



The holidays can be busy and stressful. Try to write anyway. It doesn't matter how short or long or how it reads because...

"The worst thing you write is better than the best thing you didn't write."
– Unknown

Write on!
Sandra Almonte
Newsletter Chair
Email: glvwg.newsletter@gmail.com



December, 2017

2017 GLVWG Anthology

David A. Miller II, Anthology Chair
Written by: Bernadette Sukley

You **NEED** to be in the 2019 GLVWG Anthology.

As a past editor for the GLVWG Anthology I want to encourage all members to submit their work (short story, personal essay or poem) for inclusion in this anthology.

I'll forgo the soap box speech, just know you need to tell your story, now. No one else can do it for you. No one else has your perspective or your words—your story, your way.

As writers, we fuss and worry and edit, even before we get words on the screen (or paper). Here's an opportunity for you to stop fussing and do something very courageous.

First step, join in a critique group or a writer's café and read your story. You'll have the ears and experience of writers who can guide you along the journey of writing. You'll get instant feedback to move your piece forward. After you polish the piece, submit it to the anthology editorial team and know that it will be given serious review. If you're published, congratulations! You've joined a team of people who will share in your success for the rest of your writing life.

If you're an already published author, think of the anthology as yet another venue to highlight your work. Maybe this is a waiting year for you – waiting to hear back from an agent or editor. Now's the time to produce and create. I get that writing is something you can't just pick up and set down—it requires your full attention, but an opportunity to submit work to a local and fairly large writing group is another feather in your cap.

Get going. Start writing. Be published.



2018 The Write Stuff Writers Conference™

Dawn M. Sooy, Conference Chair

December facts:

- In the Roman calendar, it was the tenth month until they added January and February
- It is the first month of winter
- It is the last month of the year
- National Cookie day is December 4
- [Registration for the 2018 Write Stuff Writers Conference™ began December 1](#)

Time has progressed so fast since the committee team began planning for the conference. In about three short months from now, all of the hard work by Charles Kiernan, Bart and Phyllis Palamaro, Dan Krippene, Donna Brennan, Ralph Hieb, and Peggy Adamczyk will come to fruition. I, as conference chair, will be on pins and needles until that time.

Have you seen the brochure? Charles Kiernan did an outstanding job in creating a document full of information about our conference. If you would like a copy, please email me glvvg.writestuffchair@gmail.com

Have you been following WordPress? Dan Krippene began posting information to this site in November. Blogging will continue every Sunday until January 2018 when postings are Sunday and Wednesday. Be sure to check out the conference happenings. <https://glvvgwritestuffblog.wordpress.com/>

We are also planning to put the information on Facebook. It would be fantastic if everyone would share the Facebook page, hopefully reaching thousands of folks.

Save the dates March 22nd, 23rd, and 24th, 2018 and join us at the conference to...



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Keith Keffer

What's Your Goal?

It's almost the end of 2017. Most of us have been busy with holiday activities, and if you are anything like me, you probably let a few things slip to the wayside around this time of the year.

This is also the time of year where many people start thinking about their New Year's resolutions. When you start planning your goals for 2018 try to make them SMART goals. SMART is an acronym for Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time bound. Don't just plan to be a better writer, plan to write 1,000 words a week for the next six months. Instead of planning to get in shape, decide to get at least 5,000 steps in each day for the next three months.

If you want to increase your chance of success, write your goals down and share them with friends. People who write down their goals are 80% more likely to achieve them.

A goal that all of us hopefully will have next year is to get the most we can out of our GLVWG memberships. For some that could mean taking part in a Spotlight presentation. For others, it might be contributing a short story to the 2019 Anthology or attending all of the workshops during the year. It could even be something as simple as introducing yourself to one new person each time you attend a GLVWG event.

Just think how amazing 2018 could be if each of us did one thing to make a difference.



From the Desk of our Vice President

Donna Brennan

Merry Christmas

HAPPY
New Year



2018 GLVWG General Meetings

January 27, February 24, March (No meeting)
10:00AM - 12noon
Held at the Palmer Library (1 Weller Place, Easton, PA 18045)

For more information, go [here](#). If you want to see information about past presenters, just scroll down to the "Past Events" section.



Writers Café – Craft Discussion with Read & Critique

Usually every second Thursday of the month
7PM - 9PM Held at the Palmer Library
Open to the public and free.
Get more details about the Writers Café [here](#).



GLVWG Conferences

Click on the icon below for more info.





Dan Krippene

The 2017 GLVWG Conference behind us, we're already making plans for getting the word out about our 2018 conference with best seller, **Bob Mayer**, headlining the event. It will also mark GLVWG's 25th anniversary, celebrating a quarter century of excellence in writing partnerships.

We'll begin a blog campaign with presenter profiles beginning November through early January, followed by answers to "a few questions" by presenters through February. Meanwhile, check out Dawn Sooy's article, [The Number Twenty-Five](#), highlighting the amazing events planned for the 2018 conference.

If you haven't signed up yet, click the "Follow" button on our [GLVWGblog site](#) to get email notices of new articles posted, and don't forget to "Like" our [Facebook Page](#) as well.

GLVWG Member Webpage: <https://greaterlehighvalleywritersgroup.wildapricot.org/>

GLVWG Blog Site: <https://glvwgwritestuffblog.wordpress.com/>

GLVWG Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Greater-Lehigh-Valley-Writers-Group-GLVWG-165117371531/>

GLVWG Yahoo Group Page: <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/glvwg/info>(Members Only)



Dawn M. Sooy

At every GLVWG meeting, people are encouraged to share their recent successes and/or failures. Below are a few.

Successes:

Christine Bush – One of her books is coming out on Audible. She is willing to share how she did. Romance novella is coming out in an Anthology. Congratulations on her recent wedding. ChristineABush@aol.com

Mike Daigo – Wrote short story e-book "Who Shot the Smart Guy on the Blackboard."

Geoffrey Mehl – Has a new publication, "Go Phish".

Rose Mavis – Is starting to write and taking classes with Jerry Waxler.

Wanda Cook – Had a short story published in the Copperfield Review.

2018 Writers Conference is going to be in the February issue of Writer's Digest under the Conference Scene section.

Chris Ochs – Said events to sell books seem to be wasted time. He sold more copies at a craft fair at a church.

Phil Giunta's paranormal short story, "So Hungry..." won Honorable Mention in the 2017 Bethlehem Writers Roundtable short story contest and will be featured in their online newsletter in October. Phil's paranormal mystery novella, LIKE MOTHER, LIKE DAUGHTERS was accepted by Firebringer Press and will be published in 2018. His paranormal short story, "Bottom of the Hour" was accepted by Smart Rhino Publications for their 2018 anthology, A PLAGUE OF SHADOWS. You can find more info about Smart Rhino Publications by visiting their website: <http://www.smartrhino.com/books.html>

Failures:

Phil Giunta's submission to the 2017 Rehoboth Beach, DE short story contest was rejected. From second place last year to nothing this year. Such is the writer's life! However, you can read "The Celestials" for free on Phil's website at: <http://www.philgiunta.com/free-fiction/the-celestials-by-phil-giunta/>

Success/Failure:

Donna Brennan – Two agents and publisher would like to see the first three chapters of her book. She still has not sent them out.



From Our Members

Things that tick me off

David A. Miller, II

1. Plural/possessive

The Oakland Athletics baseball team was in Philadelphia recently, sporting their mustard-yellow tops and baggy gray sweatpants. On their caps and shirts, their logo proudly proclaimed: "A's" (as if A possessed something, like Joe's hat, which is the proper use of possessive case.) Following the Oakland Athletics' rules of grammar, we should write Philadelphia Phillie's, I suppose. Or New York Yankee's. Or Chicago Cub's. Or Pittsburgh Pirate's.

It ticks me off that a professional sports team doesn't recognize the difference between plural (as in more than one) and possessive (indicating ownership) such as Harold's, ours, mine.^[1]

According to the Oakland Athletics, perhaps we should refer to the Philadelphia Sixer's? No, the name of the team is the Sixers. We wish the Sixers well. Again this year.

2. Copycat, copycat

Whether it's YA or Vampire Teens, everyone and their bloodthirsty sister is now grinding out the Genre du Jour. Yo, guys...if there are already thousands of copycat stories in the pipeline, maybe there's a good reason. Obviously, many other writers have already made their mark after gaining experience in the field. They've invested creative, editing and marketing efforts to build a reputation.

Agents and publishers are also well aware of these trends. They saw the spike in interest. They geared up for it. And hundreds of authors jumped on the bandwagon.

And you just decided that this genre is crying out for your talent? I'll wager that you never heard of YA until it became famous, right? And you believe that you can turn out a better story than the thousands of authors already in publication?

It ticks me off that copycats feel so ineffably confident, with so little logic behind their decision. Would it not be better to hone that personal story that burns within you?

[1] Strunk & White; The Elements of Style



Greetings New Members, Visitors, and Guests

Dawn M. Sooy

Visitors:

Pam Fischel - Working on her own story. Wrote her father's story.

Martha Cichelli - Wrote poetry and would like to revive that.

Evan Davis - Plays, stories.

Brenden Mari Davis - Satire, movies (horror, comedy).

New Members (October):

Pam Fischel - Working on her own story. Wrote her father's story.

Martha Cichelli - Wrote poetry and would like to revive that.

Want to submit a writing piece to be included in a GLVWG newsletter? You can!

All submissions for the GLVWG newsletter are to be no more than 250 words. Please note that we reserve the right to exclude any writing submissions that are not appropriate for any reason.

You can submit your writing piece at any time. If accepted, it will go into the upcoming issue.

Submissions can be emailed to glvwg.newsletter@gmail.com.

NOTE: The GLVWG newsletter goes out four times a year - March, June, September, and December. Submissions are due 15 days before the month the publication is going out or it will be included in the next issue.



From time to time there will be human errors. Below are corrections, if any.

WOOHOO! No errors to report in this issue.

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Contact email: glvwg.newsletter@gmail.com

