

Dog Writers Association of America



ruff DRAFTS

Fall 2014

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cover photo: Sharon Pflaumer





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President's column

by Ida Estep

This issue, I want to talk about new plans for DWAA. But first, let me thank all those folks who e-mailed and called me with suggestions for helping my shy dog Noel. She is much improved as the result of your ideas.

As many of you know, we have started a new chat list as part of the Yahoo group. This was necessary as the old DWAA list was limited as to membership and we had grown beyond its capabilities.

As a result of a combination of life's glitches, members' aggressive spam filters, and multiple problems with the database used to send out invitations, many members have not received invitations. We want everybody to join so the Yahoo group will become a vibrant and useful list for all members. If you have not received an invitation, please send a request to subscribe to dwa-subscribe@yahoo.com and we will send you an invitation. If you have been invited but are having problems being added to the list, please let me know at iwestep@earthlink.net and we will work to iron out any problems.

We are also completing the 2014 Membership Roster. We had a great many changes and updates in this issue of the roster and, while everybody, especially our roster editor, Vicky Clarke, has put a lot of

effort into making this edition as correct as possible, it is likely, with all the entries, that some errors have occurred and folks have changed contact info since the database information was gathered. Please, everybody check your own entry and, if changes are necessary, contact Marsha Pugh at marsha_pugh01@comcast.net.

Given the costs involved, we will only send hard copies of our club newsletter, ruff DRAFTS, to those who do not have computer access, unless otherwise requested.

Once we have the roster completed; wrapped up the tremendous effort necessary to run the Writing Competition courtesy of our competition chair, Elaine Gewirtz; and the banquet finalized and enjoyed; we really want to focus on involving more DWAA members in the workings of the Association.

We are interested in creating an active membership committee, a group to investigate services provided to members of other similar associations that DWAA could consider, and generally rethinking how DWAA serves its membership. If you are interested in working on these or any other issues, please contact me at iwestep@earthlink.net, keeping in mind that active work on these matters will have to wait until post-banquet.

Again, we all look forward to making DWAA an active part of your writing careers.

Thank you, Pat!

As many of you know, Pat Santi has decided to retire, effective immediately, from her position as DWAA secretary. Pat has had a tough year with multiple health problems and the death of her mother, from a long illness, right after Westminster.



Pat has served DWAA long and very well and will continue to be a member. She has served as secretary under numerous presidents and been responsible for regular secretarial functions as well as membership issues and the annual banquet.

She has maintained DWAA records and pitched in anywhere help was needed.

I know we all appreciate the help that Pat has given to DWAA and thank her for all her efforts.

If you would like to extend your thanks or express best wishes for her speedy return to health, she may be reached at Rhydowen@aol.com.

IMPORTANT NEWS: please read the President's column plus see page 6 for DWAA updates and reminders

DWAA 2014 Committees

Banquet

Marsha Pugh, Chair

Budget and Finance

Ida Estep, Chair
Carmen Battaglia, Martin Deeley
Susan Ewing, Marsha Pugh, Pat Santi

Bylaws

Ida Estep, Chair
Alan Alford, Carmen Battaglia
Patricia Cruz, Pat Santi

2014 Contest

Elaine Waldorf Gewirtz, Chair
Officers and Board

Hall of Fame

Patricia Cruz, Chair
Robert McKowen, Pat Santi

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Webmaster

Paul Costa

www.dwaa.org

ruff DRAFTS

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1138 Mohea Road, Unionville, NV 89418
775-538-7331, uziduzit@wildblue.net

issue deadlines~

Spring, March 1
Summer, June 1
Fall, September 1
Winter, December 1

The editor reserves the right to refuse and/or edit material, and is not responsible for errors in difficult to read copy. Every attempt will be made to publish information accurately. Submission implies right to publish all or in part. Unsigned or misleading material is not accepted. Material published is the opinion of the author and does not imply endorsement by the editor or DWAA. Neither editor nor DWAA assumes liability for information contained herein or typographical errors.

Treasurer's report

by Marsha Pugh

August 1 through October 1, 2014

Balance brought forward \$19,776.02

Income. \$8,345.00

Cash deposit from savings \$5,000.00

Contest entry fees \$1,985.00

Dues \$910.00

Special Award sponsor \$450.00

Expenses. \$(1,823.00)

Archive storage \$(300.00)

Bank charge/correction. \$25.00

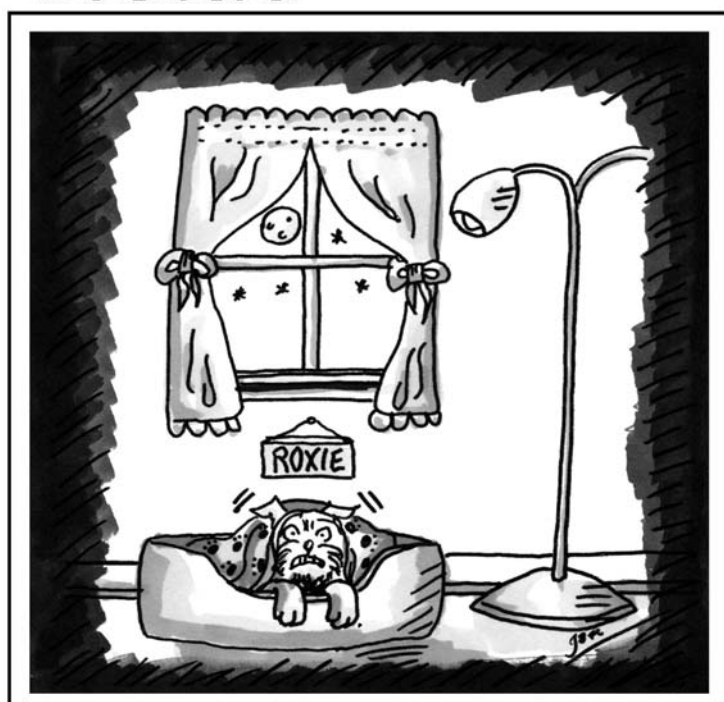
Computer services \$(848.00)

Design \$(700.00)

Overall total \$26,298.02

Roxie

by Janice Biniok



She's ghost writing during the day . . .
where do the ghosts go at night?!?

WANTED: new member bios and photos!

In your newsletter, we would like to profile the DWAA members and their work in the business of dogs. As a new member, you are invited to submit an approximate 200-word summary of your background and work in the field of dogs along with a photo of yourself.

If you have anything else that you would like to contribute to ruff DRAFTS, please let me know of your idea. We do not have a budget to pay for articles, photos and artwork, so any contribution would have to be pro bono. And please remember that submissions are always welcome for our cover!

Looking forward to hearing from you - thanks!

—editor

a few friendly reminders . . .

JOIN NOW!

DWAA Members Yahoo group

We want everyone to join so the Yahoo group will become a vibrant and useful chat list for all members. If you have not received an invitation, please send a request to subscribe to dwa-subscribe@yahoo.com and we will send you an invitation. If you have been invited but are having problems being added to the list, please notify our president at iwestep@earthlink.net and we will work to iron out any problems.

2014 DWAA Membership Roster

We made many changes in this issue of the roster. We cannot get it right without your help.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR INFORMATION CAREFULLY!

Send corrections or changes to:
Marsha Pugh, Secretary-Treasurer
P.O. Box 787, Hughesville, MD 20637,
301-274-3435
marsha_pugh01@comcast.net

Updates will be published in ruffDRAFTS.

GOT Facebook??? WE DO!

If you haven't already, be sure to check out the DWAA FB page which is superbly managed by Shelley Bueche. Watch for her many daily interesting and informative posts, plus add your own two cents! And, don't forget to hit "LIKE!"

ruff DRAFTS

Given the costs involved, we will only send hard copies of our club newsletter to those who do not have computer access, unless otherwise requested.

Also, please note the deadlines are published on page three of every issue. Let's try very hard to keep the newsletter on schedule; your cooperation is appreciated.

Spring issue, March 1

Summer issue, June 1

Fall issue, September 1

Winter issue, December 1

send all material to

Vicky Clarke, editor

1138 Mohea Road, Unionville, NV 89418

775-538-7331, uziduzit@wildblue.net

2014 Writing Competition news

by Elaine Waldorf Gewirtz, Contest Chair

Whew! You dog writers were busy last year. If you don't believe me, check out the photo of contest entry packages spread across my living room floor and tables. Now imagine what the space looked like on postmark deadline day. It tripled. And an hour before midnight my e-mail inbox was no slacker, either. I never thought today's e-mail accounts could fill up, but mine sure did. When my ITT person tried to help, but inadvertently reloaded 15,000 of my deleted messages back into my inbox, I knew it was either time to look for vodka or go to bed. I woke up thinking that all those contest boxes were really free gifts from Amazon and Zappos.

But I digress. By the time you read this, all of the entries are on their way to the judges. Many thanks to everyone who entered the contest, the judges, and to our sponsors for the

Special Awards.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our awards banquet (see reservation form in this newsletter).



2014 Contest Judges

Many thanks to the following contest judges for volunteering their time and expertise on behalf of this year's entries~

Mary Abram
Elizabeth Barden Ackerman
Terry Albert
Dee Dee Andersson
Mary Fish Arango
Therese Backowski
Emelise Baughman
Sheila Webster Boneham
Mara Bovsun
Carol Bryant
Shelley Bueche
Susan Bulanda
Corally Burmaster
Kerri Fivecoat Campbell
Caroline Coile
Phyllis DeGioia
Susan Ewing
Sarah Ferrell
Denise Fleck
Ranny Green

Linda Kay Hardie
Dusty Hellmann
Sarah Hodgson
Elizabeth M. Jarrell
Nancy Kay, DVM
Pilar Kuhn
Debi Lampert-Rudman
Diana Laverdure
Roseann Mandell
Linda Marsa
Lori Mauger
Sandy Mesmer
Marilyn Miller
Pat Miller
Sarah Miller
Eve Watson Adamson Minkler
Peri Norman Nishikawa
Liz Palika
Gail C. Parker
Audrey Pavia

Marsha Pugh
Anne Marie Rasmussen
Allan Resnick
Tim Robbins
Holly Ocasio Rizzo
Florence Scarinci
Fran Pennock Shaw
Ernie Slone
Geoff Stern
Christy Stretz
Sarah Sypniewski
Kim Campbell Thornton
Connie Vanacore
Chris Walkowicz
Michele Wojciechowski
Deborah Wood
C. Miriam Yarden
Chris Zink, DVM

The future is written in the Stars

by Sharon Pflaumer

When we make plans for the future, we assume they will work out. We don't question that eventuality because usually it proves to be true. Thus when I learned a particular litter of 10 Standard Poodle puppies was born on December 3rd last year; I immediately sent the breeder a deposit to reserve one. Not knowing what the future held, it never occurred to me to question the timing for getting another dog.

The litter was a rebreeding of an earlier one born two years ago. I was especially interested in it because both the sire and dam not only were breed champions who had had extensive genetic testing done before they were bred, each also had earned numerous companion and performance titles. Because parent dogs are always the best indicator of what offspring would be like as an adult, I was certain a puppy from the litter would grow up to be exactly what I was looking for: a beautiful dog I could do obedience and rally competition with who also would be healthy and long-lived.

At the time the litter was born, my 93-year-old mother was being cared for at a local nursing home. Although Mom had been declining, I thought she would still be with us for a long time to come. When she helped me decide on a name for my new puppy: Paragon's Fairy Tail Glass Slipper, call name: Star - I never guessed that was not to be.

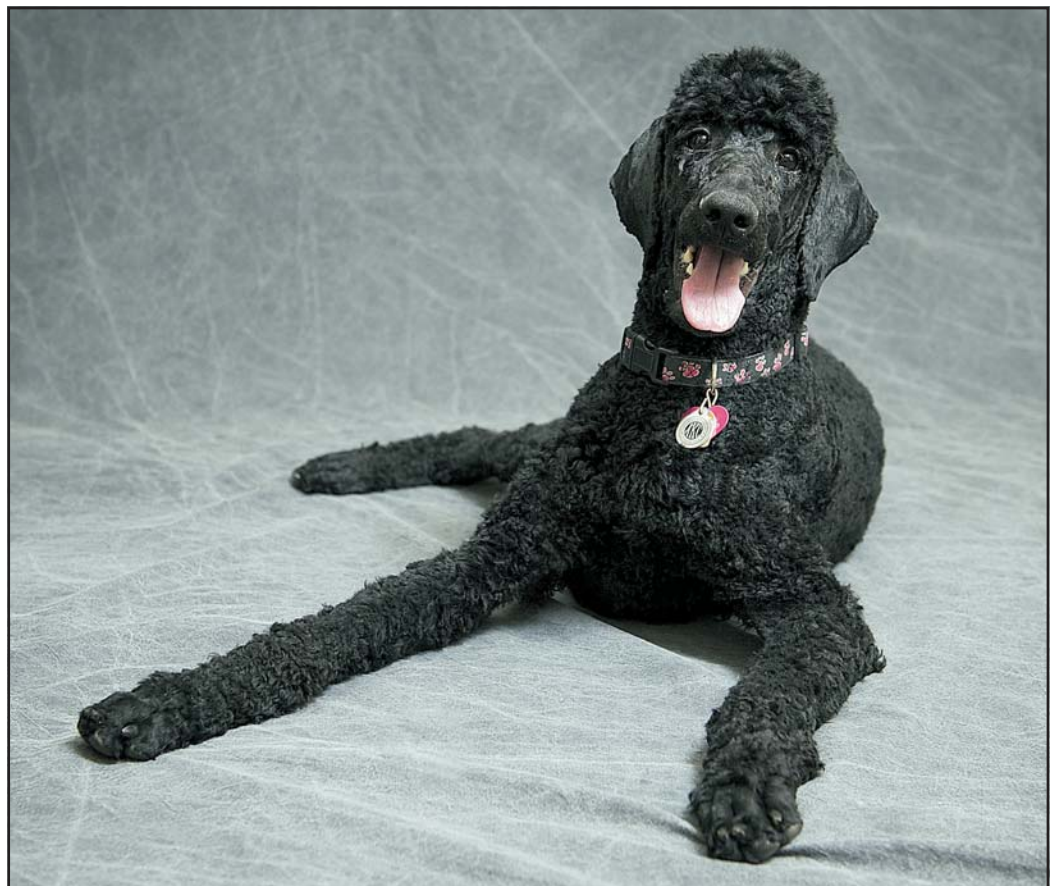
Sadly, Mom was sent to the hospital by ambulance for the last time only 10 weeks later. In fact, she was sent on the very day I brought home my new, 10-week-old puppy. I literally had no more than walked in the front door of my house with a bundle of wriggling fur in my arms when the phone rang with the terrible news.

After extensive testing was completed, I learned Mom was full of pancreatic cancer and only had 7 to 10 days to live. By the time she passed away, I was totally fried emotionally. The weight of everything that happened finally hit me like a sledge hammer. You see this was the end of what had been seven exhausting years of looking after my dad's care until he passed away followed by seven more of looking after my mom's. To make matters worse, mom's death was followed by more family illness, and conflict. All of which resulted in my having to handle her estate almost singlehandedly.

Given the above, I wasn't exactly in the

optimal frame of mind to raise and train a new puppy. In fact, Star and I got off to a pretty rough start. Nonetheless, she is still becoming a great dog. (That's probably more to her credit than mine.) She already completed the requirements for the AKC Star Puppy Program and, currently, is in a novice obedience class. We also are practicing for the AKC's Canine Good Citizen Evaluation.

Star isn't the first dog to come into my life at a difficult time. But, like the others before her, this happy, rambunctious girl jumped right in and helped me get through it. She forced me to focus on something other than all of the bad things that happened. (Like the day she jumped over my sofa as if it was an agility obstacle! That was a real attention getter.) In so doing, she helped me eventually see the bright future that lies ahead for both of us together. Of course, all of her sloppy, wet puppy kisses didn't hurt any either.



The art of raising baby bulldogs

by Marty Greer, DVM, JD

All breeders have a few things in common:

- a. The fear of losing a litter;
- b. The fear of losing their beloved brood bitch;
- c. The fear of peer pressure when best-laid breeding plans go awry.

Bulldog breeders carry an even heavier load of fear than other breeders. Your challenges of successfully delivering and raising a litter are tougher than most.

To survive, you can either change to breeding Cavalier King Charles Spaniels or learn a few tricks and tips to improve your sanity and neonatal survival outcomes.

The things we recommend to improve outcomes include:

1. Great timing of the c-section

By timing ovulation with progesterone levels (not days in heat or day she was bred), her due date can accurately be predicted. We call ovulation 5 ng/dl and schedule our c-sections 61 days after the progesterone reaches 5 ng/dl (62 for all non-bully breeds). This allows the bitch to be ready to lactate, the pups to be ready to feed, and the humans to sleep through the night.

2. Applying an Adaptil™ collar three days prior to whelping

This collar contains a pheromone, a hormone that affects the dog's behavior. Adaptil™ mimics the properties of the natural pheromones of the lactating female. Within three to five days after giving birth, the female generates pheromones that give their puppies a sense of well-being and reassurance, known as appeasing pheromones. Pheromones are perceived through a specific action that is different from smelling odors. By replicating this signal of comfort, The Adaptil™ collar is marketed to help alleviate fear- and stress-related signs in the puppy and adult dog such as thunderstorm and separation anxiety. Although not labeled for this use, placing the collar on the bitch three days pre-c-section bridges the pheromone release gap while waiting for the natural pheromone release. This assists the bitch and pups in settling into a comfortable routine. The collar releases pheromones for four weeks. The same pheromone is available in other forms, but the collar seems to be the most effective.

3. Using Calcium supplements

Administered orally or by injection. There is anecdotal evidence that calcium supplementation aids in improved maternal skills as well as generally calming the bitch. This should not be started until close to the onset of labor as premature supplementation may inhibit calcium release from the bitch's calcium stores. Injectables need to be carefully prescribed, as the wrong calcium salt may cause serious skin

sloughs. However, oral calcium in the form of human calcium supplement is easy and safe to use. These are the same ones most of us should be taking to protect us from osteoporosis.

4. Using oxytocin

Administered by injection or nasal spray. Oxytocin is hypothesized to improve maternal skills. Your veterinarian can prescribe this for you in low doses. Injectable oxytocin along with warm compresses on the mammary glands also aids in lactation by promoting milk letdown.

5. Careful supervision and patience

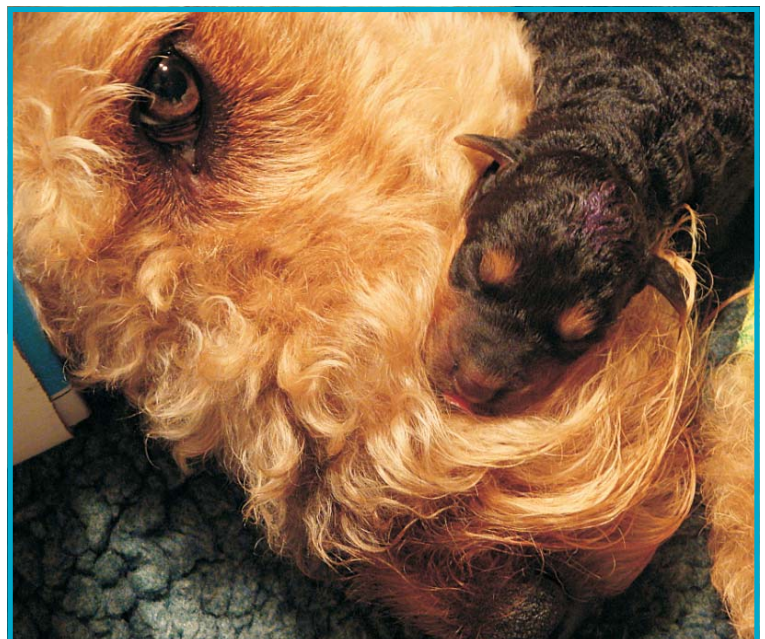
Remarkably, only a few bitches are reluctant to allow their pups to nurse post partum. When you think about it, she wakes up from anesthesia disoriented, with unidentified creatures crawling on her incision. When she growls and gives the ugly face to warn them, they don't respond to her warnings. Then she is supposed to lick some body parts with unfortunate tasting fluids. We recommend that you not leave her unattended with her pups until you are certain she will not harm them.

6. Using placental fluid and cervical stimulation to aid with bonding

There is no hard evidence that applying the pup's placental fluid or the surgeon stimulating the bitch's cervix internally before closing the uterus helps. But it is quick, easy, safe, and inexpensive so there is no downside to trying it. Sending home aliens that smell like humans and laundry detergent instead of puppies is certainly not helpful. We save placental fluid and dispense it back to the owner at discharge to apply to the pups on arrival home to assist maternal bonding.

7. Leaving the natural oils and sebum on the nipples when scrubbing for surgery

Avoiding scrubbing the mammary chain at surgery prep may help in





bonding the pups to the bitch. Careful scrubbing avoiding the nipples and adhesive drape material to maintain sterility is an option to improve neonatal bonding. Rat studies support this may help bonding.

8. Using metoclopramide, brats and oxytocin to improve lactation

Metoclopramide administered by injection and/or orally may assist bitches to produce milk. Oxytocin injections assist in milk letdown. We feed bratwurst to bitches, as anecdotally it appears this helps with lactation.

9. Tube feeding

Tube feeding pups does not directly improve maternal bonding. However, this is important in supporting the pups nutritionally until the pups figure out how to nurse and the bitch learns to mother them. Learn to tube feed so you are confident in your abilities. This is an important and safe technique when used well. There are several excellent milk replacers on the market.

10. Improved fluid consumption by the bitch

Keeping the bitch well-hydrated is essential in being sure the bitch can lactate well enough to feed pups comfortably. SQ fluids can be administered if needed. Feeding ice cream and adding Royal Canin Starter Mousse® to the drinking water is an easy way to improve water consumption.

11. Singleton or small litters

When there is a single pup or a small litter, the bitch may not lay

still enough for them to nurse. Using a stuffed animal or a sock filled with microwaved warm rice to support the pup(s) while nursing may improve her ability to feed one or two pups without frustrating her and the pup.

12. Using pain medication to improve bitch's comfort and maternal skills

Bitches cannot comfortably feed and care for their pups and eat and drink well if they are painful post op. Appropriate anesthesia and post op pain management is essential. Local anesthetic blocks may be helpful. Oral pain meds such as Metacam® and Rimadyl® and Tramadol are frequently used safely. There are no FDA studies to verify safety, but the author has used Metacam® for 13 years with no adverse effects.

13. Weaning puppies young if needed

If the bitch is unable to keep up with feeding her pups, early weaning, even as early as 12 days of age can be done. Royal Canin Starter Mousse® is a diet that will save puppies when this is the case. From the Mousse (aka puppy crack), they can transition to Eukanuba® Weaning formula, then to the puppy food of your choice. By helping the bitch with nutritional support for the pups, she can continue to mother her pups, teaching them skills no human can mimic even if she cannot feed them to satiety.

With these tips, your bitch can become mother of the year and you can relax and enjoy raising your next litter.



DWAA Awards Banquet

Sunday, February 15, 2015 at 6:00 pm

Important: note the location!

Hotel Pennsylvania, 401 Seventh Ave, New York 10001

Menu~ [please choose one per guest]

☐ Grilled chicken breast In white wine mushroom sauce. Quantity:

☐ Grilled Atlantic salmon. Quantity:

☐ Vegetable plate. Quantity:

All meals come with appetizer, mixed green salad, cheesecake, brewed coffee, decaffeinated coffee, tea, or soda upon request. *If you have food allergies, please let us know so we can better serve you.*

Cost: \$65.00 per person

Name of guest(s)

.

.

Address of person making reservation

E-mail Phone number

Number of reservations

Total amount submitted

Please make checks payable to DWAA in U.S. funds and send along with this form to:

Marsha M. Pugh, Secretary-Treasurer

P.O. Box 787, Hughesville, MD 20637

301-274-3435, marsha_pugh01@comcast.net

You may phone or e-mail your reservation, or direct questions, to Marsha, but your reservation is not complete until payment has been received. Reservations can also be made online through PayPal at www.dwaa.org

Dues renewal notice



Payment of dues, \$40

Dues payments are due by March 1

DWAA annual membership runs from March 1- February 28

Please fill out the required fields below, cut along the dotted line and mail this form to Marsha Pugh, Secretary-Treasurer.

Name

Address

City State Zip

Home Phone.

Work or Cell Phone

Fax

Email

(Please use your current e-mail address. It is used for all DWAA online services.)

Website

Choose one:

☐ Professional (paid) ☐ Associate (not paid)

To insure complete information, are you:

☐ a freelancer or, employed by:

Make check payable in U.S. funds to DWAA and send along with this page to

Marsha M. Pugh, Secretary-Treasurer

P.O. Box 787, Hughesville, MD 20637

marsha_pugh-1@comcast.net

NOTE: Your dues must be paid to be included in the 2015 DWAA membership roster



Marsha M. Pugh,
Secretary-Treasurer
P.O. Box 787
Hughesville, MD 20637

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*all good
baby boys
must eat their
cottage cheese!*



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