



The Quill

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FROM THE EDITOR: So you attended the 2008 (or really wanted to) ... now what?

As you've probably heard, either from a chapter meeting, *The Quill* or just a writers' grapevine, this year's conference was the biggest one yet for SCWW. And, as you've probably heard, I've been given the enormous honor (and task) of keeping that success train going into 2009.

From Our President

Here's an update on many exciting things happening in the South Carolina Writers Workshop, from the desk of the 2008 president, Cynthia Hodell Dyer.

SCWW Board of Directions Elections Report

President **Cynthia Dyer** received five nominees for the SCWW 2009 Board of Directors. Because the Board anticipated five open seats in 2009, no ballot was sent to the membership. Instead, at its November 15 meeting in Lexington, the 2008 Board unanimously voted to confirm the five nominees as the five new directors for 2009. Three of the five are returning directors, while two are new to the Board. Welcome, all!

Kevin Coyle of Simpsonville (Greenville Chapter) has served on the SCWW Board of Directors for two years, twice as editor of *The Petigru Review* and once as SCWW vice

But enough about me, let's talk about you, the SCWW member. Many of you attended the conference this year and left full of contacts, conference food and candid conversations. You're feeling a hunger for more. But you don't want to just attend again next year, you want to be a part of the conference. How can you take that next step?

Or, maybe you couldn't attend this year, but still have a yearning to be a bigger part of SCWW and the annual conference.

Well, there are several ways to help. There are different pieces of the conference pie, so to speak. It depends on your gifts and the amount of time you're willing to donate to SCWW. The first step is to send an e-mail to carriemccullough@bellsouth.net. Let me know that you're interested in helping with the conference. Tell me a little bit about what type of things you'd like to assist with, what your natural talents are. Do you have a knack for answering questions over the phone or via e-mail? Are you extremely organized and love to see the big picture via Excel sheets? Do you do well with following up on loose ends?

At this moment, the biggest openings I'm filling are that of conference co-chairs. In the coming weeks, I'll be seeking volunteers to help throughout the year, not just during the conference weekend.

If any of this sounds like a perfect fit for you, remember to send an e-mail to carriemccullough@bellsouth.net!

president. When he's not writing, he spends his time practicing law and acting in film and television.

Kathryn Eppers Lovatt (Camden Chapter) won the 2008 Carrie McCray Memorial Literary Award for Short Fiction. In 2007 she was nominated for a Pushcart Prize by the editors of SCWW's literary journal, *The Petigru Review*. Kathryn is a past winner of the Robert Ruark Award for short fiction and North Carolina Writers' Network's Doris Betts Prize. Her work has appeared in a number of journals and anthologies. She holds a Masters from the Hollins Writing Program and has taught creative writing in the United States; in Jakarta, Indonesia; and in Hong Kong. In 2007, she served the SCWW Board as Fund-Raising Chair; in 2008, as Treasurer.

Jim McFarlane (Greenville Chapter) lives in Greer, where he creates computer applications for a manufacturing company that has undergone five name changes in his thirty years of employment, including American, German and Japanese ownership. During his two years on the Board, Jim has served as Membership Chairman and has probably sent you a welcome-to-SCWW e-mail or a dues reminder. Jim has been an SCWW member for about five years and writes historical fiction. His goal is to someday autograph copies of his novel at his daughter's bookstore in Greenville.

Vikki Perry of Elgin (Columbia II) is a graduate of Clemson University and a lifetime writer. She is also a member of the Charlotte chapter of The Romance Writers of America. As a member of SCWW, Vikki designed and established a blog where members of her chapter post short articles on writing. In addition, she set up a "Google Group" where members of Columbia II are able to discuss writing and post information about news and events. In November 2008, Vikki will serve as Co-Municipal Liaison of the National Novel Writing Month in Columbia. As Co-Municipal Liaison, she is helping organize a "Plotting Bash," a "Noveling 101" class, a "Creativity Kicker," and other National Novel Writing Month Events in Columbia. Vikki believes current technology and the Internet can, and should, be used to enhance the writing experience. Her experience with SCWW, the National Novel Writing Month, and RWA show that she will bring fresh ideas to the SCWW board. She focuses on ways writers can connect, whether through technology or face-to-face events.



Just a few of the valuable 2008 volunteers

I was surprised to learn how many folks aren't receiving *The Quill* each month! If you're a chapter leader, please find the folks who aren't receiving it and send a list, including the member names and e-mail addresses, to thequill@myscww.org.

Contests Return to *The Quill*

To take advantage of the energy and enthusiasm generated at the 2008 SCWW Annual Conference, *Quill* Editor Carrie McCullough and Contest Chair Kim Blum-Hyclak are pleased to announce the rebirth of the *Quill* Contest.

Contests will be announced quarterly and be comprised of three categories:

- poetry . . . up to 40 lines
- short fiction . . . up to 1500 words
- nonfiction . . . up to 1500 words

The same theme will be used for each category and members can enter one piece, but only one, in each.

Entries must be works not submitted in any other contest. Winners in a category may not submit in the same category for the following contest.

First place winners will receive a prize valued at \$20 and the entries will be published in *The Quill*.

So be watching! The first contest theme will be announced in the December *Quill*!

Lateia Elam Sandifer (Irmo/Chapin Chapter) is a native of Western North Carolina and grew up on a farm that has belonged to her family for more than two hundred years. She has a B.S. from Clemson University in Horticulture. She lives on the South Edisto River in Barnwell County with her family. She writes both contemporary romance and upmarket fiction. When she's not writing, she serves as the education coordinator for the Bamberg County Soil and Water Conservation District, where she creates and performs programs on environmental conservation for children. She enjoys vegetable gardening, canning and anything that involves the outdoors. A voracious reader, Lateia's favorite authors include Anne Tyler, Robert Morgan, Neil Gaiman and guilty pleasures like Bertrice Small and Diana Gabaldon. She looks forward to serving on the Board, where she hopes she can further the mission of SCWW by helping writers improve their skills, meet and connect with other writers, and achieve their personal goals in the publishing world.

Highlights of November Board Meeting

Carrie McCullough, the chairperson on the 2009 SCWW writers conference, gave her first report in that capacity at the November 15 SCWW Board meeting in Lexington. Planning for SCWW's 19th annual conference is well under way. The Board voted to change the conference chair's title to Vice President – Conference Chair, making the holder of this key position a member of the Executive Committee.

Because use of the Internet has become pervasive among writers, the Board voted to stop printing SCWW membership brochures and the expensive conference brochures. All information about membership and the conference is posted on handsome, professionally constructed pages on the SCWW Web site, www.myscww.org. For interested parties who don't have access to the Internet, copies of our web pages will be printed and mailed. Instead of the traditional brochures, the Board is considering using bookmarks and flyers to promote the annual conference and SCWW membership.

In addition to larger attendance (400) at our writers conference, in 2008 SCWW saw a growth in membership (well over 500), the addition of four new chapters (Beaufort, Florence, Seneca and Savannah, Ga.), and

In the meanwhile, here's another contest ...

Crazyhorse, a literary magazine that publishes fiction, poetry, and essays, announces its annual fiction and poetry prize. The fiction and poetry prizes are \$2,000 each.

Here are the official rules for entering:

Online entry & postmark deadline: December 15, 2008
Enter your manuscript online at <http://crazyhorse.cofc.edu> or mail in to Fiction Prize/Poetry Prize, Crazyhorse, Department of English, College of Charleston, 66 George Street, Charleston, SC 29424.

Enter your manuscript online at <http://crazyhorse.cofc.edu> (click "Fiction and Poetry Prize" link for full instructions), or enter by mailing in your paper manuscript of up to twenty-five pages fiction or up to three poems (10 pp. poetry max). More than one manuscript may be entered. Each fiction and/or poetry manuscript entered must include a reading fee of \$16 per manuscript for new entrants, \$14 if you have entered before.

A one-year/two-issue subscription to Crazyhorse is included with each entry; your subscription will extend by one year per each additional entry. If mailing, include a cover page with your name, address, e-mail, and telephone number with your manuscript. Do not include identifying information on the manuscript, as entries are read anonymously by judges.

Entries accepted Sept. 1 to Dec. 15, 2008. Payment options: U.S. check or money order to "Crazyhorse." Visa, Mastercard, Amex: supply card number, name as it appears on card, expiration date, and the phone number and the ZIP code associated with your card billing. Charge on card statement will be "College of Charleston."

All manuscripts must be original and previously unpublished; all are considered for publication. Winners announced by April 30, 2009.

Entry manuscripts can not be returned by SASE. Include e-mail address or letter-sized SASE for notification of winners.

three successful free local workshops offered by chapters (Rock Hill, Greenville and Charleston). Our literary journal, *The Petigru Review*, grew in number and quality of submissions as well as number printed, and has already prompted more book signings this year. And our three contests (the conference-tied Carry McCray Memorial Literary Awards, the annual SCWW High School Junior and Senior Writing Contest, and the returning-by-popular-demand *Quill* writing contests) are a source of great pride for our organization.

Finally, and very importantly, because of careful planning at the beginning of 2008 and wise stewardship throughout the year, we are proud and satisfied to close this year in the black. As of the November 15, 2008, Board meeting, our balance on hand was \$4,198, and we anticipate receipt of a grant from the South Carolina Arts Commission. Congratulations, SCWW, on another successful year!

Chapter Chatter

Columbia II

The National Novel Writing Month event has four Columbia writers grinding out words. To successfully complete the program, **Vikki Perry, Lisa Lopez Snyder, Janie Kronk, and Meredith Kaiser** have until November 30 to produce a 50,000 word manuscript.

Good news from the SCWW Conference. Lisa had a successful meeting with an agent who asked to see more pages of her novel. Irene Goodman asked to see sample chapters of **Bonnie Stanard's** manuscript. For more comments on the Conference, see the Columbia II blog at

<http://columbiawritersworkshop.blogspot.com>.

Other November blog topics are a review of Writers Relief by **Bonnie Stanard** and an interview of author Kalayna Price by **Vikki Perry. Ginny Padgett** will write on writer's block.

Brian Butler's short story, "In The Face of a Miracle," received Honorable Mention in the 77th Annual *Writer's Digest* Short Story Contest, placing ahead of over 17,000 other entries. Columbia II is celebrating with Brian. It was a big win, even if not first place, for his manuscript placed in the top 1 percent of all submissions. Only the top three winners will be published, so Brian will continue to pursue publication elsewhere. He has yet to hear from submissions

to *Glimmertrain*, Writers of the Future, and the Tom Howard/John Reid short story contests.

Laura Valtorta's book *Social Security Disability Practice* is scheduled for release in January 2009 by Knowles Publishing. Laura's book is both a guide for lawyers beginning a disability practice and a reference for those already specializing in Social Security. It is also written for family court practitioners and worker's compensation attorneys, especially as they deal with Social Security benefits. Her book is available in hard copy with a CD-ROM from Knowles Publishing www.knowlespublishing.com. See more about Laura at valtortalaw.com and tennisphile.com.

Myrtle Beach

Su Kopil, sold her short story, *The Light Keeper*, to *That's Life!*, a national woman's magazine in Australia.

Are You a Chapter and Don't Know It?

Jim McFarlane, membership chairman, and Bob Strother, chapter liaison, tell us why chapters are so vital to members and SCWW.

By happenstance at the conference, we learned two groups of SCWW members held regular critique sessions. At our urging, they agreed to identify themselves as the Savannah, Ga., and the Seneca, S.C., chapters. Why not? They were already dues-paying SCWW members.

Here are the advantages of being a chapter:

1. When new members join SCWW, the Membership Chairman alerts both the new member and the chapter leader to each other's presence.
2. SCWW lists the time, place and leader of the chapter meetings on the website.
3. SCWW maintains the membership list and will make names and e-mail addresses available to the chapter leader as needed.
4. *The Quill* Editor is happy to publicize chapter events.
5. SCWW provides money for chapters to host seminars (often by local authors) that are open to the public.

What's it take to be a chapter? Five or more members who meet regularly, a chapter leader (or contact person) and a time and place. Oh, yeah, and tell us about it.

Conference 2008 Wrap-up

*Here are a few parting words from the 2008 Conference Chair **Susan Boyer**:*

Wow! What a ride. This year's conference was awesome, and we're thrilled so many of you could be there to share in the fun, education, and opportunities. Four hundred attendees and more than a hundred spouses or guests joined a faculty of thirteen literary agents, fourteen editors/publishers, eight authors, two poets, a publicist and a technology guru for a weekend packed with information on the craft of writing and the publishing industry.

A whopping ninety-four of you reported in the survey that an agent or editor asked to see your work (or more of your work) during or as a result of the conference. Congratulations and best of luck to each of you!

One of the weekend's highlights was the tribute paid to **Carrie McCray**, one of our founding members, who passed away this year. Her sister, Rosemary, and her granddaughter Kimberly Abbott were on hand while South Carolina's poet laureate, **Marjory Wentworth**, spoke in honor of Carrie just prior to the Carrie McCray Memorial Literary Awards.

Of course, **Michael Connelly** was not only a great keynote speaker, but was very gracious and approachable. He and his entire team fielded questions in a panel discussion just before the book signing on Saturday.

The Slush Fests were a big hit again this year despite less-than-ideal acoustics in the meeting rooms where they were held. At least sixteen manuscripts were requested as a result of a Slush-Fest. We'll continue to refine the process for future conferences, but the concept seems to be a keeper.

For the second year, we offered Genre Connections and Chapter Connections sessions. While these did not appear to be as well attended as we'd hoped, an overwhelming majority of those who responded to the survey (372 members completed their surveys) said we should keep offering those sessions at the conference.

For the second straight year, the weather on Friday evening forced us to move the welcome reception inside. Inside the new Palisades

Conference Center is really nice, though, and aside from having to start dinner a little early (as we were already gathered and seated, with no need to wait while the lot of us walked from the pool deck and found our places), things came off quite well.

Thirty faculty members have responded to their surveys, and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

For those of you interested in the financial side of things, our treasurer **Kathryn Lovatt** budgeted that we would have a net income of \$10,000 from the conference. We came in just under that, at around \$9,300. With all the curve balls we were thrown this year -- rising gas prices (which drove airline tickets and other items up as well), rising food prices, etc., the board of directors feels really good about our position. As always, conference proceeds fund other SCWW programs and provide the organization with start-up money for next year's conference.

Thanks to all the conference volunteers and proctors for helping make this year a resounding success.

Stay tuned for information on the 2009 conference, for which planning is already underway. Save the dates -- October 23-25, 2009!

New Petrigru Sponsors

As The Page Turns

5000 Old Buncombe Road
Greenville, SC 29617
(864) 294-0122

Bookends

753 Main Street
North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582
(843) 280-2444

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This project was funded by the South Carolina Arts Commission which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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