

April 2016

Heartland Writers Guild



April Program Speakers

Bill and Sharon Hopkins will present the April program. Their website is deadlyduo.net.

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Bill is retired after beginning his legal career in 1971 and serving as a private attorney, prosecuting attorney, an administrative law judge, and a trial court judge, all in Missouri. His poems, short stories, and non-fiction have appeared in many different publications. He's had several short plays produced. Bill is a member of Mystery Writers of America, Dramatists Guild, Horror Writers Association, Missouri Writers Guild, SEMO Writers Guild, Heartland Writers Guild, Romance Writers of America, and Sisters In Crime. Bill is also a photographer who has sold work in the United States, Canada, and Europe. He and his wife Sharon live in Marble Hill, Missouri, with their dog and cat. Besides writing, Bill and Sharon are involved in collecting and restoring Camaros. *COURTING MURDER* was his first novel and his second novel *RIVER MOURN* won first place in the Missouri Writers' Guild Show-Me Best Book Awards in 2014.

Sharon's mystery series featuring mortgage banker Rhett Carter and her '79 Camaro hits close to home. Sharon is a retired mortgage banker. She also owns the original Cami, a restored '79 Camaro like Rhett's. Sharon's hobbies include painting, fishing, photography, flower gardening, and restoring muscle cars with her son, Jeff. She is a member of the Mystery Writers of America, Sisters in Crime, the Southeast Missouri Writers' Guild, and the Missouri Writers' Guild. Sharon also spent 30 years as an Appaloosa Horse Club judge, where she was privileged to judge all over the US, Canada, Mexico and Europe. She lives on the family compound near Marble Hill, Missouri with her husband, Bill, next door to her son, Jeff, his wife, Wendy, and her grandson, Dylan, plus two dogs, two cats, and assorted second generation Camaros. *KILLERWATT* was nominated for a 2011 Lovey award for Best First Novel and placed as a finalist in the 2012 Indie Excellence Awards. Her second book, *KILLERFIND*, was a finalist in the 2013 Indie Excellence Awards, and won first place in the Missouri Writers' Guild Show-me Best Book Awards in 2013. Her third book *KILLERTRUST*, was also a finalist in the 2014 Indie Excellence Awards.

Next Meeting Date

Sunday, April 17

2:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian
Church

Jackson, Missouri

Remembering Lois Emerine

By Carol Fisher

Lois Emerine began her association with HWG in 1988 when she attended several Sunday afternoon sessions for individuals interested in writing led by Robert Vaughan, a Sikeston-based writer. The small group pursued their writing interests and soon began hosting monthly meetings and writing conferences; thus Heartland Writers Guild was created. Lois continued her support of HWG for the next 28 years, no doubt proudly watching it grow.

When I learned Lois had passed, my memories of our times together in HWG began to surface. When I joined the organization after its first conference, Lois was one of the original group that I bonded with since both of us were educators. She taught third grade and loved books, as well as the writing process that produced them.

During her educational process, her excellent writing skills led her to be the recipient of the Bright Flight Award.



Lois Emerine, (center first full row holding award), at a HWG Writing Conference after the presentation of the HWG Lifetime Membership Plaque during the Saturday night awards banquet

Over the years, Lois was often the "face" of HWG.

When either of us went to a bookstore, we would often head to the writing section to pick up a new book to add to our collection of books and magazines dealing with the writing process. Arriving at the next meeting, I would sit beside Lois, and we would talk about our finds and bring each other up-to-date on our writing projects.

Over the years, Lois was often the "face" of HWG. She served for several years as the Guild secretary and then as membership chairman. Very few HWG Writing Conferences went by when she wasn't positioned at the registration table, welcoming attendees to the conference and to southeast Missouri with her true southern hospitality.

Ten years ago HWG honored her service with a lifetime membership, acknowledging her as a charter member and praising her for her consistent and long time work in the organization. We appreciate her contributions to the organization, and we will miss her.



"Read, read, read. Read everything -- trash, classics, good and bad, and see how they do it. Just like a carpenter who works as an apprentice and studies the master. Read! You'll absorb it.

Then write. If it's good, you'll find out. If it's not, throw it out of the window."

— **William Faulkner**

March 2016 Meeting Minutes

Sixteen people were present at the meeting. Each person introduced themselves and shared current writing projects.

Program

Julie Kolb presented a program in which she discussed her involvement with The Muse Writing Center in Norfolk, Virginia. She has learned a great deal about the writing process from members of that community. She talked about how their critique group operates. Julie shared specifics with the group to inspire ideas for what we can do in this area. She plans to attend the AWP conference in Washington, D.C. next year and report back to the group.

Old Business

The All Write Now! Conference currently has 11 registrants. Robert Yehling, one of the critiquing faculty, will donate part of the critique cost back to the conference. Help is still needed in selling ads for the program.

If anyone wishes to purchase ad space, please contact Janet Cannon as soon as possible. Scanned business cards are acceptable. All contests are now sponsored. **The early registration deadline is April 30, and the contest submission deadline is May 15.** Members are encouraged to register early and share the conference on social media outlets.

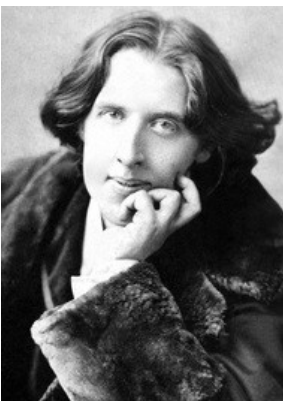
New Business

Mary Rechenberg stated that the Board of Directors must be updated once per year for the corporation of HWG to maintain its 501(c)3 status. Tim Morgan made a motion to approve Mary Rechenberg, John Fisher, Carol Fisher, and Sharon Hohler as board members, and the motion carried.

Julie Kolb made a motion for **HWG to donate \$50.00 to the Benton library in Lois Emerine's memory**, and the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned by Mary Rechenberg, president.

Register for the
conference and find more
information at:
[allwritenowmo.wix.com/
allwritenow](http://allwritenowmo.wix.com/allwritenow)

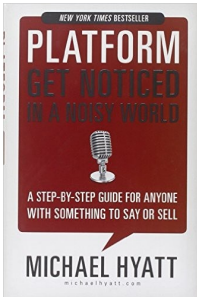


"Those who find ugly meanings in beautiful things are corrupt without being charming. This is a fault. Those who find beautiful meanings in beautiful things are the cultivated. For these there is hope. They are the elect to whom beautiful things mean only Beauty. There is no such thing as a moral or an immoral book. Books are well written, or badly written. That is all."

— **Oscar Wilde, The Picture of Dorian Gray**

Snippets

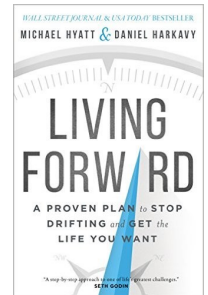
By Sarah Geringer, Editor



In the March meeting, many of us expressed interest in the topic of marketing. I recommend this resource: [Platform](#) by Michael Hyatt. Last summer I took his Get Published online course, which covers much of the information in the book. My eyes were opened to the inside workings of the publishing industry, and what I must do if I want my work to reach large audiences. This is a highly practical resource for writers who want to polish their professional skills.

Have you found an interesting snippet of online writing advice? Email me and I'll include it in the next newsletter!

I am a big Michael Hyatt fan. I just finished reading his newest book, [Living Forward](#), written with Daniel Harkavy. This resource details how to create a plan for prioritizing and reaching your goals. On a recent unexpected day off, I wrote a life plan in under two hours, using the tips in this book. My plan is helping me stay on track with this year's writing goals even as I work full-time. I refer to it several times a week and find it empowering.



Want more info about this book? [Here's a link](#) to an article Michael Hyatt wrote on the [Storyline Blog](#), another place for great advice on writing and personal growth.

The Heartland Writers Guild Journal

Submit newsletter info
by the 15th of the month to:
Sarah Geringer, Editor
dsgeringer@gmail.com

heartlandwriters.org



Member submissions to *The Journal* are encouraged.

No fee will be paid, but a byline will be given if info is provided.

All submissions are subject to editing and will be printed on a space-available basis.

A word count of up to 200 words is requested.

Welcome topics include guild news, awards and achievements, and family occurrences. Photos must be in .jpg format and 1 MB or less.

Some forms of advertising, such as new publication information for member books and member book signings, are also accepted.

Articles printed with member by-line are considered "credits" by other publishers for that writers' portfolio.