



# ruff DRAFTS

*Spring Summer 2016*

## In This Issue

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## Conference Report

by **Su Ewing**

Our first annual mini-conference and awards luncheon was a success, with about 40 people attending the morning seminars and about 115 total at the awards luncheon.

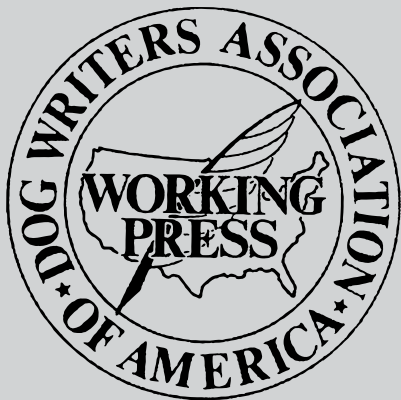
Huge thanks go to Mara Bovsun, Carol Bryant, Ranny Green and Larry and Charlene Woodward. Everyone learned something from these great presenters.

We also offered editor appointments and several of these editors have already agreed to return next year. This year, we had representatives from Dogwise, Good News for Pets, TFH, i5 Publishing, Kensington Books and Family Dog.

We passed out evaluation sheets and got some suggestions that we'll be putting into effect next year. People have already approached me with ideas for seminar topics. If you attended this year, there'll be all new speakers and all new topics next year to help you further your writing career.

We received positive feedback to having our awards ceremony in the afternoon rather than the evening, and, this switch also helped us financially. 🐾





## Officers

### Ida W. Estep, Esq., President

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# President's

# COLUMN

by **Ida Estep**

Congratulations to all the winners of Maxwell Medallions and Special Awards for the 2015 Writing Competition. DWAA received many excellent submissions and we hope everybody who participated will plan to participate in the 2016 contest which starts in June.

We want to thank Elaine Gewirtz for her excellent work as contest chair over the last three years. She did a super job in what is a very labor intensive activity.

Starting this year, Arden Moore will be contest chair. Thanks so much to Arden for offering to do this time intensive and very important job. Her email is [fourleggedlife@gmail.com](mailto:fourleggedlife@gmail.com).

We have had great feedback from the folks who attended the seminar and plan to hold another one next year. We are currently working to develop a list of seminar speakers and individuals for personal interviews for the upcoming year. If any of you have any ideas as to speakers or topics you would like covered, please get in touch with Su Ewing at [dogwriter@windstream.net](mailto:dogwriter@windstream.net). As in this year's program, we are focusing on speakers who can provide solid knowledge and experience to attendees for increased success in their writing and publishing efforts. Since arrangements for the seminar take considerable time, please consider getting in touch with Su as soon as possible.



**Ida Estep, President of the DWAA**

The luncheon banquet that immediately followed the seminar also received a lot of positive feedback. This was a definite change from the dinner banquet held in prior years but attendees felt the new timing was an improvement and we plan to continue this same schedule next year.

We have already negotiated and executed a contract with the Hotel Pennsylvania for next year's banquet luncheon.

Again, thanks to all who participated in the contest and in the multiple tasks required to hold the seminar and banquet. We hope as many people as possible will be able to offer help and ideas for next year's event. 🐾



*We have had great feedback from the folks who attended the seminar and plan to hold another one next year."*

—Ida Estep, DWAA PRESIDENT



## REPORT

by **Marsha Pugh****JANUARY 1-DECEMBER 31, 2015**

<b>Opening Balance</b>		<b>\$18,995.98</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Applications	\$975.00	
Awards Banquet	\$5,372.25	
Banquet Sponsor	\$2,000.00	
Contest Entry Fees	\$9,340.00	
Memorial Donation	\$220.00	
Dues	\$13,765.72	
Program Ads	\$75.00	
Restitution	\$1,523.84	
Special Award Sponsor	\$5,950.00	
Membership Pin	\$5.00	
Seminar Reservation	\$415.00	
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$39,641.81</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Accounting	\$1,293.75	
Bank Charges	\$239.85	
Banquet Expenses	\$11,595.30	
Computer Svc	\$7,064.74	
Contest Chair Stipend	\$2,500.00	
Contest Expenses	\$3,854.26	
Newsletter Design	\$3,150.00	
Insurance	\$1,251.00	
Printing	\$644.03	
Special Award Winner	\$8,050.00	
Restitution Moved to Savings	\$720.31	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$40,363.24</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>\$18,274.55</b>
<b>Savings</b>		<b>\$1,101.57</b>

**DWAA 2016 Committees****BANQUET**

Marsha Pugh, Chair

**BUDGET AND FINANCE**Ida Estep, Chair  
Carmen Battaglia, Martin Deeley,  
Susan Ewing, Marsha Pugh**BYLAWS**Ida Estep, Chair  
Carmen Battaglia, Patricia Cruz**2016 CONTEST**Arden Moore, Chair  
Officers and Board**HALL OF FAME**

Joel Gavriele-Gold

**LIAISON WITH CAT WRITERS ASSOCIATION**

Susan Ewing

**MEMBERSHIP**Marsha Pugh, Chair  
Bryna Comsky, Susan Ewing**PUBLIC RELATIONS**Connie Brittain, Chair  
Caroline Coile, Martin Deeley, Marsha Pugh**ruff DRAFTS**

Angela Capodanno, Editor

**SOCIAL MEDIA**Facebook: Shelley Bueche  
Twitter: Dawn Taylor**WEBMASTER**

Angela Capodanno

**ruff DRAFTS**send all material to Angela Capodanno  
PO Box 125, Frazier Park, CA 93225  
(661) 245-2700, angela@visualspring.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. Reproduction of photos and editorial is forbidden without permission.

## 2016 Annual Meeting

by **Su Ewing**

The annual meeting of the Dog Writers Association of America was held February 14, 2016 in the Gold Ballroom, Hotel Pennsylvania, NYC.

Present: Elaine Gewirtz, Marsha Pugh, Susan Ewing, Peri Norman, Ann Hohenhaus, Ranny Green, Carmen Battaglia, Linda Johnston, Lauren Darr, Jody Miller-Young, Jen Reeder, Bryna Comsky, Lea-Ann Germinder. Guests: Skye Anderson, Garry McDaniel.

The meeting was called to order by vice president, Elaine Gewirtz at 8:02 and the minutes of last year's meeting approved as published in ruff DRAFTS, Spring, 2015.

The president's report was submitted in writing and will be published in the newsletter.

Secretary Susan Ewing reported that 16 new members had joined DWAA in 2016 and there were six more applications pending.

Treasurer Marsha Pugh reported that as of December 31, 2015, we had a balance of \$23,591.21 with \$1001.01 in our restitution account.

Contest chair Elaine Gewirtz noted an increase in entries. Peri Norman moved that we increase fees for the contest, leaving the exact amount to the discretion of the contest chair. Ann Hohenhaus seconded. Passed unanimously.

Marsha Pugh reported on the banquet, noting that although the base meal cost \$69, with the addition of

various taxes and with tip, the price went over \$100 per person. Having a mini-conference this year helped defray some of the costs, but the fear is that eventually, we will be priced out of the New York market.

Ann Hohenhaus, who lives in the city, is a part of another group that is using the NYC Conference and Seminar Center in April and she will check out this venue for us. If it would work, it would cut our costs from approximately \$12,000 to \$6,000.

There was a discussion on getting more sponsorship and Peri Norman has offered to help with that.

Both Joel Gavriele-Gold and Martin Deeley agreed to serve on the board for another term. President Ida Estep appointed member Karen Harbert to fill the unexpired term of Robert McKowen.

Lea-Ann Germinder presented a public relations report. She has been publicizing our organization and event, through her company, Good News for Pets.

She interviewed seminar speakers and VP Elaine Gewirtz. There were press releases on Twitter, Snapchat and [Goodnewsforpets.com](http://Goodnewsforpets.com).

Her firm also uses [prweb.com](http://prweb.com) which goes out to national media, as well as Sisson which also gets the word out.

She recommends a p.r. committee to work with her in the coming year.

Peri Norman moved to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m.



## New Members

### PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

#### Deborah Camp

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#### Susan Casey

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#### Gerianne Darnell

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See NEW MEMBERS pg 5

# New Members

*Continued from pg 4*

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## **Laurie Williams**

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## **ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS**

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## **Heddie Leger**

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## **Melissa Shapiro**

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*See MEMBER UPDATES pg 14*

## **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!

Please send submissions to [angela@visualspring.net](mailto:angela@visualspring.net). Thanks!

—Angela Capodanno, ruff DRAFTS designer

# A Boy and His Dog

by **Barbara E. Magera MD,  
PharmD, MMM**

A boy and his dog play a game of fetch. The boy tosses a ball. His dog nimbly retrieves it and drops the ball in front of the boy. This game of toss and catch goes on for hours. Clenching the ball in his mouth, the dog swiftly runs past the boy but this time he does not drop the ball in front of the boy. The boy chases after his dog, catches him in mid air with his arms wrapped around his dog's torso. Giggling he buries his face into his dog's fur. The dog drops the ball from his mouth and furiously licks the boy. Both fall to the grass and hug each other. The boy's giggles turn into squeals of laughter. Happy barks fill the sky from his playful dog.

These are the mementos of a boy and his dog. When romantic love shatters his heart, memories of his boyhood romps with his dog will comfort him. When his children grow up and leave home, the loyalty of his dog will sustain him. When widowhood follows fifty years of marriage, the warm feelings of canine love will ease his pain. As



he grows old and his mind fades, flashbacks of happy times with his dog will guide him through life's adversities.

The reflections he holds of his dog are indelible and sacred. This is true because the love between a boy and his dog is pure, unconditional and deep. 🐾

**Barbara E. Magera MD, PharmD, MMM**  
(Caracaleeb) is a Cavalier fancier who lives  
and works in Charleston, South Carolina.  
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# Winners: 2015 Writing Competition

## Regular Categories

The Dog Writers Association of America announced the Regular Category Winners and Special Award Winners on February 14, 2016 at the DWAA Awards Luncheon in New York City.

### A. Newspaper Articles and Columns

#### 1. ARTICLE – HEALTH OR GENERAL CARE

Monique Balas, "Hospice Care Bridges the Gap Between Curing and Euthanizing" (The Oregonian)

#### 2. ARTICLE – BEHAVIOR OR TRAINING

Monique Balas, "For Search and Rescue Dogs, Their Job is Saving Lives" (The Oregonian)

#### 3. ARTICLE – RESCUE

Pam Gleason, "Flyaway Home: Pilots N Paws Rescue Event" (The Dog & Hound)

#### 4. ARTICLE – ART OR ANY OTHER TOPIC

Jen Reeder, "Always Faithful" (Durango Telegraph)

### B. Magazines

#### 5. SINGLE, RELATED, OR ALL-BREED

AKC Family Dog

#### 6. ANNUAL, SPECIAL INTEREST, OR ANY OTHER SUBJECT

Puppies 101 (I-5 Publishing)

### C. Magazine Articles

#### 7. ARTICLE– HEALTH OR GENERAL CARE

Denise Fleck, "Pet Disaster Preparedness" (Pet Sitter's World Magazine)

#### 8. ARTICLE– BEHAVIOR OR TRAINING

Gina Mireault, "Great Expectations" (AKC Family Dog)

#### 9. ARTICLE – RESCUE

Jen Reeder, "Second Chance Dogs" (Modern Dog)

#### 10. ARTICLE– BREED (TIE)

Mara Bovsun, "Don't Worry, Be Hairly" (AKC Family Dog)

Erika Mansourian, "From the Roof of the World to the Foot of the Bed" (AKC Family Dog)

#### 11. ARTICLE/COLUMN – ART OR ANY OTHER TOPIC

Brian Patrick Duggan, "Citizen Biggles" (AKC Family Dog)

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

The Companion (Canine Companions For Independence Northeast Region)

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

### 13. ARTICLE – ANY TOPIC

Stephanie Colman, "Service, Please" (Whole Dog Journal)

## F. Online

### 14. BLOGSITE OR WEBSITE

American Kennel Club, [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)

### 15. MAGAZINE OR NEWSLETTER

AKC Canine Partners News, Penny Leigh & Joanne Tribble, editors

## G. Online Articles or Blog Entries

### 16. ARTICLE OR BLOG – HEALTH OR GENERAL CARE

Nancy Beach, "Canine Osteosarcoma Parts 1 and 2" (Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine)

### 17. ARTICLE OR BLOG – BEHAVIOR OR TRAINING

Denise Fenzi, "It's a Puppy, Not a Problem!" [www.denisefenzipetdogs.com](http://www.denisefenzipetdogs.com)

### 18. ARTICLE OR BLOG – RESCUE

Kim Campbell Thornton, "Old Dogs Rule" (Universal Press Syndicate Pet Connection)

### 19. ARTICLE OR BLOG – ANY OTHER TOPIC

Liz Donovan, "Man Gives Everything to Care for 12 Military Dogs After Their Return From War" [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)

## H. Graphics

### 20. SINGLE PHOTO

Mary Fish Arango, "Summertime at the Beach" (Chronicle of the Dog)

### 21. SERIES PHOTOS

Beth Adams, "Idiot's Guide: Dog Tricks" (Alpha)

### 22. SINGLE ILLUSTRATION OR PAINTING

Emma Kesler, "Three Popular Human Sayings About Dogs and What Miles Has to Say About Them" [www.milesandemma.com](http://www.milesandemma.com)

### 23. SERIES OF ILLUSTRATIONS OR PAINTINGS

Bud Boccone, "Dog People" (AKC Family Dog)

### 24. POSTERS, CALENDARS, BROCHURES OR PAMPHLETS

Roy A. Wilson, Barbara Garnett-Wilson & Nancy Kinnear, "2016 Cavalier King Charles Spaniel in Fine Art Calendar"

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

### 25. HUMOR

Joanne Anderson, "Beauty Tips a la Monsieur Edgar" (Massapequa Post)

### 26. POETRY

Debra Lampert Rudman, "Gigi In Winter" (La Joie)

### 27. SHORT FICTION

Morgan Humphrey, "Scryer" (Independent Publishing)

### 28. OPINIONS/EDITORIALS

Joanne Anderson, "Homeless Hoarder" (Amityville Record)

## J. Other Media

### 29. VIDEO, DVD, OR TV BROADCASTS

Jane Messineo Lindquist (Killion) & Mark Lindquist, "Puppy Culture" (Madcap Productions)

### 30. RADIO, PODCAST, OR OTHER AUDIO

AKC Canine Health Foundation, "Senior Dog Health: An Overview"

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

### 31. MAGAZINE FORMAT

The Ridgeback, Pamela Rape, editor

### 32. NEWSLETTER FORMAT

The Scottie Scuttlebutt, Carolyn Grande, editor

## L. Club Publication Articles

### 33. ARTICLE – ANY TOPIC

Kevin Curran, MD, FACP, "Canine Renal Disease" (The Alpenhorn)

### 34. REGULAR COLUMN OR SERIES

Fiona Petersen, "It's a Dog's Life – Parts 1 and 2 (The Corgi Cryer)"

## M. 35. Club Special Publications

The AKC New Complete Dog Book, Mara Bovsun, editor (American Kennel Club)

## N. Books

### 36. SINGLE, RELATED, OR ALL-BREED

Robert H. Thomas and Pamela B. Thomas, *Leonhard Seppala, the Siberian Dog, and the Golden Age of Sleddog Racing* (Pictorial Histories Publishing Co., Inc.)

### 37. RESCUE OR ADOPTION

Jacki Skole, *DOGLAND: A Journey to the Heart of America's Dog Problem* [www.ashlandcreekpress.com](http://www.ashlandcreekpress.com)

### 38. TRAINING OR SPORTS

Denise Fenzi & Deb Jones, *Dog Sports Skills, Book 3: Play* (Fenzi Dog Sports Academy Publishing)

### 39. BEHAVIOR, HEALTH, OR GENERAL CARE

Marthina Greer, DVM, JD, *Canine Reproduction and Neonatology* (Teton New Media)

### 40. HUMAN ANIMAL BOND

Gail Noreen MacMillan, *To All the Dogs I've Loved Before* (Wildflower Press)

### 41. REFERENCE

John Visconti, *Fetch More Dollars for Your Dog Training Business* (Dogwise Publishing)

### 42. FICTION, YOUNG ADULT OR HUMOR

Sheila Webster Boneham, *Catwalk* (Midnight Ink)

### 43. CHILDREN

Lauren Darr and Florina Boldi, *Lipstick On A Pug* (Left Paw Press) 🐾

# Winners: 2015 Writing Competition

## Special Award Winners

*Sponsors of Special Awards are not involved in the judging.*

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

This award focuses on the plight of homeless dogs, the joy of dog adoption, and/or improving the quality of life of dogs in a shelter environment. Entries 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 any other accepted online venue. The award consists of \$500 and inclusion in the <http://Adoptashelter.com/> online library.

🐕 Rachel Phelps, "10 Ways to Help Animals" [Petcha.com](http://Petcha.com)

### AKC Club Publication Excellence Award

Given to 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.

🐕 Peri Norman, "In Search of the Perfect Stud Dog" – Belgian Sheepdog Newsletter

### 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.

🐕 Monique Balas, "Veterinarians Already Seeing Increase in Marijuana Toxicity in Pets" (The Oregonian)

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

Sponsored by the American Kennel Club, this award is given in recognition of 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 cash award.

🐕 Ranny Green, "Service Dog Snoopy and Little Luke" – [SeattleKennelclub.org](http://SeattleKennelclub.org)

### AKC Microchipping Awareness Award sponsored by The AKC Reunite Program

Sponsored by The AKC Reunite Program for the best article on microchips, pet recovery and the microchip database of not for profits vs. for profits. The Award is a \$1500 cash grant.

🐕 Jen Reeder, "Find Me: Why Microchips Are Important" – Pets Matter - American Animal Hospital Association

### Angel on a Leash Award

In honor of its therapy dog teams and programs around the country, this award is given 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 a \$250 cash grant.

🐕 Barbara E. Magera, "Playtime" – The Royal Spaniels

### 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. Given to the best book or article on training. The award consists of a \$200 cash grant.

🐕 Dawn Antoniak-Mitchell, Teach Your Herding Breed to be a Great Companion Dog – Dogwise Publishing

### The Designated Dog Award

Sponsored by [www.DesignatedDog.com](http://www.DesignatedDog.com), 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.

🐕 Sharon Pflaumer, "Patriot Paws" – Dog News

### DWAA Pat Santi Memorial Friends of Rescue Award

Sponsored by Alden Taylor, Fran Pennock Shaw, Ida Estep, Marsha Pugh, Susan Ewing and Elaine Gewirtz. It is given for the best article or book describing the rescue process; adoption, fostering, transporting, home visits or other aspects of rescue. \$300 cash grant.

🐕 Teresa J. Rhyne, The Dogs Were Rescued and So Was I - Sourcebooks, Inc.





**Morgan Humphrey, proud recipient of two Maxwell medallions, with Joel Gavriele-Gold**

## DWAA Junior Writer Award

Sponsored by Karen Petit for writers under 18 years of age. This award recognizes and encourages young writers who exhibit talent, resourcefulness, dedication, and integrity in their writing about dogs and dog-related topics.

The recipient receives a \$400 cash grant, a DWAA Maxwell Medallion and a DWAA lapel pin.

🏆 Morgan Humphrey, "Scryer" – Independent Publishing

## Dogwise Best Book Award

Sponsored by Dogwise Publishing, a \$500 cash grant is given to the author of the best book. The DWAA president selects the winner from the winners of all of the book categories.

🏆 Marthina Greer, DVM, JD, Canine Reproduction and Neonatology (Teton New Media)

## James Colasanti, Jr. Poetry Award

For the poem/poetry which best exemplifies the unconditional love of a dog. Sponsored by James Colasanti, Jr. this award is a \$200 cash grant.

🏆 Jim Lee, "Double Parking" – Royal Spaniels

## 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. The focus may include community-wide programs or the individual responsibility of pet owners. This award is a \$500 cash grant.

🏆 Monique Balas, "Pet Talk: Spaying and Neutering Keeps Pets and Pet Population Healthy" – The Oregonian

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

For all media, this award is given to 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. The award consists of a \$500 cash grant.

🏆 The Companion (Canine Companions For Independence Northeast Region) 🐾

**marybloom.com**

Special thanks to Mary Bloom for allowing the DWAA to use her photography.



**More event photos  
on the website at**

**[www.dogwriters.org](http://www.dogwriters.org)**

# 2016 Writing Competition News



by **Arden Moore**, CONTEST CHAIR

Here is your chance to be recognized and rewarded for your journalistic talents in the dog world. I'm Arden Moore, your new contest chair for the 2016 DWAA Annual Writing Contest. I've made friends with my postal carrier and gave my computer a tune up, so let's get these online and mailed entries heading my way!

Please refer to the DWAA site for updated 2016 contest information – [www.dwaa.org](http://www.dwaa.org). So, don't sit or stay and certainly don't delay. Enter the 2016 DWAA Contest today! Any questions? Please email me at [arden@fourleggedlife.com](mailto:arden@fourleggedlife.com). And good luck to everyone! 🐾

## Key dates/rules:

Only original work published between Sept. 1, 2015 through Aug. 31, 2016 will be accepted.

Submissions will be accepted now until Sept. 9, 2016.

Submissions are to be sent online/mailed to Arden Moore, DWAA Contest Chair, 726 Deep Well Drive, Allen, TX 75002 or email to [arden@fourleggedlife.com](mailto:arden@fourleggedlife.com). Do NOT send any entries that require the contest chair to sign for them!

All entries must be postmarked or submitted online no later than Friday, Sept. 9, 2016. No late entries will be accepted.

Save money by volunteering to judge categories you are not entering. Please email Arden TODAY! [arden@fourleggedlife.com](mailto:arden@fourleggedlife.com). We need judges!!!

Winners of the coveted Maxwell Medallions and special awards will be announced at the DWAA Awards Banquet in February, 2017 in New York City on February 12, 2017 at the Hotel Pennsylvania.

## Nominations of Next Term Officers

Susan Ewing is heading up the nominating committee for the slate of people who are running as officers. We will be filling vacancies for president, vice president and secretary.

If you are interested in running, please email Su at [dogwriter@windstream.net](mailto:dogwriter@windstream.net)





# When Reunion is the "End-Game"

by **Lisa Begin-Kruysman**

In a rural area of New Jersey, there is an animal sanctuary that is different from most others. Seer Farms, founded in 2009 by Laura Pople, was established to embrace Laura's mission that our pets are truly family members and no circumstance should ever separate them from us. Seer Farms is a facility that will take in the family cat(s) or dog(s) (and occasional "other" creature) of those in need and care for them until the situation permits pets and people to reunite under one roof. These pets come to her as the result of military deployments, domestic violence, natural disasters and from pet owners who are going through challenging times and need a hand in caring for their pets until more fortunate circumstances prevail. By offering this unique opportunity, many pets are saved from abandonment and uncertain fates.

I had the great opportunity to meet Laura recently when my husband, Rich, and dog, Teddy, delivered a collection of donated supplies. During our visit, we met a woman who was there to spend time with two of her dogs that are being cared for by Laura and her staff. Deb told us that she had lost her home in Hurricane Sandy, and like many others, still had not fully recovered from that life-changing event of three and a half years ago. Her home is in the process of being raised and when that is complete, she and her dogs will enjoy their special Reunion Day when they hop into her car and take that much-awaited ride home. Deb appreciated these visits but notes that at the end of each, her dogs try to lead her to the car so that they can go home with her. As someone who personally witnessed the devastation of



**Lisa Begin-Kruysman and Teddy (L) and Laura Pople**

that storm, I can attest to how important this oasis has been for so many.

I can't think of a happier event than the occasion of a Reunion Day – having your beloved pet once again by your side, – having come through the worst of times, and now, ready to provide comfort and support to each other as their journey continues.

In her actions and her life's work, Laura and her staff and board have made a major difference in the lives of animals, and the humans who love them. Their work and mission fully embrace what Will Judy wrote so many years ago, "Between the attitude toward the dog

of those far past centuries and the attitude of today is a vast journey in the direction of kindness and a heart of sympathy."

Laura and I are currently collaborating on a book that will share these unique and inspiring stories and look forward to a successful venture. 🐾

**To read more about this unique sheltering model, its staff and volunteers:**<http://seerfarms.org/>





# Member News

By **Amy Shojai, CABC**

STRAYS, THE MUSICAL has been licensed to be performed by a school in Houston, Texas this spring. It will also be produced later next year at another school in Florida (Gainesville area, I think). More information about the show is here: <http://amyshojai.com/plays/strays/> hoping to spread more behavior info about pets in a fun way to folks who otherwise might never get it.

Also, today (March 1st) I am quoted in a front page article in the Wall Street Journal about cats (and pets) in novels. The article also mentions the CWA awards and conference program, yay! Blogged about it here, with the direct link to the article: [http://catwriters.com/wp\\_meow/cwa-front-page-wall-street-journal/](http://catwriters.com/wp_meow/cwa-front-page-wall-street-journal/)

By **Karen Harbert**

The eleventh book in my mystery series, 'Murder at the Dog Show' is set for release on Amazon in March. The title is, *Just Desert*.

## Robert H. McKowen Inducted into the DWAA Hall of Fame

For lifetime achievement and celebrated accomplishments as a journalist, author, columnist, and breeder of purebred dogs, the Dog Writers Association of America proudly inducts into its Hall of Fame, Robert H. McKowen.

Robert H. McKowen created the AKC Performance Events Division and served as Vice President for nine years. The unique title of "Earthdog" as an official event was Robert's suggestion. Robert is a former Staff Correspondent for the United Press and Senior Press Services Supervisor for a fortune

500 company. He won three national awards for excellence in advertising and public relations.

Robert won the Maxwell Award for Best Breed Book of the Year for his book "The New Complete German Shorthaired Pointer." He was AKC Gazette breed columnist for the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America for many years. He has written numerous articles for various dog magazines. He judges the Sporting Group and Best in Show. 🐾



# Speakers at the Inaugural Seminar

THE NEW JOURNALISM OF DOG WRITING  
HOW TO GET YOURSELF PUBLISHED IN THE 21ST CENTURY



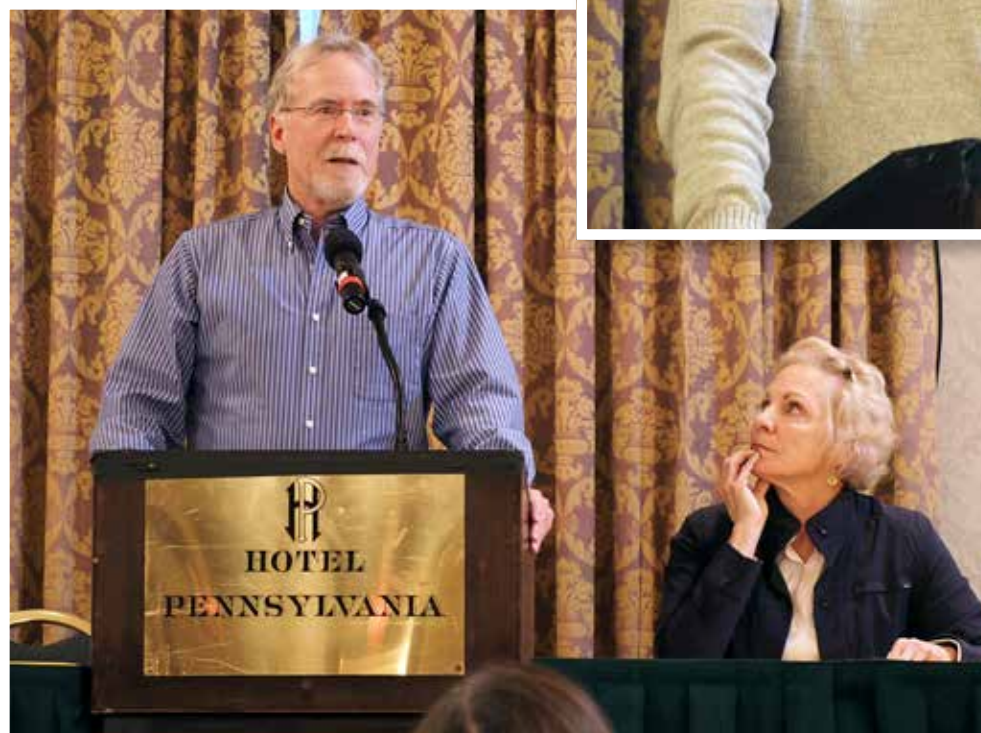
Mara Bovsun describing how to use meetups and media to promote projects and as a way to gather information on specific topics.



Carol Bryant helping everyone understand the ins and outs of blogging.



Ranny Green discussing being creative with one's abilities in today's tight freelancing market.



Larry and Charlene Woodward 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.



# MEMBERSHIP FEE CHANGES

*Dues have increased to \$50 annually, effective June 1, 2016. This increases a new application fee to \$85.*

## **Roxie**

*By Janice Biniok*



*Forget about the book trailer. How about doing a "Dogs Gone Wild" video?*

## Member Updates

*continued from pg 5*

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### **Thomas A. Wettlaufer**

correct spelling





Susan Ewing, Secretary  
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# Print Your Membership Card

*Thank you for your membership!*

As an added benefit of membership in the Dog Writers Association of America, we are providing this membership card to assist you in receiving press courtesies. 🐾



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