

WOMEN Writing the West

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Conference Update

In an abundance of hope and an absence of Colorado and CDC guidelines for fall events, planning continues for the WWW 26th Annual Conference, which will be held at historic The Antlers Hotel in Colorado Springs. I have personally registered online by visiting the Conference tab of the WWW website. But because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the following information may offer you some guidance in regard to your own registration:

- EARLY REGISTRATION is **extended to July 15**. However, based on the assumption that it will be safe to attend, the conference team encourages you to **not** wait until the last minute to register. This year especially, knowing registration numbers is critical for planning.
- The Antlers Hotel is implementing processes to help protect the safety of guests and staff.
- If the conference is cancelled due to State and CDC restrictions, all registrations **will be refunded**. But keep in mind we are not likely to learn about restrictions until closer to fall. If the conference is cancelled, decisions as to whether it could be presented in another format are options the conference team is currently exploring.

WWW Fiscal Health

WWW is operating normally. Even so, because of the steady rise of shipping rates, printing costs and other office supplies, your WWW Board of Directors has unanimously approved the following:

- 1) The discontinuance of a physical Member Directory. The directory will remain available online at the Members Only section of the website. The directory is formatted as a .pdf file and is ready for download for you to keep on your computer or to personally print.
- 2) A membership fee increase of \$5.00 for each category. Annual dues (Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, and effective beginning September 1, 2020 for the 2021 membership year) will be as follows:
 - Regular Membership: \$70
 - Publishers: \$70
 - International Membership: \$75
 - Sustaining Membership (includes your name in the annual Catalog of Authors' Books and you receive a round WWW emblem pin): \$105.
- 3) The discontinuance of all USPS mailings. From now on, ALL WWW communication will be via email ONLY, with the exception that members will still receive the *WWW Catalog of Authors' Books*. Please add **web@womenwritingthewest.org** to your contacts, so that WWW emails don't end up in spam! FYI: All-member emails are also available anytime by clicking on the "Recent WWW Member Emails" on the Members Only page.

As a nonprofit, WWW accepts tax deductible donations. To further support this unique organization that recognizes the contributions of women and girls in the American West, and to make it easy to do so, the WWW website now has a Donate button on the bottom of each website page. Money donated there goes to the General Fund. To donate to The WILLA Fund specifically, please visit the AWARDS page, and The WILLA Literary Award.

You may wonder why donations are accepted when each member already pays dues? Certainly, dues cover operational expenses, such as website management and administration fees, and while some marketing expenditures are budgeted, like WWW's annual conference mentioned in *Writer's Digest*, more promotion would shine the light on this unique and supportive group. Membership in organizations that support the visibility of WWW authors, like the MPIBA FallCon trade show, and WWW's continued membership with AWP (Association of Writers & Writing Programs), which includes opportunities for other bookfairs, are good examples. By the way, if you're interested in volunteering at trade shows, let me know.

WWW Critique Groups

In 2018, WWW approved the formation of member-guided critique groups. This is a terrific opportunity to connect with other WWW members. To learn more, go to WomenWritingtheWest.org Members Only page and open the "Critique Group Guidelines." What are you waiting for?

WWW Blog

Once you're on the Members Only page, and after you find the "Critique Group Guidelines" button, scroll down a little further, below the rusty-red box (the box that has a "View Member Directory" button), and look for "Submitting to the WWW Blog." This is where you'll find directions on what WWW will post—just another great opportunity for WWW members to highlight their achievements, awards, events, and so much more.

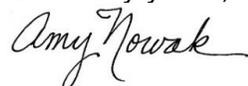
In Memoriam

This October, WWW will remember those we have recently lost. If you are aware of a former member's passing, please let me or WWW Administrator Alice D. Trego know. When we pay tribute to those who have left us, whether we knew them or not, we honor the writer within.

The Last Word

If you participate in the WWW Email Group, you've read from members who have shared information about Amazon and other books-for-sale sites. (If you don't participate in the Email Group, but want to, go to the Members Only page and find "Join Email Group.") So, when I found a 1997 article written by one of WWW's founders, Jerrie Hurd, I took notice. She said, "To date few web-based money-making endeavors have been successful, with one notable exception—books." And, "Ideally, what you want is for the webheads surfing the net to get hooked on your site, stay engaged for a time and return often." Still good advice today. But one thing she wrote made me wistful. "Seattle upstart, Amazon.com Inc., pioneered on-line book-selling by featuring a 1.3 million title catalog that was no joke." Last year, Amazon, the earth's biggest bookstore, had over 44.2 million books for sale. In 1997, Amazon stock was \$18 a share. Today, it's worth about \$2,500 a share. If only I knew then what I know now... but sharing stories on the Email Group is pure gold.

Gratefully yours,



Amy Nowak
2020 WWW President



Women Writing the West is a Colorado nonprofit corporation and is tax exempt pursuant to IRC 501(c)(3). Contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law (Federal ID#: 84-1207060). Women Writing the West is registered as a charitable organization by the Colorado Secretary of State (Approved Charitable Solicitations Filing # 20153037447).