thing is to read as much as you can, like I did. It will give you an understanding of what makes good writing and it will enlarge your vocabulary. ~~J. K. Rowling

Everything is funny, as long as it's happening to somebody else.~~Will Rogers

Get your facts first, then you can distort them as you please. ~~Mark Twain

## **Elected Officers**

**President: Traci Ison Schafer,**

937-760-8446, [traci1@hotmail.com](mailto:traci1@hotmail.com)

**1st VP, Programs: Laci Liter, 702-5042,**

[lacirai@gmail.com](mailto:lacirai@gmail.com)

**2nd VP, Membership: Shelley Pagach,**

496-8749, [sepagach.ocwi@gmail.com](mailto:sepagach.ocwi@gmail.com)

**Treasurer: Nelda Paden, 833-2611,**

[neldapaden@aol.com](mailto:neldapaden@aol.com)

**Secretary: Lorelei Sawtelle, 317-7845,**

[lsawtelle@cox.net](mailto:lsawtelle@cox.net)

## **Appointed Officers**

**Newsletter: Inez Phillips, 620-7850,**

[inezbowman.cox.net](mailto:inezbowman.cox.net)

**Publicity Chair: Peggy Farris,**

203-0284, [wwillows@pdi.net](mailto:wwillows@pdi.net)

**Webmaster: Lorelei Sawtelle,**

603-8856, [lsawtelle@cox.net](mailto:lsawtelle@cox.net)

**Nominating Chair: TBA**

**Yearbook Chair: Shelley Pagach, 496-8749,**

[sepagach.ocwi@gmail.com](mailto:sepagach.ocwi@gmail.com)

**Contest Chair:**

**Sandra Soli/ Judith Rycroft**

**Historian: Office of the President**

**OWFI Reporter: TBA**

**Workshop Chair:**

**Paulette Henderson, 274-9192,**

[paulette@hendersonhouse.net](mailto:paulette@hendersonhouse.net)

**Audio/Visual: TBA, if needed**

## **OWFI Delegates**

**Traci Ison Schafer, 937-760-8446,**

[traci1@hotmail.com](mailto:traci1@hotmail.com)

**Shelley Pagach, 496-8749,**

[sepagach.ocwi@gmail.com](mailto:sepagach.ocwi@gmail.com)

**OWFI Alternates:**

**Carolyn Leonard**

**Marcia Preston**

You may mail your \$25 dues to the treasurer or hand it to her at a meeting. Only dues paid ***after*** September 15, 2018 are counted as **2019** dues.

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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How do you want your newsletter? \_\_\_\_\_ snail mail \_\_\_\_\_ email

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

## Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

Saturday, October 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.

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