

# Wyo-Writer

Official Newsletter of:  
Wyoming Writers, Inc.



Volume 34 Number 5

May 2008

## FLOOD SWAMPS WYO-WRITER

Tornadoes, and Rainfall, and Hail! Oh my!

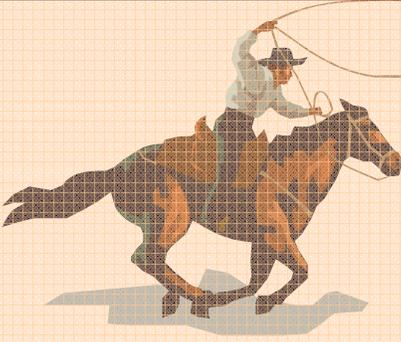
By  
L. G. Vernon

Mother Nature has ways of reminding us we live in Wyoming! Here in Cheyenne, not to mention other places in southeast Wyoming, the reminders have been coming hot and heavy in the form of tornadoes, hail and drenching rains. About the time I was getting ready to do the newsletter, we were hit with a hail/rainstorm. The hail filled up and plugged our gutters and the rain overran and—you guessed it—poured directly into our basement windows. My office, along with three other rooms, was awash and I have been unable to get to my computer until now. I APOLOGISE! Anyway, here is the MAY—MIGHT AS WELL BE JUNE—NEWSLETTER.

***JUNE IS RENEWAL MONTH.  
IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO,  
PLEASE USE THE RENEWAL FORM IN  
THIS ISSUE AND RENEW TODAY!***

The Wyo-Writer would like to take this opportunity to thank outgoing President Chris Williams for her hard work and dedication during the past year. Your diligence and leadership are sincerely appreciated! We will miss you!

**THANK YOU**



## IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE TO LASSO A SPOT AT THE WYOMING WRITERS, INC. CONFERENCE

*For information on our conference, June 6-8, in Casper, visit our pages at [www.wyowriters.org](http://www.wyowriters.org) or contact conference chair Pat Frolander at: [conference@wyowriters.org](mailto:conference@wyowriters.org) or by phone at 307-283-2813*

### From the Vice President: Wyoming Writers, Inc. Needs You

Years ago, when I first joined Wyoming Writers, I was a novice writer with a dream. Within the membership I found like-minded people, writers who loved words and language, good stories and great poems. I also found friends. The organization drew me in, but the people—you—kept me here, with friendship and fellowship, encouragement and education, and a hug or two when needed.

Now, our organization needs a hug or two. For the last several years, we have not operated very smoothly; WW, Inc. is approaching a meltdown if we don't make some changes—and the changes don't have to be radical or painful. A bit of reorganization, some simplification, and some conscious thought about the future will go a long way to alleviate the current distress.

We've voted new members into office, then watched them flounder and flail through their year of service because they aren't familiar with the organization. We haven't mapped out a plan for conferences—we should always be two years out with a location. Last year, we almost didn't have a conference, but managed to pull it together because a few long-time members pitched in and made it happen.

We need your ideas, we need your comments, we need some direction from the membership in order to maintain a viable organization. We need those of you who can think outside the box, those who can brainstorm ideas and innovative solutions to the problems we face.

A good place to begin this discussion is by reading the WW, Inc. Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules, available online at <http://www.wyowriters.org/Constitution.htm>. It won't take you long—it prints out on six pages, with lots of white space. A quick read will give you the gist of our organizational makeup and an informational foundation on which to build our conversation.

The following ideas and thoughts are offered here for you to read, think about, gnaw on, consider thoughtfully, and to generate civilized discussion in pursuit of workable, realistic solutions to our needs.

This past year—and apparently, this isn't unusual—we have not had a quorum at board meetings. Meaning, business as usual for WW, Inc. includes not having enough voting officers present to discuss and conduct business. For our fall board meeting, a few of us drove to Casper, a couple attended by phone, and yet we could not finalize any business decisions. For our spring board meeting, we “met” in the WW, Inc. Chatzy room—nobody had to travel, just power up a computer, log in, and “talk” via the keyboard. And still, we did not have a quorum. I don't know how we could have made it any easier—sit in your own home, in your own chair, in your pajamas (or not)—and yet, either through forgetfulness or the vagaries of life, we came up short.

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Every officer and committee chair is a volunteer who works at writing for pleasure or pay, with a job, family and other responsibilities, health issues, and his or her own daily walk that demands time and attention. There isn't a lot of time or energy left to devote to Wyoming Writers, and the best of intentions sometimes just isn't enough.

Recently, we've had several resignations from the executive board and committee chairs; perhaps we should rethink the long list of positions we try to fill every year. Could we eliminate, simplify, or double up on some responsibilities, thereby needing fewer people? Changes made with the newsletter, the conference schedule, and/or expectations of WW, Inc. might allow us to shift some duties around, and eliminate or change the personnel necessary for our organizational structure.

Over the next year, I would like to consider ways to streamline our archival process, the executive board structure, conference planning, and our newsletter efforts. Mike Shay, Arts Specialist: Literature, Visual Arts and Performing Arts for the Wyoming Arts Council, suggested we might apply for grant monies that would enable us to hire a part-time staff person, or to pay an officer to handle the bulk of our communications and disseminate information for WW, Inc. This person could be the conduit to the membership (perhaps eliminating the need for members-at-large) from whomever and wherever information originated, using the newsletter and email to spread the word.

I also think we should consider paying the annual conference registration fees for those who volunteer to serve on the board. (Excluding me, if implemented, as this is my suggestion.) Otherwise, the investment of time and money (and time *is* money!) reaps little in the way of tangible compensation for the officers. Yes, we agreed to serve. Yes, we know it will take time (and sometimes money) to fulfill our board responsibilities. Yes, we have the satisfaction of knowing we helped WW, Inc. survive another year. However, I believe we would have better success in board recruitment if we can also offer a specific benefit for the effort expended by the officers.

Newsletter: Our bylaws state we will prepare and distribute a publication ten times yearly, to keep the membership informed of WW, Inc. activities, and issues related to writing. Do we change the frequency of publication? Change content?

Annual conference: Maybe we have a rotating schedule of what is offered—high-powered presenters one year; a year of round-table discussions, moderated by WW, Inc. members; a conference with a single presenter for the weekend; mini-workshops presented by WW, Inc. members. Perhaps we have presenters and workshops one year, and the next year have a more relaxed program.

Wyoming Writers cannot be all things to all people. We cannot fulfill every need of every writer within our membership. What we can do is offer the very things that keep me a member—friendship and fellowship, encouragement and education, and a hug or two when needed.

Let me hear from you, and thank you for listening. Jeanne



The following Wyoming Writers, Inc. offices and chairs are currently open:

**08-09 Elected Offices Open**

Vice President

Secretary

Member at Large – Region 2

**08-09 Appointed Chairs Open**

2009 Conference

2010 Conference

Historian

Parliamentarian

Adult Writing Contest

**PLEASE CONSIDER SERVING**

## Market News column for May 2008— by A. M. Hummel

*(The following information has been gathered from several sources: The Penn Writer, the newsletter of Pennwriters, Inc., a multi-genre, statewide writers' organization in Pennsylvania; The Writer Online; and our own president, Chris Williams! Check the markets mentioned for yourself, it's wise to make sure, before submitting, that they're right for you.)*

***This travel essay contest could win you some cool gear!***—Fitness TravelGear is looking for travel essays that will inspire readers to plan their own adventures, and if you're willing to share your personal experiences and do it some pizzazz you just might win some cool gear from Keen, Outdoor Research, Shred Alert, Hydrapak, PacSafe, Osprey, Crumpler, Steripen, Vasque, SIGG, Teva, and McNett. No guidebook descriptions here, folks, keep the excitement, the mishaps, the people you met, the animals you encountered, the challenges, etc. on a personal level. Select your topic from one of three categories: Adventure Travel (hiking, mountain biking, kayaking, camping, climbing, whatever); Eco Travel (write about your favorite eco resort or eco adventure); or Volunteer Travel (tell readers what it's like to build houses or count sea turtles or repair trails in exotic locations). Write an essay that runs from 350-500 words in length—you may sidebar (100 words here) contact information, info on lodging, and where and how to rent equipment you might need at your destination. ***Your essay and three sidebars are due by July 15, 2008 and should be submitted in the text of an e-mail, to contest@fitnesstravelgear.com (no attachments, please!). Include your name and address, write "Essay Contest" in the subject line of your e-mail.*** For more information, check the website at [www.fitnessstravelgear.com/contest.html](http://www.fitnessstravelgear.com/contest.html).

***New Love Stories Magazine now accepting submissions***—Grassroots Publishing Co, Inc.(the mailing address is: c/o Hochman Associates Co., Inc., Love Stories Magazine—Editor, 908 Oaktree Avenue, Suite H, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080), a magazine publisher with twenty-five years of experience, is planning to launch its new *Love Stories Magazine* at the end of 2008. Publisher Ron Victor has announced his staff is accepting submissions from writers who specialize in short romance stories (3000 to 5000 words). The overall theme of these stories should involve love and romance, of course, and they may be contemporary, historic, inspirational, paranormal, or any other theme so long as love and romance is the main thrust of the story. Story length should range from 2000 to 5000 words. Some sexuality is acceptable, but these stories should not be graphic or pornographic in nature. Suggestive phrases should be used in place of reference to body parts and inappropriate language. For more information on the needs of this market, I'd suggest checking the Writer's Guidelines at <http://grassrootsmag.com/wrgu.html>.

***And do we have coal here in Wyoming?!***—*Coal People Magazine* (contact Christina Karawan at Al Skinner, Inc., Dept. WM, P. O. Box 6247, Charleston, WV 25362) is a monthly trade publication willing to buy first or second serial (reprint) rights or make work-for-hire assignments. What they're looking for: good feature articles on coal professionals, companies past and present, color slides (for possible cover use), and black and white photos to complement stories. They want to hear more about people than the historical aspect of the industry, and they're hoping for quotes from people who lived the moments! Feature articles should run no longer than 5,000 words, and shorter items are also needed on industry gossip, humorous anecdotes, and event coverage. Payment isn't huge—\$90 for assigned articles and half that for reprints, \$35-\$50 for shorter items—but if you have a piece on Wyoming's coal industry that you'd like to remarket this might be a good place to go. Not sure about the payment rates for photos or slides. Query Christina Karawan first, w/published clips if you have them. No poetry, fiction, or environmental attacks on the coal industry allowed here.

***And From Mike Shay~~~***

### **WAC 2009 CREATIVE WRITING FELLOWSHIPS**

Printable applications for the Wyoming Arts Council's 2009 creative writing fellowships in fiction are available at the WAC web site. Go to <<http://wyoarts.state.wy.us>> and scroll down to the "News" section. Click on the first link, "Apply now for 2009 creative writing fellowships." This will take you to a four-page pdf document that includes a bio of the judge, Laura Pritchett, guidelines, and the application itself. Print it out, fill it out, and mail the completed application with your manuscript to the WAC. Postmark deadline is June 20, 2008.

## Many Voices Press Seeking Poetry

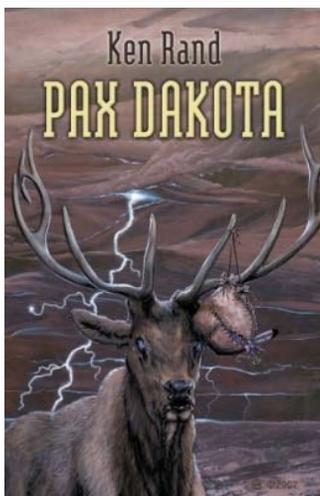
Many Voices Press is accepting submissions for an anthology of poets from Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. We are selecting poems now. No deadline. We will continue to review submissions until we have selected a quantity sufficient to compile a 400-page manuscript. *Poets of the American West* will be published in 2009. A \$200 Many Voices Prize will be awarded to the "editor's choice" poem from each state.

### Guidelines for Submissions:

- Send up to twelve poems of any length, any style, any subject matter
- Include contact information on each poem: name, address, phone, email
- Include a SASE for response. No manuscripts will be returned
- Include a \$12 entry fee. All entrants will receive a copy of the anthology (a \$20 value). Many Voices Press is a non-profit public service organization
- Poems in Native American languages or in Spanish must also include English translations. (We will publish both versions side-by-side.)
- Include a brief bio (yes, we want to know about your awards and previous publications, but please also tell us something more creative, original, and interesting about your life in the American West).
- Poems previously published must include name of magazine, issue, and date. If the poem was previously published in a book, include title of book, publisher, and date. Important: Authors must obtain reprint rights. MVP cannot pay reprint fees.
- After publication of *Poets of the American West*, all publication rights revert to the author
- Include a completed Submission Data Form (obtainable by writing to the address below, or printable from our website <http://www.fvcc.edu/news-events/academic-news/many-voices-press/>)
- Send all the above materials to: Many Voices Press, Flathead Valley Community College, 777 Grandview Drive, Kalispell, Montana 59901. Call 406-756-3907.

Many Voices Press aims to publish the best poems available. Recently we published *Poems Across the Big Sky* (an anthology of Montana poets), which sold more than 2000 copies in less than six months. We are especially interested in new or established voices of the American West. In addition to poems in English, we are seeking poems in Native American languages or in Spanish.

What Are We Looking For? We are most interested in poems that offer original insights into historical or contemporary life in the American West. We are open to all poems of merit, regardless of style, though narrative poems accessible to a broad readership are most likely to catch our attention.



Ken Rand's long-awaited western/dark fantasy PAX DAKOTA is now available from Five Star. Order from the publisher at: [www.gale.com/fivestar](http://www.gale.com/fivestar) or from your favorite Internet book dealer.

Read the first chapter online at:  
[www.sfwaweb.org/members/Rand/](http://www.sfwaweb.org/members/Rand/)



*Please ask your local library to order this and all WW Inc members' books.*

# Wyoming Writers, Inc. Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Night \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Website \_\_\_\_\_

*Please circle the categories which best describe your writing.*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>AB</b> <i>Autobiography/biography</i>    | <b>TR</b> <i>Travel</i>                 |
| <b>BE</b> <i>Business/economics</i>         | <b>VP</b> <i>Visual Performing arts</i> |
| <b>C</b> <i>Cookbooks</i>                   | <b>W</b> <i>Westerns</i>                |
| <b>CS</b> <i>Contemporary social issues</i> | <b>WY</b> <i>Wyoming</i>                |
| <b>F</b> <i>Fiction-books</i>               | <b>O</b> <i>Other writing</i>           |
| <b>FA</b> <i>Fantasy</i>                    |   |
| <b>H</b> <i>History</i>                     |   |
| <b>HU</b> <i>Humor</i>                      |   |
| <b>M</b> <i>Mysteries</i>                   |   |
| <b>MA</b> <i>Magazine articles</i>          |   |
| <b>N</b> <i>Nonfiction-books</i>            |   |
| <b>NP</b> <i>News articles</i>              |   |
| <b>P</b> <i>Poetry</i>                      |   |
| <b>PR</b> <i>Publicity/press releases</i>   |   |
| <b>R</b> <i>Romance</i>                     |   |
| <b>S</b> <i>Short stories</i>               |   |
| <b>SF</b> <i>Science Fiction</i>            |   |
| <b>SH</b> <i>Self-help</i>                  |   |
| <b>SM</b> <i>Science-Medical</i>            |   |
| <b>T</b> <i>Textbooks</i>                   |   |
| <b>TE</b> <i>Technical</i>                  |   |
| <b>TH</b> <i>Thrillers</i>                  |   |

- I am interested in:
- \_\_\_\_\_ Networking w/others writers' group
  - \_\_\_\_\_ writing mechanics info
  - \_\_\_\_\_ publication
  - \_\_\_\_\_ how-to articles in the newsletter
  - \_\_\_\_\_ contests
  - \_\_\_\_\_ journalling
  - \_\_\_\_\_ holding
  - \_\_\_\_\_ office/volunteering for WWInc

### Member Status (please check one)

- \_\_\_\_\_ **New Member**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Renewal**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Student Member (please include student verification: copy of student ID or letter from school official)**

### DUES (please check one)

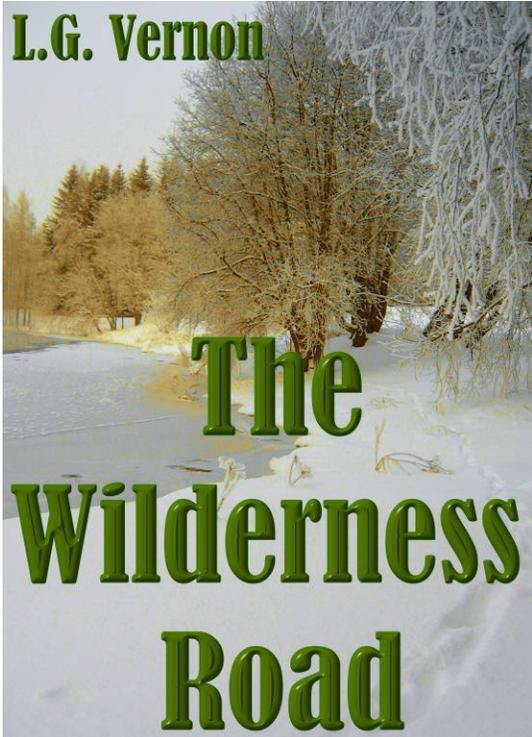
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Student Member \$10.00**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Regular Member w/ONLINE newsletter only \$25.00**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Regular Member w/HARD-COPY newsletter \$35.00**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Sustaining Member \$75.00**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Patron Member \$250.00**

*Make Checks Payable to: Wyoming Writers, Inc*

### MAIL PMT TO:

Megan Johnson  
PO Box 818  
Thayne, WY 83127-0818

**REMEMBER:**  
*All memberships expire June 30th of each year, regardless of when you join*



*'How far must a man go in search of himself?'*

## New from novelist L. G. Vernon~~~

Union Major Rip McKenna, blind, wounded and delirious, staggers off the Wilderness Battlefield in 1864 Virginia. Found wandering the woods, he is sheltered by Confederate Katherine Stuart and her hodge-podge family. Tortured by memories of war, survivor's guilt, and flashbacks, the recovering McKenna nonetheless returns to his command. On his way south, McKenna detours to pay his respects to Katherine, but she and her family have disappeared—refugeed to parts unknown.

At war's end, and now a profane, violent drunkard, McKenna heads west. And it is there, in the 'Hell on Wheels' of Cheyenne, Dakota Territory, where he must face his demons to rescue Katherine from the madman who has stalked her across half a continent.

Available May 22, 2008  
Published by Light Sword Publishing  
ISBN 9780-9800733-9-3

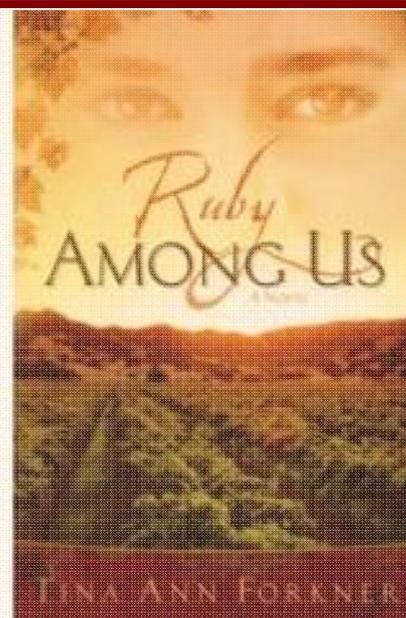
*Sometimes, the key that unlocks your future lies in someone else's past...*

Set in the lush vineyards of present and past Sonoma Valley, *Ruby Among Us* weaves a story of three generations of women and the memory that binds their hearts together. Journey with Lucy as she searches for a heritage long buried with her mother, Ruby, in this stirring tale of remembrance and redemption.

*Ruby Among Us* is published by Waterbrook Press, a division of Random House.

Available at bookstores everywhere and at your favorite online vendors.

**ISBN:** 978-1-4000-7358-0



**PLEASE HELP EDITOR SOLVE A MYSTERY!**

Sometime shortly after May 1, a member emailed me with information regarding the very positive comment made to her by an editor for whom she had recently written. I LOST THAT EMAIL! Please contact me again. I would love to feature this information in an upcoming ISSUE. ~ed

**WYOMING WRITERS, INC.  
EXECUTIVE BOARD**

*Due to the tardiness of this newsletter,  
I am posting the 2008-2009 Executive  
Board~~ed*

**President**

*president@wyowriters.org*

**Jeanne Rogers**

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Sundance WY 82729

307-283-2125

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**VACANT**

**Secretary**

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**Treasurer**

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**Megan Johnson**

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**Tina Krejci**

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Greybull WY 82426-9721

307-765-9395

**Member at Large - Region 2**

*mal2@wyowriters.org*

**V A C A N T- PLEASE**

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**Serving:** Sheridan, Johnson,  
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Counties

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*mal3@wyowriters.org*

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Cheyenne WY 82009

307-634-8586

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**Past President (Ex-Officio)**

*pastpresident@wyowriters.org*

**Chris Williams**

3229 NW Gumwood Ave.

Corvallis, OR 97330

541-602-0700

Wyoming Writers now has a chatroom online, available to its members.



This is a password-protected online room and available only to those who provide the password. Our WW Inc room is located at: <http://www.chatzy.com/286678542472>

***Drop in and take a look!***

For the password to this room, visit our 'Members Only' pages online, or contact the editor at: [lgvernon@aol.com](mailto:lgvernon@aol.com)

***BE SURE TO WATCH FOR INFO ON UPCOMING CHATROOM EVENTS!***

Wyo-Writer is the official publication of Wyoming Writers, Inc. and as such is a member benefit, published 10 times a year. Membership in WW Inc. renews each year in June, regardless of when previous membership was attained. See the membership application in this publication for further information.

Wyo-Writer looks forward to your submissions. Please send material, no longer than 500 words, to:

L. G. Vernon; PO Box 3071; Cheyenne, WY 82003-3071 or EMAIL SUBMISSIONS TO: [lgvernon@aol.com](mailto:lgvernon@aol.com)

**A NOTE ABOUT SUBMISSIONS**

Please help your editor SAVE TIME by adhering to the following when submitting material for Wyo-Writer:

1. Please use an industry standard font, either TNR or Courier New, 12 points.
2. Please DO NOT line space between paragraphs.
3. Please DO indent paragraphs.
4. Please DO send me your member news, essays, and stories related to this writing life.

***Visit the Wyoming Writers, Inc. website at [www.wyowriters.org](http://www.wyowriters.org)***

**Wyoming Writers, Inc.**

PO Box 3071

Cheyenne, WY 82003-3071

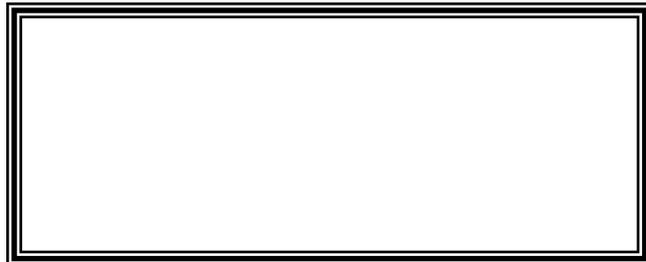
Address Correction Requested

*Wyoming Writers, Inc. does its best to provide correct, up-to-date information to its subscribers, however, readers should carefully investigate the credentials of any publications, markets, contest listings, or web pages appearing in this newsletter, prior to making submissions.*



The appearance of any of the aforementioned in any portion of the Wyo-Writer is for informational purposes only, and does not constitute sanction or endorsement by the Wyoming Writers, Inc.

**To:**



**IF YOU ARE ON OUR EMAIL LIST, PLEASE ADD [lgvernon@aol.com](mailto:lgvernon@aol.com) TO YOUR ADDRESS BOOK!**