



The Creative Writer

www.whitecountyc creativewriters.org

It's Party Time – Catch the CHRISTMAS Spirit



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

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

Christmas party/Western anthology top items

Old Business

□ Rhonda Roberts accepted \$18 fees per person for WCCW Christmas party at Daisy's Lunch Box on Monday, Dec. 11, at 6 p.m. Rhonda reminded members of the anonymous read-around scheduled for after the Christmas meal. The page limit is 2 ½ pages.

□ Kim Vernon-Rodgers reminded members of the story prompts contained in the conference goody bags which are for the Winter Contest. Deadline is Dec. 31, 2023.

New Business:

□ Awards and recognitions: 1) John McPherson placed 2nd in the Poetry Roundtable of Arkansas' October monthly poetry contest for his poem, "I Wonder." 2) Barry Brown's children's book, "All the Other Reindeer," was published by Amazon under the pen name, Orso Marrone. Congratulations, John and Barry!

□ Note: If your awards and recognitions were missed in the October or November Minutes, please see Lisa Lindsey, for recognition in the January minutes. We want to ensure that all accomplishments are recognized. If you miss a meeting please e-mail or text Secretary Lisa Lindsey for the minutes and/or Webmaster Steve May for the “News and Events” page on our website. □ Officers for next year were elected as follows:

President: Anthony Wood
Vice-President: Rhonda Roberts
Secretary: Lisa Lindsey
Treasurer: Kim Vernon-Rodgers
Press Agent: Del Garrett
Conference Chair: Gary Rodgers
Contest Coordinator: Dot Hatfield
Webmaster: Steve May

□ Kim Verton-Rodgers is sponsoring a western anthology. More information to follow.

□ Rick Houston shared information from the *Ozarks Farm & Neighbor Magazine* which contains advertising for writing contests. Check these out at: www.ozarksfm.com. For questions, call 1-417-532-1960.

□ Don Money taught a lesson on “Writing to Get Published.” He shared information concerning 48 current items he has published in magazines and other publication venues. Don, we are excited about your publishing success. Congratulations!

-- Donna Nelson

Directions to Christmas Party



SPOTLIGHT

Sandi Furlong



. Sandi Furlong was born and raised in Molalla, Ore. As a reader, it was natural for her to begin writing in elementary school. More and more, writing became her world, as she was extremely shy, even through high school.

As a young adult, life became very difficult, and the pleasure of writing simply got lost in the chaos. Life *did* get better: She married and raised four wonderful daughters. Life seemed to be on the move, having lived in Oregon, Washington, California, back to Washington, Montana, back to Washington, and now Arkansas.

There were episodes with their own story. After her husband's death from cancer, she went to college to study commercial art, after which there were jobs at newspapers, and magazines, till her computer skills became an issue.

Looking back, she thought it strange that she could do everything at a newspaper but write. She received job offers in the state capital but didn't want to move. Her last 10 years before retiring she worked in a nursing home's laundry department. She didn't want patient care anymore, as it was just too sad, and she'd experienced enough loss.

In the end she liked it, started collecting stories from some of the residents. A few were extraordinary, like the man who'd been a Guinness Book of World Records holder as the world's tallest man at 7'4". There was also a former operations engineer for Apollo 11. He loved talking about his experiences.

It wasn't until she finally attended her high school reunion, the 30th, that she was reminded about writing by a classmate that she didn't even remember. Returning home the first thing she did was start writing, as she does to this day.

Finding an affordable editor was impossible, so she did her best, then published on Kindle, so she could begin something new.

She never had much faith in her writing skills, though she dearly loved her characters and each of their stories. She'd always felt embarrassed calling herself a writer. One day a friend gave her a quote:

YOU ARE NOT A WRITER
BECAUSE OF THE PEOPLE WHO
HAVE OR HAVE NOT
HEARD ABOUT YOU.
YOU ARE A WRITER
BECAUSE YOU WRITE
END OF STORY.

She put it on her laptop and reads it whenever she even thinks about giving up.

Sandi's Kindle Books include: *Devil's Last Ride—A View to Die For*; *A Shadow in Paradise (Part 1 of 2)*; and *Stepping Into Sunshine (Part 2 of 2)*.