

The Creative Writer

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Read around at June meeting; discussion held on anthology

Following the successful run on the June 2 Arkansas Writers' Conference in which five WCCW members knocked out 33 wins, June's meeting gave opportunity to do a read around.

As happens, a variety of stories and poems were read.

The Creative Writer

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

If you have news stories or photos to share, send them to del.garrett.s0ke@gmail.com.

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

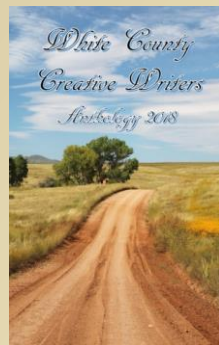
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Other topics included an update on the club's September conference with a collection of contest funds from supporters and a brief discussion on the contests themselves.

One of the main topics was the WCCW 2018 Anthology. The last anthology was published in 2010.

The new book contains 265 pages of stories, poems and essays, with 15 authors contributing.

Awaiting a final proof, the anthology will be available for the conference.



A decision on how many copies to order for the Sept. conference will be discussed at the next meeting.

In Memorium

The Arkansas family of writers lost a good friend to all this month. James Nathan Barton was born on November 11, 1953 and passed away on July 5, 2018.

People liked Jim and Jim liked people. That was it—simple, down to earth, easy going—that was Jim. As with many folks, we met him through our love of writing and through attendance at Arkansas Writers' Conferences and at our own White County Creative Writers Conferences. He impressed us, not just with his enormous writing talent, but more from the open friendliness he displayed—simple, down to earth, easy going.

A fierce competitor during contest times, but a good friend at all times, willing to share his knowledge, his humor, and his friendship. He is probably best remembered for his chapbook, *Dirty Little Town*, which he wrote about his hometown, Huttig, Ark.

Next meeting

July 16, 2018
6:30 p.m.,
at Simmons First Bank,
401 South Main Street in Searcy.

WCCW Contest Deadline – July 28

WRITING FOR CONTESTS

Follow the rules / guidelines

- Enter ONLY what the contest calls for. Don't enter a free verse poem in a sonnet contest, etc.
- Pay attention to word or page count. Don't go over the maximum.
- If the contest specifies a subject or theme, use it.
- Follow guidelines on whether you need a coversheet.
- Meet your deadline. Late entries are not read.

Format properly

- Use standard 8-1/2 X 11 inch white, unlined paper, 20-pound weight or higher.
- Use a common, readable 12-point font. If the contest doesn't specify, Times New Roman or Courier are generally recommended.
- Never submit handwritten entries.
- Print on only one side of paper.
- Use standard margins, double space, and justify left margin only for prose.
- Poetry may be single or double spaced, and margins and justification can be adjusted as needed for esthetics.

Content

- Make sure your submission is appropriate to the contest in theme or subject. An original take or position on the theme is a plus.
- Use a strong attention-grabbing title.
- Grab the reader (judge) in your first paragraph, or even your first sentence.
- Check your grammar and punctuation. Check it again. Don't rely on spell check.
- Edit your work carefully.
- "Find" and eliminate overused words, such as: and, maybe, only, really, that, etc.
- Watch for overuse of forms of "to be" verbs: is, are, was, were, etc.
- Be original. Avoid clichés.
- Eliminate excessive description. Trim and tighten to make your work stronger.
- Avoid offensive words and dialect. You don't want to insult or offend your judge.

Final Check

- Read through the rules again, and make sure your entry meets ALL guidelines.
- Proofread your entry, then read it again, preferably out loud. Correct any typos or mistakes, and reprint a clean copy.
- Review your cover sheet.
- Assemble your entry, cover sheet, and entry fee in an envelope.
- Double check the address for entries.
- Affix proper postage and mail by the deadline.