

Wyo-Writer

Official Newsletter of:
Wyoming Writers, Inc.



Volume 34 Number 9

NOVEMBER 2008

Rogers' Ramblings~~Making Your WW Inc Better

By Jeanne Rogers; WW Inc President

This month will truly be a rambling read as I wander through piles of late autumn leaves and touch on a few topics which impact you, the Wyoming Writers member. I'm including email address links to make it very easy for you to offer help or make suggestions to the various committee chairs.

The board and several committee chairs "met" for the fall board meeting in the WW, Inc., Chatzy chat room on October 26, 2008. The meeting minutes are included elsewhere in this newsletter, but I do have some comments about our discussions.

Pat Forbis and John Newcomb have each worked on streamlining our bylaws, cleaning up the contradictory and/or noncompliant language to keep us consistent with the Wyoming Corporations Code. I am grateful they are not deterred by legalistic language. Our goal is to have a document we can present to the membership at the June 2009 conference, and hopefully, have ratified and set in place (Pat pforbis@sbcglobal.net; John jnewc@Q.com).

Nancy Ruskowsky, our publicity chair, offered to also serve as contest chair this year. She and Phyllis Dugan are brainstorming ways to increase contest revenue and participation, and how best to publicize the annual contest. I'm not a fan of continuing the contest, and have felt for some time it needs tweaking to remain a viable function of our organization. Susan Vittitow has some ideas to make the contest anthology less of a burden to produce and sell; she, along with Pat Forbis, will join Phyllis and Nancy R to create a workable contest plan

(Nancy fvhomestead@dishmail.net; Phyllis phdugan@silverstar.com; Susan svittitow@gmail.com).

Linda Ruhle is trying to make her membership chair position of better value to new members. Linda R, Linda Vernon (newsletter editor), and Maureen Blake (treasurer) will craft an information sheet for new members, and create a simple system for reference of member information (Linda R unruhle@yahoo.com; Linda V LGVernon@aol.com; Maureen maureenab@yahoo.com).

Conference plans are well underway, with Mary Hein overseeing the details. Our 2009 conference will be held at the Ramada Plaza Riverside in Casper, Wyoming, June 5-7. Information on presenters will be in upcoming newsletters. In the meantime, PLEASE start "talking up" the conference to writers, readers, anyone in your sphere of influence who would benefit from the writing workshops, author presentations, agent meetings, and panel discussions. We plan to have a keynote speaker at the banquet this year, and incorporate a few other minor changes that should benefit the conference flow.

At our conference last year, we were fortunate enough to have two Casper television stations visit the hotel and tape interviews with presenters, attendees, and WW, Inc. officers. With that experience under our collective belt, we are hoping to have an even better response from the local media this next conference. Nancy R also has some fresh ideas for publicity she hopes to implement; if you have any suggestions to help increase our conference visibility and attendance, PLEASE send them to Nancy R. Many publications will run a press release at no charge, and we'd like to hear from you where you think our paid advertising would be most effective (fvhomestead@dishmail.net; Mary maryhein@tribcsp.com). *continued on page 2*

Please see the back page for submission guideline information. WW Inc. loves to receive member submissions. The Editor asks that writers submitting adhere to submission guidelines. Thanks!~~Ed

Rogers' Ramblings, *continued from page 1*

I have an offer from Midge Farmer, and a couple of Bearlodge Writers who are also WW, Inc., members, to help sort the boxes, files, and binders of WW, Inc., material one day this winter. With several pairs of hands and eyes, and the experience we each bring to the sorting task, we should be able to bring some semblance of organization to the paperwork. Susan Vittitow thinks we should archive all newsletters to the web site, and digitize some of the other records, which could then be added to a repository on our web site. I think it's a great idea. If you have material destined for the WW, Inc. historian, please send it to me at Box 501, Sundance, WY, 82729-0501.

As always, feel free to email or call me with questions, concerns, ideas, suggestions, and solutions. jrogers@collinscom.net. Get outside: take a ramble through fallen leaves, perhaps one last hike along your favorite nature trail, and think on ways you, too, can help WW, Inc. serve its members.

Cool Tools

~~~~~By Susan Vittitow



Cool Tools: Big, hairy, audacious goal-setting

*"I'll do anything in the world that I can do to avoid writing. People have been asking, "When you gonna do your book? When you gonna do your book? Well, I tell you what, I have to clear my desk. I have to pick my nose. I have to get a cup of coffee. I gotta go to the bathroom. I gotta do this. I gotta do that. Maybe I should eat some trail mix, you know."*

*Mark Junge, in the spring 2005 Wyoming Library Roundup magazine*

I'm a lot like Mark Junge on this point. Between the day job and the household chores and the occasional walk to fight the desk-worker's spread, not to mention the never-ending home improvement projects – the man and I want to create a new TV show called "This @#%#@# Old House" – it can be hard to find the time and motivation to write. So this month's Cool Tools focuses on some free and fun goal-setting resources and sites that writers can use.

### **National Novel Writing Month - [www.nanowrimo.org/](http://www.nanowrimo.org/)**

Known affectionately as "NaNoWriMo," this is an annual writing challenge each November. It's not for the faint of heart: at 12:01 a.m. on Nov. 1, you will start out with no words (no cheating!) and by midnight on Nov. 30, you will have completed a 50,000-word novel. Quality is not required, nor is it likely under this kind of deadline. Why do it? If you think you have a book in you, but can never seem to get it written down, NaNoWriMo may provide the impetus to get at least something on paper. And, as Annie Lamott teaches, "shitty first drafts" are a very good first step. Alas, it's too late to participate this year, but put it on your calendar for 2009. And on Oct. 31, lay in a good supply of strong coffee.

### **43 things - [www.43things.com/](http://www.43things.com/)**

Listing your goals is an important first step to achieving them. 43 Things is a social networking site where you can post all the things you want to accomplish, connect with others who share their goals, cheer others on and get a few pats on the back yourself. The most-posted goal under Creativity and Expression is, not surprisingly, "write a book."

### **Remember the Milk - [www.rememberthemilk.com](http://www.rememberthemilk.com)**

I'm always losing paper "to-do" lists, so I have fallen in love with Remember the Milk. The site allows you to create online to-do lists for work, personal and study. Set three different priority levels to put your most important tasks to the top of the list, tag your list items so you can sort quickly all your "writing" to-dos, set deadlines and more. Since your list is online, you can access it anywhere you have Internet, not just from your home computer. *Continued on page 4*

**Google Calendar – [www.google.com/calendar](http://www.google.com/calendar)**

My other favorite way to organize my work day is Google Calendar, where I keep all my work tasks, appointments, family birthdays and deadlines. Among my favorite features is that I can set recurring events, such as a hair appt. every 6 weeks, my brother's birthday once a year -- or maybe writing time every Monday evening from 8-10 p.m. And if I'm goofing off playing Spider Solitaire at 7:50 p.m. on a Monday, a pop-up will come up on my screen to let me know it's time to put the virtual deck of cards away and get to work.

**Zen Habits - <http://zenhabits.net/>**

Zen Habits is a great blog with essays on productivity, goal-setting, motivation, organization and more. Zen Habits blogger Leo Babauta writes: "This blog is really about setting and achieving goals, and the numerous goals that I want to achieve. But I believe that goals — especially ones that are worth reaching — are ultimately achieved through the building of good habits. Do I want to complete a marathon? Then I must cultivate the habit of running 4-5 times a week." Great writing on this blog, thoughtful essays and always helpful advice.

*Have you found a cool tool online that you use to help your writing? Send it to Susan Vittitow at [svittitow@gmail.com](mailto:svittitow@gmail.com).*

## Executive Board Meeting Minutes Fall Meeting October 26, 2008

The Executive Board meeting of Wyoming Writers, Inc. (WWI) was called to order by President Jeanne Rogers on October 26, 2008 at 6 p.m. on the internet chat room, Chatzy. Signing in were Maureen Blake, Katie Smith, Susan Vittitow, Linda Vernon, Mary Hein, Linda Ruhle, Pat Forbis, Chris Williams, Megan Johnson, Phyllis Dugan, and Andi Hummel.

The minutes from the June 8, 2008 Executive Board and the June 7, 2008 WWI General Membership meetings were circulated via email prior to the fall board meeting by Katie Smith, secretary. President Rogers requested the minutes of the previous meetings be placed on file.

Maureen Blake, treasurer, presented a report that covered the organization's finances through June 30, 2008. Total revenues are \$17,811.04; and total expenditures are \$22,268.43. Since June 30, 2008 membership fees totaling \$940.00 were deposited and \$736.25 in expenses were incurred. There was a discussion concerning newsletter expenses for the year and it was determined the membership directory and conference brochure are included with newsletter expenses in the budget category, thereby explaining the increased charges for the newsletter questioned by Linda Vernon, the newsletter editor.

### Committee Reports

#### Bylaws Review Report by Pat Forbis

John Newcomb's review opinion was that the by-laws do not include enough language from the Wyoming Corporations Code and they do not include Standing Rules. President Rogers has received a copy of the recommended bylaw improvements from Pat Forbis. *Continued on page 4*

Do you make New Year's Resolutions??? Send your goofiest New Year stories to [lgvernon@aol.com](mailto:lgvernon@aol.com) or by mail to L. G. Vernon; PO

*Executive Board Meeting Minutes, continued from page 3*

**2009 Conference Report by Mary Hein**

Mary Hein has completed the contract with the hotel for the WWI conference and has arranged for assistance from the Natrona County Visitors Bureau.

**Contest and Anthology Report by Phyllis Dugan**

Phyllis Dugan wants to expand contest categories, lower entry fees, and obtain judges from other organizations to create new enthusiasm for the contest. Jeanne Rogers requested Phyllis Dugan collaborate with Nancy Ruskowsky to set the contest parameters and email a proposal to the board members for their review.

Susan Vittitow suggested creating a PDF of the anthology and make it available as a print on demand using Lulu.com. There would be no cost to Wyoming Writers. Susan Vittitow will work with Phyllis Dugan and Nancy Ruskowsky and send options for the Executive Board's consideration. The details of the anthology will be worked on by Susan Vittitow, Phyllis Dugan, Pat Forbis, and Nancy Ruskowsky.

**Membership Report by Linda Ruhle**

Linda Ruhle stated we need to determine what information/items the membership chairperson should send to new Wyoming Writer members. Linda Vernon noted it is imperative the newsletter editor get a current list from the treasurer of who has paid dues. Linda Vernon and Linda Ruhle will prepare a one-page document with pertinent information about Wyoming Writers for new members.

**Webmaster Report by Susan Vittitow**

The Website is working properly at present. Susan has set up a blog which is linked to the Wyoming Writer's Website. Maintenance plans for the Website will occur in the winter months ahead.

**Wyoming Writers Newsletter Report by Linda Vernon**

Linda Vernon stated the newsletter costs are \$100 dollars an issue which, for the past two months, includes printing and mailing. E-mail newsletters seem to be the preferred choice and Linda is mailing fewer than 100 print copies. The print costs are unrealistically low because Don Edmunds at Kinko's is giving WWI a 52% discount on all our print costs, which includes the conference brochure. Linda asks members submitting to the newsletter to please follow submission guidelines.

Organization Structure, Awards, Scholarship Fund, MPBA, and Publicity committees did not report for this meeting.

**New Business**

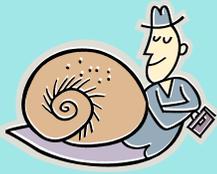
Executive Board members discussed the Wyoming Writers, Incorporated June 2009 Conference presenters. Consideration was given to one presenter for the entire conference and also to having individual presenters for the fiction, nonfiction, and poetry genres. Some panelists' names were discussed. President Rogers requested a list of three authors to contact for conference panelists for fiction, nonfiction, and poetry from all Executive Board members.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Katie Smith, Secretary



Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year from WW Inc.!



## News From A Broad

By L. G. Vernon



### *It Ain't Easy Being Mean*

I am a person of lists. I have writing lists, shopping lists, reminder lists, book lists, and I have mailing lists—lots of them. A couple of my mailing lists are related to our organization and our newsletter. Because our dues structure has changed and members now have the option of hard copy (snail mail) delivery of the newsletter, or electronic delivery via the Internet, I keep two lists—and I update them, thanks to Katie Smith and Maureen Blake, every month.

But I have a problem.

Let's take snail mail delivery first: Every month I get the members' database from Maureen Blake, our treasurer. From it, I build a list of those members who are to receive the newsletter via US Mail (I also build an email list, but more about that in a minute). From that list, I make mailing labels. When I get the printed newsletter back from the good folks at the local FedEx Kinkos, I apply a label and a first class stamp to each one and drop them into the mail. So you know, each copy of the newsletter that I produce, counting the printing, the labels and the stamps, costs about a buck each.

It used to be that every month I could count on getting between five and ten of those newsletters back from the post office as undeliverable because those members had moved and had not notified WW Inc. of their changes of address. Let's figure that as—'worst-case'—ten dollars an issue. That's a hundred dollars a year that WW Inc. loses because members fail to update their addresses. That is more than the average cost of one month's newsletter to EVERYONE on the hard copy mailing list.

Because of this cost, I have changed my mailing habits. If I receive a newsletter by return mail that does not have the member's new address on it, and only says 'forward expired' or 'not at this address', I feel that I have no alternative but to take that person off the mailing list. I have tried contacting members by phone and by email in this regard, and only a handful have ever responded to my requests for updates.

The same goes for email notification. It takes me several hours each month to get the electronic version of the newsletter ready to go. Then I write an engaging (I hope) email announcement and make about ten copies of it, putting only a few email addresses on each one to prevent AOL's spam filter from identifying me as a nefarious spammer and blocking my account, and then uploading these emails and sending them off into the ether.

Each month, I get between ten and twenty 'bounce-backs' from bad email addresses, email boxes that are full, or from Internet Service Providers (ISPs) who refuse the email and return it as spam because the member in question has not put my email address in their address book, online. In the past, I have attempted to recontact these members by phone, or I have sent them out a courtesy hard copy with a colored label on the front asking them to PLEASE update their email address with our organization. Again, I have received very, very few responses to my requests. So, I no longer attempt to make contact with people whose emails are no longer good, for whatever reason. Certainly, this problem, as long as I am not sending out newsletters, unlike the snail mail problem, costs the organization nothing, but it takes me hours that I simply do not have.

I really would like to ensure that each and every member of Wyoming Writers receives a newsletter, but I can only do so much. I urge you to keep your email addresses and home mailing addresses updated with Wyo-Writer.

## 2008 WW Inc Committee Chairs

### 2009 Conference Chair

*conference@wyowriters.org*

#### Mary Hein

846 S. Lincoln  
Casper WY 82601  
35th Annual Conference  
is June 3-5, 2009 in  
Casper, Wyo.

### Wyo-Writer Editor

*wyo-writer@wyowriters.org*

#### Linda G. Vernon

7800 La Paz Dr.  
Cheyenne WY 82009  
307-637-8651

### Anthology

*anthology@wyowriters.org*

#### Vacant

Contact "president AT  
wyowriters.org" to  
volunteer for this  
position.

### Emmie Mygatt

#### Memorial Scholarship

#### Fund

*scholarship AT wyowriters.org*

#### Nancy D. Wall

78 Fordham St.  
Pocatello ID 83201  
208-238-8079

*Scholarship covers conference  
fees. You do not have to be a  
WWI member to apply.*

### Adult Writing Contest

*contest@wyowriters.org*

#### Vacant

Contact "president AT  
wyowriters.org" to  
volunteer for this  
position.

### Awards

*awards@wyowriters.org*

#### Aaron Holst

1508 Hillpond Dr.  
Sheridan WY 82801  
307-674-5565

### MPBA

*mpba@wyowriters.org*

#### John Nesbitt

Eastern Wyoming College  
Torrington WY 82240  
307-532-8292  
307-532-2667

### Membership

*membership@wyowriters.org*

#### Linda Ruhle

692 West River Road  
Worland Wyoming 82401  
307-347-8327

### Parliamentarian

*parliamentarian@wyowriters.org*

#### Pat Forbis

1602 Hot Springs Ave.  
Cheyenne WY 82001  
209-526-6885

### Publicity

*publicity@wyowriters.org*

#### Nancy Ruskowsky

331 RD 6 RT  
Cody WY 82414  
307-587-3968

### Webmaster

*webmaster@wyowriters.org*

#### Susan Vittitov

3822 Dey Ave.  
Cheyenne WY 82001  
307-772-0733

### WYOMING WRITERS, INC. EXECUTIVE BOARD

#### President

*president@wyowriters.org*

#### Jeanne Rogers

PO Box 501  
Sundance WY 82729  
307-283-2125

#### Vice President

*vicepresident@wyowriters.org*

#### VACANT

#### Secretary

*secretary@wyowriters.org*

#### Katie Smith

13287 Hwy 59 North  
Gillette WY 82716-0000  
307-687-0131

#### Treasurer

*treasurer AT wyowriters.org*

#### Maureen Blake

204 Wyoming Ct  
Spearfish SD 57783-0000  
605-722-0338

### Member at Large - Region 1

*mal1@wyowriters.org*

#### Linda Ruhle

PO Box 855  
Worland WY 82401-0000  
307-347-8327  
Park, Big Horn, and Washakie  
Counties

### Member at Large - Region 2

*mal2@wyowriters.org*

#### Joey Sheeley

PO Box 547  
Dayton WY 82836-0000  
307-751-3951

**Serving:** Sheridan, Johnson,  
Campbell, Crook and Weston  
Counties

### Member at Large - Region 3

*mal3@wyowriters.org*

#### Bonnie Sargent

1514 Westridge Way  
Casper, WY 82604  
(307)237-3928  
**Serving:** Hot Springs, Fremont,  
Natrona Counties

### Member at Large - Region 4

*mal4@wyowriters.org*

#### Phyllis Dugan

P.O. Box 1017  
Thayne, WY 83127-1017  
307-883-3675  
**Serving:** Teton, Sublette, Lincoln,  
Uinta, Sweetwater, Carbon  
Counties

### Member at Large - Region 5

*mal5@wyowriters.org*

#### Mike Shay

5117 Townsend Place  
Cheyenne WY 82009  
307-634-8586  
**Serving:** Converse, Niobara,  
Platte, Goshen,  
Albany, Laramie Counties

### Past President (Ex-Officio)

*pastpresident@wyowriters.org*

#### Chris Williams

3229 NW Gumwood Ave.  
Corvallis, OR 97330  
541-602-0700

## 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.

AB Autobiography/biography

BE Business/economics

C Cookbooks

CS Contemporary social issues

F Fiction-books

FA Fantasy

H History

HU Humor

M Mysteries

MA Magazine articles

N Nonfiction-books

NP News articles

P Poetry

PR Publicity/press releases

R Romance

S Short stories

SF Science Fiction

SH Self-help

SM Science-Medical

T Textbooks

TE Technical

TH Thrillers

TR Travel

VP Visual Performing

arts

W Westerns

WY Wyoming

O Other writing

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

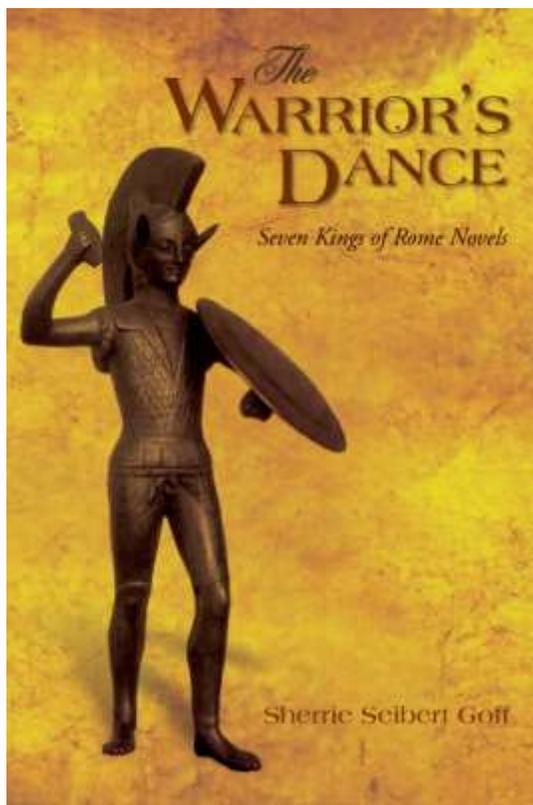
\_\_\_\_\_ Regular Member w/HARD-COPY newsletter \$35.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining Member \$75.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Patron Member \$250.00

Make Checks Payable to: Wyoming Writers, Inc

MAIL PMT TO:

Maureen Blake  
204 Wyoming Ct  
Spearfish, SD 57783**REMEMBER:**All memberships expire  
June 30th of each year,  
regardless of when you  
join

### From Wyoming Author Sherrie Seibert Goff~~~

I am writing to announce the release of my latest novel, *The Warrior's Dance*, a gripping account of Rome's third king, Tullus Hostilius, who is celebrated in history as the bellicose leader who destroyed Rome's mother city, Alba Longa. In this rich compelling look back at a time when history and myth intermingled, King Tullus is portrayed as a young demigod: impetuous, insolent, unhampered by scruples, and exposed to the temptations of tyranny.

Trouble begins during the waning days of elderly King Numa, when Tullus and his restless young partisans go about decrying a Rome grown weak. In the springtime of their lives, they ridicule the piety and peace forced upon them by a doddering ruler, and yearn to pursue the warrior's way. A new generation longs for action and glory, while fathers quake at the seditious talk of their sons.

*The Warrior's Dance* is told by those who lived the breathtaking adventure of King Tullus' ascent to power. Their fates perforce are caught up in their hero's triumphs and snared by his ruinous descent into superstition and brutality. When the balance tips too far, the gods will demand their due.

This book (ISBN: 978-0-595-48611-3) can be ordered from your favorite local bookseller, or from online bookstores like Amazon. My books are also available in e-book format. For more information, book particulars, reviews, and great links to historical fiction sites, visit my website at [www.SherrieGoff.com](http://www.SherrieGoff.com). Thank you for your continuing interest, and ...

"May you mark your day with a white stone!" (Read novel to understand this fond wish.)

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

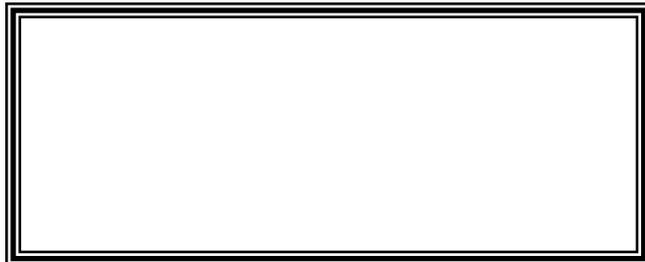
Address Correction Requested

*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!**