

IFWA MEETING
Thursday, February 2, 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: Angela Zowluk (short stories mostly horror), Mark Campbell from Regina, SK (writes novellas, novels and short stories), Joanne from Montreal, Quebec (Paranormal thrillers and fantasy books)

Attendance: 29 (9 at Sentry Box) (20 Online)

Time	Topic	Person
7:00 PM	<p><u>Crits for February, 2023</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crit 1: Nicole Wilson – Poem: Climbing Trees – Crits by: Val King, Shayne Dahl, Ed Wilson • Crit 2: Shayne Dahl – Science Fiction Excerpt – Indra’s Net – Crits by: Michael Gillett, Dave Worsick 	Selene O’Rourke
	<p><u>Crits for February, 2023</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crit 1: Renee Bennett – SF Mystery with Noir Elements Crits by: Don Dietrich, Jim Sheasby • Crit 2: Angela Zowluk – The Fence People – Crits by: Steve Swanson, Calvin Jim 	
8:00 PM	<p><u>Skills Session</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-Editing Tools 	Michael Gillett
8:30 PM	<p><u>Call for Agenda Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	Michael
8:35 PM	<p><u>Braggs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ed Wilson – will be last IFWA Meeting – new job in Omaha • Steve Swanson – entered playwriting competition – BBC radio play • Susan Forest – writing adjacent – will be going to Europe to research next novel. Have been in communication with French Resistance Museum in Leon & met woman from Lyon who might be able to translate • Shayne – inherited boxes from old mentor and Robert Runte – also got incisor out and can make spooky sounds • Selene – someone recognized her name as an author • Michael wrote at retreat and it was fantastic 	Michael

Time	Topic	Person
8:40 PM	<p><u>Discuss / Decide</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WWC Panels & Presentations Discussion (see attached current list to be submitted) 	Michael
8:55 PM	<p><u>Announcements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer 2023 Writing Retreat: The W.O Mitchell Centre is booked for exclusive use on June 12 - 15, 2023 for three full days. Those interested are to email Michael Gillett. Details to follow. • BOOK LAUNCH: Craig diLouie & 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. Where: 5615 5 St SW, Calgary (at corner of 55 Ave near Chinook Mall) When: Saturday, February 18, 7PM - ? What to bring: yourself and friends who love books and writing Yummies: Tapas and some refreshments will be served, otherwise BYOB Parking: ample parking in the neighborhood COVID: still a thing, so if you are sick, please stay home, snuggle up, and get better Owl's Nest 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. • RSVP to email in Minutes 	Michael
	<p><u>Calls for Submissions</u></p>	

Next Meeting: March 2, 2023

Skills Session: Goodreads for Authors - Rachel

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

Worth Quoting: William Safire's Rules for Writing

1. Do not put statements in the negative form.
2. Remember to never split an infinitive.
3. It is incumbent on one to avoid archaisms.
4. The passive voice should never be used.
5. Proofread care-fully to see if you words out.
6. If you reread your work, you can find on rereading a great deal of repetition can be avoided by rereading and editing.
7. Never use a long word when a diminutive one will do.
8. Unqualified superlatives are the worst of all.
9. A writer must not shift your point of view.
10. If any word is improper at the end of a sentence, a linking verb is.
11. Don't overuse exclamation marks!!
12. Avoid trendy locutions that sound flaky.
13. Never, ever use repetitive redundancies.
14. Place pronouns as close as possible, especially in long sentences, as of 10 or more words, to their antecedents.
15. Writing carefully, dangling participles must be avoided.
16. Take the bull by the hand and avoid mixing metaphors.
17. Everyone should be careful to use a singular pronoun with singular nouns in their writing.
18. Always pick on the correct idiom.
19. The adverb always follows the verb.
20. Last but not least, avoid cliches like the plague.

(Source: The New York Times)

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, +2
- **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, Calvin Jim +1
- **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. Susan Forest will moderate – Unconventional Endings was the Theme
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.