



The Write Way

February 2019

www.highlandlakeswritersclub.com

HLWC Meeting **This Coming Wednesday, February 20, 2019**

6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

*(Regular meeting date/time in 2019:
third Wednesday of each month)*

Marble Falls Public Library

101 Main Street
Marble Falls, TX 78654

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***On February 20, we'll revisit the results of a recent survey
of club members' interests and priorities,
discussed at our meeting on January 16, 2019,
and we'll hear Executive Committee recommendations
for addressing the areas of greatest concern.***

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*As in 2018, the club will hold monthly meetings at the Marble Falls Public Library
on the **third Wednesday** of each month, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.*

*The critique group will continue meeting at Grand Bank in Marble Falls
on the **second and fourth Tuesdays** of each month, 1:30 – 4:00 p.m.*

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Minutes of Previous Meeting of Highland Lakes Writers' Club ***Third Wednesday evening, January 16, 2019***

Highland Lakes Writers' Club met Wednesday, January 16, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. at the Marble Falls Public Library. Attending were Julian Chitta, Wayne Hawley, Stephen Lay, Kay Lee, Gene Lyng, Fran McRedmond, Allen Olson, Ray Whelan, and Mary Anne and Terry Wright.

Welcome and Introductions

President Wayne Hawley called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. There were no visitors to be introduced.

Brag

On behalf of former member Judith Williams, Wayne shared with members a **significant** brag: Judith's first historical novel has now been published by Amazon! It is titled *Those Who Went Before: Mary's Story, 1628-1676* — Kindle Edition, by Jude A. Williams, Fiction Kindle eBooks @ Amazon.com. Judith will also have a mystery coming out next month. Congratulations, Judith, on your well-deserved success after many years of thorough and diligent research!

Reports

Secretary's Minutes

No formal minutes were taken at the December 8 Read-Around/party, as it was primarily a social occasion and little if any club business was discussed.

Treasurer's Report

Gene reported a balance on hand of \$566.99: \$523.16 in the checking account at Grand Bank and \$43.83 in petty cash. As of January 16, six members had paid their dues for 2019. Also see "New Business," below, regarding dues.

Club Business and Announcements

OLD Business

1 — Concern for Members

Wayne passed along concern on Judith's part for (1) Margery and Carl Higdon and (2) Julian Chitta. For a time, Judith was unable to get in touch with Margery either by phone or by e-mail. (*Update:* The club learned a few days later that Margery's contact information has changed; all is well. Also, Julian's home in Kingsland withstood the October flooding better than some, although rebuilding efforts continue city-wide.)

Judith's son Jim recently had serious surgery for a tumor affecting his stomach, liver, spleen, and gallbladder. He is now doing better.

2 — Survey of Members' Interests and Priorities, Fall 2018, Mary Anne Wright

Mary Anne's analysis of survey results was e-mailed to members a few days before the meeting on January 16. That evening, she reiterated that 11 active or former members had responded to the survey, although questions were mailed to 34 individuals, many of them by now *inactive*. Mary Anne observed, "Apathy abounds."

She also made clear that there was **no** “editorializing” in her analysis, which included quotations, some of them lengthy, from various members explaining their answers. Kay corroborated this statement, acknowledging one of the lengthy quotes as her own, reproduced verbatim.

There were several areas of general agreement if not unanimity. All 11 respondents listed “To improve my writing” as their reason for joining HLWC. Almost without exception, these respondents favored programs (some long, ~45 minutes, perhaps given by outside speakers) and briefer presentations (~10-15 minutes) at monthly meetings.

Most respondents wanted further discussion of “feedback” at monthly meetings (as opposed to more detailed “critique,” which time constraints in all likelihood preclude). There were, in addition, other suggestions for making monthly meetings more appealing to members — for example, an “Ask-It Basket” for writing-related questions and answers.

With regard to the feedback issue, Fran asked if members should *not* comment on pieces read on Wednesday evenings; she had come that evening hoping to hear opinions on her readings. Allen responded that, in his view, it should be *up to the reader* whether feedback is desired and, if so, what *type* of feedback. Most members agreed with Allen.

After some discussion, Stephen moved that the Executive Committee meet before the next monthly meeting on February 20 and bring recommendations to the club regarding (1) programs/presentations, (2) feedback at monthly meetings, and (3) refreshments at monthly meetings. Mary Anne seconded the motion, which a majority seemed to favor (although it wasn’t clear whether a formal vote was taken).

NEW Business

1 — Ray Whelan’s Plays

Members were reminded that three plays directed by Ray would be performed at the Christian-Matern home, 603 – 7th Street, Marble Falls, at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 19.

2 — Membership Dues for 2019

Kay suggested that annual dues be reduced from \$20 to \$15 per person per year. After brief discussion, Ray so moved and Fran seconded the motion, which passed.

3 — Burnet County Area Fair, June 2019

HLWC will be sponsoring the new “Creative Writing Division” at the Burnet County Area Fair. Cash prizes of \$3 (first place), \$2 (second place), and \$1 (third place) will be awarded in *each of three age groups* (Junior Youth, ages 7-11; Senior Youth, ages 12-17; and Adult, ages 18+) and in *each of four categories* (two poetry and two prose). The official rules, to be approved by the Fair Board on February 5 and distributed soon thereafter, will be furnished to HLWC members. The club may also place an ad in the Fair catalog — this will be discussed at the February meeting.

Other possible prizes to be awarded *by HLWC* to Fair winners can be discussed at a later date. These might include a one-year membership in the club for Adult and Senior Youth winners and a reference book on writing for Junior Youth winners.

Members should be thinking of whether they would like to judge entries in one or more categories or age groups, and/or whether they know qualified local citizens who would make good judges. Those interested should contact Mary Anne Wright, who will serve as Superintendent of the Creative Writing Division. Mary Anne is now a member of the Fair Board, as are Stephen Lay and Kay Lee.

Readings

Four readings by members were heard, beginning at 8:00 p.m., on the evening of January 16. They were as follows:

Fran McRedmond	Memoir, "September 2, 1945"
Allen Olson	Questions and answers about the Constitution of 1789
Julian Chitta	Short story, "Designated Driver"
Ray Whelan	Short story, "Meditation on a Lost [?]"

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned about 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Lee, Secretary

Writings by Members of HLWC: January 2019

Well, I sent out an appeal, but the silence was deafening . . .

XOXOXOXO See you Wednesday evening at the Library! XOXOXOXO

Send your poems, flash fiction, writing tips, announcements, etc. to: **Kay Lee**, mlee43@moment.net
To subscribe or unsubscribe, please e-mail mlee43@moment.net