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The Creative Writer

www.whitecountycreativewriters.org

Holly Anderson had a story published in an anthology set up by the Creative Writers Academy of Greece.

Multiple members won/placed in contest at the Ozark Creative Writers Conference.

Del Garrett sent a news release to the local paper about the conference (see Page 2). He also has a short story in an anthology published by Saddlebag Dispatches.

Terry Engel's piece in American Lit Review last year was nominated for Best Spiritual Writing this year.

Blake Betts has a new Spotify podcast currently titled Around the Campfire (title subject to change).

Any updates or additions for profiles on the WCCW website should be sent to Steve May along with new and events, book links for the book store, and blog posts.

The deadline to sponsor a contest for the WCCW 2027 Conference is November 15th. The conference will most likely be in June.

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 prowriter001@yahoo.com.
Deadline for reader submission is seven days prior to each month's meeting. WCCW reserves the right to edit all submissions.

President
Rhonda Roberts
Vice President
and
Webmaster
Steve May
Conference Chair
Rhonda Roberts
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Lisa Lindsey
Treasurer
Kim Vernon-Rodgers
Contest Coordinator
Dot Hatfield
Assistant Coordinator
Naomi Sechrest
Press Agent
Del Garrett

We had a read-around of flash fiction, where the stories ranged from heartfelt, horrifying, and outright hilarious.

For the next meeting, we will have a read-around of short stories (close to 500 words) or poems about gratitude and thankfulness. Please try to bring something newly written.

Officer elections will be held at the next meeting as well.

–Lisa Lindsey

Next Meeting

Nov. 23, 2026
First Community Bank
800 E. Beebe Capps Expressway
Searcy, Ark.



WCCW Members take 21 awards at Ozark Creative Writers' Conference

By Kim Vernon Rodgers

Eleven members of White County Creative Writers, Searcy, Ark, attended the 16th anniversary of Ozark Creative Writers Conference in Eureka Springs, Ark., Oct. 8—10. The event included informative sessions, inspiring keynote speakers, and lots of opportunities for networking.

The awards banquet brought accolades and awards to many outstanding writers, including an amazing 21 awards for WCCW members. It's safe to say everyone in attendance had heard of White County Creative Writers by the end of the weekend.

A complete list of winners is available at https://www.ozarkcreativewriters.com/

Grand Showcase Award
- Gary Rodgers 2nd place
- Kim Vernon Rodgers 3rd place

Founding Member Award
- Kim Vernon Rodgers 1st place

Velda Brotherton Memorial Award
- Kim Vernon Rodgers 1st place

Mike Willis Memorial Award
- Julia Zellner 1st HM

Search For Excellence
- Robert Cossel 1st place
- Gary Rodgers 2nd HM

My Sister the Mooch Award
- Meghan Huff 2nd place

Anniversaries: The Good, Bad, and Ugly
- Kim Vernon Rodgers 2nd place
- Gary Rodgers 1st HM

A Scream in the Night
- Robert Cossel 1st HM

Historical Western Romance
- Tony Franklin 3rd place
- Kim Vernon Rodgers 1st HM

Scary House Around the Corner
- Kim Vernon Rodgers 2nd place

Show Me Mystery
- Kim Vernon Rodgers 2nd place
- Gary Rodgers 3rd place

Best First Paragraph
- Kim Vernon Rodgers 1at HM

Rainbolt Children's Book
- Meghan Huff 1st place

Middle Grade Fiction
- Meghan Huff 1st place
- Kim Vernon Rodgers 2nd HM

Senior Moment
- Julia Zellner 2nd HM