

Wyo-Writer

Official Newsletter of:
Wyoming Writers, Inc.



IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!
WYOMING WRITERS, INC. DUES ARE PAYABLE EACH JUNE!
Membership form on back page.

Volume 35 Number 5

MAY 2009



Rogers' Ramblings

By WW Inc. President Jeanne Rogers

In the Land of the ORC

Talking about the ins-and-outs of Wyoming Writers Inc.'s restructuring discussions is a little disconcerting. Who wants to show all the frogs (aka bad ideas) we had to consider to get our prince of a restructuring plan? As the poet Henry Taylor once said, "If at first you don't succeed, hide all evidence that you ever tried."

Your WWInc board and the Organizational Restructuring Committee (ORC, but *not* of *Lord of the Rings* fame) have been working to create some viable solutions for revamping our corporate structure—considering, discussing, weighing possibilities, discarding unworkable options—and there are some unused suggestions that may have to remain hidden.

Distillation is the purification or concentration of a substance, the obtaining of the essence or volatile properties contained in it. The principal goal of distillation is to obtain the volatile component in a pure form. For WWInc, the volatile constituent is the power of members working for a common goal, the emotional energy invested for a maximum return.

Your officers and the ORC have been investing time and energy trying to identify WWInc's major problems, and brainstorming alternate avenues of operation. (Although those living in an alternate universe haven't been as helpful as they might have been. ☺)

The Microsoft encyclopedia/dictionary program *Encarta* states about distillation: *In order to concentrate a 10 percent solution . . . to obtain a 50 percent solution, the distillate must be redistilled once or twice, and if industrial (95 percent) solution is desired, many redistillations are needed.*

If we want an industrial-strength organization, our distillation might take awhile. If we want WWInc to be 95% effective, change must take place. And we might not get it right with the first new route we choose.

Sublimation is another procedure used to refine or purify. *Encarta* states: *Sublimation does not differ from distillation in any important respect, except that special care must be taken to prevent the solid from clogging the apparatus.*

Let's not clog up the apparatus. If you feel there is a problem with WWInc, articulate your concerns, but also offer a solution or reasonable alternative.

Let's **do** distill and refine the basics of WWInc to create a beneficial organization, an organization upholding our original premise: a group of writers banding together for mutual help and inspiration, a group designed to encourage and promote interest in writing.

A working, manageable organization doesn't just happen. We must **trust** that with an investment of time, some imagination, and a certain amount of work, we will have a group worth claiming. I know with your help WWInc can move forward as a positive, enriching, worthwhile organization. Our collective knowledge is staggering; once we figure out how better to share what we each know (and the e-list may be part of the answer), WWInc will once again shine.

More from President Jeanne Rogers
Conference Mini-notes from your Prez

Nancy Ruskowsky (publicity chair), **Linda Vernon** (newsletter editor), **Pat Frolander** (treasurer), and I are working to create conference interest with the media outlets in Casper. Last year, two television stations conducted interviews with panelists, conference attendees, and WWInc officers at the conference hotel, which then aired on the local stations. Exciting stuff! We hope to replicate that experience this year.

Chuck Sambuchino wrote a special blog post about our 2009 conference; check it out at his blog: <http://www.guidetoliteraryagents.com/blog>. Again, Chuck will have five time slots on Saturday afternoon during Workshop Session II to meet with a conference attendee; five names will be drawn from a pool of those interested in having a one-on-one with Chuck.

Chuck says: *I sit down with writers for a short period and answer any questions they have on anything. They can practice pitch me. They can show me a query and I can give some super-quick notes. They can just tell me what they're working on and I can throw out general advice. Being a jack of all trades helps me when sitting down during a one-on-one.*

Check out Chuck's blog for more information on the knowledge and experience he will be bringing to our conference.

Several on-line blogs have good advice for writers preparing to pitch projects to agents. If you plan to submit your name to be drawn for one of the twenty one-on-one slots available with literary agent **Meredith Kaffel**, please do your homework and come as prepared as possible. Your due diligence in preparation ensures an optimum outcome, with the least amount of wasted time and energy.

Farewell

My time of service as President of WWInc draws to a close with our June 2009 conference. I have learned much, including how hard it is to be a leader with vision and energy and focus. Some of us may serve better in the trenches, getting dirty behind the scenes and helping others keep their plates in the air. We all know success requires different kinds of support to achieve, and I thank you for your patience while I figured out where some of my strengths might be better utilized.

Having said that, I am grateful for the time I spent as an officer; I've learned a lot by serving as Vice President and President of WWInc. Yes, at times it has been a lot of work, but with the restructuring options, hopefully, some of that will be alleviated for the next board. Of course, doing both prez and vp duties this last year compounded that problem for me—my year as prez would have been very manageable had I not taken on the duties of vice president again. (And that was by my choice.)

The pluses have, and will, far outweigh any negatives of serving as an officer of WWInc. I have the honor of listing "Past President of WWInc" on my writing resume, and I am now on a first-name basis with several agents, editors, publicists, other writers, and a biggie (at least for me!), poet Ted Kooser, all because of my service to WWInc. I have also learned a lot about me and what I can do well, and what hasn't been as successful. These are all a part of the immeasurable benefit of taking on an office for WWInc.

I would like to give special thanks to: **Linda Vernon**, our newsletter editor for four years, who has filled in and jumped in and made us look good. **Katie Smith**, who came on board as secretary during my presidency, knew about preparing agendas, meeting minutes, and how to conduct meetings, and made me look like I knew what I was doing. **Pat Frolander** came late to the 08-09 WWInc board as an interim treasurer, but with her experience as WyoPoets' treasurer, Cattlewomen president, and my friend, I knew she could offer wisdom and insight to our short-handed board. **Mary Hein**, two-times-in-a-row conference chair, is a lifesaver, and one so skilled, people don't even realize they've been pulled from the brink of the abyss. **Susan Vittitow** answered every question I ever asked her, and gave suggestions for things I didn't know to ask about. **Megan Johnson** never once gave a sigh of impatience when I floundered, just flashed her big smile and gave me a hand. I owe **Chris Williams**, whom I served as vice president, for stepping in and stepping up to help, as Past President, time and again. Thank you all so very much. *Continued on page three*

Farewell, *continued from page two*

Being a member of Wyoming Writers has given me wings. I remember going to the ARTCORE event in Casper several times early in my writing endeavors. Along with workshops, panels, and readings, attending ARTCORE also included their sponsored hors d'oeuvre party at the Casper College president's residence, where attendees could mingle with presenters (published authors!!). I went to one of my first parties with a friend, who was soon visiting with some people she knew, but I did not. Feeling self-conscious and unsure of myself, I tried to act like I fit in. **Midge Farmer** happened to be there, and when she saw me, she grabbed me up and treated me as an equal, as a writer who mattered. She found us a place to sit, visited with me, and introduced me to other writers.

Nancy Curtis has often done the same thing for me, including one memorable road trip to the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada; our traveling companions were a well-known poet and a Boston editor. Being the wonderful women they are, Midge and Nancy might have taken me under their wings even if I had not been a member of Wyoming Writers and WyoPoets. But because I was a fellow member, I mattered in a way I don't think I would have otherwise, almost as if I were a co-conspirator of some kind.

Maybe I was, with writing our bond.

Three writing groups mean the world to me, and they are all right here in Wyoming—**Bearlodge Writers (BLW)**, **Wyoming Writers**, and **WyoPoets**. So if I tend to sound like Chicken Little (or Henny Penny, depending on your version of the fable) believing the sky is falling around us (Help! Save Wyoming Writers!!), it comes from the place in my heart that needs these organizations to exist, and needs the people who make them what they are. People like **Lee Ann Siebken** and **Rose Hill** who encourage me with my poetry, who celebrate every poem that makes the cut for every WyoPoets' chapbook.

Gaydell Collier, a founding member of BLW and long-time member of WWInc, gave me a huge endorsement into the world of writing by letting me tag along at various conferences and workshops, meeting people I would not have met on my own. Many years ago she introduced me to **Mike and Kathy Gear**, whom I now count as friends; they, too, always make me feel a part of the larger writing community.

The Bearlodge Writers group is a writing oasis in a world of publishing craziness, a place where I am respected because I try, loved because who knows why, and a stronger writer because the group strength is beyond anything I can find on my own. The momentum of the group underscores and encourages the work of each individual writer, much like WWInc does for its members.

So now, many years later, *my* wings spread wide enough to embrace the fledgling writer who is self-conscious and unsure of herself. I want the WWInc experience to be there for the next new member, for the camaraderie among writers old *and* new to continue to embrace all of us, to encourage us, and to extol our achievements.

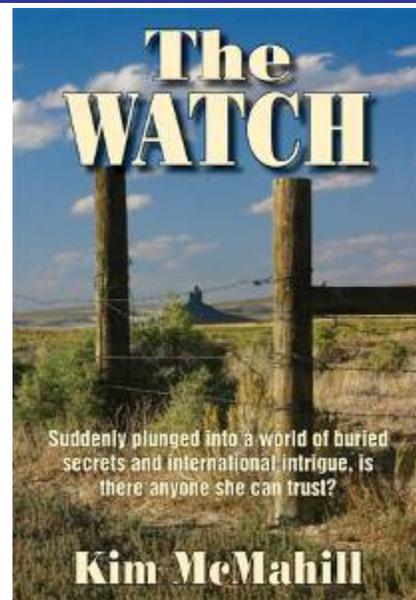
Thank you for allowing me to serve WWInc.

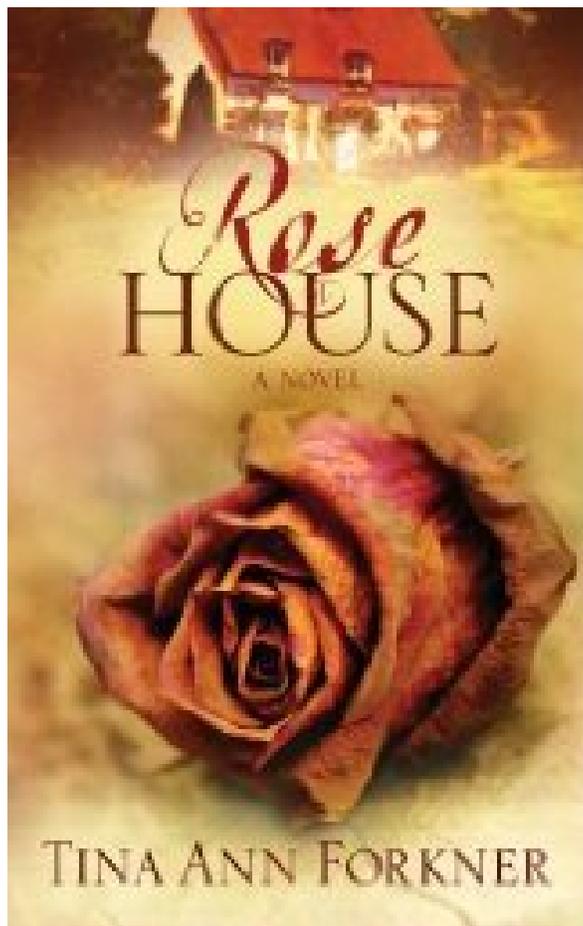
MEMBER NEWS

Announcing the release of **The Watch**, a romantic suspense novel by WW, Inc. member Kim McMahon.

A chance meeting on a remote Utah highway with Russian professor Dr. Alex Farberov, plunges Melissa Fey into a relationship she has been dreaming of for years. Melissa believes she's finally met her soul mate; however her best friend, the Immigration Service, and the FBI all have reasons to question Alex's motives for wanting to reside in the heart of Utah's military facilities. As secrets about Alex's past, a scheming college dean, and Melissa's embezzling brother begin to surface, the characters take desperate actions to protect themselves from the FBI and each other. Espionage, embezzlement, lies and love collide as Melissa, Alex and the others scramble to survive their crumbling worlds.

The Watch is available from the publisher at rockpublishing.com (James A. Rock & Company, Publishers), online bookstores like Amazon, or any bookstore can order from its usual sources.





~~~New, From Inspirational Author and  
WW Inc Member, Tina Ann Forkner~~~

### *Rose House*

*A vivid story of a private grief, a secret painting, and one woman's search for hope.*

Still mourning the loss of her family in a tragic accident, Lillian Diamon finds herself drawn back to the Rose House, a quiet cottage where four years earlier she had poured out her anguish among its fragrant blossoms.

Lillian is looking for something she can't quite name in La Rosaleda when she stumbles onto an unexpected discovery: displayed in the La Rosaleda Gallery is a painting that captures every detail of her most private moment of misery, from the sorrow etched across her face to the sandals on her feet.

What kind of artist would dare to intrude on such a personal scene, and how did he happen to witness Lillian's pain? As the mystery surrounding the portrait becomes entangled with the accident that claimed the lives of her husband and children, Lillian is forced to rethink her assumptions about what really happened that day.

A captivating novel rich with detail, *Rose House* explores how the brushstrokes of pain can illuminate the true beauty of life.

**And Even More Member News**~~~ Becky Hein ([rhein@vcn.com](mailto:rhein@vcn.com)) was recently featured as a guest speaker for Behind Our Eyes, a group of writers who are blind or have other disabilities. The topic was how to achieve creativity via the right brain, with special emphasis on saturation as a technique.

The Casper Journal published an extensive interview with Becky on Wednesday, April 22, 2009. One week later Becky was the featured guest on Books and Beyond, an internationally-aired radio talk show. These two media events centered on Becky's newsletter, Don't Remember This: The Art of Extemporaneous Learning.

[www.rebeccahein.com](http://www.rebeccahein.com)

author of A Case of Brilliance

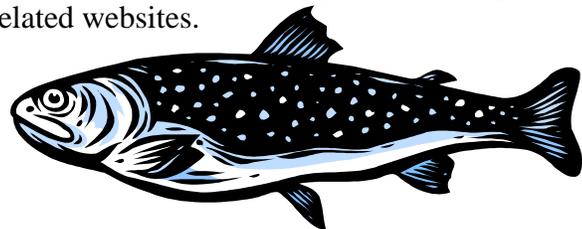
publisher of Don't Remember This: The Art of Extemporaneous Learning



**And More**~~!~~ Dear Linda, I debated about contacting you, not really sure this information is worth noting in the Wyoming Writers, Inc. newsletter. I am always impressed by the accolades and accomplishments of so many of the WWI members, particularly those who have the dedication and energy to produce a book.

I love fly fishing, writing, and outdoor photography - merging these passions into a focused effort has been a dream of mine since moving to Beulah, WY three years ago. Persistence paid off and in the last six months my freelance work has appeared in *Fly Tyer*, *Northwest Fly Fishing*, *Fly Fisher*, and *Hatches* magazines. In addition to repeat features in these magazines, articles will also appear in *The Orvis News* and *Wyoming Wildlife News* later this year. I have also explored electronic media and found opportunities to publish with an online magazine and write content for several fly fishing-related websites.

Freelancing for magazines lets me fit writing around a demanding day job and keeps a creative flame burning. Perhaps others in our group also freelance, making this tidbit relevant and, I hope, encouraging. Best regards, Russ Forney~~Beulah, WY



**Wyoming Writers, Incorporated**  
**Fall Board 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.

**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.

**Wyoming Writers, Incorporated**  
**Spring Board Meeting**  
**April 19, 2009**

The Executive Board meeting of Wyoming Writers, Inc was called to order by President Jeanne Rogers on April 19, 2009 at 6 p.m. on the internet chat room, Chatzy. Signing in- Connie Brewer, Nancy Curtis, Pat Frolander, Linda Ruhle, Linda Vernon, and Chris Williams.

The minutes from the October 26, 2008 Fall Board meeting did not get circulated via email prior to this meeting by Katie Smith, secretary. Katie was not in attendance and will provide minutes from the fall and spring board meetings following this meeting.

Pat Frolander, acting treasurer, presented financial reports generated in the short time frame she has served WWI. Account balances are as follows: \$6198.74 Checking Account; \$2030.54 Community Benefit Account; \$1510.79 Scholarship Fund; \$7500.00 Scholarship Certificate of Deposit-Restricted; \$11,436.73 Certificate of Deposit. No bills were presented for payment.

The secretary's report needs a quorum for approval, which this meeting did not have. The treasurer's report was filed for audit.

**Committee Reports**

President Rogers requested a report from every officer and committee chair-person allowing WWI leadership to have current information to base decisions on.

**2009 Conference**

Jeanne Rogers reported Mary Hein, conference chair person, has a well organized event planned in Casper. New conference attendee's needs and creative ideas were discussed. The 2010 conference is in Cody.

**WWI Newsletter**

Linda Vernon expressed her concerns with the current methods of collecting news-worthy information from the membership for the newsletter. She thinks a quarterly electronic publication with concessions for long-standing members who desire a hard copy should be considered. Jeanne Rogers suggested in the future a monthly basis e-mail to the membership could keep a tighter focus on WWI business and issues.

**Membership**

President Rogers thanked Linda Ruhle for creating a welcome e-mail for new members and suggested new member's name tags have an identification symbol for the annual conference. The recruiting tool of giving a gift membership for one year has had success in other organizations, Nancy Curtis stated.

**Organization Restructure**

President Rogers ask the organizational committee leadership to begin work and instructed the committee to create proposed options for restructuring WWI into a more manageable entity. Their solutions will be presented to the membership at the beginning of the annual conference. The committee is: Mike Shay, Chris Williams, Katie Smith, Gaydell Collier, Joe Megeath, John Beach, Megan Johnson, Phyllis Dugan, and Jeanne Rogers.

**Website**

President Rogers commended Connie Brewer for continuing the good work of Susan Vittitow on the website.

**Awards**

In March and April, 2009 newsletters the call for award nominations circulated. Nominees applications must be postmarked no later than April 30, 2009 reported President Rogers.

Contest and Anthology, Organization Restructure, Scholarship Fund, MPBA and Publicity committees did not report for this meeting.

**New Business**

The 2009-2010 possible officers' names and the newsletter editor positions were noted. No action was taken.

Meeting adjourned.

Katie Smith, Secretary.

**DON'T FORGET THE 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WYOMING WRITERS, INC.**  
**CONFERENCE, JUNE 5-7, 2009 AT THE RAMADA PLAZA RIVERSIDE,**  
**CASPER, WYOMING. FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US ONLINE AT:**  
**[HTTP://WWW.WYOWRITERS.ORG](http://www.wyowriters.org) YOU STILL HAVE TIME!!!**

# Wyoming Writers, Inc. 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Writers' Conference June 5-7, 2009

Ramada Plaza Riverside  
Casper, Wyoming



## *United States Poet Laureate (2004-2006) and Pulitzer Prize-winner Ted Kooser*



Nebraskan Ted Kooser is the author of eleven full-length collections of poetry. A professor of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, his works have appeared in periodicals including: *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The New Yorker*, *The Hudson Review*, *Poetry* and many others. In addition to the Pulitzer Prize for *Delights and Shadows*, he has also been awarded two NEA Fellowships, The Pushcart Prize, The Stanley Kunitz Prize, The James Boatwright Prize, and a Merit Award from the Nebraska Arts Council.

## *Writer's Digest Editor and Author Chuck Sambuchino*

By day an editor for *Writer's Digest Books*, Chuck Sambuchino is currently editing two annual resource books for writers: *Guide to Literary Agents* and *Screenwriter's & Playwright's Market*. He also assists in editing *Writer's Market*. Chuck is a former staffer of several newspapers winning awards from both the Kentucky Press Association and the Cincinnati Society of Professional Journalists.



## *Literary Agent Meredith Kaffel*

An agent with the Charlotte Sheedy Literary Agency in New York, Meredith represents a mix of children's and adult projects. She is interested in a broad range of fiction and non-fiction projects.



## *Crime Blogger Steve Huff*

Called '*the best true crime blogger on the English-speaking internet*', Steve has been acknowledged by best-selling author Ann Rule and many others. A commentator for MSNBC, HLN and CBS, Steve also edits the True Crime Report for Village Voice Media.



## *Doubleday Award-winning Author and Writing Coach Tina Welling*

Author of the novels *Fairy Tale Blues* and *Crybaby Ranch*, Tina has been on the faculty of the Jackson Hole Writers Conference for fifteen years. She has lived in Wyoming for thirty years and writes from her home in Jackson.

# 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

\_\_\_\_\_ journaling

\_\_\_\_\_ 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:**

Treasurer Pat Frolander

19652 US Hwy 14

Sundance, WY

82729-9213

**REMEMBER:**

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

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