

## January 2017 Edition



This Issue is Jammed Pack with Information to Help You Plan 2017

## January Nutz & Boltz

January 16,2017 at 6:00 P.M.

(Board Meeting at 5 P.M.)

At

TJC West Campus

ETWG is dedicated to the memories of : Pat Leonard and Kay Resnick, co-founders of the Golden Triangle Writers
Guild, Beaumont, Texas,
and Rita Gallagher, co-founder of Romance Writers of America, Houston, Texas. Countless writers owe their writing
successes to these fine ladies.

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#### 2017 ETWG Officers

ETWG App.

20

Founder—"K" Sellers
President—Linda Pirtle
Vice President—Nancy Larson
Recording Secretary—Brinda
Carey
Correspondence Sec—Pat
LaVigne
Treasurer—Marilyn Grounds

Ireasurer—Marilyn Grounds
Historian—Linda Nelson Ellis
TNC Editor—Janice Ernest
Membership—April Coker
Publicity—Lynn Pinkerton
WebSmith—Web Committee
Hospitality—Lorna Penland

#### **Conference Committee**

Linda Pirtle
Nancy Larson
Caleb Pirtle
April Coker
Roger Middleton
Sandra Clarke
"K" Sellers
Marvin Mayer
Lynn Pinkerton





# One Last Tap of the Gavel from President Roger Middleton

"I want to thank each of you for the opportunity to serve you as president of this great organization of extremely talented and diverse writers. It has been an honor to have been chosen, and then elected, as your president. I have greatly appreciated the support and help from each of you. It has been your contributions which have made this such a great and successful organization over the years.

"I have great confidence in our newly elected and re-elected officers. I am certain, because of your contributions and participation, ETWG will continue to be great for many more years to come. I will continue to participate in the organization and offer my support to the new officers. I will also be available to help each of you in any way I can.

## "Again, I thank you for the honor to have served as your president."

To those of you who might not be familiar, Roger Middleton has been the residing President of the East Texas Writers Guild for several years now. Under his leadership we have seen many positive changes occur within the Guild:

- Doubling in membership
- More people entering their work in contests
- An East Texas Writers Guild Anthology
- New Committees formed to make sure goals got carried out. During his term, the Hospitality, Membership, and Publicity committees grew and flourished.
- He saw the East Texas Writer's Guild Workshop become the East Texas Writers Guild Conference.
- With the input of Venture Galleries, he was the President who saw the start of a yearly competition called the International First Chapter Contest.

## The Next Chapter

- He participated, encouraged, and helped in the publication of several manuscripts.
- His ever faithful; emails have kept members in touch with industry news, and opportunities to share their writing.
- His technical knowledge saw us through the purchase of sound equipment, and on many occasions his technical knowledge made our programs more successful when the equipment handled by him worked well.
- He was a participant in the logo change for the Guild.
- He has checked on and prayer for several of our members in their times of need.
- He has given much to this organization.

#### Roger:

All of the members of the East Texas Writers Guild would like to thank you for the job well done.

As we end 2016 and embark on 2017 we want to maintain the integrity of the guild and uphold its goals of Support, Opportunity, and Education. With that in mind, our new Vice President, Nancy Larson has begun signing up interesting speakers for this new year.

Conference Committee Chairperson, April Coker is busy with her committee planning the annual conference in July 2017

Lynn Pinkerton is planning new strategies for marketing and informing the public about ETWG

Corresponding Secretary, Pat LaVigne, will continue to contact all members as needed.

Thanks to purchases at the auction, Lorna Penland and the Hospitality Committee will be able to provide snacks and refreshments with reimbursement for the upcoming year.

Secretary, Brinda Carey will continue to record the minutes of the Board of Directors and keep me informed between meetings of follow-up items so that ETWG may run smoothly.

Thank you to TNC Editor, Janice Ernest whose work on the newsletter has kept us informed and to



## **President's Perspective Continued from** page two

Nikki Brown and the Web Committee for keeping up our websites as well as the ETWG website and other social media.

And to Marvin Mayer, thank you for your many years of service as our ETWG Treasurer and your willingness to work with our new Treasurer, Marilyn Herrington-Grounds.

Roger Middleton, yours will be a hard act to follow but with the groundwork you have laid I look forward to 2017.

To all members of the ETWG, let's make this year the best one yet!

### Linda Pirtle, Incoming President 2017

## Marvin Mayer says, "Thanks for the Honor."



You have honored me by allowing me not only to be a part of this outstanding group of writers, but also trusting me to be the Guild's treasurer for more than eight years. Those honors were sufficient in and of themselves, but you also saw fit to compound

them by presenting me an absolutely beautiful plaque, inscribed as follows:

In Appreciation

To

Marvin Mayer

For 8 years of dedicated

Service as Treasurer of the

East Texas Writers Guild

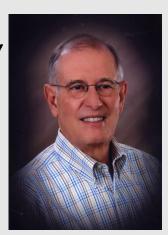
2016

## The Next Chapter

A simple "thank you" seems woefully inadequate as it does not convey to you the value I place on your friendship and for this expression of your acknowledgement of my small contribution to the Guild.

However, it's all I can offer! So, to all of my fellow writers who are members of East Texas Writers Guild, Thank You! I'm looking forward to many more years as a member of ETWG and hope to see all of you at meetings throughout the year.

Keep on writing! Marvin







## 2017 Officers Announced at December 12, 2016 ETWG Meeting

Retiring Board President, Roger Middleton passed the gavel on to the President to be for 2017, Linda Pirtle.





Nominations were made. Votes were taken via Survey Monkey. The 2017 Officers are as Follows:

Linda Pirtle, President
Nancy Larson, Vice President
Marilyn Herrington-Grounds, Treasurer
Brinda Carey, Secretary
Pat LaVigne, Correspondence Secretary
April Coker, Conference Committee Cha

April Coker, Conference Committee Chair and Membership Chair

Linda Nelson Ellis, Historian

Lyn Pinkerton, Publicity Chair

Nikki Brown, Web Chair

Lorna Penland, Hospitality Chair



Venture Galleries is proud to announce it is now AdVenture Galleries and is offering a variety of marketing services for authors and others.

## **Contests**

**Boulevard** is accepting entries for its annual short fiction contest for emerging writers. The winner will receive US \$1500 and have their story published in the magazine.

Boulevard is an American literary magazine established in 1985 and based at St. Louis University in Missouri. Boulevard aims to publish the finest in fiction, poetry and non-fiction and was described by Poet Laureate Daniel Hoffman as 'one of the half-dozen best literary journals'. The magazine has been edited throughout its history by Richard Burgin, a five-time Pushcart Prize winner.

Boulevard's Short Fiction Contest for Emerging Writers is only open people who have not yet published a book of fiction, poetry or creative nonfiction with a nationally distributed press. Stories may be up to 8000 words and must be previously unpublished.

The 2015 contest was won by Joshua Idaszak for his story 'The Last Laz of Krypton'.

An entry fee of \$16 is payable but all entrants will receive a one-year subscription to the magazine. The contest is open to writers around the world and entries may be submitted online or in hard copy.

## The Next Chapter

Entries for the Boulevard Short Fiction Contest for Emerging Writers close on **31 December 2016**. For full entry information and conditions visit theBoulevard website.

Between 1 October and 1 May, Boulevard also welcomes unsolicited submissions from both established and emerging writers. The minimum payment for prose is \$100, maximum \$300.

Check out <a href="http://writingcareer.com/call-for-">http://writingcareer.com/call-for-</a> anthology-submissions to see some great opportunities to write in different genres and submit to these listed anthologies.



## **Elements of A Story**



**Setting** is when and where the story is taking place.



**Setting** also includes things such as time period represented. In the above slide are some items you might not see in a medieval novel. They would be considered anachronistic, or out of their time.

Characters are important defining features in your story. Characterization reveals insight to the reader through what the character thinks, feels, knows, says, or does.

Your story should include **Conflict**. Conflict can be between two characters, which

is known as Character vs Character Conflict. It can be



between a character and nature such as a storm and survival. That would be known as Character vs. Nature conflict. Another type of conflict would be a Character vs. Society conflict in which a character is faced with a contradiction to the rules and standards under which he lives. Or a character can conflict within their own self. An example of this would be someone who must make a decision but is wavering. Should I or shouldn't I?

Last but not least, we look at **Plot**. Plot is shown on the grid below:



The parts of plot are:

- Exposition: Revealing of the Stories Setting and Characters
- (continued on page 10)

## ETWG Christmas Party a Success; Auction Raised Enough Money to be able to Reimburse Refreshment Providers for 2017.

The members of the East Texas Writer's Guild gathered on December 12, 2016 at the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce for their annual Christmas party.

All attendees brought a delicious food item and a gift.

The food was delicious and ranged from enchiladas to sandwiches, to desserts galore and even hot cherry apple cider.





During the mealtime, Janice Ernest, Auctioneer for the evening announced that everyone was allowed to go and shake the gifts, lift the gifts, even sniff the gifts, but no picking apart of the paper was allowed.

After dinner the auction began. Sight unseen, members bid on nicely wrapped packages with pretty bows. The packages were many different sizes with the smallest only 3 x 3 inches and the

largest, so large that it had a door wreath for a bow was approximately 4 x 5 feet in size.



The bidding began, and items were purchased. Linda Pirtle bought a heavy gift. When opened, it contained a beautiful glass Christmas tree shaped plate.

Linda Nelson Ellis bid and won some Godiva chocolates, several Christmas ornaments, and a collectible bottle of coca cola.

President Roger Middleton bid and managed to snag himself a size 48 waist fruit of the loom decorated underpants. On the front they said "Jiggle" and then that was scratched out and replaced by "Jingle all the way." Going up and down the fly the word,"Candy" was emblazoned in bold colors. And on the other side of the front was a picture of Santa winking. The pants were stuffed with nuts and candy along with a small stuffed Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer.

Although he was a bit surprised, that is what this auction is all



## December Nutz and Boltz Meeting In Review by Janice Ernest

There was no meeting held in December since the TJC campus location was on Christmas break. The next Nutz and Boltz meeting will be held on January 16, 2017 and will be at 6:00 P.M. at the TJC West Campus located off Loop 323 in Tyler, TX.

#### **Christmas Party Continued**

about—the mystique of what you bought. I have a feeling those pants will make another appearance next year. You never know.

Brinda Carey and her husband, Dennis managed to outbid others for a number of items.

Marvin Mayer's wife, Iris, got in on the bidding too.

Several of the men got into a bidding war over a small box. The winner was glad to ascertain that its contents were a collectable Star Wars watch.

Auctioneer Janice Ernest, held up a sturdy, leopard skin print box and started with a bid of her own for \$3.00, just because she liked the box. The bidding took off and a couple of dollars later, Pat LaVigne became the proud owner of the box and its contents. Everyone waited to see what she had bought. Pictured below is her reaction:







So, what was in the box? Well, you'll have to ask Pat to tell you about it, I wouldn't want to spoil her story.

It appeared that everyone enjoyed their purchases as they packed them up to head for home. There were Merry Christmas's all around. A good time was had by all.





## Taking a Look back at 2016

What an Amazing year East Texas Writers Guild has experienced.

We went from being an organization of approximately forty members to approximately eighty nine members.

Many of our authors were published and their books are now on Amazon and Kindle. Several of our members were published by traditional publishing firms.

We have seen the opening of a new service called Y&R Promotions whose goal is to help authors to market their books.

Speakers have run the gambit from Grammar to Marketing, Publishing to How to get those first few words down on paper.

This year has been the second year of the International First Chapter awards sponsored by ETWG and Venture Galleries and several of our authors placed.

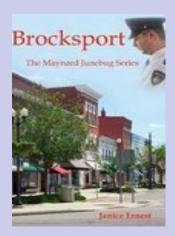
In October we shared scary stories by candlelight and at Christmas we ate great food, fellowshipped, and then held an auction to gain funds for the Guild.

I can't speak for anyone else, but I am looking forward to 2017. Join me and lets make great things happen this next year.

See ya at the meeting!

## Janice Ernest, TNC Editor







Janice Ernest, Author of *Brocksport USA*, & *Butterfly*.

She is the author of both novel length, and short fiction, as well as non-fiction and she has placed in both the 2015 and 2016 First International Chapter Awards, as well as, won multiple short fiction awards.

Her work has appeared in newspapers, magazines, and in this, The Next Chapter newsletter.

Topics on which she speaks:

- Author at Work—once an author you are always an author even in your off hours.
- Know Yourself—-Establish and Maintain Your Brand
- Critique Groups—Rules of and how to get started.
- Writing Resources
- Now You've Written it, Time to Revise it
- Other topics upon request.



Janice Ernest may be contacted at: Email: janiceernest1@gmail.com



### Elements of a Story Continued from pg. 6

- **Rising Action**: Presents the conflict and begins to build the action of the story
- The Climax or high point of the story is usually where the most tension is found and culmination of suspense is found.
- The **Decline** of the story is as the Climax begins to decompress and the loose ends start to be tied up. Events begin to come to a close.
- The **Resolution**, or ending where all loose ends are tied up.

Now that you know the elements of a story, get started writing. This information and much more can be found at <a href="https://youtu.be/VDmhl-SU5Yk">https://youtu.be/VDmhl-SU5Yk</a>

Click on the link above and find lots of good information about writing in easy bite size pieces.



**ary Speaker** is none other than ETWG Member Sharon

Thayer. Sharon 's background includes owning a daycare center, a ranch, and

then writing. Her main living is made from her writing.

How did she accomplish this? With a lot of hard work, trial and error and experience. This year her book sales will top the twenty thousand mark. Quite an accomplishment for an author-entrepreneur, don't you think? She is her own publisher, marketer, and business person.

In February she is going to share with us, lessons she has learned about planning, setting up and achieving goals.

You will want to bring a notepad and pen for this one. Not only is she an excellent speaker, and international award winning author, she is willing to share with you some of the secrets of her success and save you some of the pitfalls.

I hope to see you at this very important meeting.



Thank you Brinda Carey for Sharing
The information below with us at ETWG

For Writing Opportunities and Contests

Check out:

**Aerogramme Studios** 

## A Writing Challenge for You!



TNC needs Your 500 word or less Romantic Short Stories
Deadline for this is:
January 22, 2017
We are looking for great settings, super characterizations, and conflict with resolution
Email to:

janiceernest | @gmail.com
For instruct on how to submit
See Page | | 8 this issue.

## Like to Write about Animals?



Here's your Chance.

Janice Ernest is looking for short stories poetry, 8,000 words or less which include animals as a main part of the plot

For more information call, 903-521-4183.

#### Want to be In the News?

Have a poem, story, or writing hints you would like to share?

Send it by the deadline date on page 20 to: janiceernest1@gmail.com.

It could make it into the TNC.



## What are Your Plans for 2017?

## Book fairs and festivals in Texas:

Houston Authors Bash, TBA

Young Adult Keller Book Festival, Keller, Jan 28

Bookworm Festival, Houston, Jan 21

People's Poetry Fest, Corpus Christi, Feb 23-25

Teen Book Fest by the Bay, Corpus Christi, Feb 18

North Texas Teen Book Festival, Irving, March 3-4

Sin Fronteras Independent Book Festival, McAllen, March 4

Wildcatter Exchange, Fort Worth, TBA

Our Lady of the Lake University Literary Festival, San Antonio, TBA

Lone Star Les Fic Festival, Austin, April 1

Texas Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Alpine, Feb 24-25

## **Book Clubs in Texas**

## Texas Independent Bookstores

## Writers Workshops and Conferences

For all you aspiring and already published poets in our group here is a list of Texas Slams, storyteller events.

All of the great information above came from: www.texasbooklover.com

During the year keep checking back on these sites; you might just find the right events for you!



## Why Not Enter Your Book into One of These Contests in 2017

## **Chanticleer Book Reviews**

Fanstory.com—lots of contests, updated daily.

**Top 15 Children's Book Award Contests** 



**Poets and Writers Submission Deadlines for Contests** 

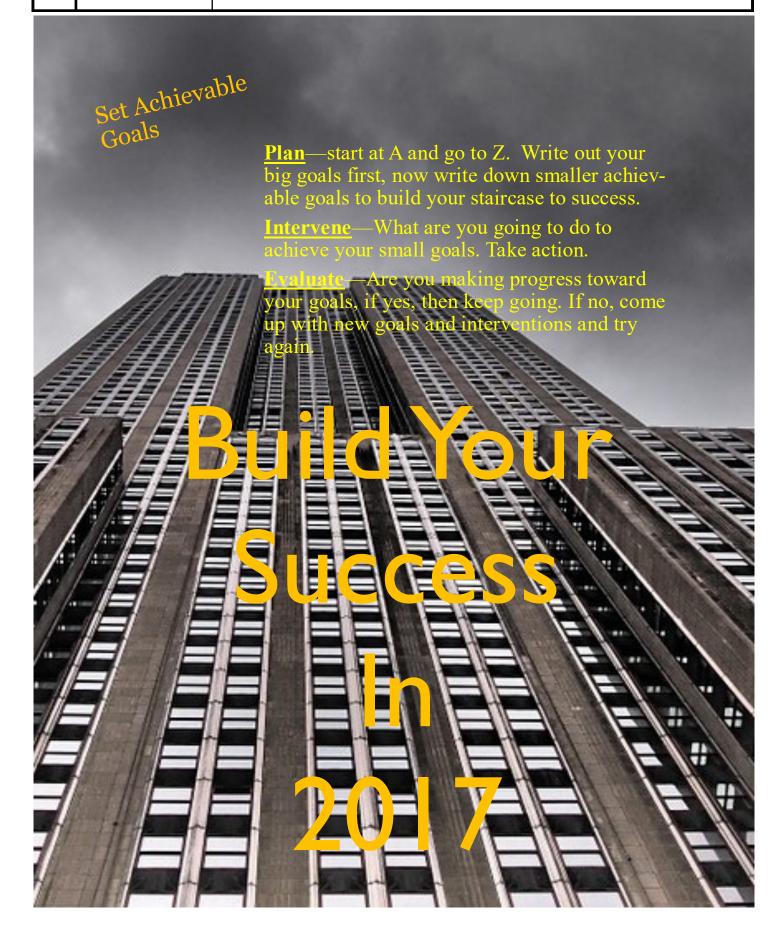
The above are just s few of the resources I found that might help you to set some goals for your writing and don't forget NANOWRIMO in November, it will help you exercise your writing muscles and get you on track to completing your next novel.



Keep Your Eyes and Ears Open This Year and Share With the Group any Upcoming Events, Workshops, or Opportunities. If you hear that one of our members is having a book launch, a signing, or an event, try to attend. If they are going to be on TV, make it a point to try and watch.

Also, Raise your right hand and repeat after me. "I (Your name) promise to read books by other members, write reviews, and share their good news of publication on my Facebook, Twitter, etc. If all of us work together we can create one heck of a great marketing team.







## The Fun Factory

How many science fiction writers does it take to change a light bulb?

Two, but it's actually the same person doing it. He went back in time and met himself in the doorway and then the first one sat on the other one's shoulder so that they were able to reach it. Then a major time paradox occurred and the entire room, light bulb, changer and all was blown out of existence.

\*\*\*

How many mystery writers does it take to change a light bulb?

Two. One to screw the bulb almost all the way in, and one to give a surprising twist at the end.

\*\*\*

How many screenwriters does it take to screw in a light bulb? Why does it \*have\* to be changed?

\*\*\*

How many cover blurb writers does it take to screw in a light bulb?

A VAST AND TEEMING HORDE STRETCHING FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA!!!!

\*\*\*

Did you hear the one about the pregnant woman who went into labor and began to yell, "Couldn't! Wouldn't! Shouldn't! Didn't! Can't!"?

She was having contractions.

\*\*\*

Q. What's the difference between publishers and terrorists?

A. You can negotiate with terrorists.

\*\*\*

How many screenwriters does it take to change a light bulb?

Answer: Ten.

1st draft. Hero changes light bulb.

**2nd draft**. Villain changes light bulb.

**3rd draft**. Hero stops villain from changing light bulb. Villain falls to death.

**4th draft**. Lose the light bulb.

**5th draft**. Light bulb back in. Fluorescent instead of tungsten.

**6th draft**. Villain breaks bulb, uses it to kill hero's mentor.

**7th draft**. Fluorescent not working. Back to tungsten.

**8th draft**. Hero forces villain to eat light bulb.

**9th draft**. Hero laments loss of light bulb. Doesn't change it.

10th draft. Hero changes light bulb.

Never Stop Learning!
Check out TJC's Great Continuing
Education Courses. Just Click on the
catalog below to learn more.



## The Fun Factory



There was once a young man who, in his youth, professed his desire to become a great writer.

When asked to define "Great" he said, "I want to write stuff that the whole world will read, stuff that people will react to on a truly emotional level, stuff that will make them scream, cry, howl in pain and anger!"

He now works for Microsoft, writing error messages.

A writer died and was given the option of going to heaven or hell.

She decided to check out each place first. As the writer descended into the fiery pits, she saw row upon row of writers chained to their desks in a steaming sweatshop. As they worked, they were repeatedly whipped with thorny lashes.

"Oh my," said the writer. "Let me see heaven now."

A few moments later, as she ascended into heaven, she saw rows of writers, chained to their desks in a steaming sweatshop. As they worked, they, too, were whipped with thorny lashes.

"Wait a minute," said the writer. "This is just as bad as hell!"

"Oh no, it's not," replied an unseen voice. "Here, your work gets published."

A hungry African lion came across two men. One was sitting under a tree and reading a book; the other was typing away on his typewriter. The lion pounced on the man reading the book and devoured him. Even the king of the jungle knows that readers digest and writers cramp.



## **Announcements**

Tyler Today Magazine, a high quality bi-monthly publication dedicated to Tyler and East Texas, initiated a new section titled "Authors Among Us". The magazine invites local authors (including all of East Texas) to send in brief articles about a book they have written. The book needs to relate to one of the items featured in the magazine. I am honored and flattered to be the second such local author featured in the current (August/September) issue.

Among this issue's articles/topics of interest is the upcoming Texas Rose Festival. Since my children's picture book, *The Queen's Tea*, was a perfect "fit" for that theme, I was invited to submit the article you can find on Page 37.



In the October/November Issue, Tyler's medical community will be featured. Jennifer Gaston, editor of *Tyler Today Magazine*, is seeking authors whose work (books) would complement the medical field in a way similar to how my book "meshed" with the Texas Rose Festival theme. If you have such a published book, or if you know someone from Tyler/East Texas who does, and if you/they want the added exposure of appearing in this wonderful magazine, please contact Mrs. Gaston. Her e-mail address is jennifer@tylertoday.com. Your work does not have to be directed toward children. What's more, additional features will be included in the next issue, so even if you know of nothing to offer relating to health and medical, perhaps you have (or know of) a book dealing with or related to the Junior Leagues annual Mistletoe & Magic event, law enforcement, or buying a new car. Medical, Mistletoe &

Magic, a salute to Law Enforcement, and a guide to buying a new car are four areas to be featured in the October/November issue. In the December/January issue, features will focus on the Tyler Heart Ball, Philanthropy, Retirement, and Weddings. February/March topics include the Women's Symphony League, our own Azalea Trail and Spring Flower Festival, [personal] Finance, and Home Improvement April/May issue will shine the spotlight on the UT-Tyler Patriot Golf Classic, the Legal community, and Summer activities Other than free exposure and a few copies of the issue in which your article would appear, there is no compensation. For me, the exposure was compensation enough! If you want that type of publicity, I urge you to contact Ms. Gaston and discuss your book and how it might be a good match for one of the themes in a future issue.

Marvin S. Mayer, Children's Author

msm@kidsbooksbymarvin.com

903-707-1616



This link will take you to information about how to professionally Format your manuscript entries. Realize though, that you must always read the publisher's or contest holder's rules for specific instruction as to how to format. This example is a general one, but can be quite helpful when entering your work. Proper

Manuscript Format: Short Story Format



## \*=

## Submission Deadlines for the TNC in 2017

**January 2017** December 15, 2016

**February 2017** January 13, 2017

**March 2017** February 17, 2017

**April 2017** March 17, 2017

**May 2017** April 14, 2017

**June 2017** May 12, 2017

**July 2017** June 16, 2017

**August 2017** July 14, 2017

**September 2017** August 18, 2017

October 2017 September 15, 2017

**November 2017** October 13, 2017

**December 2017** November 17, 2017

**January 2018** December 15, 2017

East Texas Writers Guild Conference TBA

## East Texas Writers' Guild P.O. Box 10074 Tyler TX 75711

etwgmembers@hotmail.com

## TNC Submission Guidelines and deadlines

All submitted data must be received by the last Monday of the month prior to the month in which art/ad/etc. will appear.

- Length —up to 500 words.
- Format—single space, indent paragraphs 0.3,
- Fonts—12 pt. Times New Roman
- Photos—jpeg with caption instructions
- Send to : etwgmembers@hotmail.com

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| Areas of writing interest: (mark all that apply)  Fiction: Fantasy | Regular Membership: Married Couple Membership: Student Membership: Send completed form along w Treasure PO Box 10074, Ty Register and Pay On Line a | \$18.00  |
|--|---|----------|
| Poetry  Screen Play  Other:  | Office Use Only:  Date Joined: Amt. Pd: \$  |          |
| Dublished Assistant D  | Cash:   | Check #: |