



Serving the Middle Peninsula, Northern Neck and Williamsburg areas since 1991



Chesapeake Bay Writers

# Bay Writers News

June 2022 - Volume 28\*Issue 3

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## June 1 is National Pen Pal Day

Don't have a pen pal? That's okay, write a letter to a fictitious character and if it's good, I'll post it in the next newsletter.

## Luncheon Meeting

Make your reservation now!

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

11:30 am

Rocco's Smokehouse Grill  
Williamsburg, VA.

Join the CBW for wonderful food,  
friendship and learning!

The Theme of Forms  
and  
the Form of Themes  
with

Dr. Jason Ray Carney  
Senior Lecturer,  
Christopher Newport University,  
Department of English

Everyone is welcome to attend!  
Please use the registration form  
on the website to select your meal  
in advance. \$15-20 for members,  
\$18-23 for guests. Menu choices  
are on the registration form at:  
[www.chesapeakebaywriters.org](http://www.chesapeakebaywriters.org)

Hope to see you there.

## Ekphrastic Writing

A brief summary of Nathan Richardson's Ekphrastic writing workshop.

It is not simply a description of a piece of art. It is the written word describing the feelings the art evokes.

Take the painting by Van Gogh called *Starry Night*. One might see a brightness in the piece. The small town looming in the background might induce creepy, horrific sensations. Is the tree lonely?

Make a list of words, the sensory impressions that you get from the piece of art. Use them to write your poem or story. There is more to Ekphrastic writing than you would imagine.



## June Picture Story Challenge

Write a story about this picture and I'll publish it in the next newsletter.  
(500 words or less.)

Chesapeake Bay Writers is a Chapter of The Virginia Writers Club

<https://www.chesapeakebaywriters.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ChesBayWriters/>

Questions or comments can be sent to Sonja McGiboney: [smcphoto@gmail.com](mailto:smcphoto@gmail.com)

Thanks to Carol J. Bova for help in editing this newsletter.

***"Poets are the bees of humanity!"***

**Nathan M. Richardson**

## From the President

### Hello Wonderful Writers

The Chesapeake Bay Writers (CBW) recently had their new honorary member, poet Nathan M. Richardson, speak at their luncheon. Nathan, like his family before him, spoke his words from memory adding a deep understanding of life. Nathan explains. "I have channeled everything I believe in through the lens of poetry! It has literally broken down all racial and religious borders and places me comfortably at any table or community."

Nathan has three poetry collections and has been published in many magazines. He teaches writers of all ages and brings history alive portraying the former slave, writer, orator and abolitionist Frederick Douglass. Nathan is also a nominee for the position of Virginia Poet Laureate. Curiosity led me to research this honor.

Virginia Poet Laureate candidates are nominated in five regions. Between November and April the pool is voted down to six, then five then three. In June or July, the Governor selects one candidate for the position.

The poet laureate is the chief ambassador of poetry for the state. Luisa Igloria, the current laureate (2020 – 2022), said "Everyone who is a poet laureate is not only an advocate for poetry but also addresses the idea of what it means to live and write as a person in their particular time and place in history."

CBW is fortunate to have two former poets laureate as honorary members. To understand the role of Virginia Poet Laureate, I reached out to Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda, who served from 2006 – 2008 and Sofia Starnes, who served from 2012 – 2014.

After reading their responses I realized how much work and commitment is required to be a Poet Laureate. I found their answers inspiring. You can see their responses starting on page 5.

Nathan, in his usual, charming way, says, "Whether or not I become the next Poet Laureate of Virginia, it's certainly an honor to be mentioned in the same class as those Laureates like Sofia Starnes, Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda and Tim Siebles. I would sum up my feeling about the honor in these words - *Celebrated is he would love the work more than he who loves the title.*

Peace & love  
Nathan"

### ***Ten Minutes of Writer's Block***

by Mark T Greene 2022

This poem is a distraction  
My method to procrastinate  
A moment away from the action  
Words that have little weight

Should I tell of the icy branched trees?  
Or the ground, brown and wet?  
May I write about the cold, chilly breeze?  
Or is weather a too familiar bet?

Maybe the love that got away  
Or the one who's not been met  
A faded love. She couldn't stay.  
Or asked out by me, on a bet

Anything to steer the diversion  
To keep up the game of interruption  
But now it feels like a perversion  
Holding me back from my production

Stop this now, oh little intrusion  
Get back to the novel or the song  
Clear my mind of all confusion  
Let me return to where I belong

# Messages from the board

As Covid recedes and things start to return to normal, the board would like your ideas and input on events. Please take a moment to read through the questions below and email your response to [cbwreply@gmail.com](mailto:cbwreply@gmail.com).

What types of presentations or events would you like to attend?

How to improve your writing? Do you know a good teacher?

How to publish and promote your book? Can you recommend a presenter?

Would you be interested in non-member author discussions based on their latest book?

Regarding open Mic nights: We'd like to do an Open Mic once a month.

Do you have a preferred location that you know will provide a space and time for us to do this?

What do you feel is the ideal location for presentations?

The library?

A restaurant for lunch? Do you have a suggestion for this?

How often do you feel we should have presentations?

Once a quarter

Once a month

Every other month

What is the leading factor preventing you from attending events?

We would love to hear your ideas and include them in our programming.

Please email your response to [cbwreply@gmail.com](mailto:cbwreply@gmail.com).

Thanks,

Mary Shipko

Virginia Writers Club, Inc.

*Golden Nib*

Writing  
Contest



## 2022 Golden Nib Contest

The Golden Nib Contest takes entries in three categories: fiction, nonfiction, and poetry.

Participants must enter at their local level to be eligible for the Virginia Writers Club contest.

CBW member entry deadline is July 15. Please send your entries to [cbwreply@gmail.com](mailto:cbwreply@gmail.com)

All entries must follow the guidelines set for the by Virginia Writers Club. More information can be found on the CBW Webstie:

<https://www.chesapeakebaywriters.org/golden-nib-2022>

or the VWC Website: <https://www.virginiawritersclub.org/2022-Golden-Nib-Contest>

or on the last page of this newsletter.

**Note:** To move up to the Virginia State round of competition, you must be a VWC member. If you are not, and you win the local level competition, you will need to send an application for membership and the appropriate fee with your submission to the state level competition. Membership is \$15.00 if it is your first time joining the VWC or \$30.00 if you've been a member before.

# Spotlight News

## CBW Writers Read at the Gloucester Library



On April 28, 2022, nine CBW writers braved the traffic on Route 17 to share their work at the Gloucester library. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet new people and share wonderful prose and poetry.

Open Mic night is an opportunity to view your own words in a different way. We all hear them in our heads when we compose our stories, but to verbally deliver them to others sheds new light on what you have written.

All their stories below affected me in some way.

Denise DeVries brought beautiful images to us through her poem called *Spring Kyrie*. The poem, written in kyrielle format made me think of camping, being in nature, with my son Ryan.

Tracy Lanum left us wanting to know more after reading a portion of her upcoming novelette, *Jenza*. I didn't know keeping a secret could be so dangerous.

Ted Hale took us to new worlds with lots of intrigue in his book, *Carronia Incursion*, the first book in his science fiction series. Was the doctor really trying to help?

Peggy Newcomb made us laugh with one of her short stories called, *Pocahontas*, which is included in her anthology, *I Used to Wear Shoes Like That*. If the campers only knew.

Jackie Duda entertained us with her tale, *My Dinner with Larry*, about a lobster she rescued from a restaurant. She followed that funny tale with two poems, *Regrettable Homage* (to a mosquito) and *Dogs in the Age of Covid* (dog breed behavior on a zoom conference).

Diana Farrar Caron enthralled us with some DNA-Cyber beings as she read a portion of her science fiction novel, *The Grief Masters*. Will Troy ever get out of the Virtual Reality Chambers?

Patti Procopi used humor to delve into the complex relationships between sisters in her debut novel, *Please Tell Me More*. Will the history they share keep them together as a family?

Sonja McGiboney took us to a nostalgic moment in her short story, *The Grown Up Table*. Remember when you first had to act like a grown up?

Mary Shipko shared *Three Miracles* which helped her on her writing and life journey. How many unexplained things in your life would you call a miracle?

### **Book Parade Revisited.**

Check out the great article about the Book Parade written by Denise DeVries. The article is published in Chesapeake Style Magazine April/May 2022 edition.

<http://www.chesapeakestyle.com/ApMay2022/Ches%20Style%20APMAY2022.pdf>

## Dr. Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda - Virginia Poet Laureate, Emerita - Some of her Experiences

Dr. Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda served as Poet Laureate of Virginia from 2006-2008. She has co-edited three anthologies, co-authored a poem-play, and published three chapbooks and seven books of poetry, including *The Embrace: Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo*, winner of the international Art in Literature: The Mary Lynn Kotz Award. She is the recipient of five grants from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and has won the Ellen Anderson Award, a Virginia Cultural Laureate Award, multiple first place awards from the Chesapeake Bay Branch of the National League of American Pen Women, a resolution of appreciation from the Virginia Board of Education for her service as poet laureate, an Edgar Allan Poe Poetry Award, six Pushcart Prize nominations, as well as other awards. Her poems, along with those of other Virginia poets laureate, are featured in two permanent art installations in Northern Virginia as part of the Washington Metropolitan Area Authority, Art in Transit. She currently serves as an adjunct faculty member for the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Statewide Program.

Here are her responses to the questions posed by Sonja McGiboney.

**1. *How long had you been a poet before being nominated?***

I've been writing poetry since I was four years old. When I was a child, my mother read lyrical poems to me each night. I was captivated by the musicality of verse and started writing poems daily. For years I was a "closet" poet, but when I was working on an advanced degree at George Mason University, one of my professors published several of my poems and encouraged me to start submitting to journals.

**2. *What did it feel like when you won?***

I was exhilarated and honored to receive a position that would allow me to promote poetry throughout Virginia and beyond. Having been selected by then-Governor Tim Kaine, a politician I've long admired, was especially gratifying.

**3. *What kind of programs were you involved in when you were the active poet laureate?***

See the list of accomplishments on the next page.

**4. *What was your most memorable moment?***

In 2006, I received a Resolution of Appreciation for Sustained Leadership and Devotion to Promoting the Writing and Reading of Poetry among Virginia's young people. This award was presented by the Virginia Board of Education in Richmond. Receiving this award from those who best understand education was truly meaningful. My major goal for 53 years has been to effectively share my knowledge with others in educational settings.

Another equally memorable moment was my participation in a poetry reading at The Library of Congress in Washington, DC. This program was conducted in Spanish only, with the exception of my poems, which were read in both English and Spanish. Participants included poets from Paraguay, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Spain, Argentina, Puerto Rico and the United States.

**5. *In two sentences, what or who was most influential in your success and why?***

As educators, my parents instilled in me a love of learning while also encouraging me to write, play the piano, and sharpen my artistic skills. They taught me to compete only with myself and never with others—a quality which led me to strive to be a better person tomorrow than I am today.

## Dr. Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda - Virginia Poet Laureate, Emerita - Some of her Experiences (cont.)

1. In 2006, I co-edited with Edward Lull *Four Virginia Poets Laureate: A Teaching Guide*. This book promotes the poetry of previous Poets Laureate, Grace Simpson, Joseph Awad, George Garrett and Margaret Ward Morland.
2. In 2001, at the request of the Poetry Society of Virginia, I established a Poetry-in-the-Schools Program to promote poetry at all instructional levels (K-university). During my term as poet laureate, I traveled around the state to conduct workshops at numerous schools and universities. I promoted poetry contests sponsored by the Poetry Society of Virginia, for elementary, middle school, and high school students.
3. I led the effort through the Poetry Society of Virginia (PSV) to fund an endowed poetry prize for deserving creative writing students at colleges and universities throughout the state of Virginia.
4. In September 2006, I established a Poetry Book Giveaway Project. The first press to donate books to the effort was White Pine Press in Buffalo, New York. These books were widely distributed throughout the state to university and high school settings, including Fairfax County, George Mason University, University of Mary Washington, Old Dominion University, University of Richmond, St. Christopher's School, Middlesex High School, and others.  
  
In November 2006, the University of Arkansas Press joined this Giveaway Project and contributed several hundred books to the program. Books from this press were donated to the College of William and Mary and elsewhere.
5. Shortly after moving to Virginia, I learned about the Dragon Run, which comprises the headwaters of the Piankaskin River. I've kayaked several times in the watershed and have written poems about my experiences. I joined the effort to preserve this pristine ecosystem. During my term as poet laureate, an excerpt of my poem, *The Dragon Run*, was used to introduce a DVD about this area. (Produced by the Middlesex Planning Commission, July 14, 2006) In line with this effort, I wrote *River Country* (San Francisco Bay Press, ©2008), a book of poems about the Tidewater area of Virginia, as well as about the human impact on land, water, and creatures.
6. I established a Poet's Spotlight feature ([www.carolynforonda.com](http://www.carolynforonda.com)) on my website for both adult poets and student writers of all races to highlight their poetry.
7. I wrote blurbs and forwards to books and judged poetry contests for the Poetry Society of Virginia, and I worked as an adjunct professor for the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. I taught ekphrastic poetry workshops and gave talks based on my book, *The Embrace: Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo*.
8. Outside of Virginia, I conducted workshops and gave readings in New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Indiana, South Carolina, Tennessee, Washington, DC, Kansas, and Maryland and in other sites throughout the country.
9. I worked in inner city schools, nursing homes, and participated in a variety of activities, including an event highlighting Hispanic poets and poetry at the Library of Congress—En Dos Lenguas, hosted and organized by Dr. Rei Berroa of George Mason University. Featured were poets from Paraguay, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Spain, Argentina, and Puerto Rico.
10. I served on Virginia Commission for the Arts grants panels and judged Poetry Out Loud competitions.

## Sofia Starnes - Virginia Poet Laureate, Emerita - Some of her Experiences

Sofia Starnes served as the Virginia Poet Laureate from 2012 – 2014. Sofia’s poetry has appeared or is forthcoming in numerous journals, among them Poetry, Southern Poetry Review, Notre Dame Review, Hayden’s Ferry Review, Laurel Review, Image, Hubbub, Pleiades, Gulf Coast, Madison Review, Hotel Amerika, Marlboro Review, William and Mary Review, War, Literature and the Arts, Modern Age, and First Things. Her poems also have been anthologized in the Hawaii Pacific Review Best of the Decade issue, Turnings: Transforming Women (Old Dominion University), the 80th Anniversary Anthology of the Poetry Society of Virginia, Ginosko, and Poems of Devotion: An Anthology of Recent Poets (Wipf and Stock, 2012), as well as the Virginia Writers Club Centennial Anthology (2017). Her book reviews have been featured in Christianity and the Arts, ImageUpdate, Presence, Touchstone, and Christianity and Literature. From 2007-2020 she served as Poetry Editor and Poetry Book Review Editor for The Anglican Theological Review. She currently serves as Selecting Editor for Poetica Magazine and Poetry Editor for The Virginia Writers Club Journal.

Here are her responses to the questions posed by Sonja McGiboney.

### 1. *How long had you been a poet before being nominated?*

Most writers—poets included—will say they were poets all their lives or can’t remember when they started writing. Simply put: they always wrote. In that sense, I would say I was always a writer as well; however, it was in 1986 that I began writing poetry with the purpose of sharing my work through publication. I was recently married, had moved from Madrid to New York, was no longer teaching...so I began focusing on writing as a permanent endeavor, this time with a reader in mind, a stranger, someone who did not know me, who would not be able to ask me what the poem was about, someone for whom the experience of the poem needed to make sense in relation to their experience—and not mine—someone for whom I was writing the poem (other than for myself). All of that started in 1986. I began placing poems in journals and published my first collection—The Soul’s Landscape, a chapbook—in 2002, after it was selected by Billy Collins as one of two co-winners of the Aldrich Poetry Prize. My first full-length book, A Commerce of Moments, won the Editor’s Choice Award in the Transcontinental Poetry Prize competition and was published by Pavement Saw in 2002. I was appointed Virginia Poet Laureate in 2012—so that would be 26 years from the moment I began writing poetry “full-time,” in other words, with an awareness of the unnamed reader which is essential to being a poet. It was also ten years after the publication of my first collection.

### 2. *What did it feel like when you won?*

I wouldn’t say it was a “dream come true,” because I never dreamt of being a poet laureate. I’ve never dreamt of receiving any of the recognitions I have been fortunate enough to receive. But looking back, being appointed Virginia Poet Laureate has been the most significant event in my “career” as a poet—and I believe it will always be, no matter what other awards I might garner. When I received the call from the Governor’s office in Richmond with the news, I told my husband immediately, of course. And his response, as a native of the Commonwealth, was: “Now you will always be connected to Virginia.” It was the best thing he could have said. For a two-time immigrant (first from the Philippines to Spain, and then from Spain to the US), this new reality of being permanently attached to a particular place and community, of having been embraced by a state as beautiful as Virginia through a shared love for poetry, was the best gift I could have been given. That’s how it felt, and it still does.

### 3. *What kind of programs were you involved in when you were the active poet laureate?*

As a poet, I have always felt a strong debt to the reader. I don’t believe a poem is complete without the reader, who fulfills the poem with his or her experience. No matter how much we encourage the writing of poetry, if we have no readers, the poems would be as ephemeral as clouds of smoke. And I don’t think we should write poetry merely for other poets. That would be like filling a concert hall with violinists and pianists!

## Sofia Starnes - Virginia Poet Laureate, Emerita - Some of her Experiences (cont.)

We need lay readers. So I conceived, edited, and published *The Nearest Poem Anthology* as a “testimony to the immediacy of poetry and its closeness to everyday life.” I asked readers from across the state to submit their “nearest poem”—not a poem they’d written but a poem they’d read which had accompanied them, been nearest to them, at a particular time in their lives. Their submission of the poem would be accompanied by a short essay explaining their choice, to be published alongside the poem. I wanted a wide range of readers and a wide range of works—both contemporary and classic. The poems had to be in English, but they could be translations, and some of them were. When completed, the book, which was published by Cedar Creek Press during the closing months of my tenure as poet laureate, featured 112 poems and their accompanying essays. The submissions came from readers of all ages and of various walks of life. I also solicited submissions from some public figures: politicians from both sides of the aisle, the director of the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, a Virginia CEO and major philanthropist, an ACC basketball Player of the Year, the pastor of a large church, a university president, and other prominent Virginia figures. The book remains available through Cedar Creek Press and hopefully might be of use in schools and libraries to encourage the appreciation of poetry, especially among people who insist that poetry is something they just don’t “get”.

### **4. *What was your most memorable moment?***

I have to mention two memorable moments: one, close to heart, and another one of broader consequence. The one that remains close to heart was at a reading I was asked to give at Westminster Canterbury, a retirement community in Lynchburg. Shortly before I was scheduled to begin, I learned that Margaret Ward Morland (born in 1923), who served as Virginia Poet Laureate from 1996 to 1998, was living there. I hoped she would attend the reading, but didn’t know for sure. Nonetheless, I looked up her work and decided to open the reading with one of her poems, in her honor. As it turns out, she was there, in the audience! We met, we chatted, we had some pictures taken together. She was as gracious as anyone might imagine, and I felt her presence as a true and unforgettable gift.

The second memorable moment would be when I was asked to be the Commencement Speaker at the University of Virginia at Wise. I had never had that kind of crowd and the boisterous reception that only hundreds of joyful graduating students can give. Not only that, I learned that the President of the College, Dr. Donna Price Henry, had purchased some 300 copies of *The Nearest Poem Anthology* to distribute among all the graduating seniors that year. What a joy to imagine the impact of so many poems on many more people!

### **5. *This will be hard. In two sentences, what or who was most influential in your success and why?***

This one is actually easy, although I will use up more than two sentences: my husband, Bill Starnes, without whom I could not have done half or even a third of what I undertook as poet laureate. In his own good-humored words, Bill identified himself as the official “Consort to the Poet Laureate” and her “Director of Transportation.” What I would say, in all seriousness, is that Bill believed in me when I doubted; he nudged me when I needed nudging; he worked through thorny issues with me whenever needed. I hope every poet laureate can count on that level of support from at least one person in their lives, someone who, like Bill, believes in them.

### **Writing Note**

“In a one-on-one, dialogue tags should only be used to impact the emotional tone or impact the cadence of the utterance.”

Jeff Elkins

## So, You Want to Go Social

by Caterina Novelliere

I was recently approached by an adult blind reader and her mother who is on the board for the Library of the Blind and Partially Sighted.

They expressed their frustration at the limited number of books by local authors available in audio format. They want to support local authors and small presses, but need audio versions of the books. Many independent or small press publishers don't make audiobooks or don't know how to pursue making one.

While text to voice readers are available, the listening experiences is not as pleasant. Imaging robotic voices narrating your story.

My friend asked if I could help raise awareness about this issue. As a local writer who is involved with several writing organizations, I thought it would be a wonderful project to pursue.

Creating audio recordings of my books has been on my list for a while. Now I have the motivation to actually see it come to fruition.

With this in mind, I am researching ways to create audio books but want to start by asking members of CBW about their own experience.

\*Do you offer your books in audio format?

\*If yes, what channels do you prefer to distribute on and how were they recorded (i.e. self, profit sharing, paid out-right for professional narration)?

\*What equipment and editing software do you use if a self-recorder?

\*Would you be willing to be interviewed for a newsletter article on audiobooks which will be written later this fall?

Please email [novelliere@me.com](mailto:novelliere@me.com) with your interest.

Respectfully,

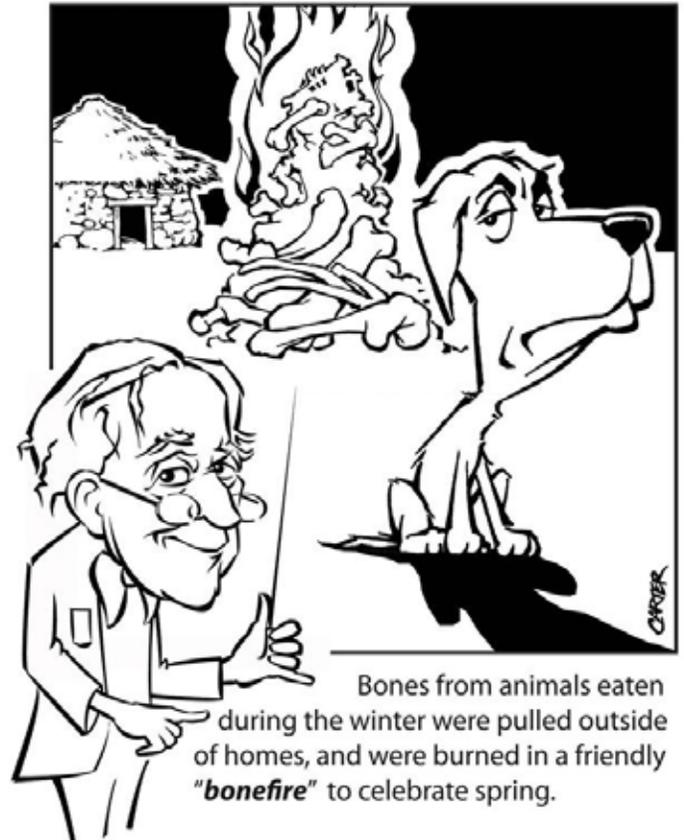
Cat

## Words to Ponder

by Charles W. Sutherland

Professor Charles Explains

## Why We Say: **Bonfire**



Bones from animals eaten during the winter were pulled outside of homes, and were burned in a friendly "bonfire" to celebrate spring.

"It's not that I'm so smart, it's just that I stay with problems longer."

Albert Einstein

## Art and Words at the Muscarelle Museum 603 Jamestown Rd, Williamsburg, VA 23185

\$10.00 museum fee is required before entry.

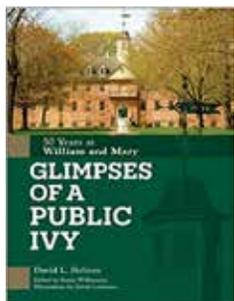
No registration is required, just show up.

Bring your notebooks or laptops.

We will gather in a gallery and choose a work of art to write about, but don't tell anyone which one you chose. We will have 30 minutes to write. When the time is over, we will share our beautiful prose or poems. Then we guess which piece of art you wrote about.

When all the fun is over, we will go eat lunch together and talk about, well, whatever it is you want.

# New Books



## ***Glimpses of a Public Ivy: 50 Years at William & Mary***

by David L. Holmes (Author)  
Susan Williamson (Editor)  
David Loebman (Illustrator)  
August, 2022

Susan Williamson is the editor of *Glimpses of a Public Ivy: 50 Years at William & Mary* by David L. Holmes, William & Mary professor emeritus.

A behind-the-scenes collection of vignettes, as told by a professor of four decades, shares the story of life at America's second-oldest college from 1950 to 2000.

Learn about the remarkable students, faculty, administrators, and alumni who helped bring William & Mary into the 21st century. This compilation of over 50 colorful stories, each accompanied by original illustrations, includes extraordinary achievement, humorous incidents, unique characters, and memories of day-to-day life at the historic university. Holmes uses his own experiences as a professor, along with interviews from alumni and staff, to paint a detailed, fond, and rich picture of this era, which will inspire and amuse anyone with ties to William & Mary.

The book will be released in August by Schiffer Publishing and is now available for pre-order on Amazon.

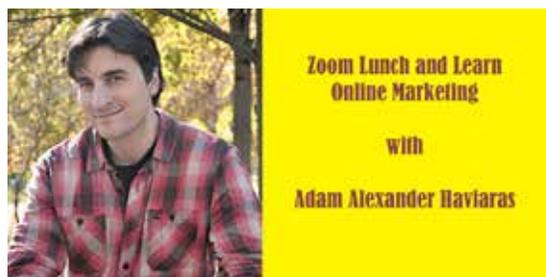


## ***Chasing the Dragon***

by Reyn Kinzey  
April 13, 2022

*“Chasing the Dragon, by Reyn Kinzey is an exciting book -- filled with a twenty-five-year span of captivating voices and images. His poems range from travel stories about his ancestral Ireland to personal searches for self in his journey from restless young man to contented retiree. My personal favorites are his kayaking tales about adventures with osprey, eagles and dolphin. Kinzey is an amazing poet with a unique style and talent for story-telling. I promise, you won't be able to put *Chasing the Dragon down*. His truth-telling combined with wry humor makes it a compelling read.”*

Sharon Canfield Dorsey,  
award winning author  
Author of *Walk with Me* and other works



SAT, JUN 11 AT 11 AM

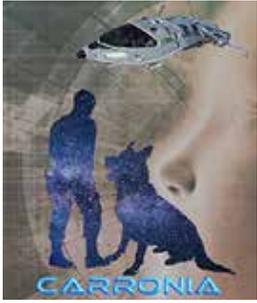
Register to receive the Zoom invitation

<https://chesapeakebaywriters.wufoo.com/forms/si0l-i1a0me2ts1/>

**“The trouble with writing fiction is that it has to make sense, whereas real life doesn't.”**

Iain M. Banks

# New Books



## ***Carronia Enlightened***

by Ted Hale  
May 11, 2022

A thought-provoking story about the meaning of sentience and free will with a helping of action and romance on the side.

Tech genius Sweeny has found a method of creating sentient artificial intelligence. Will he sell out and become the next trillionaire, leaving them to a life of slavery, or will he fight for their right to self-determination.

An extremely powerful and ancient sentient artificial life form from outside our galaxy makes contact with the newly created AI. Are they here just to observe? Or will they join forces with the newly created AI and start a war that humans have no chance of winning?



## ***Jazzy's Guide to Summertime Fun***

by Sonja McGiboney  
May 10, 2022

Jazzy's Guide to Summertime Fun is a children's book full of ideas for activities a child can do in the summer. Of course, some activities will

need the help of an adult since, obviously, children cannot drive. Suggestions include: collecting things, going to museums, splashing in puddles, reading a book, making your own corn hole game, crafting, hiking, writing a story, and more.

Not only will you have fun reading the rhyming text, but at the end of the book is a check-off sheet. Children can check off the activities that they accomplish. You can set a goal to do a portion of the activities by the end of the month or even the end of the summer.

Once you are done, send Jazzy an email and tell her about your adventures.



## ***Dog Star Night***

by Kenneth James  
March 13, 2022

What awaits beyond is beyond incredible!

Eleven-year old Benny adventures to outer space to discover his inner

strength. Kind-hearted Bella and playful Pup are canine travelers from the Star Realm. They've come to Earth on a mission. They're in search of a hero.

Young Benny from Prickly Pear doesn't seem much like a hero. He's more of a regular kid. A nice kid. The kind of kid who's a steadfast friend. When he grows up, he wants to be an engineer or inventor, or better yet, both. Benny is in no way an eager warrior. He can't even protect himself against the neighborhood bully, let alone defend others. The bully torments not just Benny, but Benny's little sister, Dyna, and his best friend, Paco.

But dogs can sense what can't be seen. And Bella and Pup sense courage and compassion inside Benny. Could this regular kid from Prickly Pear be the extraordinary hero Bella and Pup are searching for? The hero destined to rally the spirit of hope and unity against the forces of hate and cruelty. To find the answers, Benny will have to venture to the stars, to a world that astounds!

Dog Star Night is the original, wondrous tale about the spirit of loyalty, love, and courage—the spirit of the Dog Star.

"I was 40 years old before I became an overnight success, and I'd been publishing for 20 years."

Mary Karr

# Picture Story Challenge

April-May



## The Impromptu Soloist

By Sonja McGiboney

Michael admired the winery as he waited at the bar. A beautiful three-story, Dutch colonial house stood next to several large barns with vats for winemaking. Behind them stretched miles of grapes in neat rows spread over rolling hills. His best friend picked a terrific location for the wedding.

He tipped the bartender and, with his dog at his side, headed back to his wife, Alena. She looked as relaxed as someone could be after having foot surgery. More from habit than worry, he looked around the lawn for his tawny-haired six-year-old but didn't see him. No matter, he had left Jeffy with Alena's sister.

Glass in hand, Alena took a long sip. "Where's Jeffy?"

"Last I saw him he was with your sister, the one with the long braids."

She inhaled quickly, "You left him with Susie?"

"Yeah."

With a groan, Alena put down her glass. "I thought I gave you a list of safe people for Jeffy?"

"Um, no."

"Shit. I know I told somebody." Alena's eyes widened. "I told your brother and he was supposed to tell you."

"Well, he didn't."

Alena grabbed her phone. "I'll start calling the family."

Michael knelt and rubbed Roper's floppy ears. "I guess this is why we paid the big bucks for all your training." He unhooked Roper's leash saying, "Roper! Find Jeffy!" Roper turned silently and trotted away.

Voice rising, Alena spoke into the phone. "Susie, listen to me. Where did you leave him?"

The call ended. Grabbing for her crutches Alena reported. "She left him at the clown station that is next to the dance floor! The nerve of her!"

"Sit down, Alena. You stay here in case he returns. We'll find him."

Before Michael could turn, a terrific howl ripped through the vineyard. He smiled. "Roper's found him!"

Michael took off in the direction of the long, strident notes.

Roper sat next to Jeffy but continued to yowl. Jeffy stroked Roper's soft hair, oblivious to the noise emanating from the dog. He stared at the musicians.

The music continued despite the impromptu, obnoxious, and out-of-tune soloist. Michael finally reached the pair and patted Roper's head.

"Good job Roper!"

Roper's howls stopped. The trio arrived at a cadence. Silence filled the air for a few seconds before guests clapped.

The guitar player turned to Jeffy, "Hey there, can I sign your dog up as a singer?"

Michael laughed, "Sorry, but Roper already has a job. My son Jeffy can't hear. If he wanders off, Roper's job is to find him."

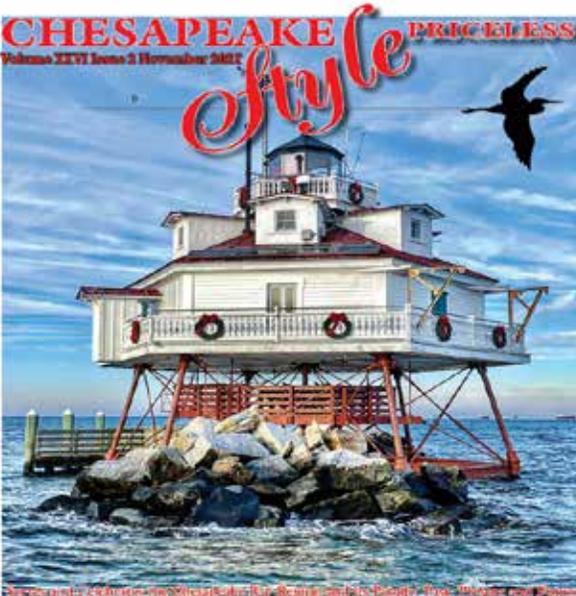
"I didn't realize he couldn't hear us" The old man paused, "But I can help him hear the music. Bring him over and put his hand on the guitar."

Michael signed to Jeffy to do as instructed. The old man quickly strummed chords. The other two players joined in. Jeffy felt the vibrations of the guitar strings through his hands and soon bounced to the rhythm of the song.

Michael whispered into Roper's long floppy ears. "Roper, Find Jeffy."

# Marketing and Writing Opportunities

## Book Reviews



*Chesapeake Style* is an award-winning, colorful classy magazine serving folks in the Chesapeake Bay Region. It began in 1998 and is still going strong. It is published online and magazines are distributed around the region.

*Chesapeake Style* offers Books in Style reviews for any Virginia author but preference is given to members of CBW and the critique groups.

All you have to do is have someone else read your book and write a 500-word review of it in accordance with the guidelines.

Email [jafchesapeakestyle@gmail.com](mailto:jafchesapeakestyle@gmail.com) for Guidelines and Deadlines.

Copy of cover taken from the *Chesapeake Style* Web edition: <http://www.chesapeakestyle.com/>

## Writing opportunities through *Chesapeake Style* Magazine *Writers in Style*

Writers in Style is an invitation to CBW members to write 500-word articles for upcoming issues. The theme of the column is writing, and previous articles have been eclectic. They can be viewed in the *Chesapeake Style* archives at [www.chesapeakestyle.com](http://www.chesapeakestyle.com):

*Chesapeake Style* publishes and distributes 10,000 copies in the April/May, June/July, August/September issues and 15,000 copies in the October/November issue. They are found throughout the Middle Peninsula, Northern Neck and at the Williamsburg General Store.

Please email submissions with a subject of Writers in Style to:  
Janet A Fast [jafchesapeakestyle@gmail.com](mailto:jafchesapeakestyle@gmail.com)

Month	Articles - On FRIDAY	Advertising - On WEDNESDAY	Distribution - On TUESDAY
April/May Issue 10,000 copies	4/1/2022	4/6/2022	4/19/2022
June/July Issue 10,000 copies	6/10/2022	6/15/2022	6/28/2022
August/Sept Issue 10,000 copies	8/12/2022	8/17/2022	8/30/2022
Oct/Nov Issue 15,000 copies	10/7/22	10/12/2022	10/25/2022

Distribution area includes Northern Neck, Middle Peninsula and Williamsburg

## *Chesapeake Style* Spotlight interview assignments

Contact Janet Fast if you'd like to discuss becoming a writer for *Chesapeake Style* Spotlight interview assignments.  
Email: Janet Fast <[jafchesapeakestyle@gmail.com](mailto:jafchesapeakestyle@gmail.com)>

# Marketing and Writing Ops cont.

## CBW Second Monday Radio Interviews with Neal Steele on XTRA 99.1 FM



Neal Steele interviews an author for his XTRA 99.1 FM CBW Second Monday Radio Show. The interview takes place at the station in Gloucester (just past Short Lane Ice Cream) and starts at about 8:05 a.m. Neal is a champ at making people comfortable. He asks intelligent questions and his genuine interest in an author's work comes through during the interview.

If you cannot make it to Gloucester, he can do the interview over the phone.

All bookings must be made through CBW's coordinator, Patti Procopi. [patti.pro@cox.net](mailto:patti.pro@cox.net)

CBW Members have priority for upcoming shows but published VWC members statewide, past speakers at CBW meetings, and non-member authors living within CBW's Service area are also eligible.



Check out Neal on Facebook and on the Radio's website  
<https://www.facebook.com/nealnwmrkt>  
<https://xtra99.com/on-air/neal-steele>

## Articles by CBW members

The Bay Writers News welcomes short articles written by CBW members. I invite you to share projects, stories, information about the craft of writing, and any other musings with us. We learn by doing and what better way to make yourself write something.

If you post things on blog pages and have an article you wish to share, send it to us. Not only will I put your contribution in the newsletter, I'll add a link to your blog, website and any other contact info you want to spread around.

RULES: Please limit your submissions to 500 words.

### *Open Mic*

Open Mic is a wonderful opportunity to share our work with other writers. We are currently looking for locations that can host us. Do you have a favorite restaurant that allows people to perform? Please let us know and we'll try to get something organized there.

# Schedule

## **June 4, 2022, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.**

Flash Ekphrastic writing at the Muscarelle Museum of Art. There is no registration, just show up but you will need to pay the entry fee for the museum which is \$10.00. We'll gather in a gallery, secretly choose a piece of art to write about, write, then share our work. Then, everyone guesses which artwork you wrote about. We can adjourn to lunch somewhere afterward.

## **June 4, 2022, Saturday 10:30 a.m.**

Coffee Shop Conversations-With Charles W. Sutherland. Talk about your current work in progress at Column 15 coffee shop, 701 Merrimac Trail, Williamsburg, VA 23185. Show up with a smile.

## **June 7, 2022, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.**

Flash Fiction Zoom - prompt-write-share.

## **June 8, Wednesday, 2022,11:30 a.m.**

General Meeting & Luncheon The Theme of Forms and the Form of Themes with Dr. Jason Ray Carney Rocco's Smokehouse Grill  
The reservation form is at [chesapeakebaywriters.org](http://chesapeakebaywriters.org)

## **June 11, 2022, Saturday,**

11 - 2, Zoom Lunch and Learn:

FREE - 3-hour Marketing Presentation by Adam Alexander Haviaras.

Adam is the author of the #1 best-selling Eagles and Dragons historical fantasy series.

**Registration is required to receive the zoom invitation.**

## **June 13, 2022, CBW Second Monday Radio Show, 8:05 a.m.**

Ted Hale interview with Neal Steele on 99.1 FM on his series, Carronia Incursion.

## **June 18, 2022, Saturday 10:30 a.m.**

Coffee Shop Conversations-With Charles W. Sutherland. Talk about your current work in progress at Column 15 coffee shop, 701 Merrimac Trail, Williamsburg, VA 23185. Show up with a smile.

## **July 6, 2022, Wednesday, 7:00 p.m**

Zoom Social with Bradley Harper: Reflections on his studies in Scotland.

## **July 11, 2022, CBW Second Monday Radio Show, 8:05 a.m.**

Jeff Schnader interview with Neal Steele on 99.1 FM on The Serpent Papers.

**July 15, 2022, Golden Nib Entries for the CBW chapter are due. Please send your entries to [cbwreply@gmail.com](mailto:cbwreply@gmail.com)**

**August 6, 2022 Virginia Writers Club Symposium at Piedmont Virginia Community College  
Keynote Speaker is our own Bradley Harper**



# <http://www.online resources>

## **Classes, Conferences, and Festivals**

I scoured the web to find interesting places to learn.  
It's up to you to research if something is for you or not.

**Fri, Jun 3, 5:00 p.m.- Sun, Jun 5, 11:00 a.m.**

**The Write Away: A Books & Bottles Retreat** - Norfolk Waterside Marriott

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-write-away-a-books-bottles-retreat-tickets-231327325257> (\$379)

**Ausugst 6, 2022 - Times to be determined.**

**Virginia Writers Club Symposium** at Piedmont Virginia Community College

Keynote Speaker is our own **Bradley Harper**

More info to follow.

**September 10, 2022, 10a.m.-6p.m.**

**Buckroe Beach Festival**

CBW will have a table if you want to share a space. Please contact Ted Hale at [ted@tedbhale.com](mailto:ted@tedbhale.com)

**September 22-24 - See times on schedule.**

**Hampton Roads WRiters 14th Annual Writers Conference**

Keynote Speakers: Edmund R Schubert and Wendy H. Jones

<https://hamptonroadswriters.org/2022-conference-home/>

**More Conferences available in the US. Check out more online.**

<https://thejohnfox.com/2020/02/30-writers-conferences/>

[https://www.awpwriter.org/awp\\_conference/](https://www.awpwriter.org/awp_conference/)

**If you are looking for local bazaars check out this website: <http://4eventplanning.com/events>**

**Tidewater community Writing Center**

<http://www.tidewatercommunitywritingcenter.org/events.html> -

Every first Monday of the month, -Monthly Resume Workshop at Hampton Public Library

Second Sundays from 2pm - 4pm Tidewater Community Writing Center Book Club

More information about the events above can be found on the Tidewater community Writing Center Website.

**SUMMER CLASSES AT THE MUSE:** <https://the-muse.org/classes-at-a-glance/>

## Online Resources

***The Dialogue Doctor:*** At the Dialogue Doctor, we believe writers should be consistently challenging ourselves and learning about the craft of writing. We provide three different learning opportunities. website: <https://dialoguedoctor.com/>

The youtube channel has some great videos about fixing dialogue. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj2zEsB5pvJgcKjtPQijheQ>

***The Village Writing School:*** I recently attended an online workshop with the Pamlico Writers out of NC. The speaker, Alison Taylor-Brown taught about creating characters. I have not tried any of these courses, but based on my recent interaction, I'd say they are worth it. They are also reasonably priced. <https://www.villagewritingschool.com/>

***Tidewater Community Writing Center:*** <http://www.tidewatercommunitywritingcenter.org/>

The TCWC is a free writing resource to support writers in the tidewater region. Made up of volunteers from Christopher Newport University and the Hampton Roads community, the Tidewater Community Writing Center is available for in-person one-to-one and group writing consultations. Our trained staff will help you at any stage of the writing process, from brainstorming and drafting to revising and editing, through engaging conversation. We're happy to help with any kind of writing, including but not limited to: college application essays, school-related writing assignments, workplace writing, and creative writing.

### **Picture Book Writing Websites:**

"Josh Funk's Guide to Writing Picture Books" <https://www.joshfunkbooks.com/resources-for-writers>

"20 Tips for Writing Children's Books" by Pat Mora <https://www.patmora.com/tips/>

"What Makes a Good Young Picture Book" by Marilyn Singer <https://www.today.com/parents/want-write-good-children-s-book-here-are-7-tips>

### ***Online Classroom: You're the teacher!***

Wet Ink is an online platform designed to assist you in building an engaging environment through sharing your experiences around writing. Wet Ink allows you to create writing groups, classes, workshops, and communities catered to writers. Check out this video showcasing some of our writing-specific features and ways to collaborate with other writers. To Learn more go to their website: <https://wet.ink/> or contact Florizany Araya: [florizany@wet.ink](mailto:florizany@wet.ink)

## Want to Submit? Read the Guidelines

Literary Taxidermy Writing Competition : You can read more about the competition here: [www.literarytaxidermy.com](http://www.literarytaxidermy.com)

## Books on the Craft of Writing By our CBW members

***Time to Write: Discovering the Writer Within After 50*** - November 1, 2007 - by Frank Milligan

***Professor Charles Says... Learn English!*** -August 5, 2016 - by Charles W Sutherland

***Published! Now Sell It!***-October 1, 2005 - by Mary Montague Sikes

### Other books on the craft.

#### ***The Elements of Style, by Williams Strunk Jr. & E. B. White***

Charles W. Sutherland remarks, “As the summaries correctly say, it remains very instructive, particularly for neophyte authors. In my personal experience, I instinctively use what I learned from that ... as a basis -- from which I deliberately deviate in order to become more creative. It’s like learning to walk and then learning how to transform that into running. So, I would definitely recommend it... with the caveat that it should be a book of instruction, but not a Bible.”

***From Where You Dream: The Process of Writing Fiction, by Robert Olen Butler***, Recommended by Alison Taylor-Brown

Robert Olen Butler, author of *Perfume River*, *A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain*, and *A Small Hotel*, teaches graduate fiction at Florida State University—his version of literary boot camp. In *From Where You Dream*, Butler reimagines the process of writing as emotional rather than intellectual, and tells writers how to achieve the dream-space necessary for composing honest, inspired fiction. Proposing that fiction is the exploration of the human condition with yearning as its compass, Butler reinterprets the traditional tools of the craft using the dynamics of desire. Offering a direct view into the mind and craft of a literary master, *From Where You Dream* is an invaluable tool for the novice and experienced writer alike.

#### ***Secrets of Storytelling: A Creative Writing Workbook for Kids, by Natalie Rompella***

Sonja McGiboney comments, “I bought this book to give to my nephew, but then bought one for myself. It is a good book for discussing writing with kids. It’s packed with dozens of short, creative fiction prompts and plenty of space so you can write to your heart’s content. Prompts and fun activities about writing for kids inspire you to get creative and help you build intriguing plots, strong characters, and vivid settings for your stories. It’s time to unleash your inner author!”

“I think there are two types of writers, the architects and the gardeners. The architects plan everything ahead of time, like an architect building a house. They know how many rooms are going to be in the house, what kind of roof they’re going to have, where the wires are going to run, what kind of plumbing there’s going to be. They have the whole thing designed and blueprinted out before they even nail the first board up. The gardeners dig a hole, drop in a seed and water it. They kind of know what seed it is, they know if they planted a fantasy seed or mystery seed or whatever. But as the plant comes up and they water it, they don’t know how many branches it’s going to have, they find out as it grows. And I’m much more a gardener than an architect.”

— George R.R. Martin

## Guidelines for the 2022 Golden Nib Contest

The 2022 Golden Nib writing contest is officially open. The Golden Nib, started in 2005, is the Virginia Writers Club (VWC) annual writing competition in three categories: Fiction, Nonfiction, and Poetry, with cash prizes for first, second and third place finishers. The contest is run in two tiers: local Chapter (first tier) and State level (second tier). Each Chapter forwards its first-place winning entries for judging at the (second tier) State VWC level.

Contestants must be a current member of the state organization. Entrants who live within the jurisdiction of a VWC chapter should enter the first tier of the competition through that chapter. VWC members living in an area where no chapter exists can submit their entries to the chapter closest to them. Each chapter submits one representative in each category to the state finals, where first, second, and third place winners in each category are announced at the annual meeting held in November.

All 1st place chapter winning manuscripts submitted to the state finals will be published in the VWC Golden Nib and Teen Nib Journal, unless you request to not have your submission included. 2nd and 3rd place chapter winners may request their manuscripts be considered for the VWC journal through their cover sheet.

**CONTEST RULES:** Entries will be accepted on any subject the author or poet chooses in the categories of fiction, nonfiction & poetry.

Manuscripts must be the **original, unpublished work** of the entrant, and must not have won a prize at any level in any other competition. The VWC State competition allows entries published in your personal blogs. Works published in blogs other than your own, on social network sites, or in an online publication are ineligible and should not be submitted.

Entrants may submit only one entry per category of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry.

Fiction and nonfiction entries must be no longer than 3,500 words, including any notes, bibliographies or other supporting text. Poetry entries must be no longer than 50 lines.

Fiction and nonfiction entries should conform to the Chicago Manual of Style.

Format:

- Chapter representatives will provide each entrant with a fillable coversheet. The coversheet (attached to the email with the newsletter) must be filled out in its entirety and submitted with each entry. The online chapter link provides space for the coversheet information; no separate coversheet need be submitted.
- Submissions can be in doc, docx or rtf format.
- All pages must show contest category, title, word (or line for Poetry) count and page number **in the header**.
- If the author's name or any identifying information appears on any page of the manuscript, the entry will be disqualified.
- Manuscripts must be in **12 point Times New Roman font**. Page settings must be 8 ½ by 11-inch with 1 inch margins.
- Fiction and nonfiction manuscripts must be double-spaced, with a ragged right margin.
- Poetry manuscripts must be single-spaced.

Submissions not in accord with format and other rules will be disqualified.

No paper submissions will be accepted. All manuscripts and coversheets must be electronic.

A list of Golden Nib winners in each category will be published on the VWC Web site. All finalists will be published in the 2022 edition of the VWC Golden Nib and Teen Nib Journal. All other rights remain the property of the author.

### SUBMIT ENTRIES TO YOUR VWC CHAPTER BY ITS SPECIFIED DEADLINE

Each chapter has its own guidelines, deadline and membership requirements for entering the chapter-level contest. All chapters must adhere to the state contest rules. Some chapters require membership in their chapter, some don't.

All entries in the second-tier State VWC contest must be a first-place chapter-level entry and the entrant must be a State VWC member. If the winner at the chapter-level is not a member of the State VWC, a membership application and payment of dues must accompany the entry.

Contact your local VWC chapter to find out what the deadline is for chapter contest submissions! Except for VWC unaffiliated members, entries sent by writers directly to VWC for State contest will not be accepted.

Each chapter representative is responsible for forwarding only the 1st place manuscripts and coversheets from the chapter competition (in each of the three categories), written by a member of the VWC or a writer who completes an application to join the VWC and submits a check for annual dues of \$30 to accompany the entry. If you are just joining VWC, your first year dues will be \$15 and not \$30. **STATE VWC AWARDS:** There are nine VWC chapters and one unaffiliated chapter in the state. Only first-place winners from the chapters will be eligible for the state contest. That means only 30 entries will be forwarded for the State competition -- ten entries total per category (fiction, nonfiction, poetry) -- by the State Deadline of August 31. Winners of VWC Golden Nib Contest will be announced, and awards presented at the VWC Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony in November. Awards for each category: First Place-\$100; Second Place-\$50; Third Place-\$25.