

Dog Writers Association of America



# ruff DRAFTS

*Summer 2015*

inside ...

2015 Writing Contest: rules, categories, special awards, entry form

More on Will Judy and the very interesting trek of Harriet White Fisher

New member bios and member news



photo © Vicky Clarke





## Officers

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717-656-9300



Your Officers and Board have been working diligently to make exciting changes to the DWAA.

## A new look and new features for the website

As some of you may already know, we have a new webmaster, are in the process of updating the website and adding a lot of features . . . starting with fresh new graphics; easy-to-navigate sections; links to social media, including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram; and an on-line chat line.

We have added a much-requested on-line membership roster, available to members via a new login system. No more lost rosters! Plus the new feature allows members to update their information directly to the secretary and see the changes added in real-time to the website roster.

DWAA will now offer public links to member websites and the opportunity to market your writing expertise, plus an ongoing member blog, providing writers a chance to share their work directly with visitors to the website.

Writing contest information will now be constantly updated and writers can use easily up-loadable on-line forms to enter the competition and submit work.

The website will provide information and registration forms for DWAA's first-ever canine writing conference and an updated, convenient PayPal cart to provide on-line registration for the seminar, plus user-friendly membership renewal and contest entry and awards banquet payments.

As it develops we plan to add writing tips

# President's column

by Ida Estep

and new leads for work opportunities.

You will receive e-mail notification when it is active. Please give us feedback and let us know what other features and options you would like to see.

## DWAA writing seminar and awards banquet

We decided it was time to update our approach to the DWAA awards banquet and meetings.

In February of 2016, DWAA will be offering an all-day writing seminar and luncheon awards banquet, rather than simply a dinner.

The day will start with a member meeting and then move into a three-hour writing seminar led by editors and writers, including a panel discussion.

This will be followed by an hour of personal interview appointments with speakers.

The luncheon awards banquet, which will follow immediately from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., will feature a complete meal with the choices of chicken, fish, or vegetarian.

Biographies of the speakers, their specific topics, plus the options for personal interviews are all described in detail in this issue of the newsletter and on the website, where you will also find the registration form for the event.

We are really excited about these changes, which provide attendees an opportunity for learning, making themselves known to editors, and still enjoying the comradery of the banquet and the pleasure of seeing the awards presented.

Please read all about the planned seminars and let us know what you think.

# Treasurer's report

by Marsha Pugh

## January 1, 2015 - June 1, 2015

### Category

Opening balance: . . . . . \$18,995.98

### Income

Applications. . . . . \$450.00  
 Awards Banquet . . . . . \$4,917.25  
 Awards Banquet Sponsor . . . . . \$2,000.00  
 Banquet Ticket . . . . . \$455.00  
 Contest Entry Fees . . . . . \$2,901.71  
 Memorial Donations . . . . . \$220.00  
 Dues . . . . . \$9,278.72  
 Program Advertising . . . . . \$50.00  
 Repayment . . . . . \$952.40  
 Special Award Sponsors . . . . . \$5,000.00  
 Total income . . . . . \$26,225.08

### Expenses

Accounting . . . . . \$75.00  
 Banquet Expenses . . . . . \$11,595.30  
 Computer Services . . . . . \$2,531.66  
 Contest Chair Stipend . . . . . \$2,500.00  
 Contest Expenses . . . . . \$732.13  
 Contest Supplies . . . . . \$317.18  
 Newsletter Design . . . . . \$1,650.00  
 Insurance . . . . . \$743.00  
 Printing . . . . . \$418.47  
 Special Award Winners . . . . . \$8,050.00  
 Total expenses . . . . . \$28,612.74

Overall total . . . . . \$16,608.32

## DWAA 2015 Committees

### Banquet

Marsha Pugh, Chair

### Budget and Finance

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

### Bylaws

Ida Estep, Chair  
 Alan Alford, Carmen Battaglia  
 Patricia Cruz

### 2015 Contest

Elaine Waldorf Gewirtz, Chair  
 Officers and Board

### Hall of Fame

Joel Gavriele-Gold  
 Robert McKowen

### Liaison with Cat Writers Association

Susan Ewing

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 Bryna Comsky, Susan Ewing

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 Caroline Coile, Martin Deeley, Marsha Pugh

### ruff DRAFTS

Vicky Clarke, Editor

FaceBook Administrator  
 Shelley Bueche

### Webmaster

Angela Capodanno

[www.dwaa.org](http://www.dwaa.org)

### ruff DRAFTS

send all material to  
 Vicky Clarke, editor  
 1138 Mohea Road, Unionville, NV 89418  
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### 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.

# Secretary's page

by Susan Ewing

## DUES are DUE!!!

If you haven't already renewed your DWAA membership, now's the time! You can either fill out the form and mail it, along with your check, made out to DWAA, to Marsha Pugh, Treasurer, P.O. Box 787, Hughesville, MD 20637. Or, go to DWAA.org, fill out the on-line form, and pay using PayPal.

## Welcome new members

Christine M. Booras  
3832 Baymeadows Rd, Suite 10, #108  
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904-386-8412  
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wordsmithing401@gmail.com

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emma.kesler@gmail.com

Debby McMullen  
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debby@pawsitivereactions.com

## Membership roster updates

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Emery, Audie, 6829 West Vermont Ave, Glendale, AZ, 85303,  
623-363-5022, lamstillkicking@gmail.com

Goodman, Linda, puppydogteacher@gmail.com  
Mitchell, Elaine, 611 Catbird Retreat, Charleston, SC, 29412,  
843-566-2384, mitchellcavaliers@email.com

We are sorry to report the loss of these members  
who have passed away:

Gerri Cadiz and Jacqueline Nivison

## Member list corrected e-mails and phone numbers

Adamson (new last name: Minkler), Eve, eveinkbooks@gmail.com

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Christensen, Wendy, wendy@wendycats.com

Davis, Kathy Diamond, kdiamondd12@gmail.com

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Ward, Ernie, DrErnieWard@gmail.com, 901-849-1295

Weigand, Edith S., zerrah@centurylink.com

Weintraub, Arlene, arlene.weintraub@gmail.com



# meet our New Members



## Elaine O. Chaika

My debut in this world was on December 20, 1934 in Milford, Massachusetts. Shortly thereafter, we moved to Providence, Rhode Island, where I grew up. Because my mother got a job when I was five, I was free to roam the city with my caregiver dog, Flippy. He came to us in 1937. Flippy protected me from a gang of girls bent on “whupping my ass” when I was six. Sadly, Flippy died protecting me from a huge German Shepherd.

After living in the Maine wilderness with my first husband, I moved back to Providence when my first baby was born. Eventually, I got my PhD in Linguistics. Animal communication and thought are part of a Linguist’s repertoire. Although I wrote books and articles on sociology of language and psychotic speech, I also kept up with the scholarship of animal cognition, including that of dogs. Through it all, I always had dogs.

When I retired from my professorship, I decided to devote myself to the explosion of current research into dogs. For the past seven years, I studied dogs intensively, and then wrote my seventh book, Humans, Dogs, and Civilization. Based on cutting edge science, this book also tells anecdotes that prove the results of dog studies. Besides

being a scientific study of dogs, the book is memoir of 77 years of the dogs in my life.

My book can be ordered as an eBook or a paperback. The eBook is available on Nook, Kobo, Kindle, iBook and all other platforms. The paperback is available from Barnes & Noble and Amazon and can be ordered from independent bookstores.

## Debby McMullen

Debby is the author of the How Many Dogs? Using Positive Reinforcement Training to Manage a Multiple Dog Household. It has also been translated into German. She owns Pawsitive Reactions, LLC in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Her specialty is behavior consultations with an emphasis on multiple dog households as well as aggression. She is certified in



behavior through the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants ([www.iaabc.org](http://www.iaabc.org)). She writes a regular blog on her book’s website at [www.howmanydogs.com](http://www.howmanydogs.com) as well as Victoria Stilwell’s Positively website. That can be found at <https://positively.com/community/positively-contributors/debby-mcmullen/>. Debby currently has two dogs, having just lost a senior dog. She plans to add to her family in the near future.

## Wm. J. (Joe) Schlitt

All of my writing has been in the non-fiction genre. Much of this has been of a highly technical nature related to the mineral industries, as I have B.S. and Ph.D. degrees in engineering. As a “qualified person” under Canadian National Instrument NI 43-101, I have prepared numerous independent reports on mining properties filed with various Canadian securities commissions. I have also written about 60 technical articles published in proceedings volumes and peer-reviewed professional journals. Two of these have received Taggart awards, emblematic of the best paper published annually by the mining society.

I have been involved with pure-bred dogs since the late 1960s when we got our first Old English Sheepdog. My wife and I continue to breed and show OES. Our dogs have won numerous conformation awards and some herding titles. The latter dogs are quite useful, as we have a working sheep ranch in California. I am also a licensed AKC conformation judge. For the last few years I have been writing the OES breed column for the AKC Gazette. I have also written articles for other dog magazines, livestock journals and even the philatelic press.

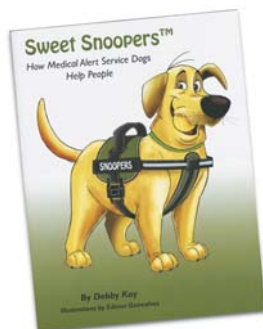


# member News!

## Sweet Snoopers™, How Medical Alert Service Dogs Help People

Author: Debby Kay

Illustrations by Edison Goncalves



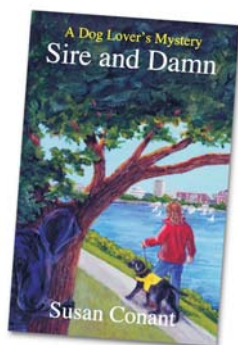
A dog's nose, which is many times more sensitive than a human's, can sniff out fluctuations in body chemistry that signal serious changes in a person's state of health such as diabetes.

This coloring book is designed to entertain and educate young people and the grown-ups in their lives while exploring Snooper's world and discovering the many ways a trained service dog can help people. You also learn what is needed to keep these dogs healthy and working. Sweet Snoopers has also been launched as an online course with a downloadable copy of the full training course eBook.

## Sire and Damn

by Susan Conant

I'm happy to report that I have just published my twentieth Dog Lover's Mystery, Sire and Damn. I have issued electronic editions of some of my early books, but this is the first book I've self-published from scratch. I especially loved being able to choose the artist to do the cover. The artist is fellow DWAA member, Terry Albert, whose work I have always admired. Sire and Damn is an Amazon exclusive. It's available in Kindle format and in paperback.



## Humans, Dogs, and Civilization

by Elaine Ostrach Chaika

illustrated by Janet Croog

I am a scholar and have written several scholarly articles, chapters in other people's edited books; and I've also written six other books, however, the dog book is my first book written for a general audience. For instance, there are chapters on whether dogs think, have extrasensory perception, how they evolved and if they're wolves. In each chapter, I tell about dogs I've had since childhood to prove or disprove a point, so the book is also a memoir. The Prologue starts with what my dog did when a gang of kids chased me home with the intent of "whupping my ass." That was 75 years ago. Since I have a doctorate in Linguistics, I also delve into how dogs communicate with each other by eye gaze. They can convey starting complex messages to them.

Alex Austin, the author of Nakamura Reality, called Humans, Dogs, and Civilization, "An enthralling blend of science and anecdote." Thirty-two illustrated chapters recount the latest cutting-edge science about dogs, as well as true stories about actual dogs. The book is partly a memoir, a scientific work, and an "engaging" narrative.

Kirkus Reviews called it "persuasive and engaging . . . a must read for anyone interested in the long history of dogs and people."

The book shows that dogs are not directly descended from wolves, that early humans didn't tame wolves to be dogs, that dogs partnered with Stone Age hunters of their own volition, and that dogs co-evolved with people. In fact, both dogs and humans have special receptors in their brains to allow them to communicate with each other. The human brain has shrunk 10%

since dogs domesticated themselves.

That's because we relied on the dog's superior senses of vision and scent, so that our brains no longer had to have space for such senses. Instead, the human brain became fashioned for complex speech, thought, and the arts. Since dogs became companions for humans, *homo sapiens* has become *homo sapiens sapiens*. That is, our own species has become more intelligent, although more deprived of acute senses. The book shows that civilization could never have been built by humans until dogs provided enough food through herding so that people no longer had to be nomads following herds of prey animals. There would be no Beethoven, rock 'n roll, Rembrandt, opera, symphonies, or scientists if dogs hadn't taken care of early humans.

It is available as an eBook on all platforms: Nook, Kindle, Kobo, etc. and also as a paperback from Barnes and Noble, Amazon, and can be ordered at independent bookstores as it is available from Ingram and other distributors. So far, the book has gotten only 5-star ratings. I also have a blog at [www.elainechaika.com](http://www.elainechaika.com)



**From Sheri S Levy:** Because my debut YA novel, Seven Days to Goodbye, won in the Special Interest category, Chris Ruben invited me to host a table with Adopt A Shelter and do a presentation on service dogs. He added my picture and wrote this on his website and their Facebook page! "I would like to add information about this wonderful program. Check out Adopt A Shelter.com. CLICK on their website, CHOOSE a shelter. SHOP - a percentage

of each purchase will be sent to the shelter. DONATE! ADOPT! at the Charlotte Pet Expo this Saturday from 10 am-6 pm. Be sure and check the



presentation by our Ambassador Sheri S Levy, award-winning author of Seven Days to Goodbye. With years of working with special needs children and adults, Sheri wrote her debut novel, Seven Days to Goodbye with research and guidance from PAALS(Palmetto Animal Assisted Living Services), a certified service dog organization located in Columbia, South Carolina. She will share the types of service dogs trained, the process, and why you need a certified service dog organization!"

**From Lisa Begin-Kryusman:** *The Animal History Museum is working with me on an on-line exhibit centered on the writing of Will Judy and National Dog Week with the potential for a physical exhibit at a later date.*

As the automotive industry evolved in America so did the nation's dog population. In his numerous editions of Training the Dog, beginning in 1927, Will Judy, Founder of National Dog Week, and publisher of the venerable Dog World Magazine, educated automobile drivers on how to safely accommodate man's best friend from behind the wheel. He urged them not to allow their dogs to put their furry faces out of a moving car's window or ride on the hood of a car or its running board!

Long before Judy's advice to dog-owning drivers, however, New Jersey industrialist Harriet White Fisher embarked on a thirteen-month-long motoring journey that found her traversing four continents in a Locomobile with a Boston bull terrier named Honk Honk at her side. Honkie, as he was affectionately called, was only six weeks old when he was acquired by Harriet in Boston as a mascot for the global trip, gifted to her by the Locomobile Company.

Harriet, an avid animal lover, was smitten by the idea of a canine companion accompanying her on this history-making trek despite the concerns of those who feared the little dog would not survive such an ordeal.

On July 17, 1909, Harriet and her entourage - comprised of Maria, her personal maid; Albert, her man servant; and Harold Brooks, her driver - left Trenton, New Jersey for New York City. There, the Locomobile was transported overseas to Paris where their international journey would officially begin. All went as planned until they arrived in Genoa, Italy, only to be informed that Honkie could not sail onboard with Harriet's party. Declaring that, "Honk Honk must not be forgotten!" she sullenly resigned herself and composed a letter that lovingly detailed Honkie's care during his solo journey on another ship.

Harriet and Honkie were reunited in India, and the little dog survived his three-month long voyage through the jungles and palaces of the most remote regions. He survived encounters with wild animals, some humans with bad intentions, and over-feeding by his doting royal hosts.

Sailing for Japan, Harriet was once again informed of the ship's "no dogs allowed" policy. Honkie was again left in the care of a ship's captain and crew. Wherever he went he was so loved by his caretakers, and by a family who temporarily housed him in Kobe that Harriet genuinely feared there were times he would not be returned to her.

Traveling without Honk Honk in Sri Lanka (then Ceylon), a now pet-less Harriet fell in love with a little monkey she spotted playing among tea bushes on Sir Thomas Lipton's plantation, and welcomed him aboard. She named him Billikins and later introduced him to Honkie in Japan.

But that wasn't to be the final non-human crew

member to join Harriet's party. Before setting sail for her return to the United States, Harriet was presented with a Japanese Chin dog by members of the adoring Japanese Press. According to the American Kennel Club (AKC) this breed is "kept in the hands of the nobility and frequently given as gifts of esteem to diplomats and to foreigners who rendered some outstanding service to Japan."

But not without incident.

While trying to leave the ship in San Francisco, it was discovered that Harriet could not produce the required documents for bringing her pets ashore. Harriet unleashed a newsworthy tirade that was reported in detail in the San Francisco Call the following day. But rest assured, Harriet and her pets made it safely home and lived out their lives comfortably on her farm, Bella Vista, in Ewing, New Jersey.

Recently, I joined forces with a terrific Literary Agent in New York City who is now representing my proposal for a children's series based on these adorable traveling pets. We believe that dogs, and all animals, can motivate students to grow their knowledge of social studies, geography and of course, history!

To learn more about these adorable "wag-abonds" and the incredible journey of Harriet Fisher, read the author's latest book, Around the World in 1909: Harriet White Fisher and Her Locomobile.

(American History Press):

<http://tinyurl.com/obfhemv>

photo: Harold F. Brooks





# The New Journalism of Dog Writing

## *how to get yourself published in the 21st century*

DWAA is trying something new for February 2016 and you're not going to want to miss a minute! We're still planning an awards banquet for the Sunday before Westminster, but that's not all. Join us that morning for a seminar with speakers who will help you learn how to be a productive (paid!) writer in the 21st century.

The **New Journalism of Dog Writing** seminar will be held **Sunday, February 14** at the **Hotel Pennsylvania** from 9:00 a.m. to noon with 40 minutes at the end for a Q&A period with the presenters. Before the seminar begins, there will be a DWAA general membership meeting from 8:00 to 8:45 a.m.

The price is just \$125 for the entire day if you register before January 15, and \$140 for late registrations. The non-member price after January 15 will be \$160. Editor appointments will be an additional \$10 for every appointment (more information to follow on our website).

Seminar presenters will be ~

**Ranny Green** • Past DWAA President, discussing being creative with one's abilities in today's tight freelancing market.

**Mara Bovsun** • AKC's Family Dog editor, describing how to use meetups and media to promote projects and as a way to gather information on specific topics.

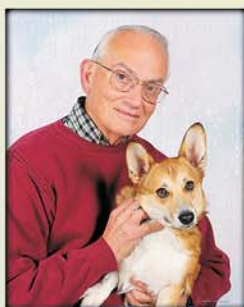
**Carol Bryant** • Professional blogger, helping everyone understand the ins and outs of blogging.

**Larry and Charlene Woodward** • Dogwise Publishing, explaining the difference between working with a niche publisher and with a publisher who focuses on material for the mass market, as well as giving tips on how to develop an audience and turn into an in-demand author.



**Carol Bryant**

Gayle King introduced Carol Bryant as, "A dog lover of the highest order," when she and her Cocker Spaniel appeared on Oprah Radio's Gayle King show. She is a frequent media contributor, appearing on television, radio, and in print. A guest speaker at conferences and seminars about dog products and travel, she also has a passion for growing social media and helped one client land the "best dog blog" honor. Carol writes for *Pet360*, *Hamptons Pet Magazine*, and also works with BlogPaws pet blogger social media community and conferences. She has helped numerous pet industry clients obtain coverage in various forms of media. She is the founder of Wigglebutt Warriors whose heart beats dog.™ Visit Carol at [FidoseofReality.com](http://FidoseofReality.com).



**Ranny Green**

A longtime (1972-2008) *Seattle Times* features writer, copy editor and pet columnist and multi-winner of DWAA Maxwell Awards in newspaper column and feature categories. He spent nearly two weeks in Louisiana, post-Katrina in 2005, writing stories for *The Times* while embedded with Noah's Wish pet disaster relief organization. In 2013, he spent several days in Newtown, Connecticut, following the shooting massacre in Sandy Hook Elementary School. He was the first U.S. journalist allowed in the school to interview staff, students and parents. Ranny is a co-director of the Westminster Kennel Club media team. He writes a monthly feature and dog-book reviews for [www.seattlekennelclub.org](http://www.seattlekennelclub.org) and regular features for [goodnewsforpets.com](http://goodnewsforpets.com). In 2013, he was inducted into the DWAA Hall of Fame.



**Mara Bovsun**

An award-winning writer and editor for the American Kennel Club's publications and websites. She has also served in many other capacities for the organization, not the least of which is being the AKC Beagle Mascot, Bailey, at several events. When she's not being the dog, she practices and competes in agility, running, and tricks training with two Leonbergers, Emily and Cleah. She also has the great privilege of watching over her 15-year-old yellow Lab, Maggie, the one-time death-row inmate who gave her the wonderful gift of a life with dogs.



**Larry and Charlene Woodward**

Charlene and Larry are the founders and owners of Dogwise.com and Dogwise Publishing. Founded in 1987, the business focused originally on marketing books at dog shows and through a mail-order catalog. Dogwise Publishing was founded in 2001 and is now the primary focus of the business with an emphasis on books of interest to dog trainers and enthusiasts. Larry is the chief editor and Charlene is the acquisitions manager. They live in Wenatchee, Washington.





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## 2015 Writing Competition

by Elaine Waldorf Gewirtz, Contest Chair

*Dog Writers, start your entry engines!*

*The DWAA Annual Writing Contest revs up for submissions on July 1st. As in past years, the field of this year's starting writers racing off to win the coveted Maxwell Medallion is crowded.*

*Judges always say that many of their entries are high-octane, and choosing only one winner proves challenging. The finalists often earn their prizes by a nose, or a bumper, or an opening paragraph . . . whatever. You get the message. In this pack of talented writers, it's an honor to receive a nomination.*

*For that extra boost to waving the chequered flag your way (that's the famous flag for the winner), please check out the NEW list of regular categories, list of special awards, rules, and entry fees. They're new for 2015!*

*Don't fly by our new special award categories, either. Blink, and you'll miss taking home some yummy cash prizes. Many thanks to our special award sponsors, too!*

*Good luck! Hope to see you at the finish line. The winners will be announced at our Awards Banquet on Sunday, February 14, 2016, at the Hotel Pennsylvania. Make plans now to come to New York.*

*This year, for the first-time in our history, the DWAA is sponsoring a terrific Writers' Conference in conjunction with a luncheon and the Awards ceremony.*

*Any contest questions? If so, feel free to call or e-mail me.*

*Elaine Gewirtz, 2015 DWAA VP and Contest Chair*

*805-418-7899 Pacific Time Zone, [Elaine@dogwriters.org](mailto:Elaine@dogwriters.org)*

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# 2015 Writing Competition Official Rules and Entry Information

## Eligibility

- The contest is open to all writers, editors, publishers, photographers, artists and others whose work falls into the designated competition categories.
- Members and non-members may apply.
- Member fees accepted for members in good standing by May 1, 2015.
- Only original work published during the competition period from September 1, 2014 through August 31, 2015 will be accepted.
- Reprints, revisions, updates of previously published work are not eligible.
- An entry may be submitted in only one category. Exception: A book containing art may be submitted in a book category and in one or more art categories and requires two or more entry fees.
- Magazines, newsletters and blogs must be published at least quarterly.
- Submissions begin July 1, 2015. The contest closes August 31, 2015.
- All entries must be postmarked or submitted online no later than Wednesday, September 9, 2015.

## Entry fees

Member, regular: \$15.00

Member, special award: \$10.00

Non-member, regular: \$20.00

Non-member, special award: \$15.00

## Special Award entries

- Special Awards are made possible through the generosity of individuals and organizations, and consist of cash grants as noted in the Special Award list.
- Special Award Sponsors are not involved in selecting winners.
- Special Award entry **MUST ALSO BE** entered in a regular category.

## Submission format

- Hard copy or online submissions are acceptable.
- Publication name and date must be visible on each entry.
- All information must be legible.
- Online entries will receive email confirmations.

## Additional instructions for HARD COPY entries submitted by mail

- **REGULAR CATEGORY:** One entry form plus four copies. Magazines, newsletters, and club publications: Two issues required. Submit **FOUR** sets of two issues.
- **SPECIAL CATEGORY:** Additional entry form plus **TWO** additional copies of submission.
- Articles must be clipped from magazines, newspapers, newsletters, or printed from online sources if submitting via mail.
- Check or Pay Pal receipt must accompany submissions.

## Additional instructions for entries submitted ONLINE

- **REGULAR CATEGORY:** One entry form plus one copy.
- **SPECIAL CATEGORY:** Additional entry form plus one additional copy.
- Blogs: Submit **TWO** different entries.
- Check or Pay Pal receipt must accompany submissions.
- Online entries will receive email confirmations.

## Mailing instructions

- Entries must be postmarked/received online by Wednesday, September 9, 2015. No late entries will be accepted.
- Mail entries to Elaine Gewirtz, DWAA Contest Chair, 2243 Kelmscott Court, Westlake Village, CA 91361.
- Submit online entries to [Elaine@dogwriters.org](mailto:Elaine@dogwriters.org).
- **PLEASE DO NOT REQUEST SIGNATURE FOR MAIL RECEIPT.**
- Entries cannot be returned, and all material becomes the property of DWAA for the purposes of administering the contest.
- DWAA is not responsible for entries lost in transit.

## Entrant responsibilities

- Entrant is responsible for complying with all rules and guidelines. Deviation may result in entry rejection and forfeiture of the entry fee.
- DWAA maximum liability is limited to refund of the entry fee.
- If the work is entered in the wrong category, DWAA reserves the right to make the correction, at the discretion of the Contest Chair, upon notification to entrant.
- Entries may be made on behalf of someone else, but the name of the person creating the work must be listed as the entrant. The entrant's and submitter's address and contact information are required.
- All names and contact information of co-creators are required.

## Judging and Awards information

- A panel of three judges scores each entry. Judges consist of DWAA members and non-members who are professional writers and editors. A composite of judges' scores determine the nominees and winners. Judges may enter the contest, but will not judge entries categories they enter.
- Judges' decisions are final. A list of judges will be posted August 15, 2015.
- Nominees will be notified after December 1, 2015, and posted to the website beginning December 15, 2015.
- Winners will be announced at the DWAA Awards Banquet held in New York City, on Sunday February 14, 2015.
- Nominees in the regular and special categories receive certificates. Winners of regular categories receive the DWAA Maxwell Medallion, named in honor of the late Maxwell Riddle. Winners of special categories receive cash awards as listed.

QUESTIONS? Contact Elaine Gewirtz, Contest Chair,  
[Elaine@dogwriters.org](mailto:Elaine@dogwriters.org) or 805-418-7899 Pacific Time Zone.



## 2015 Writing Competition Categories

### A. Newspaper Articles and Columns

1. Article – Health or General Care
2. Article – Behavior or Training
3. Article – Rescue
4. Article – Art or Any Other Topic

### B. Magazines

5. Single, Related, or All-Breed
6. Annual, Special Interest, or Any Other Subject

### C. Magazine Articles

7. Article – Health or General Care
8. Article – Behavior or Training
9. Article – Rescue
10. Article – Breed
11. Article – Art or Any Other Topic

### D.12. Canine or All-Animal Newspapers or Newsletters

#### E. Canine, All-Animal Newspaper or Newsletter Articles and Columns

13. Any Topic

### F. Online

14. Blogsite or Website
15. Magazine or Newsletter

### G. Online Articles or Blog Entries

16. Article or Blog – Health or General Care
17. Article or Blog – Behavior or Training
18. Article or Blog - Rescue
19. Article or Blog – Any Other Topic

### H. Graphics

20. Single Photo
21. Series Photos
22. Single Illustration or Painting
23. Series of Illustrations or Paintings
24. Posters, Calendars, Brochures or Pamphlets

### I. Humor, Poetry, Short Fiction, Opinions/Editorials

25. Humor
26. Poetry
27. Short Fiction
28. Opinions/Editorials

### J. Other Media

29. Video, DVD, or TV Broadcasts
30. Radio, Podcast, or Other Audio

### K. Club Publications (National, Regional or Local)

31. Magazine format
32. Newsletter format

### L. Club Publication Articles

33. Article – Any Topic
34. Regular Column or Series

### M.35. Club Special Publication

### N. Books

36. Single, Related, or All-Breed
37. Rescue or Adoption
38. Training or Sports
39. Behavior, Health, or General Care
40. Human/Animal Bond
41. Reference
42. Fiction, Young Adult, or Humor
43. Children



## Special Awards

### The Adoptashelter.com Adopt a Homeless Dog Award

Sponsored by AdoptAShelter.com, this award is presented to the entry that best describes the plight of homeless dogs, the joy of dog adoption, and/or improving the quality of life of dogs in a shelter environment. Entries will be judged for quality as well as the ability to persuade the reader. Qualified online only entries include single articles, features, columns, series of articles, short stories, websites, blogs, videos photos or d any other accepted online venue. The award consists of \$500 and inclusion in the Adoptashelter.com online library.

### AKC Club Publication Excellence Award

This award is for the best article in a national, regional, or local AKC club publication in magazine or newsletter format. The award consists of a plaque and a \$500 cash grant.

### AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Public Service Award

Sponsored by the American Kennel Club, this award goes to the writer of a print or online feature article that best educates pet owners about responsible dog ownership. The award consists of a plaque and a \$500 cash grant. To enter, submit one article, which must also be entered in one of the regular categories in this year's contest.



### AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy and Canine Good Citizen Award

Sponsored by the American Kennel Club, this award is for the best writing about the AKC Canine Good Citizen Program or the puppy level of CGC, AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy. Recognized as the "gold standard" for family dog manners, CGC and AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy focus on teaching good manners to dogs and responsible dog ownership to dog owners. This award is a \$500.00 cash grant.

### Angel on a Leash Award

In honor of its therapy dog teams and programs around the country, for the best newspaper or magazine article or television news feature about the impact of the use of therapy dogs in health care facilities. The award consists of \$250.00 cash grant.

### The Designated Dog Award

Sponsored by Designated Dog, this award represents the best submission in all forms of media about a service dog going above and beyond for a human companion. This award is a \$350 cash grant.

### Dogwise Best Book Award

Sponsored by Dogwise Publishing, this is a cash grant of \$500.00 to the author of the best book. The winner will be chosen by the president of DWAA from the winners of all the book categories. Do not apply for this award.

### DWAA Distinguished Service Award

Sponsored by the American Kennel Club, this award honors extraordinary achievement and communications excellence. It recognizes the person who, by word, deed, exemplary conduct, public communication and professional excellence, best promotes the interest of the sport of dogs. The award consists of a plaque and a \$1,000 cash grant. Do not apply for this award.

### DWAA Pat Santi Memorial Friends of Rescue Award.

Sponsored by Alden Taylor, Fran Pennock Shaw, Elaine Gewirtz, Ida Estep, Marsha Pugh, Susan Ewing. For the best article describing the rescue process; adoption, fostering, transporting, home visits or other aspects of rescue. \$300.00 cash grant.

### DWAA Junior Writer Award

Sponsored by Karen Petit for writers under 18 years of age. This award is to recognize and encourage young writers who exhibit talent, resourcefulness, dedication, and integrity in their writing about dogs and dog-related topics. Award: \$400 cash grant, DWAA Maxwell Medallion and lapel pin.

### The Captain Haggerty Award for Best Training Book or Article

Sponsored by Babette Haggerty of Haggerty Dog Training, in memory of her father, Capt. Arthur Haggerty. For the best book or article on training. Award: \$200.00 cash grant.

### James Colasanti, Jr. Poetry Award

For the poem/poetry which best exemplifies the unconditional love of a dog. Sponsored by James Colasanti Jr. The award is a \$200.00 cash grant.

### North Shore Animal League America Award

For all media which best supports the missions of the League's program, encouraging spay/neuter initiatives as a way of reducing unwanted births and pet euthanasia rates; focus can be on the community-wide programs or individual responsibility of pet owners. Award: \$500.00 cash grant.

### Planet Dog Foundation Sit. Speak. Act. Canine Service Award

For all media. For the best story promoting and celebrating a program in which dogs serve and support their best friends, by highlighting service dogs, therapy dogs, K-9 search and rescue, or police dogs. Award: \$500.00 cash grant.



## DWAA 2015 Writing Competition Official Entry Form

\* \* \* *Please note new rules and categories* \* \* \*

Submit entries to Elaine Gewirtz, DWAA Contest Chair  
2243 Kelmscott Court, Westlake Village, CA 91361, [elaine@dogwriters.org](mailto:elaine@dogwriters.org)

*Entries must be postmarked/received online no later than Wednesday, September 9, 2015*



Entrant Name .....

Entrant is the writer or co-creator of the work.

Address .....

City ..... State ..... Zip Code .....

Phone ..... Email .....

Address .....

Co-creator, if applicable.

City ..... State ..... Zip Code .....

Category no. and & description .....

Title of Entry .....

Name of Publication or Publisher .....

Issue/Publication Date .....

(Must be between 9/1/14 and 8/31/15)

Name of Special Award .....

Amount submitted to PayPal. .... or amount of check: .....

PayPal account must include name of entrant. Please include check or PayPal receipt.

*I certify this entry is original work and first published between September 1, 2014, and August 31, 2015. I understand and abide by all contest rules, and further agree that the DWAA and/or Special Award sponsors may use my name and likeness in connection with the 2015 DWAA Writing Competition publicity. I further agree that the DWAA may publish and use excerpts from my entry to announce contest results or otherwise advertise the contest. If such usage requires the permission of any publisher, co-writer or other individual or entity, I agree to obtain such permission and have it extend to the Dog Writers' Association of America.*

Signature of Entrant or Submitter .....

Name/Address of Submitter (if different from entrant) .....

For Junior Writers under 18 years old: Jr's Birthdate and Parent's Signature

Signature: ..... DoB: .....

# meet another New Member

## Tracey Jones

An author, speaker, publisher and US Air Force veteran, Tracey C. Jones is the President of Tremendous Life Books. Tracey successfully guided the company through the difficult transition to second-generation business after the death of its founder and Tracey's father, the legendary speaker and author Charlie "Tremendous" Jones.

Tracey believes each person you meet, and all the books you read, make you the person you are today. She is the mother of nine rescue pets: four cats, three dogs, and two ducks; and the author of four dog-centric books: True Blue Leadership, From Underdog to Wonder Dog, Saucy Aussie Living, and Boxcar Indy.

A community leader, Tracey is a Trustee of Lancaster Bible College, and serves on the boards of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Capital Region and the Amelia Givin Library. She is also active in local military and civic associations.

Tracey's company has donated nearly \$900,000 to local homeless shelters, missions groups, disaster recovery organizations, and scholarships to local colleges. Tracey enjoys the outdoors, biking, traveling, spending time with her pets, and of course . . . reading!!!

ed note: my sincere apologies for overlooking this bio that was sent to me some time ago . . . no good excuses, it simply got filed in the wrong place! -V.





# 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, 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, Treasurer

P.O. Box 787, Hughesville, MD 20637

marsha\_pugh01@comcast.net

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



Susan Ewing, Secretary  
66 Adams Street  
Jamestown, NY 14701

*our little  
cover  
beauties*

photo © Vicky Clarke

