



The Legend

Emerald Coast Writers, Inc.

Member Newsletter

www.wff.org

April 2022 Edition

Please join us for Virtual Open Mic
using Zoom on April 19
Starting at 6:30 p.m.



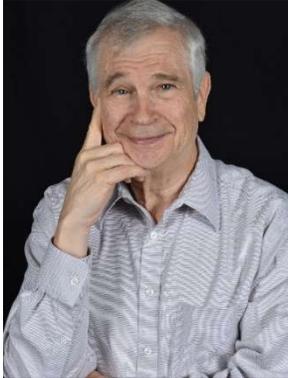
**Celebrate National Poetry Month and a book launch
for two member poets, Deborah Bassett and Victoria Dym!
Join the spring mayhem and share a poem or flash fiction
celebrating where we live and play and our new organizational name,
Emerald Coast Writers!**

We hold Open Mic every third Tuesday of the month. All paid members and emeritus members will receive a Zoom invitation. **Registration is required.**

(*Annual dues can be paid online.*) Below is a link for a short Zoom tutorial.

https://www.youtube.com/embed/hlkCmbvAHQQ?rel=0&autoplay=1&cc_load_policy=1

Message from the President



As we roll into Spring, changes are happening in our writers' organization. Last month the Florida Department of State, Corporate Division, accepted our name change amendment, making Emerald Coast Writers Inc. our official name. We are now in the midst of a transition phase with aspects of our public face. This includes our website, email, bank accounts, office lease with the PLT, Zoom account, etc. Please bear with us as we work through these changes.

To help this process, we are running a **contest** (Page 3) to design Emerald Coast Writer's new logo. The winning design receives a prize of \$350. For details and to submit a design, check our website [HERE](#).

Our **April Open Mic** is happening Tuesday April 19 on Zoom. We'll have a short business meeting with announcements and a Q&A starting at 6:00 pm with Open Mic starting at 6:30 pm. Because of a scheduling conflict at the PLT, we have delayed our plan for a hybrid meeting (in-person and virtual) until May.

As a small non-profit organization, Emerald Coast Writers, ECW, operates because of **volunteers**. While the seven-member board tries to do as much as possible, we all have

commitments with family, jobs, and life in general. To make ECW the best it can be, it will require many members to step up and help out. There are many tasks, small and large, that we need volunteer effort to accomplish. The Board has developed a list of committees that at various times during the year need member volunteers to get important jobs completed. You will find a list of these committees and a brief description of each in this month's Legend (Page 7 and 8). If you are interested in helping, even once or twice a year, it will further our goals to help each writer work toward their goals. Email me at tome129@hotmail.com or call me at 678-910-5658.

One very important opportunity we have open is the **Editor** for *The Legend*, the monthly newsletter you are reading now. Monthly, the Editor pulls together articles submitted by the Board and members. Currently, we work in Microsoft Word and publish the newsletter as a PDF, but we are open to using other tools and methods to make the newsletter a vibrant source of all things ECW and writing in general. If you are interested, please contact me at the email or phone above.

Watch your inbox for two upcoming items. First, you will soon be able to submit info for our online **member directory**. Second, look for a **survey** next month on how we can better serve you, our members.

Finally, let this time of year be the springboard for launching a new engagement with your writing. And let ECW be a source of support and inspiration.

Thanks for the honor of serving our great organization!

Tom Roberts

Design Our Logo Contest!

West Florida Literary Federation is rebranding and introducing its new name—Emerald Coast Writers. With this rebrand, our organization is seeking a new logo to showcase the new name and change. We are offering a \$350 prize in a logo design contest. Submissions are now open and close April 30, 2022. To view guidelines and submit your work, visit westfloridaliteraryfederation.submittable.com/submit.



We want our group's look to be:

- Recognizable/Memorable
- Flexible/Versatile
- Timeless
- Appropriate
- Original, Simple but Unique

Criteria to consider:

· What images come to mind when you hear “Emerald Coast” and “Writers”?

· A look (image, font, design) that conveys our name and our spirit now and for years to come, a representation of modern, diverse and forward-thinking writers.

· We want a logo that will look good in any format – web, print (letterhead, postcards, brochures), various social media (Facebook, Twitter), digital formats (online applications, web), merchandise (mugs, shirts), and publisher’s imprint (for our printed books, chapbooks, etc.).

Contest eligibility, rules and assignment:

· The contest will begin April 1, 2022, and close April 30, 2022* at midnight.

· Submit **ONE LOGO in full color per entry** with tagline: “Publishing regional writers since 1987” in **ONE of the following formats: JPG, GIF, or PNG.** (Note: Declared contest winner must provide the logo in other formats listed below.)

· **Note: Chosen winner must be able to produce or convert image into several variations:** grayscale, transparent background and reverse white along with vector design image for multi-purpose reproduction.

· Logo must be **high resolution at 300 DPI.**

· **Current members of Emerald Coast Writers may submit for free.**

· **Non-members will pay an entrance fee of \$5 per logo submission.**

· **If the submitter is under the age of 18**, the individual will need parental permission, **and if chosen as a winner**, Emerald Coast Writers will need parent's approval/waiver signed before receiving contest prize.

Judging:

Images will be judged and scored on the following criteria:

- Appeal, aesthetic – Does image command attention and is it pleasing visually as well as well-balanced in color and design?
- Relevance to group - Does image align with Emerald Coast Writers?
- Originality/Judges' choice – Does the image exhibit original design and creativity?

The contest winner will receive:

- \$350 to the winner chosen logo/look of Emerald Coast Writers
- A press release and feature story about the artist and winning image for the rebrand

Disclaimers/Rules:

· **Contest winner must adhere to all rules and criteria listed above.**

- As stated above, membership in the Emerald Coast Writers organization is not required for submission.
- As stated above, if the submitter/chosen winner is a minor, parental permission and signed waiver are required.
- Disclaimer: If no suitable images are submitted, a winner may not be declared.
- Image/logo must be received in the requested formats before prize money is awarded and the winner is announced.

· The winning design becomes the property of Emerald Coast Writers (aka/formerly known as West Florida Literary Federation).

For any questions related to this contest, email emeraldcoastreview@gmail.com.

April is National Poetry Month!

In April every year we celebrate the importance of poets and poetry in our culture. We wish to thank and honor all of our poets in Emerald Coast Writers, especially our Poet Laureate of Northwest Florida, Katherine Nelson-Born.

Here are five ways you can celebrate poetry and honor poets this month:

1. Sign up for Poem-A-Day and receive a poem via email to you daily. Go to poets.org/poem-a-day to sign up.
2. Read 2021's most-read poem by contemporary poet, Amanda Gorman – "In This Place (An American Lyric)" which can be found at poets.org/poem/place-american-lyric
3. Borrow or buy a book on poetry from your local library.
4. Attend a poetry reading, open mic or poetry slam this month. (See ours listed on Page 1).
5. Learn more about your local and state poet laureate. Read more about our poet laureate Katherine Nelson-Born at wflf.org/PoetLaureate.

Meet Our Members

Victoria Dym joined Emerald Coast Writers (WFLF) when she signed up to participate in the 2021 Poem-A-Day Contest and Chapbook Challenge. She was delighted and surprised to be declared the winner of the contest with her



chapbook entitled, *Spontaneous*.

Victoria is a graduate of Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Clown College with a degree in Humility, a Bachelor of

Arts in Philosophy, from the University of Pittsburgh, and a Masters of Fine Arts, Creative Writing-Poetry from Carlow University.

Her two poetry chapbooks, *Class Clown*, and *When the Walls Cave In* were published by Finishing Line Press in 2015 and 2018. She was cast for the Risk! Live from Orlando storytelling show and her story, *One Shot* was selected for the podcast. Her short story, *The Linzer Torte* was published in *The Scribe Magazine*, January 2020 issue.

Victoria's full-length poetry manuscript, *The Hatchet Sun*, has been accepted for publication by Finishing Line Press in 2023; and her two new chapbooks, *Shaving the Yak*, and *There Are No Dogs on Mars*, and *Other Sermons from the Dog Chapel* are currently being submitted for publication. She lives in Tampa Florida where she hosts the Annual October Haiku Challenge, teaches poetry, storytelling, and facilitates Laughter Yoga workshops for Cano Health Wellness Centers. Victoria is the co-founder of The Metanoia Retreat for Writers, Well-Being and

Right Whales, and will be co-facilitating the retreat on Amelia Island, Earth Day Weekend, 2022.

Victoria performed her first improv solo show, "The Haiku Lady" at the Countdown Improv Festival, 2021. Ms. Dym was a cast member of *Dear Aunt Gertrude* for four years with the Box Studio Theater in Tampa, now closed permanently.

She has a daughter, Sydney Zalewski, who was the cover designer for *Spontaneous*. Sydney lives in Pittsburgh and is her mom's biggest fan (as well as mom being her biggest fan).

Victoria says: "Writing has been a sort of healing for me all my life, since age 5. I attended graduate school as I was going through my divorce. I also hear bits of poems, like music occasionally when I wake or when driving in my car."

When not writing, Victoria enjoys swimming, walking, beachcombing, traveling and eating healthy. On her travel bucket list is Hawaii, Greece and Egypt. She loves doing almost anything, especially going for a mani/pedi, with her daughter. Since she is a news freak, she is currently stressed about climate change, the very critically endangered right whale, the war in Russia and the state of our democracy.

Some of her favorite poets include Edna St. Vincent Millay, Denise Duhamel, Mary Oliver, Maya Angelou, Maggie Smith, Edgar Allan Poe, Russell Edson, e e cummings and Campbell McGrath.

Victoria thanks Emerald Coast Writers for the warm welcome and looks forward to learning more through writing workshops, trying experimental forms and hopefully inventing a new style of writing on her own.

Thank you, Victoria, for sharing a part of yourself with us, and we look forward to your continued writing and success!

Meet Our Members

Candace Segar excitedly joined Emerald Coast Writers (WFLF) more than seven months ago. She was grateful to learn of a local writers' group in the region to participate in. Candace particularly enjoys writing and reading science fiction books. She has two in process now with goals of finishing them in 2022.



Candace was born and raised in New Orleans, so Mardi Gras and jazz are in her blood. She has a bachelor's degree in both drama and electrical engineering

from the University of New Orleans. Her work in contract engineering for the power industry allowed her to live in multiple states across the country. She is married to Ralph, an electrical engineer. Together they have created quite the robot collection. Ralph built an animated, six-foot robot that Candace designed. This large robot talks and has a spinning antenna and eyes that light up. The robot is actually their free lending library (similar to the Little Free Libraries you see).

Candace's family members are also writers, each of them in different genres. One sister, Shelley Johnson, owns the *Island Times* newspaper. Her other sister, Elizabeth Hewson, writes a boating column and is working on her captain's license.

Candace said the writing process can be exhilarating and overwhelming. "Sometimes I feel like my head is going to explode if I don't write down the stories that come into my brain. For me writing is like solving a problem that just gets more complicated as things evolve. It's a challenge to untangle the predicaments

that characters find themselves involved in. It also makes me wonder, who is writing this story, is it me, or is it the characters?"

Her published writing includes the following:

- Gateway To Humanity – The Mertean Papers books one and two
- Jericho Jaxon
- Aramu Muru book two
- Private Skies (which placed Candace and her writing partner on USA Today's best seller list
- Safe Space – a screenplay where Candace signed a release but it was never produced.

Candace hopes to learn more about self-publishing and promoting what she writes with help and support from our group. Some of her favorite writers and artists include Poul Anderson, Rod Serling, Jerry Siegel (writer) and Joe Shuster (artist from the Superman comic book series).

When she's not writing or collecting/designing robots, Candace enjoys learning and taking classes. She enjoys devouring every science magazine or book where she can cram knowledge into her head. She is an avid toy collector who scours local and distant areas for old toys from the fifties and sixties. Candace also enjoys gardening and is currently raising avocado and grapefruit trees from seeds.



Thank you, Candace, for sharing a part of yourself with us, and we look forward to your continued writing and success!

ECW Committees

Committee	Meeting Frequency	Current Volunteers
Planning Committee	Quarterly	Tom
Bylaws	1-2/year	Tom
Youth Writing	Seasonal/monthly	Charline, Alexander
Communications	2-4/month	Tom, Mandy
Grants	Monthly	Scott
Publication/Contracts	Quarterly	
Events	1-2/month	Katherine
Membership	Monthly	Charline
Library	Monthly	Lori, Katherine
Poet Laureate	Quarterly	Katherine, Debra
Executive	Monthly	Tom, Lori

Committee Descriptions: all committees work under the general direction and authority of the Board of Directors and the Bylaws. Some committees meet regularly throughout the year, while others meet infrequently or as needed. Most committees meet virtually on Zoom at convenient times.

- The **Planning Committee** identifies, develops and plans the direction and activities over the course of a 1-, 2-, and 3-year term. It is the forward-looking group of our organization and makes an annual report to the Board of Directors.
- The **Bylaws Committee** reviews the standing Bylaws for currency and appropriateness to the goals, mission, and vision of the organization and proposes modifications as needed to the organization's Board of Directors.
- The **Youth Writing Committee** plans and implements all of the organization's writing activities directed towards K-12 school-age children.
- The **Communications Committee** develops, implements, and maintains all forms of public and internal communications used by the organization to deliver and convey information about the organization including its history, mission, programs, calendar of events, member writing, contests, etc., and includes the newsletter, *The Legend*, emails; website content; digital and print advertising; and media releases.
- The **Grants Committee** plans, develops, and submits all applications for grants.
- The **Publication and Contracts Committee** develops and manages all publication agreements with members who wish to have their works published by our organization. This includes drafting and executing publishing agreements; performing editorial work on author material prior to publication; formatting and submitting works to print-on-demand

marketplaces/vendors/distributors; maintaining records of sales, operating costs, and royalties due to authors.

- The **Events Committee** plans and executes all recurring events and activities of the organization including contests, open mics, workshops, networking events, and the annual meeting. Subcommittees of this committee may be formed as needed to carry out specialized activities of any of these events.
- The **Membership Committee** plans and implements processes and activities related to maintaining our membership records, growing our membership, and surveying membership needs and feedback. Accurate membership information is a database used by all elements of the organization. This committee is chaired by the Secretary who works with the Treasurer to ensure member data is up to date.
- The **Library Committee** plans and implements activities related to local libraries and serves as a liaison with librarians throughout the West Florida region. The committee works to raise exposure to member authors and to the mission of our organization while supporting the work and mission of local libraries.
- The **Poet Laureate Committee** plans and manages the selection process for the West Florida Poet Laureate consistent with the organization's Bylaws. This committee accepts, vets, and submits candidates for Poet Laureate to the Board of Directors. Between selection years, the committee supports the activities of the West Florida Poet Laureate in the performance of his/her mission.
- The **Executive Committee** implements the orders and directives of the Board of Directors during the time between regular Board meetings and is made up of four sitting members from the full Board. When voting unanimously, the Executive Committee has the full power of the Board of Directors to expedite decisions whose time critical nature do not allow for deliberation by the full Board.

Seeking New Legend Editor

WFLF seeks a new Legend editor. Our current editor, Lori Zavada, will step down in March. We thank Lori for her great work in this publication and for filling in after longtime editor, Andrea Walker stepped down.

The Legend newsletter is emailed to all members and published on our website. Learn more about this great volunteer role and the time involved in this opportunity:

- Average time spent per month as editor: 4 to 6 hours – You make your own schedule.
 - You choose the format that works for you – Microsoft Word, Publisher or any program of your choosing that will help you easily design and create layout.
 - There is a dedicated email for the editor to receive submissions, editor@wflf.org and correspond with WFLF members.
 - You receive WFLF news first before it goes out to the entire group! And you're often the first to read creative works!
- It's a wonderful way to engage with WFLF without a board responsibility. The board members write and submit much of the newsletter content for the editor. The editor compiles it, enhances it and lays it out for all to find appealing.
 - Being editor is a creative outlet to bring words and images to life.
 - Serving in this role looks great on a resume.
 - The WFLF Board is open to new ideas to enhance The Legend, make it easier and more compelling. We'd love to hear web-based ideas for news as well as still offer a printable, downloadable option.

What questions do you have about this?

Are you ready to be our next Legend editor?

Email the WFLF Board at westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com.

Publishing News

Claire Massey has been notified by the Dead Mule School of Southern Literature that her poem, "Driver Side Window" will appear in the Twenty-Sixth Anniversary Issue of their journal, available August, 2022. Visit <http://www.deadmule.com> to learn more about this long standing organization and venue for writers.

Kudos

Tom Roberts has received word that the **Florida Writers Association** has chosen his historical novel, *Lost Scrolls of Archimedes*, as Book of the Month for April and will be featured in their email newsletter to be sent out April 15.

Legend Submissions

We'd like to celebrate your success and your work. Email us at:

WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com

Our goal is to publish on the first of each month. Send news any time, but the cut-off date is mid-month (15th of preceding month), to give time for layout and design.

Send a headshot and/or graphic in jpeg format for creative writing, literary news, advice or writing achievements to:

WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com.

Ongoing Workshops

MONDAY'S WORD WEAVERS (POETRY, PROSE, MICRO-WRITING FORMS)

– The goal of this workshop is to assist you to further develop writing skills, learn to critique and grow in confidence as you polish your authentic voice and achieve the next level of your personal writing goals. Join us virtually on the first Monday of the month from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information, please contact Debra Stogner at debrastogner@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY PORTFOLIO and EXCHANGE SOCIETY

– A lively critique group meets every Wednesday, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., on Zoom. The group is looking for writers of any genre — memoir, poetry, fiction, nonfiction — who want to work on completing a project in 12 months. Since the group formed, several members have published books. Participants exchange writing tips, websites, and general trivia. For more information, please reach out to Diane Skelton at dianeskelton@att.net.

Please contact Diane regarding meetings during this time.

Emerald Coast Writers Board of Directors

President: Tom Roberts

Vice President: Mandy Fernandez

Secretary: Charline Barger

Treasurer: Scott Finelli

Director: Debra Stogner

Director: Lori O’Gara

Director/Poet Laureate: Katherine Nelson-Born

Legend Editor: Vacant – Let us know if you’re interested!

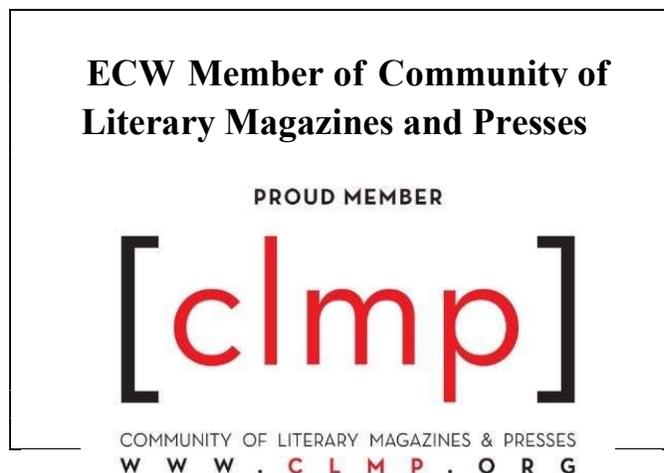
Directors can be contacted at: WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com

Check out our website at: www.wflf.org

“Like” us on Facebook, (under) [West Florida Literary Federation](https://www.facebook.com/WestFloridaLiteraryFederationWFLF/255101747857712?ref=h) at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/WestFlorida-Literary-FederationWFLF/255101747857712?ref=h>

“Follow” us on Twitter @ WSTFLLITFED



Emerald Coast Writers ~ Join or Renew

Memberships are good for one calendar year beginning January 1 and ending December 31. Individual membership is \$35/year, two-year \$60. Couple one-year \$60, two-year \$115. New members joining after July 15, pay \$20 or may pay \$45 which also pays for the following year. Subsequent years are due annually by January 1. Student membership is \$15.

I would like to sponsor: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Check one please: New _____ Renewal _____

Date: _____

Circle the items you **do not** want published in the Emerald Coast Writers members only directory:

Address Phone Email

If no item is circled, we will include all your information in the next published directory.

How to join or renew your membership:

Pay your membership dues online with a credit card at <https://wflf.org> and then email this form to WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com or

Mail your check and this form to:

Emerald Coast Writers
400 South Jefferson Street, Suite 212
Pensacola, FL 32502

**Emerald Coast Writers
Pensacola Cultural Center
400 South Jefferson Street Suite 212
Pensacola, FL 32502**