

The Creative Writer

White County Creative Writers

Taking the Mystery out of Mystery Writing; PRA poetry day Oct. 21 in Hot Springs

By Lilly Hobbs

Del Garrett was kind enough to present our program in May on the writing of mysteries. Eight members were present and we had a guest and potential new member,

The Creative Writer is a monthly newsletter for the White County Creative Writers group of Searcy, Ark.

If you have news stories or photos to share, send them to buddy.garrett@netzero.net.

Deadline for reader submission is seven days prior to each month's meeting. WCCW reserves the right to edit all submissions.

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Brian, who teaches art in middle school. Del covered his subject well, including (1) pacing of the mystery in both longer and shorter prose as well as TV shows like NCIS, (2) need for research, (3) division of detectives into amateur and professional varieties and how that affects plotting, (4) presenting both internal and external conflict, (5) usual suspects, red herrings, twists and turns, and (6) revision of the mystery.

In addition, to our conference's contests, the PRA has Poetry Day in Hot Springs on Oct. 21. There are 23 contests and those can be mailed in from now to Aug. 15. You can enter all contests for \$15 (nonmembers) \$10 (members). They must be unpublished (with ISBN number) and not under consideration for publication.

Website reopens

By Christine Henderson

The new website for White County Creative Writers is up and running: whitecountyc creativewriters.org

The next step in completing the website is to get all the Member Profiles up to date.

Every member who wants one can have a profile page. Many already have a page, but the page might need to be updated.

Please take a look at your profile page to see if you want to keep it, cancel it, or update it.

You can get to the profile section by clicking the "meet our members" link on the top menu or side menu.

You need to send a brief bio sketch, and a photo plus your FaceBook page, website blog address, and links to where your books are being sold, etc., to the webmaster:

steve@stevemay.com

Next meeting, June 20,
6:30 p.m., at Simmons First Bank,
401 South Main Street in Searcy.



2016 Writing Contests, no entry fee

L. Ron Hubbard Writers of the Future Contest: Whatever your feelings about L. Ron Hubbard's work and philosophy, the prizes for this regular contest are nothing to sneeze at. Every three months, winners earn \$1,000, \$750 and \$500, or an additional annual grand prize worth \$5,000. Submissions must be short stories or novelettes (up to 17,000 words) in the genre of science fiction or fantasy, and new and amateur writers are welcome to apply. Enter using their web site: <http://www.writersofthefuture.com/enter-writer-contest/>

Deadlines: Quarterly on January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1.

Sixteenth Annual Young Lions Fiction Award: This \$10,000 award recognizes "young authors," which the rules define as any author aged 35 or younger. Submit any novel or short story published or scheduled to be published in the calendar year. Works must be written for adults; children's or YA pieces are ineligible. Enter using their web site: <http://www.nypl.org/help/about-nypl/awards/young-lions-fiction-award/submission-form>

Deadline: Annually in August.

PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction: Honoring the best work of fiction published by an American author in a single calendar year, this award has been given to the likes of John Updike, Philip Roth and Ann Patchett. The winner receives \$15,000 and an invitation to read at the award ceremony in Washington, DC. Four finalists also each receive a \$5,000 award. <http://www.penfaulkner.org/award-for-fiction/submission-guidelines/>

Deadline: Annually on October 31 for books published that calendar year.

Good Luck, Everyone!