

September 2006

NWU-TC Newsletter



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

National Election Results

President Gerard Colby was re-elected in a very close vote. I am especially pleased with the voters' endorsement of experienced and dedicated leaders such as Miryam Williamson, new 1st VP; Ken Wachsberger, returning as 2nd VP; and Alice Rogoff, new 3rd VP.

The new team has committed to goals that are critical to our union's success:

- Providing improved service to members
- Streamlining office operations
- Involving chapter leaders in decision making
- Improved communication and accountability

As a chapter chair, I participated as an observer to some of the NEC's weekly conference calls, and this opportunity has now been extended to Delegates. Opening NEC deliberations to observers promises a more democratic process and opportunity to hear member concerns.

Our new National Executive Committee took office September 8, at the quarterly meeting in New York City. The ballot count posted on the national website in the members-only section at www.nwu.org.

Theft in the National Office

Members recently received a notice from President Colby concerning theft by two employees in our national office. These two have been arrested and are awaiting trial. Finding the underlying cause of the theft has eaten up many hours of our officers' time during the past few months and presents an additional challenge for the NEC. Chapter leaders were briefed on the theft in June, but we were asked not to discuss it publicly until the investigation was completed.

Of course, the theft is bad news for our union, but this has also happened to many businesses and nonprofits. I urge members to keep the following in mind:

- No union officers are implicated in the theft.
- When irregularities in bookkeeping surfaced, Trustees Jeanne Harnois and Laura Cameron immediately

began investigating and called in a UAW auditor.

- Most of the stolen money can be recovered from insurance that the union—like all responsible businesses—purchases to protect us from just this kind of crime.

New Fall Programming for our Chapter

Locally, the news is good. Watch your email and our News and Events web page for changes in our regular schedule of workshops this fall:

- September brings events focusing on book publishing, blogging & podcasting, socially responsible business practices, and networking. Our September events are in the evenings in different Twin Cities locations. (See details, below.) As requested by members, future events will include day and evening times.
- Collaborations and cross-promotions with like-minded organizations, such as Minnesota Independent Publishers Association (MIPA) and the Professional Editors Network (PEN) are confirmed.
- All our regular workshops and networking events are free to members and guests. Take advantage of the opportunity to meet other writers and learn about the advantages of membership.
- For more information, contact us at info@nwu-tc.org or call 612-879-5572.

Got Ideas? The Twin Cities chapter is interested in your ideas for workshops that will help our members succeed—and volunteers to help organize those events. Contact me at sgrieger@earthlink.net or 612-722-8776.

The September Steering Committee meeting will focus on confirming and coordinating fall programming. All members are welcome. Come to: Resource Center of the Americas, Lower level, 3019 Minnehaha Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55406. Mark your calendar for Wednesday 9/27 4-6 PM.

Finally, a big thank-you to Nick Pease, who stepped down as newsletter editor in the past month. And thank you, too, Jan Alan, for volunteering to serve as the new editor.

In solidarity,

Sue Grieger
Chair, NWU Twin-Cities Chapter

Worth repeating –

On the National level, the NWU continues to serve members with contract advice and grievance assistance. The dedicated group of trained volunteers helps members get better contracts or recover money owed them by clients. To use this invaluable resource, write to advice@nwu.org and describe your situation. An advisor will contact you within a few days.

And locally, the current focus of our chapter is on the continuation of valuable relationships, networking and related educational and economic resources for the talented writers in our area. Our strength is in our solidarity as writers. The Twin Cities chapter of the NWU is one of the strongest in the country.

SEPTEMBER CALENDER OF EVENTS

NWU-TC Informal Fall Networking ... There is no formal program planned. Take some time to join us for shoptalk and libations at this first networking event of the fall. 7 pm, Tuesday, September 19, Mai Village, University Avenue and Western Avenue, St. Paul.

--Mark Connor

NWU-TC SEPTEMBER DIVISION MEETINGS

BOOK DIVISION

Outposts on the New Frontier: Podcasting, E Books and Blogs

Join a panel of speakers who will provide information and discussion about the ways authors and publishers use these technologies. This program is presented in collaboration with the Midwest Independent Publishers Association (MIPA).

Wednesday, September 13, 2006, 7-9 PM
St. Anthony Park Library
2245 Como Avenue, St. Paul
651-642-0411

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Writers for Change * Business Writers

True to Yourself, by Mark Albion
Leading a values-based business

Our NWU local group is co-sponsoring the talk by business writer Mark Albion who has a new book out, **True to Yourself**. The date is Wednesday, September 20, 6 PM at Willey Hall on the West Bank, University of Minnesota Campus. (225 19th Ave. S. Minneapolis 55455) Map: <http://onestop.umn.edu/Maps/WilleyH/index.html>

Partnering with other groups is one of the strategies we are using as a result of our group meeting earlier this summer. Mark Albion is a nationally known business speaker whose focus is on creating businesses that embody and reflect personal values.

Net Impact is a network of MBAs, graduate students and professionals committed to using the power of business to improve the world. **Responsible Minnesota Business** (www.aboutrmb.org) is dedicated to improving the business community in sustainable and nourishing ways.

The reception (6 to 6:45 PM) is ideal for networking and meeting new people. And the speaker might have some words of wisdom for how we run our own business.

Please register by September 18 at www.csom.umn.edu/events. This event is free. Bring a friend!

--Jackie Mosio

~~YYY~~

The Secrets of the Short Story Market

Please join us on Thursday, September 21st, 7:30 PM at the Linden Hills Community center as Alicia Conroy shares the secrets of breaking into the short story markets: from periodicals to books, with or without an agent. Discussion will also include some of the challenges that may present themselves if your manuscript happens to get accepted by a small press—from manuscript preparation to editing and marketing.

Alicia's fiction has appeared in *Ploughshares*, *Puerto del Sol*, *Connecticut Review*, and *Ontario Review*. Among several recent grants and awards, in 2005 she received honorable mention from the Pushcart Prizes for "best of the small presses." Alicia's first book, is a story collection called *Lives of Mapmakers*, was published by Carnegie Mellon University Press in June 2006.

The Linden Hills Community Center is located at 3100 west 43rd Street, in the Linden Hills neighborhood a few blocks west of Lake Harriet.

Please contact co-chairs John Toren at toren@bitstream.net or Cary Griffith at Cary.J.Griffith@Corporate.Ceridian.com with any questions. Please note that the fee required for all non-NWU members is no longer in affect. This event is free and open to the public.

Writing Workshops

John Toren will be teaching a workshop at the Loft: **The Art of the Profile**, Saturday, September 23, from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. This workshop is for anyone interested in enhancing his or her profiling skills, from interviewing the subject to revising the final draft. For more information, please contact www.loft.org

YYY

For the poet in you ~ Published author, Sharon Chmielarz, presents, "**Writing about the Past**" a workshop directed toward poetry. This event will be held at Lueken's Village Foods North, 1171 Paul Bunyan Drive NW in Bemidji, on Saturday, Sept.30, from 9:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. The last hour is open microphone by participants. The cost is \$25.00, not including lunch. Participants should email me two poems for critique by September 25. Please send to Schmielarz@aol.com

Sharon's books of poetry include: **Different Arrangements, But I Won't Go Out in a Boat, The Other Mozart, The Rhubarb King**. Her works in a poetry chapbook, *Stranger in Her House*, and three picture books were also published.

YYY

RESCUED: Saving Animals from Disaster, with a foreword by US Senator John Ensign, and published by New World Library, includes information from hundreds of people the authors interviewed about how to best prepare family pets for disaster, how to get trained in animal rescue, and the history and scope of the burgeoning animal rescue movement. Lauded by Marie Belew Wheatley, president and CEO of American Humane Association, calls this book an "homage to the hundreds of individuals from scores of animal welfare groups who gave so much to rescue the animal victims of Hurricane Katrina."

Co-authors, Linda and Allen Anderson invite you and your animal-loving friends to their book event and signing at Barnes & Noble, 3000 Eden Prairie Center, Eden Prairie, Thursday, September 28, 7:30 p.m.

CLASSIFIEDS

Anna Matetic, member of NWU Twin Cities, is currently (under the mentorship of Sue Grieger) seeking out writers in the Rochester area who might be interested in a satellite chapter of the NWU Twin Cities in Rochester, MN. If you are interested in meeting Anna and other writers in the Rochester area, please write to suegrieger@earthlink.net. You do not have to be a current NWU member to participate.

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U of M College of Continuing Education requests proposals for noncredit courses in writing.

The College of Continuing Education is expanding its noncredit continuing education and lifelong learning offerings in professional, technical, and practical writing. Our goals are to meet the professional development needs of employers; working professionals who are seeking career advancement, career changes, or who need to update and refresh writing skills; and a broad, general audience of adults who want or need to write in their workplaces or personal lives.

We are seeking course proposals from experienced, seasoned writers, editors, and writing educators for noncredit short courses, workshops, and seminars in topics related to professional, technical, and practical writing.

Requirements: You must have professional experience and teaching experience in the topic(s) you are proposing to teach. These requirements should be either at the undergraduate or graduate level, teaching or training adult professionals, or teaching educated, motivated adult lifelong learners.

If you have these qualifications, and would like to propose one or more courses, please visit www.cce.umn.edu/writing/proposals.html to view and download the Request for Proposals. The RFP has full information including topics, compensation; how to submit proposals, and who to contact if you have questions or would like to discuss your ideas.

We hope, too, that if you know professionals who might be interested in and qualified for these teaching opportunities, you will share this e-mail with them.

If you would like the RFP mailed or e-mailed to you, or if you have questions or would like more information, please call Sherry Quan Lee at 612-625-1237 or e-mail writing@cce.umn.edu.

Marginal Notes from the Editor

Hello everyone –

Some columns just seem to write themselves–this is not one of them. Over the past couple of weeks, every word to be written here became a desperate scramble into the recesses of the Web whether for inspiration or illumination; possibly with hopes of immortality, but more probably to impact my peers and fellow writers, those reading this column.

Then I got over myself.

My previous editorial experiences suggest simplicity is best. Given the lively discussions, the outcome and subsequent changes that resulted from the May 23rd meeting. I decided our chapter could use Marginal Notes, as a monthly addition to the newsletter, with the purpose and a call for opinions and comments from our members. It seemed prudent to offer this venue for the voices of our “strongest (NWU Chapter) in the country”.

With that in mind, let me offer this first challenge. We are in dire need of a name for this newsletter!

While I realize this signature request for our No-name newsletter isn't quite 'up there' with the accolades received from your published works, nor will it result in a lifetime of royalties for the designation, but this can be fun; and a start in hearing from the writer in all of you. Please let me hear from you.

Whether forwarding a name submission or an item of interest to the newsletter, please send them to Jan Alan, NWU-TC editor, jangigi@earthlink.net Reminder: The deadline for the October newsletter submissions is September 28th. Thank you.

In closing, and on a more serious note; I would offer that we take a moment and reflect that this September marks the anniversary of two major events—both of which affected our country and us as individuals--the terrible aftermath and continuing struggle of the victims of Katrina and the fifth anniversary of 9/11.

With peace, and solidarity,

Janet (Jan) Alan
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"Using and abusing words and punctuation is one of the fringe benefits of being a writer."

-- Rita Golden Gelman, Author