

The Report



SUMMER 2020

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OWFI Report, Summer 2020

In This Issue

- 3 Guest Column by Staci Mauney
- 4 Letter from the President
- 5 Letter from the President and Conference Chair
- 6 Winners of the 2020 OWFI Writing Contest
- 13 Guest Column by Kathleen Park
- 14 OWFI Spotlights
- 16 Affiliate Thunderdome
- 18 Supporting OWFI through AmazonSmile
- 19 2021 Conference Preview

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- Jack Burgos
- Staci Mauney
- Shelley Pagach
- Kathleen Park
- Ariel White

The Report is the newsletter of the Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc., and is published three times per year. Submissions should be directed to the newsletter editor.

editor@owfi.org

Printed by Schatz Publishing Group.

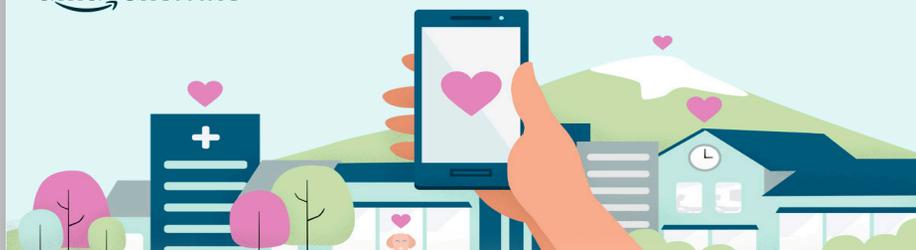
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Founded in 1968, the Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc. (OWFI) is a non-profit federation of writers' groups dedicated to promoting higher standards for the written word. We believe that the literary profession has come of age and merits a fair share of the critical acclaim so generously lavished on other worthwhile arts. OWFI shall seek to coordinate and encourage professional writing within and without its organization and promote the recognition of outstanding contributions to the written language.

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Guest Column

5 Tips for Writing During a Crisis

Along with many other countries, the US was in quarantine due to COVID-19 for weeks. During this time, I heard people say that writers should use the time to develop a new skill or write a book. Popular memes reminded us that Shakespeare penned King Lear during the Black Plague, implying we had no excuse not to write.

Using our time to write during quarantine is great advice, but it has limits depending on our situation. A variety of things can destroy our motivation to write, from anxiety about finances or health to priorities like homeschooling or distractions like Netflix.

How can we stay productive during the COVID-19 pandemic or any other time of crisis? Here are five tips:

Walk or exercise. Walking in a natural environment has been shown to reduce stress levels and improve mood. Our minds wander as we walk. I get some of my best ideas while walking my dog. I carry my phone with me so that I can add notes about any ideas I have. Other types of exercise and physical activity help as well.

Avoid comparison. Comparison is a trap that makes us feel worse about ourselves when we get caught in it. I may be able to carve out time to write, but you may not. To avoid comparing yourself to others, you may need to step away from social media for a while. Decide what you can do, and don't worry about what others are doing.

Create a writing schedule. You may have ten minutes here or twenty minutes there. Take whatever time you have and block it off to write. You may not have an hour to write, and that's okay. Take whatever time you can find. If you write two hundred words a day five days a week, you'll have

a thousand words at the end of the week. You'll see your project grow and come to fruition.

Engage with your writing friends. If you're part of a writing community, check in with them. Set up or participate in virtual write-ins. Email your writing goals to a friend for accountability. Staying connected through technology allows us to encourage and motivate each other even when we can't meet in person.

Be kind to yourself. Take care of yourself and take time to do things you enjoy away from work and writing. If your family is with you, spend time with them. Play games or cook dinner together. Reach out to a friend. If you don't meet your writing goal today, don't be too hard on yourself. Remember, tomorrow is new day with a clean slate just waiting for you to write your story.

Staci Mauney is the author of four devotionals and several short stories. Current OWFI Past President, she co-owns Prestige Prose, a professional editing and writing company. Visit her at prestigeprose.com.

FLASH FICTION



PHOTO PROMPTS

Enter online at
www.owfi.org/report/prompt

From the President

Dear OWFI family,

Thank you for your support when we had to cancel our 2020 conference this year. What started out as just a story on the news, ended up turning everyone's lives upside down, inside out, and basically creating a strange normal we are still trying to get used to.

Any other year, this would be the moment I passed the baton to our conference coordinator, Aleasha Shelnut, wishing her all the best for her presidency in 2021. However, she and I will hold off on the title change for one more year. We were both cheated out of the opportunity to experience our roles to the fullest, and the board and our fellow members have honored us with the chance to do just that in

2021.

What does this mean? The idea is to pick up where we left off, well as close to where we left off as possible. When I chose the theme for 2020, I had no idea the gap we needed to bridge would be so freaking big. Let's face it, it's epic. I can't imagine a more appropriate title for our 2021 conference than Bridging the Epic Gap. It's not just about reaching new writers anymore. It now represents recovery and hopefully renewal from a long tumultuous year. None of us will be the same when this is all said and done, but my hope is that we will be stronger, wiser, and maybe a little more understanding of those around us.

Shelley Pagach is the OWFI President, 2019-2021



Shelley at the 2019 OWFI banquet with the presidential gavel.

UPCOMING
BOARD MEETING
DATES

SEPTEMBER 13, 2020
DECEMBER 6, 2020
MARCH 7, 2021

AT EMBASSY SUITES WILL ROGERS AIRPORT, OKC

From the President and Conference Chair

Now that you know Aleasha and I are here to stay for another year, I'm happy to report that most of the names on our board will be the same for 2021 as well. We say goodbye to Traci Ison Schafer, 1st V.P. and Christina Consolino, 2nd V.P., but not before we give them the loudest of shout outs for the outstanding job they did with our 2020 contest. It would've been superb in any circumstance, but they really hit it out of the ballpark this year.

We welcome Jodi Thompson as our 2021 1st V.P. and Chad Healy our our 2021 2nd V.P. I know they will be a great addition to our already amazing board.

Aleasha and I are ecstatic that most of our speakers have agreed to come back for 2021, including our Keynote, Alton Carter. We are also excited to announce the Embassy Suites renovations will be completed by then and it'll be



like having our conference at a brand new hotel.

I want to give a special thank you to Bill Bernhardt and Write Well Sell Well for giving our OWFI members a chance to meet this September at WriterCon. We will be presenting awards to the winners of our 2020 writing contest at the Saturday night banquet. OWFI will also have a vendor table with brochures

and swag. I'm especially looking forward to our meet and greet the last day of the conference. Hope to see you there.

Shelley Pagach is the OWFI President for 2019-2021; Aleasha Shelnuttt is the Conference Coordinator for 2019-2021.

On our website you can find loads of information about OWFI.

Our What's New area showcases blog posts from OWFI faculty, the President's Podium, and the latest Report and archived issues.

You can also find information about who we are, our affiliates, your account information, various activities from our flash fiction prompts to the Events Calendar, and of course, info about the writing contest and next years conference.

Check it out at www.owfi.org.



2020 OWFI Contest Winners - Unpublished Manuscript Awards



We did our part this year to help flatten the curve by having our Annual Awards Ceremony presented live online this year by our past VP 1, Traci Ison Schafer. Thank you to Traci & Christina Consolino for making it happen! Congratulations to all the winners!!

CATEGORY 1 **PERSONAL BLOG:** **NONFICTION**

Category Sponsor: *Prestige Prose*

Number of Entries: 33

FIRST PLACE: "Flying Solo in the Kitchen" by Pepper Hume, Bartlesville WordWeavers

SECOND PLACE: "I'm the Bad Guy" by Connor Passiglia, Nevermore Edits

THIRD PLACE: "Oxford Commas for Sale" by Lisbeth L. McCarty, Norman Galaxy of Writers

1st Honorable Mention: "Happy Birthday Seren & Bravo! Happy Gotcha Day Karma!" by Amy Shojai, Rose Rock wRiters

2nd Honorable Mention: "A Dog Named Wide Load" by Shelley Anne Richter, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

3rd Honorable Mention: "Front Porch Pointers" by Dee Dee Chumley, The Inklings

CATEGORY 2 **ESSAY: ANY SUBJECT OF** **CONTEMPORARY INTEREST**

Category Sponsor: *Ruth Weeks*
Number of Entries: 29

FIRST PLACE: "What Do You See When You Look At Him" by Darlinda Hagens, Pen and Keyboard Writers

SECOND PLACE: "Hands" by Juliana Lightle, WordsmithSix

THIRD PLACE: "Success is

a Feeling" by Marisa Mohi, Member at Large

1st Honorable Mention: "Hanging with a Hawk" by Dave Walsh, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc

2nd Honorable Mention: "Bees are Busy, Too" by Marilyn Boone, Bartlesville WordWeavers

CATEGORY 3 **MEMOIR/NOSTALGIA**

Category Sponsor: *Enid Writers Club*

Number of Entries: 51

FIRST PLACE: "But We Did Not Drown" by Sandra Soli, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

SECOND PLACE: "No

2020 OWFI Contest Winners - Unpublished Manuscript Awards

Worries” by Niki Nicole, The Inklings

THIRD PLACE: “Blackface: A Memoir” by Kathleen Arnett, Member at Large

1st Honorable Mention:

“Madam” by Judith Rycroft, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

2nd Honorable Mention: “Polio Panic Attack - 1948” Vivian Zabel, Pen and Keyboard Writers

3rd Honorable Mention: “The Road to Respect” by Dave Walsh, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

4th Honorable Mention:

“Whole Lotta Love” by F. Ray Gaskin, Member at Large

5th Honorable Mention:

“Among Other Things: The Infamous Case of Miss Demeanor’s Dummy” by Ann Cleary, Bartlesville WordWeavers

CATEGORY 4

PROSE HUMOR: FICTION OR NONFICTION

Category Sponsor: Nikki Hanna

Number of Entries: 36

FIRST PLACE: “Tugger McTavish and the Great Football Cash-Out Caper” by Storme Maynard, Member at Large

SECOND PLACE: “A Perfect Opportunity” by Amy Saker, Nevermore Edits

THIRD PLACE: “The Boys of Boca Bay” by J. Allen Harris, Member at Large

1st Honorable Mention: “Love,

Judge Zimmerman” by Lisbeth L. McCarty, Norman Galaxy of Writers

2nd Honorable Mention:

“Writer’s Block and Me” by Pepper Hume, Bartlesville WordWeavers

3rd Honorable Mention: “After a Certain Age” by Mary Moran, Member at Large

CATEGORY 5

SCRIPT: FILM, PLAY, OR TV

Category Sponsor: Spool Party Productions

Number of Entries: 13

FIRST PLACE: “A View of Death” by Shelley Anne Richter, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

SECOND PLACE: “Inkubus” by Kim Toscano, Member at Large

THIRD PLACE: “The Cover-Up” by Barbara Shepherd, Hunt and Peck

CATEGORY 6

ARTICLE: INSPIRATIONAL

Category Sponsor: The Inklings

Number of Entries: 27

FIRST PLACE: “Linda May” by Judith Rycroft, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

SECOND PLACE: “Sweet World Beyond” by Lisbeth L. McCarty, Norman Galaxy of Writers

THIRD PLACE: “Did Jacob Really Wrestle With Brad Pitt?” by Sid Martin, Tulsa NightWriters

1st Honorable Mention:

“Priming the Pump” by Carolyn B. Leonard, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

2nd Honorable Mention:

“Community On A Lonely Street” by Keith Dale, Fort Worth Writer

CATEGORY 7

**FEATURE ARTICLE:
NONFICTION FEATURE, ANY
SUBJECT**

Category Sponsor: Linda Lowe Apple

Number of Entries: 14

FIRST PLACE: “What’s the Appeal?” by Lisbeth L. McCarty, Norman Galaxy of Writers

SECOND PLACE: “Open Courseware: Get Smart for Free” by Sandra Soli, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

THIRD PLACE: “The Forgotten Women of Oklahoma!” by Gary Robert Pinnell, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

CATEGORY 8

**ARTICLE: TECHNICAL AND/
OR HOW-TO, ANY SUBJECT**

Number of Entries: 18

FIRST PLACE: “How to Buy a Car Without Breaking Down” by Kelly Bristow, The Inklings

SECOND PLACE: “How to Direct a Play” by Jerry Davis, Member at Large

THIRD PLACE: “Saying Oui to Brie: How to Enhance Your Cheeseboard with French Flavor” by Aleasha Shelnett, Member at Large

1st Honorable Mention: “Hemp

2020 OWFI Contest Winners - Unpublished Manuscript Awards

for Pets? It's Complicated" by
Amy Shojai Rose Rock wRiters

CATEGORY 9

POETRY: RHYMED SHORT

Number of Entries: 45

FIRST PLACE: "December
Rondeau" by Sandra Soli,
Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

SECOND PLACE: "Pink
Fluffy Unicorns" by Jeff Dosser,
Member at Large

THIRD PLACE: "Morning at
Minnow Lake" by Karen Kay
Knauss, Member at Large

1st Honorable Mention:
"Driving Jazz" by Kristyn Reid,
Member at Large

2nd Honorable Mention:
"Thought Sleeps" by Judith
Rycroft, Oklahoma City Writers,
Inc.

CATEGORY 10

POETRY: RHYMED LONG

Category Sponsor: Lisbeth L.
McCarty

Number of Entries: 42

FIRST PLACE: "The Fish That
Got Away" by Shelley Anne
Richter, Oklahoma City Writers,
Inc.

SECOND PLACE: "Sara
Sorrows" by Jennifer
McMurrain, Bartlesville
WordWeavers

THIRD PLACE: "Survivors" by
Carolyn B. Leonard, Oklahoma
City Writers, Inc.

1st Honorable Mention: "The
Doe" by Jerri Garcia, Kansas
City Writers Group

2nd Honorable Mention: "Steel

Heartbeat" by Storme Maynard,
Member at Large

3rd Honorable Mention: "The
Winds of 'Popular Culture'" by
Juliann Troi, Member at Large

4th Honorable Mention: "The
Enduring Crepe Myrtle" by
Karen Kay Knauss, Member at
Large

CATEGORY 11

POETRY: UNRHYMED SHORT

Category Sponsor: Enid Writers
Club

Number of Entries: 51

FIRST PLACE: "Letter" by
Roxana Lucia Cazan Oklahoma
City Writers, Inc.

SECOND PLACE: "Gust of
Lust" by Kelly Bristow, The
Inklings

THIRD PLACE: "Locusts" by
Nicki Rycroft, Oklahoma City
Writers, Inc.

1st Honorable Mention:

"Incarcerated" by Barbara
Shepherd, Hunt and Peck

2nd Honorable Mention: "I
Swiss Cheese Brain" by Kristyn
Reid Member at Large

3rd Honorable Mention:

"Fragment 67A: Reflections on a
cancer diagnosis" by Margaret E.
Lee, Tulsa NightWriters

4th Honorable Mention:

"Truths of Nature" by Laura
Atanacio Edington, Member at
Large

5th Honorable Mention:

"Renewal" by Carol Lavelle
Snow, Tulsa NightWriters

CATEGORY 12

POETRY: UNRHYMED LONG

Category Sponsor: 4RV
Publishing

Number of Entries: 64

FIRST PLACE: "Boatsong,
An Etude" by Pepper Hume,
Bartlesville WordWeavers

SECOND PLACE: "You Look
like Your Mother" by Roxana
Lucia Cazan, Oklahoma City
Writers, Inc.

THIRD PLACE: "Visitation,
the Necessary Angel" by Sandra
Soli, Oklahoma City Writers,
Inc.

1st Honorable Mention:

"Fragment 125: I used to weave
crowns" by Margaret E. Lee,
Tusla NightWriters

2nd Honorable Mention: "There
is a Tree" by Storme Maynard,
Member at Large

3rd Honorable Mention:

"Reaching for the Sun" by Kelly
Bristow, The Inklings

4th Honorable Mention:

"Our Mothers' Gardens" by
Ann Cleary ,Bartlesville
WordWeavers

5th Honorable Mention: "The
Journey" by Kim Toscano,
Member at Large

CATEGORY 13

SHORT STORY: FLASH FICTION

Category Sponsor:
Brannon4Congress

Number of Entries: 53

FIRST PLACE: "Under Her
Nose" by Vaun Murphrey,
Member at Large

2020 OWFI Contest Winners - Unpublished Manuscript Awards

SECOND PLACE: “Lair Shopping” by Bre Lockhart, Tulsa Writers Syndicate

THIRD PLACE: “Red Lips, Spike Heels, and Attitude” by Mary Flowers, Brannon Norman Galaxy of Writers

1st Honorable Mention: “The Last Gift” by Laura Atanacio, Edington Member at Large

2nd Honorable Mention: “The Crossing: Final Episode” by Nancy Hartney, Ozark Mountains Guild of Writers

3rd Honorable Mention: “Perfect” by Dee Dee Chumley, The Inklings

4th Honorable Mention: “Fairy Tale” by Theresa Hupp, Kansas City Writers Group

5th Honorable Mention: “War at the YMCA” by Shirley Fessel, Kansas City Writers Group

CATEGORY 14

SHORT STORY: SHORT-SHORT, JUVENILE

Number of Entries: 16

FIRST PLACE: “Food for

Thought (or Idiom Schmidion)” by Billie Holladay Skeeley, Member at Large

SECOND PLACE: “Hear Me on the Radio” by Barbara Shepherd, Hunt and Peck

THIRD PLACE: “Teenie, the Christmas Tree Angel” by David L. Roper Member at Large

1st Honorable Mention: “Star Sign” by Shelley Anne Richter, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

CATEGORY 15

SHORT STORY: SHORT-SHORT, YOUNG ADULT

Number of Entries: 17

FIRST PLACE: “The Grinch and Apple Pie” by Jan Morrill Rose Rock wRiters

SECOND PLACE: “Stone of Thor” by Peggy Chambers, Enid Writers Club

THIRD PLACE: “King Cake” by Nicole Wells, Member at Large

1st Honorable Mention: “In a Mirror” by Pepper Hume, Bartlesville WordWeavers

CATEGORY 16

SHORT STORY: SHORT-SHORT, ADULT

Category Sponsor: SoonerCon
Number of Entries: 49

FIRST PLACE: “Floating Home” by Jan Morrill, Rose Rock wRiters

SECOND PLACE: “That is All I Remember” by Ann Cleary, Bartlesville WordWeavers

THIRD PLACE: “Ice” by Paul Chrisstarlon Wesselhöft, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

1st Honorable Mention: “The Last Manuscript” by Storme Maynard, Member at Large

2nd Honorable Mention: “Unnoticed” by Jennifer McMurrain, Bartlesville WordWeavers

3rd Honorable Mention: “Fractured” by Barbara Shepherd, Hunt and Peck

4th Honorable Mention: “Full of the Dickens” by Billie Holladay Skelley, Member at Large

Be a *Bridging the Epic Gap* Sponsor!

Have your logo on the website,
featured in *The Report*, on
conference memorabilia, and on
the Friday banquet slideshow!

For more details check out:
<https://www.owfi.org/sponsor/>

2020 OWFI Contest Winners - Unpublished Manuscript Awards

5th Honorable Mention: “White Lies” by Christine Jarmola, Bartlesville WordWeavers

CATEGORY 17

SHORT STORY: ADULT

Number of Entries: 45

FIRST PLACE: “The Bridge Troll” by Julia Mozingo, Oklahoma Romance Writers Guild

SECOND PLACE: “Before the Seawall” by J. Allen Harris, Member at Large

THIRD PLACE: “Forget Me Not” by Shelley Pagach, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

1st Honorable Mention: “Sooie Pig” by Ruth Weeks, Rose Rock wRiters

2nd Honorable Mention: “The Train” by Lisa Willis, Rose Rock wRiters

3rd Honorable Mention: “Attics” by John T. Biggs, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

4th Honorable Mention: “Case of the Howling Dog” by Vivian Zabel, Pen and Keyboard Writers

CATEGORY 18

SHORT STORY: HORROR

Number of Entries: 18

FIRST PLACE: “Camelot” by Julie Jones, Last Wednesday Writers of Oklahoma

SECOND PLACE: “The Lucky Ones” Jeff Dosser, Member at Large

THIRD PLACE: “The Baby Carriage” by Brenda Clark Thomas, Member at Large

1st Honorable Mention: “Cassandra’s Dream” by Richard D. Sadok, Bartlesville WordWeavers

CATEGORY 19

SHORT STORY: SCI-FI/ FANTASY

Category Sponsor: Future Society of Central Oklahoma

Number of Entries: 21

FIRST PLACE: “Rasa Contritum” by Shannon Iwanski, Nevermore Edits

SECOND PLACE: “The Unlikely Ascension of Ms. Judith Brock” by Jeff Dosser, Member at Large

THIRD PLACE: “Serenity’s Goodbye” by Tamara Grantham, Oklahoma Romance Writers Guild

1st Honorable Mention: “Old School Therapy” by John T. Biggs, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

CATEGORY 20

BOOK: PICTURE – FICTION OR NONFICTION, FOR AGES 1–8

Number of Entries: 22

FIRST PLACE: “Living in Two Houses” by Carolyn B. Leonard, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

SECOND PLACE: “Monsters From the Deep” by Mary Ellen Main, Writers of the Purple Sage

THIRD PLACE: “The Lowd Family Visits the Library” by Kim Toscano, Member at Large

1st Honorable Mention: “Too Many Legs” by Sandra Soli, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

2nd Honorable Mention: “Hi! Ho! Halloween’s Here!” by Cathy Collar, Bartlesville WordWeavers

CATEGORY 21

BOOK: MIDDLE GRADE - FICTION OR NONFICTION, FOR AGES 8–12

Number of Entries: 12

FIRST PLACE: “The Not So Chosen One” by Tamara Grantham, Oklahoma Romance Writers Guild

SECOND PLACE: “Lungs of the Earth” by Vicki Schoen, WordsmithSix

THIRD PLACE: “Mila Denton’s Spring Vacation” by Sandra Byrd Lawson, Hunt and Peck

1st Honorable Mention: “Showmen’s Rest” by Nicole Wells, Member at Large

CATEGORY 22

BOOK: NONFICTION, NARRATIVE OR GENERAL

Category Sponsor: Nikki Hanna

Number of Entries: 7

FIRST PLACE: “It Was Never a Dead End” by Nancy Craig, Fort Worth Writers

SECOND PLACE: “Raven and the Hummingbird” by Renate Caldwell, Member at Large

THIRD PLACE: “One Last Launch” by Lisa Zalea, Member at Large

CATEGORY 23

NOVEL: HISTORICAL FICTION

Category Sponsor: Winona Bennett Cross

2020 OWFI Contest Winners - Unpublished Manuscript Awards

Number of Entries: 13

FIRST PLACE: "Time To Strike" by Rex Griffin, Tulsa NightWriters

SECOND PLACE: "To Daddy, Who I've Never Loved" by Gary Robert Pinnell, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

THIRD PLACE: "Prairie Wind" by Vivian Zabel, Pen and Keyboard Writers

1st Honorable Mention: "Fine Leaves of the Heart" by Leslie Smith, Member at Large

CATEGORY 24 NOVEL: HORROR

Number of Entries: 5

FIRST PLACE: "Territory Crows" by John T. Biggs, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

SECOND PLACE: "Night of the Fire Moon" by Ruth Weeks, Rose Rock wRiters

THIRD PLACE: "Spring Street" by Jennifer McMurray, Bartlesville WordWeavers

CATEGORY 25 NOVEL: MAINSTREAM

Category Sponsor: Norman Galaxy of Writers

Number of Entries: 20

FIRST PLACE: "Borders" by Vickey Malone Kennedy, Rose Rock wRiters

SECOND PLACE: "Poetic Justice" by Dianne McCartney, Rose Rock wRiters

THIRD PLACE: "Songs in the Night" by Nancy Lewis, Green

Country Ruff Riters

1st Honorable Mention: "Ride to the Rim" by L.C. James, Member at Large

2nd Honorable Mention: "Snow in Seattle" by Amy M. Le, Member at Large

CATEGORY 26 NOVEL: MYSTERY OR SUSPENSE/THRILLER

Category Sponsor: Amy Shojai Consulting

Number of Entries: 15

FIRST PLACE: "Just Call Me Jill" by Barbara Shepherd, Hunt and Peck

SECOND PLACE: "Brought to Light" by Shannon Iwanski, Nevermore Edits

THIRD PLACE: "The Memory of You" Dianne McCartney, Rose Rock wRiters
1st Honorable Mention: "Wild Honey" by Rebecca Cline, Rose Rock wRiters

CATEGORY 27 NOVEL: ROMANCE

Category Sponsor: Oklahoma Romance Writers Guild

Number of Entries: 14

FIRST PLACE: "Non-Compliant Lover" by Debra Gillette, Fort Worth Writers

SECOND PLACE: "Berezan's Sacrifice" by Sabrina A. Fish, Oklahoma Romance Writers Guild

THIRD PLACE: "Rock U Safely" by Rebecca Cline Rose

Rock wRiters

1st Honorable Mention: "Deadfall" by Susan Shay, Tulsa NightWriters

CATEGORY 28 NOVEL: SCI-FI/FANTASY

Category Sponsor: Green Country Ruff Riters

Number of Entries: 18

FIRST PLACE: "Demented" by Brent W. Beasley Member at Large

SECOND PLACE: "Unkept" by Audra Williams, Member at Large

THIRD PLACE: "Argo" by Jeff Dosser, Member at Large

1st Honorable Mention: "The Music of Babel" by Eric Reitan, Rose Rock wRiters

CATEGORY 29 NOVEL: YOUNG ADULT, FOR AGES 13-18

Number of Entries: 16

FIRST PLACE: "Wolf's War" by Natalie Bright, WordsmithSix

SECOND PLACE: "Hounded: Fire and Brimstone" by Audra Williams, Member at Large

THIRD PLACE: "Sketches in the Dark" by Kim Toscano, Member at Large

1st Honorable Mention: "Red Moon on the Washita" by Carolyn B. Leonard, Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.

2020 OWFI Contest Winners - Published Book Trophies and Crème de la Crème

CATEGORY 30

BEST BOOK – POETRY

Category Sponsor: Sandra Soli

Number of Entries: 2

FIRST PLACE: *Colored Leaves*
by Judith Rycroft, Oklahoma
City Writers, Inc.

CATEGORY 31

BEST BOOK – NONFICTION

Category Sponsor: Maria Veres

Number of Entries: 16

FIRST PLACE: *DOG LIFE:
Celebrating the History, Culture &
Love of the Dog* by Amy Shojai,
Rose Rock wRiters

CATEGORY 32

BEST BOOK – JUVENILE

Category Sponsor: LilyBear
House

Number of Entries: 7

FIRST PLACE: *Hugh Armstrong
Robinson: The Story of Flying
Lucky 13* by Billie Holladay
Skelley, Member at Large

CATEGORY 33

BEST BOOK – YOUNG ADULT

Number of Entries: 4

FIRST PLACE: *The Witch's
Tower* by Tamara Grantham,
Oklahoma Romance Writers
Guild

CATEGORY 34

BEST BOOK – FICTION

Category Sponsor: Helga Stipa
Madland

Number of Entries: 16

FIRST PLACE: *Diomere's Healer*
by Sabrina A. Fish, Oklahoma
Romance Writers Guild

CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

*All first-place entries were read
anonymously during the judging
process for this award.*

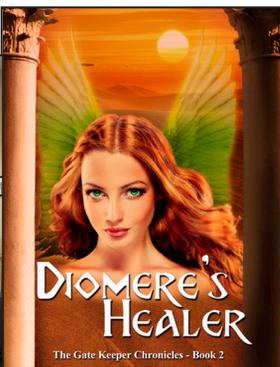
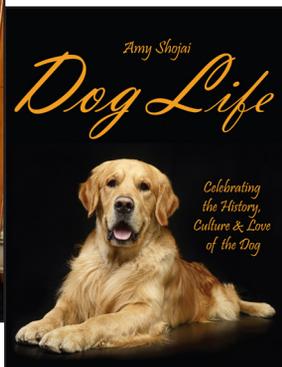
Sponsors: Future Society of
Central Oklahoma

Judges: Venessa Cersale, Casey
Cowan, and Michael Frizell

CONGRATULATIONS!



Floating Home by Jan Morrill,
Rose Rock wRiters



Thank you to the published book category winners for the use of their photos.

Guest Column

Watching Your Language

Getting Your Tongue Around It—Head First

From my early years, I've been a language lover. And listener. My childhood was marked by fairly frequent moves from Arkansas to Michigan and back, a journey between pronunciation zones. Like most children, I automatically picked up whatever local accents and speech customs I landed in. After enough time in Arkansas, with its variously described Southern-Midwestern-Southwestern—or merely sloppy—habits of speech, the family would return to Michigan, with its own way of speaking, variously called cold, snippy, or even rude. There my Detroit-area classmates would ridicule me mercilessly. But not for long. On a dime, I dropped Arkansawyer and lapped up Michigander. On the reverse bounce, rural Arkansas kids would gather around me and beg, “Say somethin’ ayelse!” It warmed my cold, snippy heart.

Language is indeed a proper study of culture; maybe even a magnifying mirror of society.

The point of all this is to say I learned to pay attention. And look up stuff. When I was nineteen and knew everything, I declared all things Arkansas, particularly its lazy speech, to be ignorant past all redemption. Now decades later, I cherish all the zones of pronunciation, the rich nuances, the charm of the well-turned Southern phrase (Listen to Bill Moyers or Shelby Foote!), and anybody's witty saying. Northerners, Southwesterners, Easterners and Midwesterners all add to the aural tapestry.

Accents, lilting cadences, and pithy sayings are one thing. Plain old mistakes are another. Here are a couple of ear-bangers y'all (perfectly good contraction of the plural you and all) might want to give up.

Take *realty* and *Realtor* for instance. Do you see a letter between the *l* and the *t*? Go ahead, put your nose up close. No? Then don't say “real-la-ty” or

“Real-la-tor.” They sound ignorant. By the way, Realtor with a capital letter is correct because it's a copyrighted name, like a trademark. Such a real estate agent belongs to the professional organization with the legal right to capitalize its member. Unfortunately, legitimate practices like that can lead to a rat's nest of further errors, letting people think the performer of any job should be capitalized.

The next is one you really have to get your head around first.

You can't avoid hearing *short-lived* as if the second element were the past tense of the verb. It isn't. I bring you this item all tear stained and scuffed from being dragged out so often. But this time I offer you a prop. Imagine before you Dippy, my little purple stuffed dog. You will quickly understand temporary compounds when I call him my *four-footed, floppy-eared, fuzzy-bellied* . . . (here I dramatically turn him upside down, his poor little stiff legs in the air), and—oh, dear!—*short-lived* Dippy! Short-lived? You hiss and boo. But you've already caught the pattern of adjective-plus-noun-plus *ed*, haven't you? *Life* is the noun in *short-lived*! Watch this.

If adding *es* to *elf* makes *elves*; *ed* to *shelf* makes *shelved* (three-shelved bookcase?) then an *s* to *life* makes *lives* (Cats have nine, they say, and . . . Presto! You got it! The compound *short-lived* (or *shorter-*, *long-*, or *longer-lived*) rhymes with *contrived*, as in Edna St. Vincent Millay's delightful sonnet called “I Shall Forget You Presently, My Dear.” Look it up. Read it aloud. Feel smug.

Kathleen Park, MA, calls herself an escaped English teacher and a forever lover of words. Send her your grammar-related questions: katie.talks@gmail.com

Affiliate Spotlight

One of the benefits of OWFI is the many affiliate groups that are associated with us. This month, we're taking a closer look at the Oklahoma Romance Writers Guild.

Oklahoma Romance Writers Guild

Website: www.oklahomaromancewritersguild.com/

[oklahomaromancewritersguild.com/](http://www.oklahomaromancewritersguild.com/)



Facebook Group:

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

OklahomaRomanceWritersGuild/

Instagram: @oklahomaromancewritersguild

OWFI: How long has your affiliate group been active and how often do you meet?

Oklahoma Romance Writers Guild

(OKRWG): We have been an affiliate since 2019.

We meet on the first Saturday of every month at 2:00 PM at the Southwest OKC Pioneer Library, 2201 SW 134th Street. We also have virtual word sprints on Slack.

At the moment our meetings are online only through both Google Meet and the Slack app. All future meetings, even when in person meetings resume, will include a Google Meet link so that even our sick, out of town, and out of state members can join in each month.

OWFI: What is your mission statement?

OKRWG: Oklahoma Romance Writers Guild is a not for profit organization of writers dedicated to promoting higher standards for the written word. We seek to coordinate and encourage professional writing, specifically pertaining to writing the romance genre, romance sub-genres, and romantic subplots.

OWFI: Do you have a critique group?

OKRWG: Yes, most of our monthly meetings have an hour critique session for those who bring pages. You can see our guidelines for this on our website on the Meeting Info page.

OWFI: What are some benefits of joining your affiliate?

OKRWG:

- We cater specifically to the art of romance writing, whether you're writing romance as your main plot, subplot, or small element in your story.
- OKRWG is FREE to join.
- We welcome anyone interested in writing romance, no matter their sex, race, sexual orientation, or religious affiliation.

OWFI: How many active members does your group have?

OKRWG: We currently have 35 members.

OWFI: Do you hold any annual contests?

OKRWG: Not yet, but we have plans to do so in the future.

OWFI: What are some of the ways your group has contributed to OWFI since becoming an affiliate member?

OKRWG: Our group sponsored the Romance Category of the 2020 OWFI Writer's Conference.



(Photo courtesy of OKRWG's 2019 holiday book swap meeting.)

OWFI: Are there any titles or upcoming releases from your members?

OKRWG: Sure, these are our 2020 releases AND we list them all on our website for anyone interested in links!!

- Maxine Douglas published her historical romance, *Vera, Widows of Blessings Valley Book 2*, on February 14, 2020. Her next novel, *Rings of Paradise*, releases August 7, 2020.

- Gina Hoffman published her debut time-travel romance, *Anytime, Anywhere*, on February 26, 2020

- Chelsea Chevalier had her poem, "Grandfather Time's Finally Come", published in the Conclave Literary Journal Spring 2020 edition.

- Deb Bayton-Fitzsimons, writing as Jude Bayton, released her gothic romance, *The Secret of Mowbray Manor*, on June 8, 2020

- Angela Christina Archer, released her latest contemporary romance novel, *Another Yesterday*, on June 17, 2020

- Andrew Shelton published a literary romance short story on July 11, 2020.

- Sabrina A. Fish's next release *Diomere's Mercenary*, Book 3 of the award-winning fantasy romance series, *The Gate Keeper Chronicles*, will be available Fall 2020.

- Jennifer McMurrian's historical fiction novel, *Joy at Quail Crossings*, released March 2020. Her upcoming contemporary romance, *Chocolate for Two*, releases September 2020, and her holiday contemporary romance, *A Christmas Caroline*, releases December 2020.

Thanks to Sabrina Fish with the Oklahoma Romance Writers Guild for answering our questions!

Spotlight Member at Large

Member at Large: **Rebekah Franklin**

Member Since: ~2015

About:

Professional Damsel in Distress

Website:

<http://www.dyingwithstyle.org/>

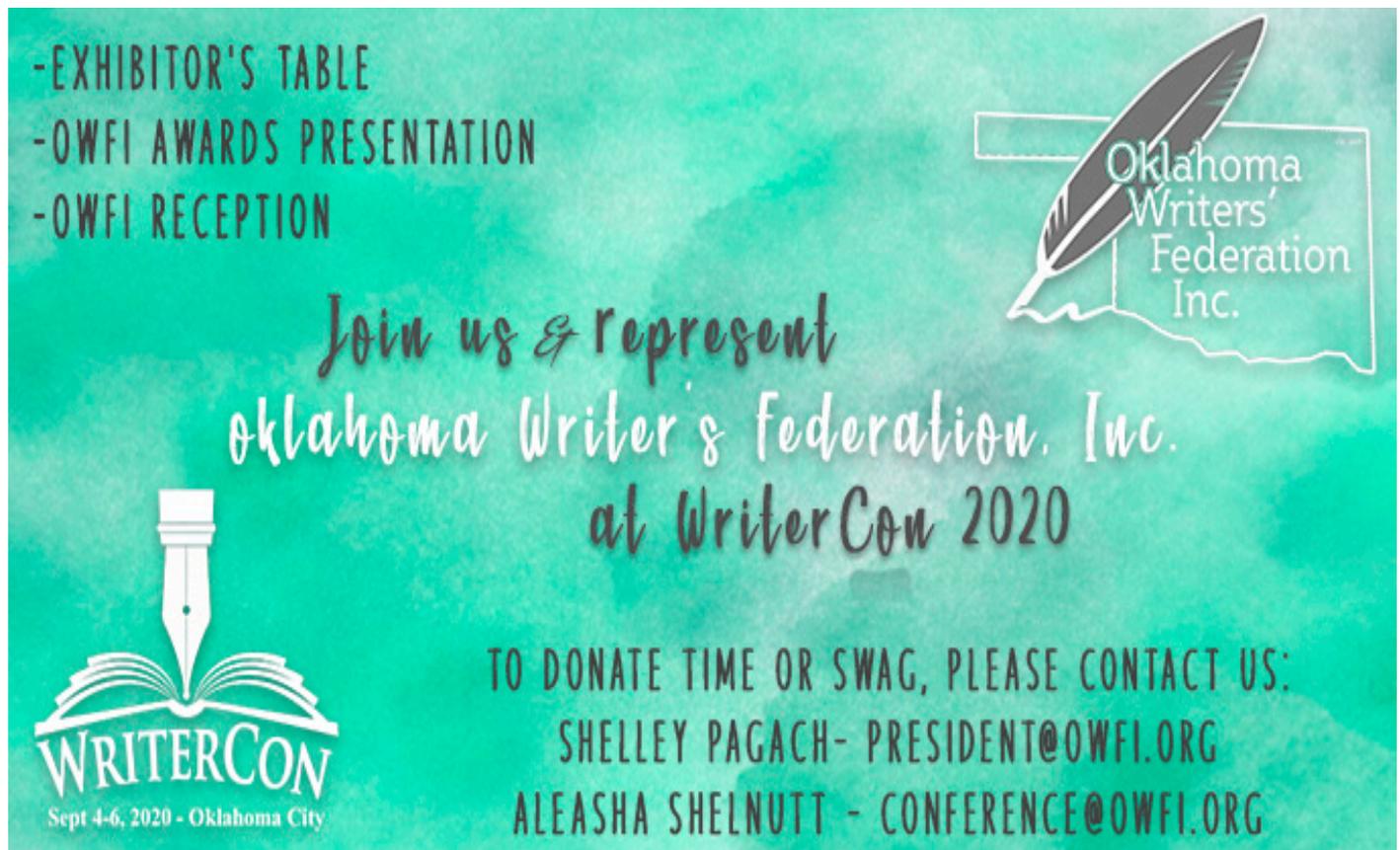
Writing is like a river in my life, sometimes raging and other times it's barely a trickle. My day job is dancing around town in my wheelchair and celebrating life. I also am a road artist. I find stuff on the road, make it into art and return it to the road.

Sometimes I write. I don't have a schedule. My life doesn't really afford for me to stick to a schedule. Dealing with a physical disability (MS) has limited me in some ways and freed me in others. My writing often focuses on various aspects of disability.

I'm currently working on my children's book (to be published soon), a stage play, my autobiography, a coffee table book of road art, and a horror story.

I love OWFI and feel like the conference is a very valuable tool for networking. I've met award winning novelists and life long friends.

Thanks to Becky Franklin for letting us get to know her this month!



-EXHIBITOR'S TABLE
-OWFI AWARDS PRESENTATION
-OWFI RECEPTION

Join us & represent
oklahoma Writer's Federation, Inc.
at WriterCon 2020

TO DONATE TIME OR SWAG, PLEASE CONTACT US:
SHELLEY PAGACH- PRESIDENT@OWFI.ORG
ALEASHA SHELNUTT - CONFERENCE@OWFI.ORG


WRITERCON
Sept 4-6, 2020 - Oklahoma City


Oklahoma
Writers'
Federation
Inc.

Affiliate Thunderdome

Welcome to the Affiliate Thunderdome

The Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc. (OWFI) is a federation of affiliated writers' groups. In 1968, the Oklahoma Writers Association (OWA) and the Enid Writers Club joined forces to become the organization that we have come to know as OWFI. Small but motivated, the nascent OWFI traveled Oklahoma helping writers set up their own local affiliate clubs, each with its own charter and officers. By 1988, OWFI had begun accepting affiliates from even bordering states, with one Arkansas and three Texas clubs affiliated.

OWFI is its affiliates. The motivation of these affiliates' and members'-at-large to engage in the business of OWFI has kept OWFI thriving since its inception. This is why we want to reward affiliates whose participation and contributions to OWFI continue to keep us going, over fifty years after that very special day in September 1968 when OWFI was officially born in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

With this in mind, I present the **Affiliate Thunderdome**. All affiliates enter—only one affiliate leaves the winner! **Members-at-large are invited to participate, too—as one very large affiliate club**. At every annual OWFI conference, the winner of the Affiliate Thunderdome will be rewarded for their activity. Last year was the Affiliate Thunderdome's first year, and we had a very good year, with many affiliates working very hard to earn points and win. In the end, however, there can only be one winner, and **Pen and Keyboard Writers** won that honor. Members-at-large were very, very close—failing to tie with Pen and Keyboard Writers by only one point.

This year, we've already got a strong competition going among most of our affiliate clubs. But you're probably wondering, *How do I get in on this?* Well, that's easy. We want you to participate in OWFI business and activities! Points are awarded throughout the year for different acts of participation. See the table below for more detail on each of the activities that are scored. At the end of the year, affiliate clubs may earn **up to 100 points**, simply for being involved. In addition, affiliate clubs have the chance to earn **“extra credit” points** by

paying attention to our Facebook, Slack, Twitter, and website for special updates, news, and events, but these are limited-time only—so you have to be watching for them.

Point system on the opposing page

is also available online at:

<https://www.owfi.org/thunderdome>

What happens if you don't win? Nothing, but we plan to reward you anyway. Points reset every year on the final day of the annual OWFI conference during the first Board meeting of the year where the officers for the following year are announced.

Every year that your club is an active affiliate of OWFI, your club increases in stature, and it accumulates **Years in Compliance**. Affiliate clubs will receive rewards after **5, 10, and 25 years** of compliance. After 25 years of this, your club will become recognized as a **Historic Affiliate** which will forever be remembered in the annals of OWFI, even if the affiliate club breaks up in the future.

Keep in mind that in order to participate, your club *must* have at least five active members in OWFI. This is required as part of our OWFI bylaws to maintain your “active” status within our organization. If your membership lapses for a period of six months or more, your club will no longer be considered “in compliance,” and you have to start your Years in Compliance count over. Please ask us for help if this starts to happen to your club—because we don't want it to happen either.

We are always considering new ideas to improve OWFI's relationship with its affiliate clubs, so please let us know if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, and we will happily consider them. You can always Contact Us via the OWFI website. Thank you, and good luck, affiliates!

Jack Burgos is the current Technology Director for OWFI and is the President of Nevermore Edits.

Thunderdome Point System

Points Awarded	Affiliate Expectations	Maximum Points Possible per Year
10 points	Updating your affiliate club's information on the OWFI website every 6 months. Points are awarded once between May 1 and November 1, and once between November 1 and May 1.	20 points
10 (5) points	Your affiliate group's full complement of delegates attends a Board meeting. (Only a fraction of your delegates attends a Board meeting.) <i>You must have at least one possible delegate</i>	40 points
8 (2) points	At least 5 of your affiliate group's members participate in the annual OWFI writing contest. (One of your affiliate group's members participates in the annual OWFI writing contest.)	8 points
5 (2) points	Your affiliate group sends at least 5 members to the annual OWFI conference. (Your affiliate group sends at least 1 member to the annual OWFI conference.)	5 points
5 points	Your affiliate group enters a basket into the Basket Wars auction held during the annual OWFI conference.	5 points
5 points	You have the appropriate number of delegates on OWFI's #delegates Slack channel at each check on May 1 and November 1.	10 points
1 point	Updating our Affiliate News section with news about your affiliate. <i>Maximum of one per month.</i>	12 points

Supporting OWFI through AmazonSmile



Did you know that every time you shop on Amazon, you can support OWFI?

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon that you probably utilize already. It offers the same products and pricing, but allows you to support OWFI when you shop, at no cost to you. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

Amazon will donate 0.5% of each eligible purchase to Oklahoma Writers' Federation Incorporated.

If you have already been an AmazonSmile customer, then you know how easy it is to use. AmazonSmile is now available to use through the Amazon app!

You can become an AmazonSmile customer and support OWFI by using these simple steps:

For AmazonSmile on the Web

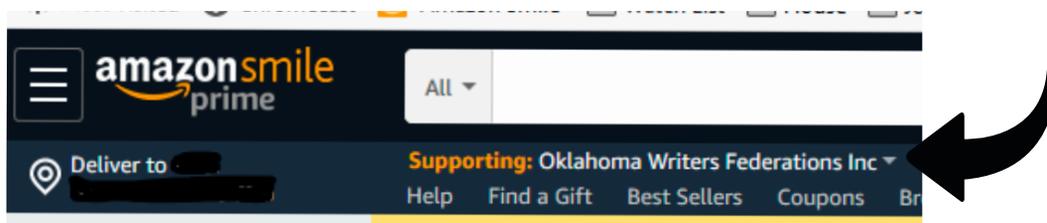
1. Go to AmazonSmile on your favorite browser via the link <https://smile.amazon.com> and select Oklahoma Writers Federation Incorporated as your charity of choice.
2. And that's it! Your future eligible purchases made on the smile.amazon.com website will also give charitably to OWFI and its endeavours of supporting writers!

Remember, you can create a bookmark on your browser for easy access to the website for your future purchases or through the Amazon Assistant.

For AmazonSmile on the Amazon app

1. Become an AmazonSmile customer by following the steps above
2. Utilizing your Android device with version 5.0+ or your iOS devices with version 12+ and updated Amazon shopping app, go to the Settings menu and find "AmazonSmile." Amazon will then give you further instructions on screen in the app to activate AmazonSmile on your device.

Every little bit counts, and you can see your donations from your dashboard on the web. Go to smile.amazon.com and click on "Supporting: Oklahoma Writers Federations Inc" to check out more info.



2021 OWFI Conference Preview

You're Invited



The Annual OWFI Conference will be April 29, 30, and May 1, 2021.

Our keynote speaker will be *Alton Carter!*



Alton Carter is the winner of the 2016 Oklahoma Book Awards for his autobiography *The Boy Who Carried Bricks*. In addition, Carter wrote *Aging Out*. Both books are about his life journey from foster care through adulthood. He has also written two children's books.

He received his bachelor's degree at Oklahoma State University and is using his story to inspire youth and adults to do all they can to "make the world a better place."

In 2015, Carter founded the Alton Carter Inspire Foundation with the goal of assisting young people who have lived in foster care, group homes, or DHS juvenile facilities in securing a college degree.

He makes his home in Stillwater, Oklahoma with his wife Kiristin and their five children.

Carter's Novels:

- *The Boy Who Carried Bricks*
- *Aging Out*
- *The Boy Who Dreamed Big*
- *The Boy Who Went to the Library*

Library



More conference information will be updated on the website as it is received. Check it regularly and check often. www.owfi.org



Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc.
 Vinita Eggers, OWFI Treasurer
 Box 61
 Heavener, OK 74937



A special thank you to our 2020 contest category judges:

Amy Shojai
 Bre Lockhart
 Carol Shenold
 Carolyn Leonard
 Cathy Collar
 Connie Blaylock
 Dianne McCartney
 Dion Mayes-Burnett
 Frank Steele
 Glenda Galvan
 H.B. Berlow
 Jacque Graham

Jen Nipps
 Jennifer McMurrain
 Jennifer Slattery
 Jessica Powell
 John Biggs
 Johnetta Rhodes
 Lisa Willis
 Lisa Zarrella
 Margaret Dendler
 Maria Veres
 Marla Jones
 Marlys Cervantes

Marty Ludlum
 May-Lane Kamberg
 Myloe Yeager
 Paula Benge
 Sabrina Fish
 Shannon Iwanski
 Staci Mauney
 Vickey Kennedy
 Vivian Zabel
 Wayne Harris-Wyrick