

The Newsletter of West Texas Writers, Inc.



JANUARY 2015 www.westtexaswriters.org 432-634-0139



**OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE FEBRUARY 7, 2015
AT THE MIDLAND CENTENNIAL LIBRARY 2:00**

Hope this finds all doing well.

We sure missed some of you at our last two meetings.

This newsletter will catch you up on a couple of speakers.

Also I have included some of the things going on in the Basin and other areas with writer's groups.

Texans about Texas

Brown Books Publishing Group is launching THE TEXAS PRESS a new publishing company dedicated exclusively for Texas books. **They are actively seeking manuscripts.**

For more information or to submit a manuscript please contact Beth Robinson at 972-381-0009 or beth.robinson@brownbooks.com.

Houston Writers Guild www.houstonwritersguild.org

May 23 in Austin -- Austin Author Affair

The Guild is purchasing a table for this new and exciting event in Austin, TX. Cost is \$75 for each 3 hour increment with up to 3 authors at each table for Saturday 8 - 5 p.m. Contact Andrea Barbosa at ipanemario@sbcglobal.net by Jan. 19 if you are interested in attending, how much time you want, etc. Payment will be due by Feb 28 to hold your spot. **Check the website for contests, speakers and lots more.**

Our Friends in Alpine www.TexasMountainTrailWriters.org

They have monthly writing prompts, contests, guest speakers and a yearly conference.

Our January meeting be held on Tuesday, January 20, 2015, from 7:00-9:00 pm at the Fort Davis Public Library in Fort Davis, TX.

An online group some of you ladies might be interested in:

You don't have to be a member of Story Circle to enroll in our online classes, but we'd love to count you as one of our members. And there's a big plus! You'll save almost the cost of a membership by joining SCN and becoming eligible for a lower tuition.

Our mission: The Story Circle Network is dedicated to helping women share the stories of their lives and to raising public awareness of the importance of women's personal histories. We carry out our mission through publications, a web site, classes, workshops, writing and reading circles, and woman-focused programs. Our activities empower women to tell their stories, discover their identities through their stories, and choose to be the authors of their own lives.

Learn more about [how SCN can help you tell your story](#). We offer

- our quarterly print *Journal*, a newsletter with features on women's lifewriting
- opportunities to publish your work
- workshops, classes, online courses
- writing circles
- an Internet Chapter
- Speaker's Bureau
- much more

Membership categories:

- Member: \$55; Canada & Mexico: \$65; International \$70
- Friend: \$90
- Donor: \$125
- Supporter: \$150
- Contributor: \$200
- Sustainer: \$250
- Patron: \$325
- Benefactor: \$400+
- Organizational: \$125+

Internet Chapter membership: \$20

(To join the Internet chapter you must also be a member of the national organization; chapter dues are in addition to the national dues.) To join, see our [online membership form](#), or go to our web site & click on "Join" at the top of the page. You can pay online, or send a check to Story Circle Network, PO Box 1670, Estes Park CO 80517-1670

Social Media for Every Writer

Presented by Mike Akins

Don't forget to come to this Saturday's meeting. Mike Akins, computer guru extraordinaire and PPW's Publicity Director, is presenting ***Social Media for Every Writer***. Come learn how to expand your platform and market your writing. The program is being held at the Amarillo Senior Citizens Center, 1217 S. Tyler St. Check-In and Meet & Greet is 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. The program starts at 9:30 a.m. The business meeting is from noon to 12:15 p.m. Box lunch (which can be ordered between 9:00 and 9:30 a.m.) is from 12:15 to 1:00 p.m. The critique sessions start at 1:00 p.m.

Don't forget that PPW members can bring their books to these programs/bi-monthly meetings to sell and autograph.

Did you know that on April 20 of this year PPW will be 95 years old? That means we will be celebrating our centennial in five years. We need volunteers, now, to be on the organizing committee for our centennial event. If you'd like to help organize the celebration, let us know by emailing us at panhandlewriters@gmail.com.

It's time to renew your membership in PPW. You can renew at this Saturday's meeting or you can go to PPW's [website](#) for information on paying your dues online. You can also access the membership form [here](#).

Want to read this month's *PPW Window* newsletter? [Click here](#).

See you Saturday!

Janet Taylor
PPW President

Our mailing address is:

Panhandle Professional Writers Association
PO Box 19303
Amarillo, TX 79114

KAMIPOSI POETRY SLAM

More information soon!!!

Check out PERMIAN BASIN CHAPTER on facebook for updates!!!

Abilene Writers- abilenewritersguild.org P.O. Box 2562 Abilene, TX 79604

They have lots of contests and specials for members. I think this is open to public.

Abilene Public Library Simple Fiction Writing Workshops

Where: 292 Cedar: 2nd floor - Time: 10:00 to 12:00

“Where do I begin” – January 31... “Writing Better Characters” – February 28 ...

“Developing a Believable Plot” - March 28 ... “Telling the Story” - April 25

What we have been up to:

In October:

Tracy Thomason was our speaker, I was not there for the presentation. I understand it was very informative in explaining the importance of a website for authors.

Here is the page for the West Texas Writers: <http://www.15minutemondays.com/wtw/>

Tracy Thomason

806-535-3827

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www.15MinuteMondays.com

Session Description

As authors across the globe compete for the time, attention, and even money of their readers, having a website is no longer a luxury, it's a necessity. For many authors, a professional web presence can be time consuming and expensive. Through the 15 Minute Mondays system, you, a non-webmaster needing a website, will receive the skills, tools, and confidence to quickly develop a professional website and, in just fifteen minutes a week, promote that website, thereby promoting your writing and outshining your competition.

Intended Audience Description

The 15 Minute Mondays presentation is targeted at small businesses, organizations, and authors who want the marketing advantages of a professional website without the high cost or the equally expensive time required to build it. The presentation is relatively low-tech and is aimed at anyone who can use a word processor and a Facebook account.

Presentation Objectives

When attending the presentation, you will learn:

- How to get a professional website together easily and inexpensively,
- How to get more people to visit your website,
- Once you get them there, how to engage them so they turn from web surfers into readers and fans,
- And how to keep all this going in just 15 minutes per week.

Handouts & Resources

- A one page handout with contact information, online references, and space for note taking.
- I will provide a customized West Texas Writers page on my website which will include a 15 minute per week marketing plan customized for authors, follow up information (for questions that come up during the presentation but cannot be answered due to time constraints,) and other pertinent information specific to presentation to the WTW.
- I would also bring my book, "15 Minute Mondays," and make it available for purchase at the discounted rate of \$10. If this is not allowed at the WTW meetings, I am perfectly happy not offering the book for sale. The presentation contains enough information for someone to get started and be successful with the website. The book simply provides more and in-depth information. Please note that I do not sell from the stage or beat the audience over the head marketing the book. While I believe it is a useful resource, the book only receives a 30 to 60 second mention at the end of my presentation.

In November:

We had a nice gathering of our members and shared our writing progress and plans.

We did not have a meeting in December.

In January:

Jimmy Patterson came to visit us and tell us about his new book "a history of character"
THE STORY OF MIDLAND

He shared his plan for the book, the many months he spent with the personal interviews and sitting with the people who made Midland.

In this book you will find the following quote: "Midland is the kind of place where you can show up with nothing, work hard, have a dream, and end up making something of yourself." President George W. Bush

See you all in February!