

Pen In Hand

Pen In Hand is the official newsletter of the Maryland Writers' Association, Inc., P.O. Box 142, Annapolis, MD 21404. It is published 12 times a year for dues-paying members. Contents are copyright by MWA, except as otherwise noted. All rights revert to the original authors and artists after publication.

MWA provides a forum for fellowship and education of writers that may assist them in getting published or produced, and fosters the craft of writing in general.

Pen In Hand

Editor in Chief: Margot Wilson
Editors: CJ Cooper,
Cindy Young-Turner

Submission Deadlines

Pen In Hand submissions should reach the editor by the **fifteenth of the month**. Please send your comments, ideas, and submissions to *Pen In Hand* at 701 Glenwood St. #215, Annapolis, MD 21401 or Margot701@mac.com (no attachments).

MWA Board, 2005-06

President: Austin Camacho
Vice President: Jennie Deitz
Secretary: Cindy Gallagher
Treasurer: Peter Carman
Membership: Jean Freund
Critique Group Coordinator:
Mariela Valderrama
Public Relations: Lailee Bakhtiar
Program Director: Cybele Pomeroy

Members at Large

Scott Morrow
Denny Kleppick
Bridget Bell Webber
Pat O'Connell
Newton Love
Cindy Stephens
Historian: Jack Noone
Scribble Editor: Sherry Morrow
Pen In Hand: Margot Wilson
Writing in Motion Program:
Sherry Morrow

2005 MWA Election Results

by Jennie Deitz, Vice President

The MWA Board elections were held at our annual meeting on Wednesday, June 8, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. The following MWA members were elected to the MWA board positions:
Austin Camacho: President

Presides at meetings, delegates and directs ongoing projects, performs other duties beneficial to the Association

Jennie Deitz: Vice President

Fills in for the President in the event of the President's absence or disability, performs as leader/liaison for MWA committees, and helps out however needed

Cindy Gallagher: Secretary

Records the minutes of the MWA meetings and generates authorized

correspondence

Peter Carman: Treasurer

Handles the Association's finances

Jean Freund: Membership Director

Keeps track of MWA membership

Lailee Bakhtiar: Public Relations Director

Disseminates information about MWA programs

Cybele Pomeroy: Program Director

Coordinates MWA programs

Members at Large are voting board members, available for duties that arise.

They are: Scott Morrow, Sherry Morrow, Denny Kleppick, Bridget Bell Webber, Pat O'Connell, Newton Love, Margot Wilson, Cindy Stephens, and Jack Noone.

Just So You Know

Excerpts from the Board of Directors June Meeting

(Ed. Note: The meeting of the MWA Board of Directors convened on June 12, 2005. Present were Scott Morrow, Jennie Deitz, Peter Carman, Cindy Gallagher, Jack Noone, President-elect Austin Camacho, and Newton Love.)

The Treasurer's Report indicates that, as of June 12, 2005, our checking account balance is \$13,498.75, our Money Market balance is \$1,445.35, and our CD is valued at \$3,109.17, for total cash assets of \$18,053.27. Peter gave the outgoing president a summary of our financial history and status for the

past year.

Membership Committee Chairperson, Denny Kleppick, reported in *absentia* that renewal notices are being sent to members as appropriate. The Board welcomed Jean Freund, who was elected to be the 2005-06 Membership Coordinator.

Jennie Deitz, Vice President and Program Coordinator *pro tem*, announced that Rob Levit, artist in residence at Maryland Hall, musician and writer, will be the speaker at the General Meeting in July. Mariela Valderrama has relinquished her role as

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MWA End-of-Year Report



by Scott D. Morrow, Outgoing President

This next year is MWA's twentieth anniversary. We started as a handful of writers looking for a support group and have evolved into a community. MWA is a collaborative effort that counts on dedicated volunteers. My goal as President this year was to strengthen and organize our infrastructure so we could expand our services. I am grateful to the many members who have helped accomplish this goal.

We started this year with a balanced budget and a surplus of funds. Our operating budget for the past year was about \$23,000. We currently have a surplus of about \$6,000. I would like to thank our treasurer, Peter Carman.

Our membership ballooned from 320 to 760 people this year when the Baltimore Writers' Alliance disbanded. MWA was asked to take in its former members and the money designated for their support until the end of their membership period. The request was granted. Our Membership Director, Denny Kleppick, has completed the task of switching MWA's membership system from a rolling enrollment to a common anniversary date. He has also created a "new member's kit" of information.

Our monthly meetings this year have included two poetry cafés coordinated by Cindy Gallagher. Thanks to Public Relations Director, Bridget Bell Webber, attendance has greatly increased. I would like to thank Mariela Valderrama for providing hospitality services.

Margret Kingrey, Critique Group Coordinator, set up a very successful system for

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Just So You Know

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Hospitality Coordinator to Cliff Lynn. Welcome, Cliff!

There will be a Poetry/Art Event on July 7th at Chesapeake Arts Center. Cybele Pomeroy, coordinator, has asked Cindy Gallagher to pre-register anyone interested in reading poetry at the event. Michael Glaser, Poet Laureate of Maryland, will act as emcee and open the program with a reading of his own poetry. Coffee and dessert will be served, gratis; wine will be provided by the Center for purchase. Newt Love will distribute an E-Newswire item announcing/advertising this event, and Jennie Deitz will ask Bridget Bell Webber to contact local newspapers.

Denny Kleppick, volunteered to compile a tactical and strategic manual as a guideline and reference for future Annual Conference Coordinators. He and Scott will work on this over the summer. We are actively seeking a coordinator for the 2006 Annual Conference.

Continuing Business includes the following festivals:

- Taneytown Artscape: June 25. Schedule of MWA authors' presentations and signings is posted on MWA website. Cindy Gallagher is awaiting confirmation from Shirley Smith that MWA members not scheduled to speak/sign may make their books available for sale.
- North Beach BayFest: August 27-28, North Beach, MD.
- Baltimore Book Festival: September 23-25. MWA will have stage time for author readings.
- Laurel (MD) Riverfest: October 8, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Cindy Gallagher is making an application on behalf of MWA for booth space and, pending acceptance, will monitor

the booth. MWA members are welcomed to sell their books at the booth.

- BelAir Book Festival, October 9, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

The Writing in Motion Project, chaired by Sherry Morrow, will send an email requesting submissions for this project.

In regard to MWA Courses online, Bridget is still awaiting attendees' feedback on Lorrie Lough's course. MWA would like to see future online courses taught by a variety of teachers.

(Ed. Note: Names of newly elected officers and chairpersons can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.)

New Business included notice to the Board of the donation of a computer by a friend of Newt Love. The Board will purchase a new hard drive for this computer.

Marcia Talley is resigning as Membership Database Administrator. Scott Morrow will take over this position on July 1.

The next board meeting will be held on July 17 at 11:00 a.m. at the Annapolis Barnes & Noble.

POETRY CORNER

Title It Yourself*
by Charles Boyle

Beliefs they sold,
Whose roots took hold
On lies they told
To us when we were children

Are past their crest
And fail each test
As we with zest
Let later insights kill them.

*Choose one or more: Race, Sex,
Religion, Politics, Santa, Tobacco, Etc.

Charles Boyle is a long-standing member of MWA, and author of "Tailey Whaley," a book published for children.

Submissions to Poetry Corner should be sent to Pen In Hand by the 15th of each month.

MWA Contest News

Consistent increases in the quantity and quality of the entries to MWA's Short Works Contest and Novel Contest have increased the level of competition. Winning either of these contests is quite an accomplishment! We want to thank our judges for donating their time and expertise. They provide the assurance that MWA's writing contest standards are both tough and fair. And for all the entrants who participated in the 2005 contests, we commend your commitment to the written word and thank you for sharing your work with MWA.

Winning is fabulous, but writing is the real test. Write on!

2005 Short Works Contest Winners Fiction

First Prize: Rosemary and Larry Mild, "Assault and Battery"

Second Prize: Nancy Touchette, "The Hunt"

Third Prize: Cindy Young-Turner, "They That Go Down to the Sea"

Poetry

First Prize: Anne Barney, "Alone"

Second Prize: John Borstel, "Quest"

Third Prize: Judy Grey, "Such Stuff"

Creative Non-fiction/Memoir

First Prize: Jane Frutchet, "Small-Minded Cruelties"

Second Prize: Owen Flynn, "A Day in Moscow"

Third Prize: Jane Frutchet, "Validation from Above"

Questions, concerns, and comments should be addressed to the 2005 Short Works Contest coordinator, Mary Bargteil, at mbargteil@aol.com.

2005 Novel Contest Winners Grand Prize

Theresa Rizzo, *Sound of Silence*, submitted to the Mystery/Suspense/Thriller category, judged to be the best overall contest entry

Action/Adventure/Horror

First Prize: Christopher G. Bauer, *Scars on the Face of God*

Second Prize: John Marske, *President Peter and the Inflation Creation Monster*

Historic/Romance

First Prize: Faith L. Justice, *Twilight Empress*

Second Prize: (Mrs.) N. Merchant, *Taming the Raven*

Literary

First Prize: Theresa Rizzo, *Silent Echoes*

Second Prize (tied): Tracy Koretsky, *The Body of Helen*, and Karen S. Mittleman, *Force of Nature*

Mainstream

First Prize: Andrew Popper, *Rediscovering Lone Pine*

Second Prize: Mary Anne Wright, *No Right Way*

Mystery

First Prize: John C. Ford, *The Morgue and Me*

Second Prize: Richard Hinkemeyer, *Brush Back*

Suspense

First Prize: Donald W. Lehrkinder, Jr., *No Coincidences*

Second Prize: Mary Beth Creighton, *The Elimination of Annie*

Science Fiction/Fantasy/Speculative

First Prize: Tony L. Hines, *(S)leaper*

Second Prize: David W. Carmichael, *Jason and the Third Guardian*

The list of judges for the Novel Contest is available on the MWA website (www.marylandwriters.org).

Questions, concerns and comments should be addressed to the 2005 Novel Contest coordinator, Newton Love, at newtlove@toad.net.



MWA End-of-Year Report

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placing new members in critique groups and starting new groups.

We held two contests this year: our Short Works Contest, coordinated by Mary Bargteil, and our Novel Contest, coordinated by Newton Love. I would like to thank Mary and Newt for their efforts, and to congratulate all the entrants and the winners. The results of both contests appear elsewhere in this issue.

We also tested a new program this year: an online writing course, taught by MWA member Loree Lough.

MWA staffed tables or booths at five festivals this year. These were great opportunities to talk with festival attendees about writing, offer advice, and answer questions.

Our E-Newswire, run by Newton Love with digests by Margot Wilson, now reaches about 500 people.

Pen In Hand, as you see, is back in action—one of my important goals for this year. More of this in an upcoming issue.

Our Reading While We Wait program continues to provide teen magazine subscriptions to hospital cancer treatment waiting rooms.

Our Annual Conference in April, under Mike Sackett and Loree Lough, was well attended and well received. A final accounting is still pending, but it looks good.

And last but not least, special credit goes to Jennie Deitz who, as Vice President, did so much to keep MWA functioning by stepping in wherever she was needed.

We had wonderful volunteer support throughout the year. All our volunteers deserve our gratitude.

New/Renew

I wish to: JOIN MWA RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP (Circle One)

I enclose my membership check for \$35.00.

I want to volunteer to help. (Please note below times, days, and locations in which you will participate. Example: daytime workshops during school hours)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone and/or email (optional): _____

Mail to: MWA, P.O. Box 142, Annapolis, MD 21404

MWA E-Newsire

If you would like to receive our E-Newsire—postings of job opportunities, calls for submissions, writing contests, industry news, and eclectic information for writers—send an e-mail to Newton Love, our E-Newsire Administrator, at: newtlove@toad.net. Write “MWA E-Newsire subscribe” in the subject line, and “Please subscribe me to the MWA E-Newsire.” in the body of your letter. If you would rather receive the E-Newsire in digest form, send your request to Margot Wilson at: margot701@mac.com.

Pen In Hand *submission deadline is the fifteenth of each month.*



P.O. Box 142, Annapolis, MD 21404

Upcoming Events

July 7

**Poetry/Art Event,
Chesapeake Arts Center**
Contact Cindy Gallager to pre-register to read your poetry.

July 13

Monthly MWA Meeting
Speaker: Rob Levit, artist in residence at Maryland Hall, musician and writer

August 10

Monthly MWA Meeting
Speaker to be announced

Monthly MWA meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, from 7:30 to 9:30pm at the Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts in Annapolis, Room 300. See the MWA website for directions.

www.marylandwriters.org

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