



# ***The Legend***

**West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.**  
Member Newsletter

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

**February 2022 Edition**



**Please join us for our annual WFLF meeting\*  
that includes:**

**contest winners announced,  
voting of new name and board members  
and Open Mic**

**using Zoom on February 15**

**Starting at 6 p.m.**

**\*You must be a current, paid member to vote**

Here is the agenda for the upcoming meeting:

**6 p.m. – In Focus Winners Revealed!**

- Diane Skelton will announce the winners of In Focus flash memoir contest
- First, second, and third place winners will read their winning submissions.
- Honorable mentions will kick off the open mic portion.
- All placements will be published in the March Legend.

**6:30 p.m. (approximately) – Annual meeting, followed by open mic**

- Announcements
- Annual business meeting begins
- Voting on name change of WFLF (See pages 5-6. Results will be given later.)
- President's report
- Awards and recognition
- Voting and welcome of new board
- New board remarks
- Open Mic – opened up by new president and honorable mentions of contest

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 – see below.*) The following link is a short Zoom tutorial.

[https://www.youtube.com/embed/hIkCmbvAHQQ?rel=0&autoplay=1&cc\\_load\\_policy=1](https://www.youtube.com/embed/hIkCmbvAHQQ?rel=0&autoplay=1&cc_load_policy=1)

## 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:

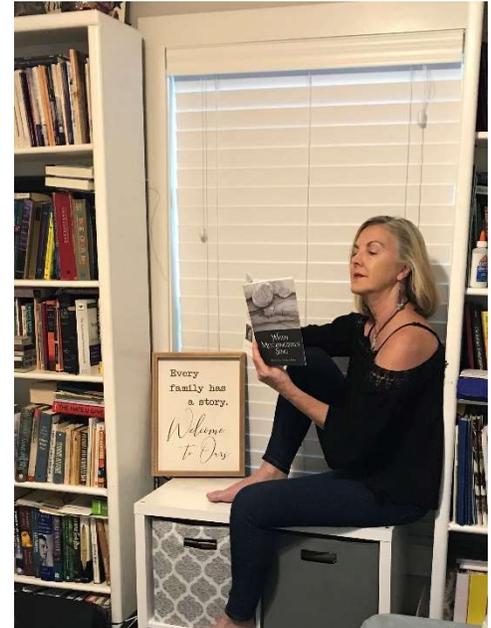
- Average time spent per month as editor: 4 to 6 hours – You make your own schedule.
- You choose the format that works for you – Microsoft Word, Publisher or any program of your choosing that will help you easily design and create layout.
- There is a dedicated email for the editor to receive submissions, [editor@wflf.org](mailto: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](mailto:westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com).

## Poet Laureate Will Guest Speak at Gulf Breeze Library

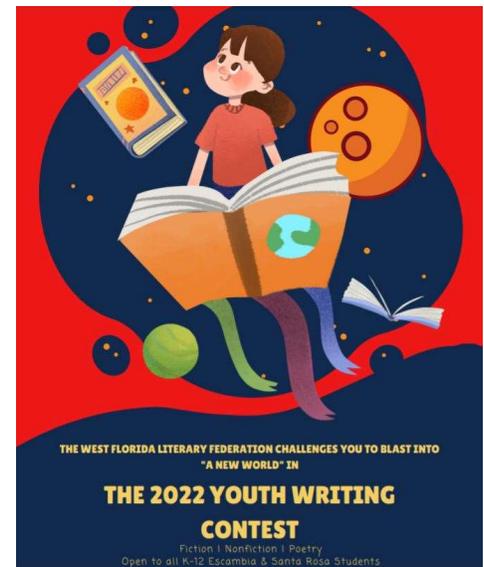
On Saturday, February 5th at 12:00 p.m., Katherine Nelson-Born, the current Northwest Florida Poet Laureate, serving the Florida Panhandle and the West Florida Literary Federation, will be the guest speaker at the Friends of the Gulf Breeze Library Annual Meeting held in the Gulf Breeze Library, 1060 Shoreline Drive, Gulf Breeze, Florida, 32561.

They welcome new members, so if you live or work in the area, come join the fun, buy a book to support the library, and consider joining this worthy Gulf Breeze organization. The West Florida Literary Federation welcomes new members as well from the broader Panhandle region, so come learn about Katherine's journey to poet laureate, how the WFLF contributed to that journey, and how your local organizations promote writers and their books.



## Youth Writing Contest – Help Us Spread the Word!

Spread the word! Do you know a talented young writer? Do they have dreams of a new world or comments on the new world we live in? Do they like to create new worlds using their imagination? We would love to hear their original perspectives! WFLF's annual youth writing contest is now seeking submissions from K-12 public school and homeschooled students in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. Students may choose from three categories: poetry, fiction and non-fiction. This year's theme is "A New World." Go to our website ([www.wflf.org](http://www.wflf.org)) to learn more and to submit entries! The deadline is March 9th. Winners will be invited to an awards ceremony in April! \*Please note that students cannot access the submission link using their school Google account.



## Why a WFLF Name Change?

At the February 15 Annual Meeting, WFLF members will be asked to vote on a new name for the West Florida Literary Federation. Many members may question why this “rebranding” is happening. Your WFLF Board provides the following as the reasons for this move:

1. West Florida Literary Federation needs a name change to align our “brand” with our current mission and to correct the wider community’s perception of us.
  - a. We are no longer a “federation” of community non-profits who originally banded together to promote literary activities and writing. While these other organizations have worthy missions of their own, we have drifted far from many of them. Rather, our mission now focuses on the individual writer and customized needs of our group.
  - b. Recently, when trying to obtain a grant, one of our board members attended a grant hearing. At that meeting the judges didn’t understand the concept of a “federation” nor did they differentiate between “literacy” and “literary” calling us several times the “West Florida Literacy Federation.”
  - c. When we applied to join the Florida Writers Association writers group listing, they didn’t initially think a “literary federation” sounded like a writers group. So far we have been unsuccessful at getting them to list us on their website along with other writers groups across the state of Florida.
2. The word “Literary” conveys meaning to most people today, implying a more elevated form of writing that appeals to scholars or academia. Merriam-Webster defines literary as “of, relating to, or having the characteristics of humane learning or literature.” While some of our members write at this level, and we applaud them, this may not draw in someone writing a memoir, a romance or fantasy novel, or a book on making crafts for homeschooling. Potential members may not realize that we are open to a cross-section and genre of people and writing interests.
3. Rebranding will alleviate the many questions we are asked when we communicate with other literary artists and organizations and prospective members.
  - a. Why are you a federation? What does that mean?
  - b. Do you accept regular people as members or do I have to be an English professor/teacher/librarian to join?
  - c. Is your group just for people who write poetry?
4. The best nonprofit names are short, easy to remember, and easy to say. Our current name has none of these traits.
5. Although WFLF reflects our creative, unique history, it no longer reflects our future and where we want to be. As Patricia Edmisten noted in her reflection piece published in the January 2022 issue of *The Legend*, “The evolution continues as our organization returns to its roots: We are once again a gathering of individual writers, rather than a federation of groups of writers, united by our interest in the art and craft of writing.”
6. Our plan is to keep WFLF in our description, history and in the boilerplate of our press releases but our hope is to choose a name that reflects where we are now in 2022 and enhance us for the future.
7. Your 2021 board member and several volunteer committee members submitted naming ideas to replace WFLF. A list of 19 names was created from the submissions. Then at the most recent board meeting, WFLF board members narrowed down the list to the top five you see below. These are the naming options that we are asking paid, current WFLF members

to vote on at the February 15 annual meeting:

- Northwest Florida Writers Association
- West Florida Writers
- Panhandle Writers Association
- Writers of Northwest Florida
- Emerald Coast Writers

If you have questions or concerns about this, you can email WFLF at [westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com](mailto:westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com) by Feb. 12, 2022. We look forward to seeing you on the Zoom meeting and look forward to your input to help us grow and have greater success in the future!

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## Four ways to Vote on the WFLF Name Change

To accommodate our members, we will offer several ways to vote on the replacement name of WFLF between now and our Feb. 15 annual meeting. Choose one of the ways to vote:

Note: You MUST be a current, paid member of WFLF to participate in voting process and have your vote count.

### 1. Vote online!

Attend the annual business meeting on Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>. We will have online voting as part of the meeting. Look for the Zoom link to come out later this month.

### 2. Email your vote!

Send your choice via email and send to our general email address checked by a WFLF board member, [WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com](mailto:WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com) by Feb. 15 at 5:30 p.m.

Select one of these five:

- Northwest Florida Writers Association
- West Florida Writers
- Panhandle Writers Association
- Writers of Northwest Florida
- Emerald Coast Writers

### 3. Call in with your vote!

Call WFLF president Lisa Rawson by Feb. 15 at 5:30 p.m. and tell her your vote for the name change directly. Remember that you must be a current, paid member for your vote to count. Her number is (850) 982-8736.

### 4. Vote in person at the WFLF office!

Stop by the WFLF office located within the Pensacola Cultural Center, 400 South Jefferson Street Suite 212 in Pensacola, 32502 on Monday, Feb. 14, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. or on Tuesday, Feb. 15 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

## MEET OUR MEMBERS

**Debra Stogner** has been a member of WFLF since 2017. Her co-worker, Anne James, invited Debra to a poetry group led by Susan Lewis. At the time Debra said, “I wanted to stop chasing dreams, settle down, be serious and write children’s books and Anne assured me I’d learn a lot and enjoy the poetry group.” Debra said that after joining the group she came “full circle” realizing that she had actually been dreaming in words her whole life. Writing lyrics, pointed commentaries, inspirational essays, healing thoughts and poetry completed the circle.

As a member of WFLF, Debra’s goals are to keep learning and developing her own distinct voice by experimenting with different forms of writing and contributing to WFLF goals. She feels blessed to be surrounded by a community of prolific writers willing to share their wisdom and wealth of experience.

Debra learned the importance of communication at a young age. She reflects back to her time as a military child growing up abroad, particularly a time when two Girl Scouts troops came together and did not speak the same language. The Chinese troop taught the American troop the beautiful art of grass weaving a grasshopper. The American troop taught their Chinese sisters to weave a plastic keychain. Through this exercise and other experiences, Debra said, “we shared the friendship, camaraderie,



values, tradition, culture, history and sisterhood of being a scout.” She still marvels at the communication and understanding that took place without a shared language. (See news clipping of Debra pictured with her scout partner on the next page).

“I believe communication is 99.9% of every problem and every solution in the world. I have been writing as long as I could hold a pencil. I’m an over-communicator so writing is my therapy. My daughter once told me, ‘Mom, I used to hate it when you talked to me! I would rather you punish me and get it over with!’ Haha! Now I see her being longwinded with her own children.”



Debra's current goal is to simply keep writing. Rather than focus on publishing, she concentrates on accumulating pieces in which she feels a strong connection. After retirement, she hopes to complete the poems of family stories and publish them. One of those family poems, "Mistress" was published in the Emerald Coast Review 21<sup>st</sup> anthology.

Debra is the facilitator of the WFLF Word Weavers, a group of writers who meet on Mondays via Zoom. "We're a distinct group of voices and artistic talents with diverse backgrounds. All of this enables us to bring a unique perspective in written word and cultural flair to our small group."

When not writing, Debra enjoys flower pressing as a hobby and putting those flowers on greeting cards. She has many influences when it comes to writers and artists she loves, such as Ansel Adams and Steve McCurry and poets she discovered long ago like Langston Hughes, Nicki Giovanni and Maya Angelou.

We thank Debra for her contributions to WFLF, her distinct, eclectic voice and enthusiasm that she brings to our group!

# Mindful Moment from Mandy: What Do You Want to Be Like?

By Mandy Fernandez



“I still don’t know what I want to be when I grow up,” my friend said to me after a recent career change. Then she added, “I don’t have it figured out.”

I could relate to my friend. I have used that exact phrase more than a dozen times since I became an adult more than 20 years ago.

The two questions I always dread being asked are “What do you want to be when you grow up?” and “What do you do?” How I respond never seems good enough or accurate to my life and passions. Therefore, I propose an alternative idea. I told my friend that we should, instead, change the question.

If we alter the inquiry, we can control our narrative. We could be excited to converse with strangers in forced meetings.

Here are questions I would gladly answer and prefer to ask others:

- What do you want to be like?
- Who do you want to be like?
- What are you interested in?
- What do you want to learn?
- Where would you like to travel?
- What brings you joy?
- What was the last thing that made you laugh?
- What are you curious about?
- Tell me how you last helped another person.
- Tell me what you would do if you had a whole day to plan for yourself.

Now those inquiries would lead to great conversations (as well as writing prompts) and enhanced discoveries. Think about the questions you ask others, even during casual gatherings filled with small talk. Make the words you speak and share as meaningful as those you put on paper.

# IN OUR WRITE MINDS

Column 6 by Claire Massey



Writers know there are no straight-line trajectories from rough draft to publication. The journey that culminates in print inevitably involves backtracking, re-routing, and sound forward direction

from “support stations” along the way.

Most sources identify at least five stages of support for the writer seeking to publish a manuscript. There’s no exact agreement among editors as to nomenclature; this can vary according to genre and the editor’s preferred terminology. A review of the literature offers the following definitions for the types of editorial review that most manuscripts undergo.

1. Peer review, critiques from other writers. Unless these colleagues are editors, this level is not considered professional assistance but problematic issues can be identified early, especially if there is agreement among the evaluators. Watch out, however, for “group think” if your friends meet together to review your work.
2. Developmental or structural editing. This process focuses on the elements and

literary devices that comprise the “big picture” of your manuscript. The editor addresses the fundamental issues of structure, transitions, pacing, themes, style, voice, and in the case of fiction, authenticity of settings, characters and plot.

3. Copy or line editing looks at language, the nuts and bolts of word choice, the structure and clarity of sentences, grammar and punctuation.
4. Proofreading is the end stage of checking to ensure minor errors have been corrected. Orientation to detail, concentration and focus are required.
5. Final proofing of ready-to-print digital pages.

The journey to publication cannot be hurried. The route to success involves giving each stage of editing its due. If you are contemplating professional manuscript editing, the internet is brimming with recommendations and detailed information to help you progress from start line to finish.

If you’d like to read further, visit [writersedit.com](http://writersedit.com), [grammarfactory.com](http://grammarfactory.com) and [writing.ie/resources](http://writing.ie/resources) for articles on editing.

# PUBLISHING NEWS



Diane Skelton is teaching a "Memories to Memoir" class at the Gulf Breeze Senior Center. The first class was featured on the front page of the *Gulf Breeze News* weekly newspaper, Jan. 13 edition. The same newspaper issue ran the WFLF press release on In Focus: A Flash Memoir Contest (Page 7). (Pictured right). Those attending the class, along with Diane, enjoyed it so much that "Memories to Memoir" will be a regular Monday morning class at the senior center. The class is free to all Santa Rosa County residents. Download a full pdf of the Gulf Breeze News articles at:

<https://news.gulfbreezenews.com/dynamicpage/pdf/161427>

Diane will also be the guest speaker at the Senior Center on Friday, Jan 28 discussing her forthcoming book *A Literary Traveler's Guide to the Gulf South: From Bay St. Louis to Apalachicola*.

**Andrea Walker's** poem "The Vulture" was accepted and published in the winter edition of *Pen Women* magazine.

**Karen Morris** was awarded First Place for "A Field of Moss" in the Forms category, and second place for "Enough" in the Byron Herbert Reese International Poetry Award category in the Georgia Poetry Society's 2021 Fall Contest. These poems will be published in the next GPS's annual anthology *The Reach of Song*.

The screenshot shows the front page of the Gulf Breeze News newspaper. The main headline is "Santa Rosa Schools graduation rate is steady at 90.3%". Other articles include "Memoir project is offered at Senior Center", "GBHS to stage 'Children of a Lesser God'", and "Write your life story". There are also advertisements for "Talk of the Town" and "Dolphins Wrestling".

This screenshot shows a different section of the newspaper. The main headline is "DEP fines \$3.2M in sewer misconnection". Other articles include "2021 was a great year for area real estate" and "Write your life story". There are also advertisements for "Talk of the Town" and "Dolphins Wrestling".

We'd like to celebrate your success! Let us know of your published work at: [editor@wflf.org](mailto:editor@wflf.org).

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## LEGEND SUBMISSIONS

**Please share your creative work with us!**

Our goal is to publish on the first of each month. Send news any time, but please understand the cut-off date is mid-month (15<sup>th</sup> of preceding month), to give time for layout and design. Please share your headshot and a graphic of the publication in jpeg format when you submit creative writing, literary news, advice and writing achievements to: [editor@wflf.org](mailto:editor@wflf.org).

Thanks for supporting our newsletter.

## ONGOING WORKSHOPS

### WORD WEAVERS VIRTUAL WRITERS

**GROUP** – Word Weavers is a group of informal writers, open to poets and writers of short forms less than 1000 words, meeting to share work, critiques and learn from one another. We have varying levels of writing experience within our group, and we're just plain fun! We have room for two more members as we keep the group small so that everyone has time to read and receive feedback. We meet virtually on the first Monday of the month from 6 to 8 p.m. and the third Monday of the month from 6 to 8 p.m. For any questions or information regarding meetings please feel free to contact Debra Stogner at [debrastogner@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:dianeskelton@att.net).

*Please contact Diane regarding meetings during this time.*

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## Writer Quote of the Month:

*“When I am writing, I am trying to find out who I am, who we are, what we’re capable of, how we feel, how we lose and stand up, and go on from darkness into darkness. I’m trying for that. But I’m also trying for the language. I’m trying to see how it can really sound. I really love language. I love it for what it does for us, how it allows us to explain the pain and the glory, the nuances and delicacies of our existence. And then it allows us to laugh, allows us to show wit. Real wit is shown in language. We need language.”*

*- Maya Angelou, American poet, memoirist and civil rights activist*

Submit your favorite writer’s quote for consideration in a future Legend newsletter. Send to [editor@wflf.org](mailto:editor@wflf.org).

## MEETING RECAP

### Watch the November 2021 WFLF Meeting Presentation by Special Guest Speaker Pat Black-Gould

Did you miss or do you want to revisit the November WFLF meeting with special guest speaker Pat Black-Gould on genre-hopping - writing for the theater and children's books? Now you can! View the presentation by visiting this link and then enter the access code below.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/aL2SiDx10FizBdd\\_WoMBliH\\_IDFsxscQMtXnDVIPiKM-RELOZjHX3LH6I\\_g4Mi-F.6vTxcvr\\_IAllc9rq](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/aL2SiDx10FizBdd_WoMBliH_IDFsxscQMtXnDVIPiKM-RELOZjHX3LH6I_g4Mi-F.6vTxcvr_IAllc9rq)

## RENEW TODAY!

### Don't Forget to Renew Your WFLF Membership:

- Mail check to: 400 S. Jefferson St. Suite 212, Pensacola, FL 32502
- Pay online on our website [here \(https://wflf.org/membership\)](https://wflf.org/membership).
- Renewal dues: One year \$35; Two years \$60

Membership dues for first-time, new members are \$20.

Couple's membership dues are \$60 for one year or \$115 for two years.

## WRITERS' RESOURCES:

Many members have manuscripts they want to self-publish but may not know how to get an editor or how an editor fits into the self-publishing journey. Here are two resources you may find helpful:

1. The first resource provides a brief overview of what, who, and why on editors for Indie writers. THE INDIE FILES – An Indie Author's Primer on Editors by Kim Fielding. Winner of the 2021 BookLife Prize for Fiction, Kim Fielding is the bestselling author of over sixty novels and novellas.

[sfa.org/2022/01/28/indie-files-indie-authors-primer-editors/](https://sfa.org/2022/01/28/indie-files-indie-authors-primer-editors/)

2. The second resource is from well-known book marketing guru, David Gaughran, and is all about advertising your published book. 15 Rules For Advertising Books by David Gaughran. David has helped thousands of authors build a readership with his books, blogs, workshops, and courses, and has created marketing campaigns for some of the biggest self-publishers on the planet [davidgaughran.com/book-advertising/](https://davidgaughran.com/book-advertising/).

## **WFLF Board of Directors**

President: Lisa Rawson

Vice President: Mandy Fernandez

Secretary: Charline Barger

Treasurer: Tom Roberts

Director: Claire Massey

Director: Jeannie Zokan

Director/Poet Laureate: Katherine Nelson-Born

Legend Editor: Lori Zavada

Directors can be contacted at: [WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com](mailto:WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com)

Check out our website at: [www.wflf.org](http://www.wflf.org)

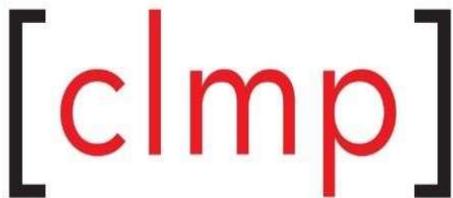
“Like” us on Facebook, (under) West Florida Literary Federation at:

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

“Follow” us on Twitter @ WSTFLLITFED

### **WFLF Member of Community of Literary Magazines and Presses**

PROUD MEMBER



COMMUNITY OF LITERARY MAGAZINES & PRESSES  
W W W . C L M P . O R G

West Florida Literary Federation ~ 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 WFLF 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](mailto:WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com) or

Mail your check and this form to:  
West Florida Literary Federation  
400 South Jefferson Street, Suite 212  
Pensacola, FL 32502



**West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.  
Pensacola Cultural Center  
400 South Jefferson Street Suite 212  
Pensacola, FL 32502**