

Finally. Summer's a few days away.

Don't forget - this month will be the last meeting for the summer. There are no meetings in July and August.

This month's meeting is on the 22nd and the next one is September 28.

Enjoy your summer and be safe.

Write on!

Sandra Almonte
Newsletter Chair

Email: [glvwg.newsletter \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:glvwg.newsletter@gmail.com)



June, 2019

2019 The Write Stuff Writers Conference

Dawn M. Sooy

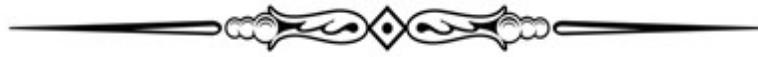
Almost two months have gone by since the close of the 2019 Write Stuff Writers Conference(TM). This conference featured keynote speaker Ben Wolf, author of "Blood for Blood" which won the 2015 Cascade Award for Best Speculative Fiction Novel. His keynote speech, "Writing Through Adversity," spoke of pursuing a writing goal even when life throws obstacles in your path. Ben used a personal hardship as an example where a novel was the endgame. Not only did he reach his objective, it happened in one month. These inspiring words can apply to any kind of struggle in one's life.

The conference presentations contained a wealth of various topics and included an illustrious group of speakers such as Ben Wolf and his wife Charis, Kathryn Craft, David Fessenden, Donna Brennan, Jon Gibbs, Janeen Ippolito, and Larry Schardt. Although attendance for the full conference and Saturday numbers showed a decline of 50% from last year, we had gained at least seven newcomers.

Once again I would like to thank the committee members, Charles Kiernan, Bart Palamaro, Phyllis Palamaro, Donna Brennan, Peggy Adamczyk, Dan Krippene. You guys are great, and I can't imagine being the conference chair without you all.

Even though I loved every bit of the conference working, planning, drinking, I would do it again in a heartbeat. But I am stepping down and am holding out the seat for the 2020 conference chair, Charles Kiernan. This lucky bugger is fortunate enough to have a co-chair.

And so as my last official step as 2019 chair, I'd like to have you all welcome, Charles.



The Write Stuff Writers Conference 2020

Charles Kiernan, Conference Chair

The Write Stuff Conference 2020 is almost here!

Well, OK, not almost here, but it is coming, especially for those of us who have put our minds to start planning for it. Plus, it is never too early to get the word out, which is what I am doing in this missive.

Our catch phrase for this year is “2020 Vision.” The conference will again be held at Best Western. Our Friday night events fall on March 13th. Yes, Friday the Thirteenth. Expect a horror theme and maybe some cosplay.

One of our committee’s greatest concerns has been the falling attendance. Attendance is a double-edged sword. One of the charms of our conference is that no one gets lost in the crowd. Four hundred people—eight hundred people do not make a conference better. However, there is a bottom line of expenses we need to meet, which we have not always met.

In this regard, the committee is exploring new avenues of advertising; brochures, newspaper releases, public calendars, and Facebook, while necessary, are not enough. Beyond what new ideas we might delve into, the tried and true word-of-mouth may still be the best.

We need our membership to boast—yes boast—about our conference. Those who have attended know the quality and value of this conference. We, the committee, will do our best to produce a 2020 Vision event that is boastable. (Is that a word? Did I just coin one?)

Be that a word or not, the 2020 Vision is coming to your hometown and soon.



From the Desk of our Vice President

Christopher D. Ochs

Summer Reading

Summer's almost upon us – real summer, not that fake "Beginning of Summer" that arbitrarily falls on the nearest three-day-weekend holiday. Nevertheless, many of us will have time set aside for vacation. Days filled with things to do... and sometimes days filled with nothing to do.

For us writers, it's not a question of "What book shall I read at the beach?", it's more like "What books from the three towers of 'Books-To-Read' shall I read?"

Whatever you read, Be Kind, Rewind.

Oops, I'm showing my age.

I mean -- Be Kinder, Be a Reviewer.

If you read a book from a new author, a not-so-well-known author, or a fellow author, file a review on Amazon and Goodreads! Now, read on! Besides, almost anyone who has written a "how-to-write" book will tell you you have to read to write well.



2019 GLVWG General Meetings

June 22, July (no meeting), August (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*
Held at the **Palmer Library from 7PM - 9PM**

Writers Café West **Craft discussion with Read & Critique**

*Usually every **third Sunday** of the month*
Held at **Wanamakers General Store from 1PM - 3PM**
8888 Kings Hwy, Kempton, PA

Both are open to the public and free.

Get more details about the *Writers Café* and *Writers Café West* [here](#).

Writing Prompt

The board members decided to add something fun to the newsletter. A writing prompt. There will be one in every newsletter. It could be a title, a sentence, 3-4 words, 3-4 pictures, a mix of words and pictures, etc. Here are the rules:

- For members only.
- Submissions are due on the 15th of February, May, and November.
- Submissions are to be no more than 1000 words.
- No inappropriate language or descriptions that would not be suitable for a young reader.
- We reserve the right to exclude any writing submissions that are not appropriate for any reason.

Depending on how many submissions we get, we will publish 1-2 in the newsletter. As a bonus, we will also publish your writing on our blog.

Submissions can be emailed to [glvwg.newsletter \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:glvwg.newsletter@gmail.com)

Prompt for this issue:

NO PROMPT. We will resume prompts in the next issue.

Enjoy the summer!



Writings that were submitted are below. (Great job guys!)

Prompt: Write about a disappointment that actually turned around for good.

Dawn M. Sooy

I was but a child of ten years old during a Christmas season. (Let's not delve into how many years ago that was.) My brother wrapped a present for me in a huge box, and for days I paced around trying to figure out what could possibly be inside. Surely something in a package this size must be something incredible.

When Christmas morning arrived, and my turn came to unwrap my presents, I asked him to move the present from under the tree and give it to me as I was sure it would be too heavy for me to lift. It didn't take long for me to tear the Santa Claus paper and open the box. Inside was a record album. Disappointment squelched my excitement over the past few days as my imagination conjured many different prizes and not just a simple record album.

I thanked him anyway as my parents and brother chuckled about how he fooled me with wrapping an item many times smaller than the box.

It wasn't until years later I realized that the album he gave me turned out to be something that I played all the time and it always gave me great joy. If I felt sad, I'd play the album. The songs on the record were from my favorite TV show at the time, "The Flying Nun." My brother may have played an unwelcome trick on me with the gift, but he cared enough about me to purchase something that tied into the TV show I so enjoyed.

(Would you believe my girlfriend and I made hats like Sally Field wore in the show, and we were going to try to fly by jumping off the roof? That's another story.)



Paid Writing Contest!

The Marguerite McGlenn Prize for Fiction is an annual national short fiction contest that features a first place \$2,500 cash award to an awards dinner on the campus of Rosemont College; a cash prize of \$750; and a third place cash prize of \$500. The winner stories will be published in the print issue of Fall of Philadelphia Stories. **Deadline: June 15.** Find more details here: philadelphiastories.org/fiction-contest/



Dan Krippene, Social Media Chair

Be sure you're signed up to receive email updates when we post a new article on the WordPress blog. Help us get the word out with each new article by posting the link to your own Facebook page and other social media accounts.

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)



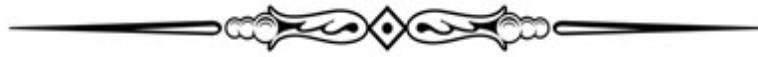
Want to be in the

SPOTLIGHT?

Charles Kiernan

We are looking for members to give very short presentations at the end of the general business meeting and before our main presentation, which we call The Spotlight. Use it to introduce your new work, talk about a past achievement, or a current experience. All our members would like to get to know each other a little better. Here is the way.

If you are interested please contact Charles Kiernan at [cjkiernan01 \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:cjkiernan01@gmail.com).



Dawn M. Sooy

At every GLVWG meeting, people are encouraged to share their recent successes and/or failures. These are from the meeting in April.

Successes:

Janice Monahan Rodgers – Genres – Children’s Literature and Memoirs

- Self-published 3 collections of Short Stories

Donna Brennan – Genre – Women’s Fiction

- Self-published collection of short stories “Forget the Mess – It’s time for a Story”

Phil Giunta – Genre – Speculative Fiction

- Two stories published in “Beach Pulp” by Cat and Mouse Press in Rehoboth Beach, DE

Josi Todaro – Genre – Romantic Suspense

- I finished my book “La Roche”, 62000. Needs editing and an agent

Sandra Almonte – Genre – Non-Fiction

- Participating in Writer’s Digest April 2019 Poem a Day (PAD) Challenge. A prompt is given every day and then a writer writes the poem.

Failure Stories:

No failure stories.

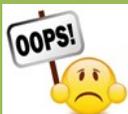
Want to submit a writing piece to be included in a GLVWG newsletter? You can!

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 \(at\) gmail.com](mailto: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.