



# The Creative Writer

[www.whitecountyc creativewriters.org](http://www.whitecountyc creativewriters.org)

## WCCW Minutes from February's meeting

### Old Business:

Kim Rodgers announced winners of the Valentine's Day Contests. Peggy Sanders won the Valentine's Day Murder Mystery Prose contest judged by Rhonda Roberts, and Mike Bass won the Valentine's Day Acrostic judged by Terry Engel.

Steve May again asked for blog posts of approximately 400 words for the website. Our goal is a blog post per week. Please email blog posts to [steve@stevemay.com](mailto:steve@stevemay.com) and write "WCCW blogpost" in the subject line. Also, copy and paste the blog into the body of the email rather than as an attachment.

Rhonda Roberts announced conference admission prices will be left the same for 2023.

### New Business:

Kim asked if any member wanted to sponsor a contest for WCCW conference. She has applications available. Sponsors need to apply and pay sponsorship by April 1.

Kim announced that contest list is online for Arkansas Writers Conference contests.

Kim shared the online site of BBC Maestro classes. Go to their website and read their newsletter.

Anthony Wood announced the Saddlebags annual fiction Mustang Award. Deadline is March 1.

Anthony announced the Poetry Critique for Developing Judges is moved to May due to John being out of town in April. April will be Fiction Short Story Critique for Developing

Judges. Three volunteers will bring stories to critique at the meeting. Other members will bring stories to share in a read around at another date.

### Program:

Anthony shared "Developing Judges: Critiquing a Short Story" and "Ground Rules for a Group Critique." The emphasis was on how to critique thoughtfully by building up the writer. Critique the writing, not the writer.

--Donna Nelson

### *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](mailto: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**

Kim Vernon Rodgers

#### **Vice President**

Anthony Wood

#### **Secretary**

Donna Nelson

#### **Treasurer - Conference Chair**

Rhonda Roberts

#### **Contest Monitor**

Dot Hatfield

#### **Press Agent**

Del Garrett

#### **Webmaster**

Steve May

**NEXT  
MEETING**

**March. 20, 2023  
6:30 p.m.  
Simmons Bank  
401 S. Main, Searcy Ark.**

# SPOTLIGHT

**Alyssa Darby**



**Alyssa Darby** has been writing since she learned to spell, and has even kept some of her writing from a young age. In her youth, she was a writer and editor-in-chief for her school newspaper; recognized for her writing and sent to an exclusive young writer's conference in Milwaukee, Wisc., where she became a published author at the age of nine; and continues to write for herself, for others, and for brands through her blog and other mediums.

As a homeschool mom who dabbles with her own small business, she struggles to find quiet time to write but makes the time as a form of self-care, to sharpen her writing skills, and to inspire her sons.



In 2022, Alyssa submitted her first children's book to a few indie publishers under a pen name. In her research prior to submitting, she stumbled upon WCCW and decided to see what it was about. She fell in love with the group and even started entering some local writing contests for the first time ever, placing in several contests for both prose and poetry. She loves the challenge and the ability to improve her writing and try new writing styles outside of her comfort zone.

Besides writing, she loves to illustrate, cook, decorate cakes, renovate her home, sing and play instruments, create spreadsheets, spend time with her family, and just about any other hobby you could imagine.

You can read her blog here:

<https://artscrackers.com>

View her private author page (under her pen name) here:

<https://melissadarvy.com>