

**IFWA MEETING**  
**Thursday, January 5, 2023, 7:00 PM**  
**HYBRID MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

**Information Items:** We are now in Hybrid meetings – Some members will attend at the Sentry Box and others can attend online.

**New Members:** James Linville (Professor at U of Lethbridge – trying to write a fantasy novel); Shane (student of James Linville writes science fiction); Don Dietrich (from Regina – writes science fiction and fantasy); Vern H (recently retired – has been doing science fiction podcast – writes stories – started with writing stories for his son – wants to learn more about writing).

**Attendance:** 21 (9 at Sentry Box) (12 Online)

<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Person</b>
7:30 PM	<p><b><u>WWC Panel/Presentation Topic Discussion</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obtained list of possible WWC Panels – Appended below the Minutes</li> </ul>	Calvin Jim
	<p><b><u>Crits for February, 2023</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crit 1: Nicole Wilson – Poem: Climbing Trees – Crits by: Val King, Shayne Dahl</li> <li>Crit 2: Shayne Dahl – Science Fiction Excerpt – Indra’s Net – Crits by: Michael Gillett, Dave Worsick</li> </ul>	Selene O’Rourke
8:00 PM	<p><b><u>Skills Session</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ron Friedman – Decoding Greatness – Reverse Engineering Bestsellers</li> </ul>	Ron Friedman
8:30 PM	<p><b><u>Call for Agenda Items</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	Michael
8:35 PM	<p><b><u>Braggs</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ed Wilson – dissembled 2007 finance documents – got an honourable mention in Writers of the Future from 2007</li> <li>Sandy Fitzpatrick – 1) Our Doll in the Forest Lord is out 2) Short story coming out – Cryptids Emerging – gargoye story – third volume of cryptid – 3) Will also be presenter of Wordbridge in Lethbridge (Feb 25)</li> <li>Michael Gillett – signed up to go to Pemmi Con in Winnipeg - July – National North American Science Fiction Convention (July 20-23)</li> </ul>	Michael

Time	Topic	Person
8:40 PM	<p><b><u>Discuss / Decide</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rick – splitters group – belongs to a critique group, but am looking for beta readers for full novels. Would like responses as soon as possible, but within a few weeks. If people interested in joining this group for the future. Email to Rick at email address in the body of the email.</li> </ul>	Michael
8:55 PM	<p><b><u>Announcements</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shayne – Conference hosted on UFO study – beginning of February - \$60 entry fee – International Conference – link to be sent to me</li> <li><b>Writing Retreat</b> - Dates: January 16-19, 2023 (4 nights) – at W.O Mitchell Centre (near Sundre) – link is here: <a href="https://www.ursaretreatcentre.com/">https://www.ursaretreatcentre.com/</a> .All those interested would email Michael Gillett and then pay Karl Buchner directly (Karl will pay centre). Right in foothills – 25 miles north of Cochrane. Shared accommodation and bedrooms. Booked for an early start Monday morning. \$104 per night and includes 3 meals a day. Do writing in a loft with room for 60 people. Wonderful social experience. Karl will try to get 16-20 people from IFWA to come out. We'd love to have the whole facility for 13 - which will give us enough for exclusive use. As of now, we have 10 confirmed with 4-5 possibles. June writer's retreat had similar numbers. Contact Calvin or Michael and get names to Karl.</li> <li><b>BOOK LAUNCH:</b> Craig diLouie &amp; Chris Marrs are writing to invite you to attend a house party dedicated to the launch of EPISODE THIRTEEN, my latest spooky novel from Hachette Book Group! Come mingle with local writers, chase away the February doldrums, and celebrate the written word.  <b>Where:</b> 5615 5 St SW, Calgary (at corner of 55 Ave near Chinook Mall)  <b>When:</b> Saturday, February 18, 7PM - ?  <b>What to bring:</b> yourself and friends who love books and writing  <b>Yummies:</b> Tapas and some refreshments will be served, otherwise BYOB  <b>Parking:</b> ample parking in the neighborhood  <b>COVID:</b> still a thing, so if you are sick, please stay home, snuggle up, and get better  <b>Owl's Nest</b> will be on hand to sell copies of EPISODE THIRTEEN as well as a new locally produced anthology PENITENT'S GOLD featuring a story by Chris and a few other select titles by local authors.</li> <li><b>RSVP to email in Minutes</b></li> </ul>	Michael
	<p><b><u>Calls for Submissions</u></b></p>	

**Next Meeting:** February 2, 2023

**Skills Session:** Michael Gillett – Self-Editing Tools

If you have a Presentation you would like to give at an IFWA Meeting, please contact our Skills Session guru, Glen Brown: [glenezbrown@gmail.com](mailto:glenezbrown@gmail.com)

## IFWA WWC Topics 2023

Here is the current list of WWC Topics. If your name is listed and there is no description beside it, please send me a quick description I can add before sending this to the WWC Board in February

- **Science Fiction's Legacy:** What are the roots of our genre? From Frankenstein and even earlier works such as Gulliver's travels, through pulp fiction and New Wave to the present, how has SF morphed over time in response to changing cultural attitudes? Where is science fiction headed in the future?
- **Fantasy's Legacy:** What are the roots of our genre? From ancient myths and epics such as Gilgamesh or the fantastic stories of A Thousand and One Arabian Nights, through Gormanghast and Lord of the Rings to the present, how has fantasy changed, and where is it going?
- **Feminine Solutions in SFF:** The rise of the third wave of feminism has spawned a new heroine: the tough chick—whether anachronistically set in a historical fantasy or whipping through the galaxy in a stolen one-woman Millennium Falcon—who out-fights the toughest monster or mercenary. Does the female protagonist have to be a kickass who wins through masculine aggression or does she use alternate solutions to the universe's problems?
- **How has diversity changed over SFF's history?** Many science fiction and fantasy works deal with the concept of the "other" or the outcast, and yet historically, most published works in the oeuvre have been written by, and feature central characters who are ostensibly white, male, cis, and abled. How is SFF becoming more responsive to the recognition that many readers and writers of the genre are not described this way?
- **Science Fiction and Fantasy Forms: Books, Movies, Television, Games:** It has been said that whereas written science fiction is primarily a literature of ideas, science fiction movies are often action films. Is this true? Are there in-built differences in the consumers of the array of science fiction or fantasy consumers?
- **The Giants of SFF:** Who were the great writers of science fiction and fantasy, and how did they influence the genre? Who are the greats today, and why?
- **SFF Crossovers:** How is SFF informed by other genres: romance, mystery, thriller, and upmarket fiction? Do such unions expand the possibilities of the genre or dilute it?
- **Tech, Tech, Tech:** From stones, arrows, and swords through warp drives. How does the level of tech you envision define your world? What implications does your military technology have for your world's industry, commerce, and government?
- **SFF Conventions:** What has been the importance to writers and readers of the science fiction convention over the years, and what function do they serve today?
- **How Do You Measure Success?** Writing is hard work, and yet we devote long hours slaving over words, achieving joy, frustration, despair and epiphany. What's it all for? Awards, reviews, income, or personal satisfaction: why do we write?
- **Deep Space Missions** (Panel) – Panelists: Dave Worsick, Ron Friedman, Ed Wilson +1
- **Collective Novel as a Form** (Panel) – Panelists: Renee Bennett +3
- **What the heck is Existentialism** (Panel) – Panelists: David Worsick +3

- **Real Medieval versus Fantasy Medieval** (Panel) – Panelists: Dave Worsick +3
- **Positive Science Fiction** (Panel) – Panelists: Ron Friedman +3
- **Artificial Intelligence and Its Impact on Writing** (Panel) – Panelists: Shayne Dahl, Ed Wilson, Calvin Jim
- **Role that Visual Media on How Authors Write** (Panel) – Panelists:
- **Creating Fantasy Religions** (Panel) – Panelists: Sandy Fitz, Shayne Dahl,
- **Creating Magical Systems** (Panel) – Panelists: Sandy Fitzpatrick
- **Entertainment of Science Fiction and Fantasy in a Fast Changing World** (Panel) – Panelists: Michael Gillett
- **On the Shoulders of Giants – Critiquing the Masters** – Selene O'Rourke (Presentation)

We will also have the normal slate of IFWA Panels:

1. Bedtime Stories with IFWA (Friday Night) – we will discuss the theme you will write to in later meetings.
2. Writers at the Improv – Teams of 2 compete to write the funniest story one sentence at a time – with a key word provided by an audience member. Lots of fun. We will try and have a Mystery Theme (Mystery writing) with this Writers at the Improv.