

December 2016

Heartland Writers Guild



December Meeting

We will hold a Christmas party in December in lieu of a program.

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Please bring a favorite snack to share, along with a writing-themed gift to share in an exchange.

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This meeting promises to bring you Christmas cheer!

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Voting for 2017 Officers

Votes will be cast for the 2017 HWG board members at the December meeting. The slate of officers follows:

Mary Rechenberg, President
Tim Morgan, Vice-President
Mary Ann Heinsman, Secretary
John Morgan, Treasurer

If you cannot attend the meeting, please send your votes via email to Carol Fisher at vcarolfisher@yahoo.com.

Next Meeting Date

Sunday, December 18

2:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian
Church Steck House

Jackson, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

Fourteen members and one guest attended the November meeting. Dawn Bollinger presented a program on journaling. She led a writing exercise, in which attendees were given a five-minute writing prompt. Several read aloud what they wrote.

John Fisher has a contact for anyone interested in writing Ozark hunting stories. Contact John at fisherjohnc@yahoo.com for more information.

Four members have recently formed a writing/critique group. **Carol Fisher, Marcie Upchurch, Mary Ann Heinsman,** and **Dorinda Miller** are spurring each other on and serving as peer editors.

There was some discussion about forming a local children's writers critique group.

The Missouri Writers Guild is holding an open-genre contest. Visit the Heartland Writers Guild Facebook page for the link to the contest, posted by **Mary Ann Heinsman**.

Submitted by **Sarah Geringer**

The Ten Best Gifts for Writers by Sarah Geringer

When I consider what I want most as a writer, this is the top 10 list that comes to mind. Thank you, fellow members, for giving me many of these gifts!

1. **Time** When my family gives me uninterrupted writing time, they give me solid gold.
2. **Affirmation** I need to know that my writing matters.
3. **Validation** I need fellow writers to say, "Yes, I've struggled with the same challenges."
4. **Encouragement** We all need someone to say, "Keep writing..you're doing great!"
5. **Friendship** The friends I've made through HWG are unique—we understand each other.
6. **Grace** When my posts are off-track, I so appreciate understanding and kindness.
7. **Humor** Laughter lightens the load of difficult, lonely, and slow-to-see-results work.
8. **Acceptance** I have learned that I can call myself a writer even when I'm not well-known.
9. **Rewards** Let's be honest—getting featured on a guest post or signing a contract is amazing!
10. **New Ideas** Great conversations and great books often give me great writing ideas.

What are the writing gifts you wish to receive? What gifts can you give to fellow writers?

Snippets

By Sarah Geringer, Editor

I recently finished my online study for my first self-published e-book, [Christmas Peace for Busy Moms](#). Here are a few things I will apply as I write my next book, [Newness of Life](#), over Christmas break:

1. **Facebook Group**—I plan to create a special Facebook group for my readers. The advantage of a Facebook group over my Facebook author page is that my followers receive notifications with every new post. I will have more control over how prominent my posts are in my followers' feeds than I do with my FB author page. I will post the online study on my FB group page rather than host it on my blog. This will free up my blog for other posts and cut my workload in half.
2. **Linkups**—By using linkups in November, I doubled my best previous month of website hits. I plan to discuss how linkups can increase blog traffic in a future program.
3. **Interviews**—Since I contacted six different bloggers for interviews, I now have inroads to promote my next book through guest posts.
4. **KDP Select**—I plan to use this option on my next e-book to compare how it affects book sales.

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

The Heartland Writers Guild Journal

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