

June
2017



President's Message

Renewal Time!

It's that time of the year again – time to renew. Although you might suppose I'm talking about your Writers of Kern membership, the renewal I'm referring to goes much deeper than that. It's the time of the year in which we renew our commitment to each other.

In my commitment to you as President, I make every effort to ensure our members receive the help and encouragement they expected when they signed up. Our board searches for speakers who will share relevant and timely information. Plus, we plan conferences and other events (like meet-ups specifically for children's writers) to offer something for all our writers.

Along with my renewed commitment to you, I expect you to renew your commitment to Writers of Kern – to attend the monthly meetings and to give feedback on what you would like to see in the way of speakers, topics, and events. Your input is essential to me.

At the June 17 meeting, I'll provide a survey and we'll chat about what you want from Writers of Kern in the coming year. The survey will cover everything from speaker topics and event ideas to asking our own members what encouragement they might offer from their own experiences. We have a multitude of talented writers and speakers at Writers of Kern, and hearing them speak would be inspiring.

If for some reason you won't be at our June meeting, please email me and let me know what topics would be of interest to you. And, if you enjoy public speaking and would like to share your stories of struggle to success, let me know. Your story might just change someone's life.

Joan

Passings

Dan McGuire

We are saddened by the loss of our dear friend and board member Dan McGuire, who passed away June 7. He received the CWC's 2017 Jack London Award from Writers of Kern. The tribute below will appear in the Jack London Award program in July.

Dan McGuire, Writers of Kern Jack London Award Recipient

His official title is Vice President, but Dan could rightfully be called the club's "utility man" as he has always stepped up wherever he's needed. For several years, he's represented our branch on the CWC Central Board and has served as our Southern California representative as well.

With Dan's guidance, Writers of Kern has moved into the 21st century with audio visual equipment that fulfills our club's needs at meetings, conferences, and special events.

Dan's rousing accounts of writing a novel in thirty-one days and tips for success have provided inspiration to WOK members. An accomplished writer in addition to being an ardent supporter, he's led by example, having completed NaNoWriMo five years.

Meetings

Members Meeting 17th June 2017

Mastering the Craft: Creating a High Caliber Critique *June Speaker: Clarissa Kae*



Clarissa Kae

Good writing doesn't happen in a vacuum. It does take "a village." In her presentation, "Mastering the Craft: Creating a High Caliber Critique," novelist and Writers of Kern critique group coordinator Clarissa Kae teaches how to give and receive an in-depth, effective critique.

Kae says, "An aspiring writer must also be an attentive reader. Mastering your craft includes stretching beyond your comfort zone and exposing your own work and your ideas and suggestions about the work of your fellow writers. A successful critique session should enlighten both the writer and critique."

Beyond the praise of friends and family, the critique process is intended to improve the

Passings [continued]

Dan works tirelessly on any project or assignment for Writers of Kern, whether it's a search for a new location, providing background music during meetings, or creating special events for our members. To Writers of Kern, Dan McGuire is an asset beyond measure.

Annis Cassells

Harvey Bondurant

Harvey Bondurant passed away on Saturday evening, June 3rd. He was overcome by a 6-year-long takeover by Alzheimer's Disease. I know he was a member of Writers of Kern for quite some time and served as treasurer for a time. I want to share this information for those who knew him. He was very happy and proud to be a part of this organization.

There will be a memorial service for him on June 24, at 10:30 AM. It will be held at First United Methodist Church, 4600 Stockdale Hwy, Bakersfield, CA 93309.

Patti Weckerley

Harvey Bondurant was a quiet man amid his more vocal WOKians. For several years he served on the executive board as treasurer, tracking the flow of money and making the required reports to California Writers Club.

He enjoyed writing science fiction—good vs. evil—cast across a solar system. Like the dictum, write for yourself, he liked how he had written a story and was not eager to make major changes unless there was a good reason.

Unlike those of us who eagerly rush out to buy the latest tech gadget or computer he was comfortable with a computer that he understood, saving time and money.

Harvey was devoted to his family, and his daughters often attended our meetings with him.

Terry Redman

writer's chance for publication.

She will walk attendees through the often awkward and confusing landscape of what makes a productive critique. "Using an outline and audience participation—much like a typical critique session—we'll discover how to do a successful critique."

Through regular meetings with three prominent former acquisition editors, Kae learned critique groups received unprecedented support by the publishing world in 2016. As WOK critique group coordinator (otherwise known as Head Cheerleader), she is dedicated to providing critique groups that really work for our members.

For more information about Clarissa Kae, a marathon runner, writer, editor, and mom, visit her website at www.clarissakae.com

Annis Cassells

Writers of Kern Honors Awards Dinner

The annual Writers of Kern Honors Dinner held on May 20th was another great success. The Jack London Service Award went to Dan McGuire [sadly not able to be present; a tribute to his service appears in this issue]. Rebecca Langston-George received her well-earned Robert Hargreaves Achievement Award. The Peggy Connelly Scholarship Awards were presented to Joan Raymond and Cynthia Waldman.

Active member pins were earned by Christy Gavin and Rebecca Langston-George. The six survivors of the 2017 A-thru-Z blog challenge got their certificates and the invaluable volunteers were recognized – Gay Chambers, Renee Geffken, Dan Morgan, David Raymond, John Skibinski, Sue Speake and Ora Stephenson. Without volunteers such as these Writers of Kern could not be the organization that it is!

The worthy winners of the Young Writers of Kern Essay Competition were handed their certificates: One is now at Community college, eleven at High Schools and six more at Junior High and Middle Schools. Congratulations to these budding writers and scholars, and thanks to their supporting teachers. Their efforts will in due course be published in the 2017 anthology.

Welcome Aboard!

One new member, whose active participation we eagerly anticipate:

Connie Williams



Cynthia Waldman holds her Peggy Connelly Scholarship Award

Writing

Here begins a series by Mandy Wallace – Reviews of Relevant Writers' Websites:

'Great Blogs for Writers'

Hungry for writing tips? Try this month's featured blogger for creative inspiration and simple how-tos.

Featured Blogger: Writers Digest Editor Blogs

What Writers Will Love: If you're looking for a writer-centric blog that does it all, Writer's Digest is it. They offer competitions and awards, an annual writer conference, printed guidebooks, a bimonthly magazine full of tips for writers, workshops, and writer communities for both online and offline crowds. But it's their editor blogs that offer the up-to-the minute news and tips from the writing field you won't want to miss.

Chuck Sambuchino's Guide to Literary Agents is a long-time crowd pleaser. This is where you'll find announcements for new literary agents who are looking for authors to publish. More than agents listings, you'll also find tips for querying, how to create your author platform, and where to market your book on Sambuchino's blog. There is also Brian Klems' *The Writer's Dig* and a myriad of guest posts from industry professionals on everything from grammar rules to self-publishing trends. You'll never want for articles with so many great writers on this blog.

Don't Miss: Their annual 101 Best Websites for Writers lineup for more bloggers to love. And check out their free writing guide downloads for fiction and freelance writers.

Where to Find Them: <http://www.writersdigest.com/editor-blogs/>

Mandy Wallace

An Offer from CWC

The California Writers Club has arranged two new discounts for members.

1. *Family Tree Magazine* (for genealogical writers and researchers) has offered CWC members \$3 off a one-year subscription (7 issues). Price would be \$24 vs. the \$27 "standard intro price." When ordering by phone (888-403-9002) club members should mention source key: 87DCWC. Expiration on this agreement is 6/30/18.

2. *Writer's Digest* has offered a discount to CWC members. Current online cost is \$21.96 for print or digital. They offer the same options (print and digital) to CWC members for \$14.95 for either one. Expiration on this agreement is 12/31/17. The link:

https://ssl.palmcoastd.com/0768P/apps/COMBO_CW2?ikey=C**W41.

An opt-in box will appear, reading "Please send me Writer's Digest's and F+W's FREE newsletter plus exclusive offers via e-mail. You'll also receive special offers from our marketing partners. You can unsubscribe from those newsletters via the newsletters themselves. We will not share your e-mail address with any third party without your consent. For more information, please read our privacy policy." Members who do not check the box to opt in will exempt themselves from the e-mails, but the discount would still apply.

