



The Creative Writer

www.whitecountyc creativewriters.org



Officer positions set for 2020; Christmas party full swing

The White County Creative Writers group selected new officers to lead the club in 2020. New president is John McPherson, last year's vice president. Taking the VP slot is Gary Rodgers. Donna Hensley Nelson was re-elected to her position as secretary. Rhonda Roberts volunteered to remain as treasurer for the group and Kim Vernon volunteered to remain conference chair for another year. The annual WCCW conference is one of the most well-liked events in the state. Del Garrett was elected as permanent press agent for the group. Steve May fills a highly needed position as staff photographer and web master for the writing club. This year, he also served as one of the speakers for the WCCW conference on how to use story-telling principles to create non-fiction.

Format for the Christmas party follows previous years events: Potluck variety has been met with members bringing main and side dishes, deserts and drinks, and paper and plastic products. For those who wish to play the 'game' there will be a read around 2 ½ pages of prose or one poem and leave it unsigned. The group will then try to guess who is the mystery author. Please roll your entry and secure it with a rubber band or ribbon and deposit it in whatever container is used. Only those who write will be able to draw from the collection. *NOTE: Meeting will start at 6 p.m. to allow time for food setup.*

Next meeting

Dec. 16, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Simmons First Bank
401 South Main
Searcy, Ark.

Conference discussions cover both AWC and WCCW

In 'New Business' Kim Vernon Rodgers made a motion for WCCW to sponsor a contest for AWC. Motion seconded by Rhonda Roberts. Motion carried by member vote. The short story will contain the following words: flea-bitten, butterball, purple, bulb, and sulfur. Word limit is 1500. Gary Breezeel volunteered to act as judge for the AWC contest.

Del Garrett will sponsor a contest for Arkansas Writers' Conference, traditional horror (Frankenstein, wolfman, vampires, mummies) 1,000-3,000 words, standard format. He will sponsor the same contest for our WCCW conference.

Donna Nelson made a motion to increase our conference fee from \$25 to \$35 for the 2020 WCCW conference. The motion was seconded by many members and carried by member vote.

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.

President/Press Agent

Del Garrett

Vice President

John McPherson

Treasurer

Rhonda Roberts

Secretary

Donna Nelson

Conference Chair

Kim Vernon

Webmaster

Steve May

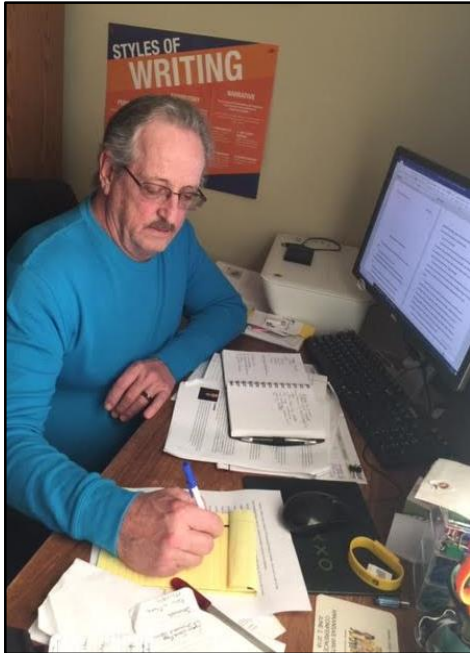


Congratulations To

Donna Nelson -
2nd Place in the Poets Roundtable of
Arkansas monthly contest for
"October in Arkansas."

SPOTLIGHT

Gary Rodgers



Courtesy Photo

Gary Rodgers goes over some notes as he prepares another manuscript.

Gary Rodgers is a longtime resident of White County. Having graduated from Pangburn High School in 1977, he worked in the construction industry for several years after graduation and finally settled into the equipment repair and maintenance business for the past 20 years. He started writing in high school as a way to bring up his grades. Most of his writing is creative fiction, with his most recent attempt a historical fiction novel. He enjoys entering contests and earlier this year won 1st Place - Oxbow Award in Memory of Dusty and Pat Richards, for "One Arm of The Law;" 1st Place - In Search of Excellence Award for "You're Not My Real Dad;" 2nd Place - Inspirational Essay Award for "Kingdom Of Heaven;" 2nd Place - Space Journey Award for "Disappearance of Sergeant James;" 3rd Place - In Memory of Sherrie Akers Award for "Sasquatch and the Boys of '69;" 3rd Place - Middle Grade Fiction Award for "Teenage American Hero;" 2nd Honorable Mention - Best of Friends Award and a 2nd Honorable Mention - Showcase Award at the at the 53rd Annual Ozark Writers Conference, held recently in Eureka Springs, Ark.

His latest awards include a 2nd Place in the First K contest at the Kanab Writers' Conference for "The Solitary Shoe" and a 3rd Place in the LaViness Short Story Writing Contest for "Graduation Terror." Previously, he won 1st Place - LaVinness Award for Living Mystery - "Light Over Little Red;" 1st Place - Carl J Iannacone Memorial Contest - "No Fish, No Bull;" 2nd Place - Mistletoe Contest Award - "Three Steps Back and, Plop;" 2nd Place - Jim Barton Memorial Poetry Contest-Haiku; 3rd Place - Penpoint Writers Group Contest - "Caught in the Storm;" 3rd Place - White County Creative Writers Contest - "Escape From Hell;" 3rd Place - Fiction Who-Dunnit Contest - "The Solitary Shoe;" 2nd Honorable Mention - Del Garrett's Gimme the Creeps Contest - "The House on River Road;" 3rd Honorable Mention - David Goodgame Memorial Contest - "The Sound of Family;" and a 3rd Honorable Mention - Fantastic Apparatus Contest - "The Call From Home;" at the Arkansas Writer's Conference and 1st Place in the Let's Play Award, a one act play, at White County Creative Writer's Conference.

"Most of my stories come from real life experience and the tales I heard my dad and uncles tell when I was a child. It was a time when children were seen and not heard. So I have a treasure trove of stories to draw from." Gary says. "There's always a story just waiting for the right prompt."