

# Just Write Newsletter ~ Volume 6, Issue 4 ~ April 2017

*Just Write: The At-Large Chapter for the League of Utah Writers*



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## Writing Quotes

“I always kept two books in my pocket, one to read, one to write in.” – *Robert Louis Stevenson*

“The writer is an explorer. Every step is an advance into a new land.” – *R. W. Emerson*

“Stories of imagination tend to upset those without one.” – *Terry Pratchett*

## Chapter Officers

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## Critique Group

**The Just Write Chapter hosts two Critique/Review sessions a month.** All Just Write members are welcome to join our critique sessions. We hold them twice a month. *Write On!*

## New Members

Welcome to our new members: Susan, Sarah, Carrie, Micki, Rebecca and Malena.

- Susan Bailey lives in Cache County
- Sarah Bailey lives in the Salt Lake Valley
- Carrie Larsen lives in Salt Lake
- Micki Rios lives in Salt Lake
- Rebecca Sinclair lives in the Salt Lake Valley
- Malena Stevens lives in Summit County

A hearty welcome to each of you, and thank you for choosing Just Write!



## Editorial: Contest Categories

This month some of the regular sections in the newsletter have been replaced by information about the League's annual **Creative Writing Contest**.

**New Writer Category:** For those of you who have never been paid for your creative writing there is a BRAND NEW category: **New Writer**. This includes people who have penned a poem, a story, an essay, an article, a novel (creative writing) but have never been paid for it. Writing stuff and having it printed but NOT being paid for it doesn't count against you for qualifying for this category. For instance, back in the 70s I used to write a column for *Signpost*, the Weber State newspaper. I also wrote articles for Human Society and technical writing newsletters, but I was never paid for those contributions—just like I'm not paid for creating this newsletter. So, if you have had something printed and were not paid for it, you probably meet the criteria for entering in the New Writer section of the contest.

**Why Have This Category?** I like this new category. Competition in the regular categories of the LUW contest is **fierce**. The League has many great writers who enter several pieces every year. But competition in this New Writer category won't be nearly as tough because those who have won in previous years cannot enter as a New Writer, including myself. This category gives those writers who haven't been paid for any of their creative writing yet a chance to win in a contest.

I hope lots of Just Write members enter the League's contest this year. I'd love to see our names called at the Awards Banquet. More about the contest below.

~ Ann

## Writing Contest

- ▶ **LUW – League Writing Contest:** Deadline: June 17th. The League's annual creative writing contest categories include Fiction, Nonfiction and Poetry.

### Why You Should Enter the Contest:

Winning writing contests is a good way to get your writing noticed. It's also a great way to get you, as an aspiring author, noticed by other writers. And it's an awesome way to get some credentials for your writing resume. Winning a writing contest gives you credibility.

You receive feedback on your submission.

You could win an award and a cash prize. If you are a winner, you could also be published in the League's annual anthology.

### How to Participate in the LUW Contest:

1. First, read the contest categories and decide what you have that fits in one of the categories, including the word count limit. Or, write something new that will fit in one of the contest categories. Remember, anything you enter cannot have been already published – anywhere.
2. Second, edit your submission as many times as needed to get it tight, really tight. Remember, wordiness will hurt your chances of winning. Have a critique group or other writers read your submission. They'll be able to point out errors or shortcomings or confusing lines that you may not have noticed.



3. Double-check to make sure your submission meets all of the contest guidelines. Also make sure you submit in the correct category and that your entry does not exceed word count.
4. Follow the directions on the website for entering your submission through Submittable.

This is how everyone must enter this year. There are no provisions for people to send a hard copy through the mail or even deliver in person. If you want to send your payment through the mail instead of paying through Submittable, there are instructions on the website for sending an entry form and a check. Even so, the contest entry itself (story, chapter, article or poem) must be entered through Submittable. No exceptions.

### **Winners, including Honorable Mention:**

All contestants will receive feedback from judges through Submittable. However, the awards themselves, along with any cash prizes, are handed out during the LUW Fall Conference. This has always taken place right after the dinner on Saturday night.

From personal experience I know it is great fun to be sitting in the audience and have your name called for an award. Then you get to walk to the contest chairperson who hands you the award and check, if you won a cash prize. Some writers, like four I know in Cache County, win numerous awards every year. They do this by writing hard and by diligently participating in their critique group.

Here is the link to the Contest Information. Specific information about the categories, word limits and prizes was just posted a few days ago:

<https://www.leagueofutahwriters.com/2017-luw-writing-competition>

I hope many of you will enter this year. If you have any questions, just ask.

~ Ann

### **Conferences, Workshops**

- ▶ **Las Vegas Writer's Conference (hosted by the Henderson Writers Group):** April 20-22, 2017. Keynote speaker: Donald Maass, a New York literary agent. The conference offers opportunities to pitch to international acquiring agents and editors. <http://lasvegaswritersconference.com/>
- ▶ **LDS Storymakers Conference:** May 11-13th, 2017. Where: Utah Valley Convention Center. Registration is now open. Schedule: <http://ldstorymakersconference.com/schedule-overview/>
- ▶ **LUW Advanced Workshop:** June 3rd. Where: West Jordan City Hall, Community Rm. Workshop highlights an advanced part of the writing craft. I don't know the registration fee; that hasn't been posted yet. <https://www.leagueofutahwriters.com/events>
- ▶ **Fyrecon – Refining Your Creative Fyre:** June 8th - 10th, Weber State University – Davis Campus, 2750 University Park Blvd, Layton. This Science Fiction & Fantasy conference offers Master Classes by David Farland and Michael Collings (I love their work), Workshops, Teen classes, and an Editing Workshop with free editing of 1 to 3 pages. The fee for the three-day conference is \$40. Visit: <http://www.fyrecon.com/> Registration: <http://www.fyrecon.com/registration/>
- ▶ **LUW Advanced Workshop:** July 29th. Where: West Jordan City Hall, Community Room. Workshop highlights an advanced part of the writing craft. I don't know the registration fee; that hasn't been posted yet. <https://www.leagueofutahwriters.com/events>

- ▶ **Colorado Gold Conference (hosted by Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers):** September 8-10, 2017 in Denver. Keynote speakers listed on the website, along with an impressive list of acquiring agents and editors. The conference is rather pricey, but worth it. <http://rmfw.org/conference/>
- ▶ **LUW Fall Conference:** October 6th-7th, 2017. Where: West Jordan City Hall, Community Room. Save the dates. I'll post the details when they become available. Details will also be posted here: <https://www.leagueofutahwriters.com/events>

## **Publishing Opportunities**

- ▶ **Chicken Soup for the Soul:** They have the following book deadlines for this year:

1. Christmas and Holiday Collection / October 31, 2017
2. My Crazy Family! / June 30, 2017
3. Positively Happy! / May 31, 2017
4. Stories of Redemption / August 31st, 2017

Example: Stories of Redemption pays \$200 for an accepted story plus ten copies of the book. Story length: Up to 1200 words. <http://www.freedomwithwriting.com/freedom/uncategorized/chicken-soup-for-the-soul-several-deadlines-approaching-11-books/>

- ▶ **Scout:** This online community combines science fiction and journalism. They are looking for speculative and science fiction vignettes that illustrate the social impacts of emerging technologies. They pay 8 cents per word for vignettes and short stories, most often between 250 and 2,000 words. They seldom take stories longer than 3,000 words. <https://scout.submittable.com/submit>
- ▶ **Blind Spot:** They are looking for original sci-fi and fantasy up to 10,000 words. They pay 8 cents a word. <http://blindspot.pub/guidelines/>
- ▶ **Radford Literary Agency:** They are currently acquiring both fiction and nonfiction.
 

**Fiction:** Romance, urban fantasy, women's fiction, upmarket commercial fiction, literary fiction, mystery, thrillers, children's and young adult.

**Nonfiction:** Business, relationships, biography/ memoir, self-help, parenting, narrative humor, pop culture, history and social issues. We are NOT currently acquiring: Poetry, screenplays, short stories, westerns, religion. <http://www.bradfordlit.com/about/>



*Happy writing!*  
*Ann*