

# The Next Chapter

June 2023  
Volume 19 Issue 6

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## Mike Hawron to speak June 12



Mike Hawron will present "**You Should Write a Book!: The Author Stalked by Stories**" at ETWG's regular meeting on **Monday, June 12, 6:30 p.m.**, Genecov Room, Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce Building, 315 N. Broadway, Tyler. (Parking and entrance on Line Street)

Ever considered writing a memoir? Do people say you should write a book? Mike will convince you to take the plunge! Mike has been to thirty countries on five continents. His travels began after his formal studies in behavioral sciences at the Alfred P. Sloan School of Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He completed his Master of Science degree in Higher Education and Adult Learning at Texas A&M University.

His first book, *Entertaining Detours*, is an insightful memoir and humorous look at his many unique adventures—and misadventures—along the way. He and his wife, Annette, live on a small farm in rural east Texas, the setting and source of the stories contained in his heartwarming collection, *The Little Town with the Big Heart*, which was a #1 seller on Amazon. The final installment in his **True Tales Trilogy** is *Awesome Footsteps*, a collection of faith-inspiring stories from his experiences in missionary travels, which won the 2019 Best in Texas award for its category. His spy thriller, *Just Good Clean Fun*, is his first published work of historical fiction, which won the 2018 best in category among Texas authors. *Spies Never Die* is the first sequel in this entertaining spy series.

Mike is a member of the Texas Authors Association, the East Texas Writers Association and the Northeast Texas Writers Organization. He is the 2018 winner of the Jory Sherman short story contest for his sci-fi satire, "The Device." Learn more about Mike at [mikehawron.com](http://mikehawron.com).

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*Before the meeting, ETWG members will meet at 5:00 at Don Juan's on the Square, 113 E. Erwin, Tyler, to share a meal and talk with fellow authors.<>*

Join us for:  
Nutz and Boltz  
(ETWG'S Open Discussion Meeting)



On **Monday, June 19, 6:30 p.m.**, click the **Zoom** link on ETWG's website.

On the 3rd Monday of every month, ETWG hosts Nutz and Boltz.

It's an open forum for those attending to discuss any matter about writing, problem solving and hangups with their work, or bring to the group any successful writing tool you have found useful.

We always have interesting and informing discussions on a variety of writing subjects.

Hosted through Zoom, you can join from anywhere in the world! <>

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#### Marketing Opportunity

July 1, Palestine Civic Center, Pride of America Car Show. Contact Stefani at 713-503-6612 or Kevin at 832-738-5275. Might be perfect if your book contains a story where a car(s) is prominent. <>

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



My granddaughter's school let out for the summer last Friday. I had promised her and her little sister a sleepover as soon as school was out, so that night here they came, toys and pj's in tow. I had stocked up on goodies and energy so I could provide a fun experience they can hopefully treasure long after I am gone. What are grandparents for, right? And a sleepover with Coco is a perfect way to kick off a summer vacation.

Yes, summer is upon us. Long, lazy days sitting by the pool enjoying a sparkling drink and reading that book you've had on your TBR (to be read) shelf. That's the dream, isn't it? Unfortunately for most of us, life goes on, summer or not. However, one thing I was able to do during our unusually cool May was sit out on my backyard deck with my laptop and finish my novel. (Details elsewhere in this newsletter!) There's nothing like being out in nature to get the creative juices flowing. Even with the pollen in the air and the hum of lawn mowers around me, I seem to have a clearer head when I work outdoors.

How will your writing fare this summer? Will you find more time or less time to write? Will you be on the lookout for story ideas? Will you eavesdrop on conversations while waiting or shopping or working? The world is full of material for the observant writer.

I hope your summer story is a fun and memorable one.

*XOXO*

*April Coker*

2023 ETWG President

[www.aprilynuncoker.com](http://www.aprilynuncoker.com)

## *Author Announcement*

Available for Preorder June 4



The third and final installment of

### **The Keeper Trilogy**

Award-winning Christian romantic suspense.

Which zookeeper or animal will be next?

[www.aprilynuncoker.com](http://www.aprilynuncoker.com)

[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

# ETWG Conference!!!



## TICKETS AVAILABLE!

**Click the link below** to purchase your ticket, and don't forget your lunch choices at the bottom of the registration page:

[18th Annual Conference of the East Texas Writers Guild Tickets, Sat, Jul 15, 2023 at 8:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)

**Hurry! Early Bird Discount Ends June 30th!**

ETWG's 18<sup>th</sup> annual summer writers conference is set for **Saturday, July 15, 2023** at the **Tyler Junior College West Campus** in Tyler from **8:30 am to 3:00 pm**. Guest speakers include **Maya Golden Bethany, René La Viness, Brad Maule** (former star of TV's General Hospital), and **Jodi Thompson**.

More information on each speaker is included in this issue of the newsletter.

\$75 non-member, \$65 members, \$25 student (get \$10 off with Early Bird discount)

Lunch included





## Meet the Members: Michael Wigington

- What made you decide to sit down and write your first story?

I've always wanted to express myself creatively but never really had an outlet. I had dabbled in poetry for years but after reading Eragon, I decided if that young man could write a book, so could I. If he had the gumption to do it, then what was stopping me? So, I started writing, and four published books later here we are.

- What genre do you write in now?

I write Fantasy, Post Apocalyptic, and Dystopian.

- What made you decide to become a member of ETWG?

Funny story that. I joined because I thought it was the organization a friend was in, but she was in NETWO not ETWG but since I paid for the membership, I decided I better start coming to the meetings.

*(See MICHAEL, Cont'd Next Page)*

( MICHAEL, Cont'd from Previous Page)

- What has been/is the most positive response/experience of you becoming a writer?

Before we were even dating, I let my wife read the opening chapter of a book I had started. She read it and then exclaimed "I could see that in my head playing out like a movie, you're a writer!" That was the clincher for me and gave me the confidence I needed to continue.

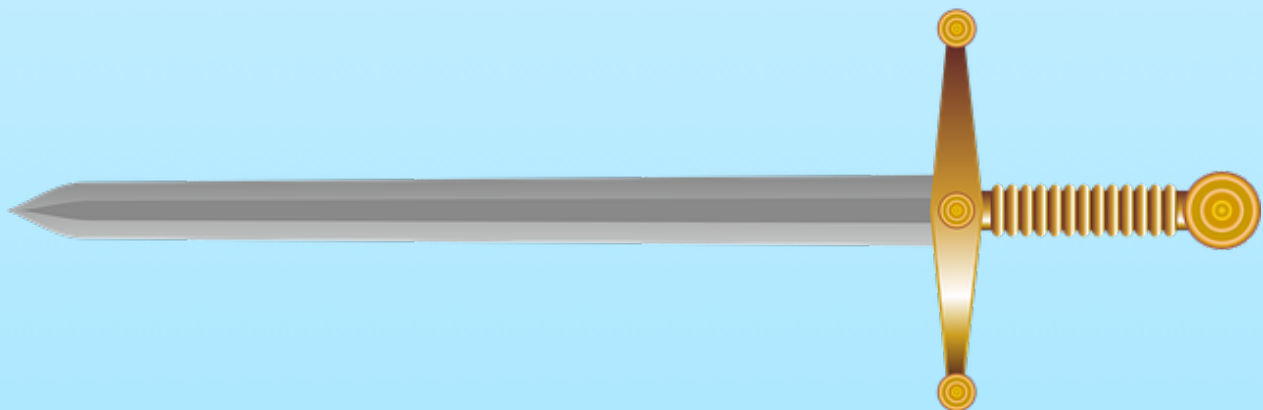
- For you, what has been/is the most challenging part of being a writer?

Marketing my books for sure!

- In a couple of sentences, give us your short bio or list your accomplishments or goals.

My accomplishments are: Self-published two novels and two novellas. My goals are to complete my fantasy trilogy, which I am 64k words into the last book already. To publish a total of 20 books at the very least but hopefully more and to learn how to market those books into a nice income for my family.

Visit Michael at his website, [www.fantasyinmyveins.com](http://www.fantasyinmyveins.com) <>



## CALEB'S BLOG—WHY A CRITIQUE GROUP IS IMPORTANT

*Patricia La Vigne*

Several years ago I found two new friends who, with me, decided we could be a good critique group. All of us were neophytes in the writing world, so it was probably a case of two blinds leading a third blind.

Gradually, we referred to books by professional writers that would help us screen out more subtle errors, such as character development, plot-planning, and point of view. I think the three of us felt we were treading in unfamiliar water.

At the same time, I was meeting with another group in another town at a different time. One of the members had acquired the interest of an editor/publisher, and was off and running to get her book published. Now I had more professional input, and with the help of that group, and said editor, was able to finish and submit my manuscript to that publisher. She taught me some more about the finer points of writing, and, voila! My first book, *Wind-Free*, was born.



Circumstances brought about the disbanding of previous groups, yet I was able to find a new group—we are now four people—who critique each other's work online with an occasional face-to-face meeting at a local coffee shop.

My greatest weakness has been maintaining the proper points of view and not making “mashed potatoes” of my characters in a story to keep the flow easy for the reader to follow. Along the way, I've received the greatest help from those who handle point of view with smoothness. We all know the value of honesty in our critiquing, and the need to accept each one's suggestions—whether we wish to use them or not.

*(See GROUP, Cont'd Next Page )*



*(GROUP, Cont'd from Previous Page)*

We have come to appreciate each other's voice in the chapters we review. Yes, I may see a different way of saying something, but I know not to rewrite entire passages in my style. Someone did that to one of my manuscripts once, and I did not like it at all. We all make suggestions, and reaffirm that that's all they are—just suggestions.

Another form of critiquing may come from contests. I entered a contest last year and won fourth place. I later learned had I cut back on so much description and included more dialogue, inserting descriptive phrases here and there, (the old “show” not “tell” game), I probably would have gotten a higher award. Believe me, I took that lesson to heart and was so pleased at my next critique meeting to hear one of our members who reviewed my submission to the group say my writing was so much better.

A critique group can be invaluable to an author. When you find a few people with whom you share like interests and, as a group, you fit each other like a well-worn glove fits on the hand, don't let them get away. They can be your best friends—at least in the writing world. <>

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### *Quote of the Month:*

“No one else sees the world the way you do, so no one else can tell the stories that you have to tell.”

– Charles de Lint

## Conference Speaker:

### Maya Golden Bethany



#### **STAND OUT IN THE STACKS: BOOK MARKETING ON A BUDGET**

It's estimated that 4 million books are released annually. Almost a million of those are traditionally published and almost two million are self-published. That's a pretty big stack! So how do you stand out and make a splash in such a big literary sea? Join Maya as she provides tips for social media marketing, engagement and networking with other authors to help your publication receive the attention it deserves.

Maya Golden Bethany is an Associated Press winning and Emmy nominated multimedia journalist. Her debut memoir, *The Return Trip*, will release on November 14, 2023 and her first novel, a political thriller, *The Senator*, will release in Spring 2025 through Rising Action Publishing Collective. Maya is the winner of the Excellence in My Market Award (EMMA) from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, and multiple Associated Press Awards. She is the founder of the 1 in 3 Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides recovery and counseling resources to survivors of sexual trauma with little to no income in East Texas. Maya has been featured on Bally Sports, Fox Sports College, ESPN 2 and 3 and other broadcast mediums including Blackgirlnerds.com. She speaks as a survivor for organizations such as the Children's Advocacy Center, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) and Kids Aspiring to Dream. The Texas A&M alum's career includes experience as a sports anchor/reporter and television production editor, newscast writer, field producer and print writer. She is a member of the Women's Fiction Writers Association, East Texas Writers Guild and Writers League of Texas.

Visit Maya here:

Website: [goodasgolden.com](https://goodasgolden.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/MGBWrites](https://www.facebook.com/MGBWrites)

Twitter: @Maya\_Golden

Instagram: @goodasgolden <>

## Conference Speaker:

Reneé La Viness



### EDITING: LESS EQUALS MORE

Word counts rule our writing world. It helps to know how to cut the excess and strengthen your story at the same time.

At thirteen years old, Reneé La Viness wrote and performed her own ventriloquism skits as a professional entertainer. Since then, she's been published in books, magazines, newspapers, anthologies, and won numerous writing awards. From 2013 to 2018, she held multiple editor positions at 4RV Publishing, including two years as the company's first Children's Corner Imprint Editor. Reneé is the founder/organizer of the annual Meet the Publishers! event in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and one of the founding organizers of the Read.Write.Share. Conference in Arkansas. Currently the Advertising Executive for *Writers Monthly PDF* e-magazine, she's also an editor, the founder/sponsor/judge of the annual La Viness Short Story Writing Contest, a sponsor and/or judge for multiple other writing contests, a speaker for writing events, and the organizer for two in-person critique groups. Occasionally, she finds time to write. Reneé lives in Oklahoma, where she loves spending time with her husband, grandchildren, and one lovable, ornery chicken.

Visit Renee here:

Website: <https://www.reneelaviness.com>

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Author.ReneeLaViness](https://www.facebook.com/Author.ReneeLaViness) <>

## Be Thou Afraid

Lydia Holley

Every time I write a scene, I panic. Just a little. Then I take a deep breath and think: What am I trying to say? Where is my character going? What is holding them back from getting what they want? When is it? Where is it? Who is talking? What are they saying?

Every time I start a new book, I panic. A little more than the panic over writing a scene. I have to take a deep breath for several days, all the while thinking: What am I trying to say? Where is my character going? What is holding them back from getting what they want? When is it? Where is it? Who is in the novel? Who else needs to be there?

Every time I try to come up with a new story idea, I panic. A lot. For weeks. Then, I take a deep breath and . . . well, you get the drift. It's exhausting. It's much more than frightening—it's almost paralyzing.

In *The Portable MFA in Creative Writing: improve your craft with the core essentials taught to MFA students*, Tim Tomlinson states:

“The amateur’s crisis of confidence as she begins her first short story is the writer’s crisis of confidence at the outset of every new project. This is unique to writing. Once an architect knows how to design buildings, she designs buildings. On her next assignment, she doesn’t wonder, *How do I design buildings? Maybe I’m not really an architect.* . . . Once an orchestra conductor knows how to conduct orchestras, she conducts. Faced with a new score she doesn’t think, *Oh, my god, how do I conduct symphonies? Maybe I’m not really a conductor.* But the writer faces that first vast empty page (or screen) of the new project and thinks, *I wonder if the mail’s in. Jeesh, my pants are tight—should I go to the gym? Who’s on Oprah? Maybe it’s Maya Angelou. Or maybe there’s something inspirational at the cineplex. And how the hell do I write this damn thing anyway? Who cares what I write? Why should they? Maybe I’m not really a novelist. Maybe I’m not really a writer. (Maybe I should have tried something easier like designing buildings, or conducting symphonies.)*

That’s the good news and the bad news. The bad news, because it means that confronting terror and humiliation is part of the job description. Good news, because it happens to everybody, it comes with the turf, and each time out will be like the first time. First love only happens once, but first-fiction terror and euphoria can happen again and again.

So haul out your Moleskine or boot up the IBook, and go scare the hell out of yourself. Then fall in love. Repeat when necessary.”

Thank goodness it’s not just me!

Are you scaring yourself? If you’re like me (and Tim Tomlinson), you have to in order to get a scene started, a new book written, your next idea fleshed out. It’s part of being a writer and the fear of a blank page will never go away. For most of us writers, being afraid is a good thing. It means we’re working. <>

# A Visit to Firehouse Place

## Part 2: Lunch With Mom

Laura Bentz

As I walked through the entrance of the first-floor condo, I heard a loud noise. Jean, my mom's home health aide, glanced up at me and then looked away as she vacuumed the plush, white living room rug.

"Hi, Jean!" I exclaim. "Where's Mom?"

"She's in the shower."

I had a feeling something was amiss by the tone of her voice. "Is anything wrong?"

Jean winced and frowned. "Yes! My mother is dying of cancer and so is my brother."

"That's terrible!" She told me the entire story as she finished and started preparing our lunches.

"Jean, Oh, Jeeaan!" Mom yelled from the bathroom. She dropped everything to help mom get dressed.

I followed behind her and peered over her shoulder. "Hi, Mom!" I shouted.

"Hi dear! You had a safe trip?"

"Yes, the weather's perfect."

Jean came back out to toss our salads and fry tilapia. I picked both plates up from the counter and brought them to the dining room table.

We hadn't taken but a few bites of our meal when Mom looked around. "Jean!

Where are you? You should dust the coffee table, the end tables and the bedroom windowsill." Her voice dropped to a whisper. "You know what? She hasn't dusted the sills in one whole year. One whole year." She pointed upwards with her index finger.

"Really?" I responded.



(See VISIT, Cont'd Next Page)



*(VISIT, Cont'd from Previous Page)*

Jean hurried to finish her work so she could leave early.

"I like her," Mom continued, "but you have to tell her everything. She has no self-initiative. Doesn't put away the pots or pans, either. Wants to leave early and get paid for the whole time."

"Yeah, I see. However, she said her mom and brother are dying from cancer. That would be rather distracting." I crunched on the big bowl of salad. "Why don't you tell the agency about it? They could send somebody else."

"I will, but I've been so busy, what with my friend, Dr. Sarah, staying with me for a whole month."

"That's too long a visit, Mom. You should've told her to stay only two weeks."

"No, I couldn't do that to a friend."

"But sometimes friends stay too long."

She said nothing else, but we ate the rest of our meal in silence. I glanced over at the wall to notice she had prominent pictures of my younger brother, Frank, there. One had him smiling in his First Holy Communion outfit, like a priest, holding a prayer book. Another of a baby Frank and an older one of him also. None of me or my sisters.

*"She always favored him more."* I thought as I gagged on my last few bites.

Jean left about an hour early. Mom looked up at her and then at the clock as she walked out.

"Remember, no pay for the hour you didn't work."

"Yes, ma'am."

I cleared the plates off the table and finished putting away the pots and pans.

"Are you ready to go? Do you have the list?"

"Right here," I responded, tucking it into my pocket. "You want your sweater?"

"No, I'm good." She got up from the table and plopped down in her lounge chair.

The loud barking of a dog caught our attention.

*(See VISIT, Cont'd Page 17)*

## Conference Speaker:

Brad Maule



### THE STRANGER IN YOUR SCREENPLAY

Whether your script takes place on a distant planet or in your old hometown, there is an unknown, often unrecognized character in every scene.

Twenty-two years on ABC Television's Soap Opera, *General Hospital* in the role of Dr. Tony Jones, two nominations for Daytime Emmys, three albums of country music and numerous guest-starring roles on television shows, *Charlie's Angels*, *Three's Company*, *The White Shadow*, *Too Close for Comfort*, and *7th Heaven* ...Brad Maule has been around show business for a while. For the past seventeen years, Brad has also been a lecturer in film and acting for Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. He is also on the boards of "The Friends of Historic Nacogdoches", "The Fine Arts Dean's Circle", "The Historic Landmark Preservation Board for the city of Nacogdoches" and "The Comprehensive Planning Board for the city of Nacogdoches." Nominated for "Best Actor" for the Louisiana Film Prize 2023, Brad is honored to be a part of the new short film entry, *Credit*. Brad, currently, is starring in a Derek Wayne Johnson film, *Blood Streams*, to be released in 2024.

Visit Brad here:

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/bradmaule](https://www.facebook.com/bradmaule) <>

## Conference Speaker:

Jodi Thompson



### **TERRIBLE ADVICE: TACKLED**

Terrible Advice is never in short supply, especially in the publishing world. I will choose 10-15 questions/concerns submitted by attendees to tackle, breaking down each topic to parse the good from the bad. The purpose of this session is to guide people through the madness—sanity and pocketbook intact.

Jodi Thompson has been writing for as long as she can remember. Her earliest work, *Skippy the Horse*, was critically acclaimed by numerous family members and at least one teacher. She eventually discovered that her real talent lies in assisting others with their dreams. After spending some time as a freelance Book Manager and Publicist, she founded a small, traditional publishing house, Fawkes Press. In her copious free time, she has led writing workshops for children and teens, served on the organizational committees for several writing conferences, judged national writing contests, and presented at writing/publishing conferences across the United States. She is also one-half of S&J Pop-Up Cons, presenting writers' workshops and retreats in unexpected places.

Fearful that she was getting too much sleep, she started Terrible Advice: Author Edition as guidance for writers in all stages. Chasing the high of her early success from *Skippy the Horse*, she also dabbles in cozy mysteries as Moira Bates. She lives in Texas with her husband and more animals than any sane person should have in their home.

Visit Jodi Here:

Website: [www.terribleauthor.com](http://www.terribleauthor.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/terribleauthor](https://www.facebook.com/groups/terribleauthor)

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/terribleadviceauthoredition](https://www.youtube.com/terribleadviceauthoredition) <>

*(VISIT, Cont'd from Page 14)*

"Oh, Goldie has to go out." Grabbing the leash, the dog and I left for a walk. She tugged as she dragged me down the sidewalk. I forgot the pooper-scooper and ran back to get it. I had to remember the exact spot where the dog went. It broke and we'd have to run by the store sometime that day to buy a new one.

Mom greeted me at the door in a panic. "We gotta go!" Mom exclaimed, out of breath. "We have to get groceries and go to pick up Ann."

So, I took my car instead of her beat-up Cadillac. It's too hard to back out of her narrow one-car garage. And the dents on it told that story. When we got to the store, she tore up and down the aisles in a scooter, knocking over a few displays, which I remade as she zipped by each one. She and I grabbed a few groceries and a new poop scooper.

Next, we headed to the rehab center where we saw Ann, mom's friend of over fifty years. Though she told us she didn't feel like going out to eat. Her swollen legs had her grounded.

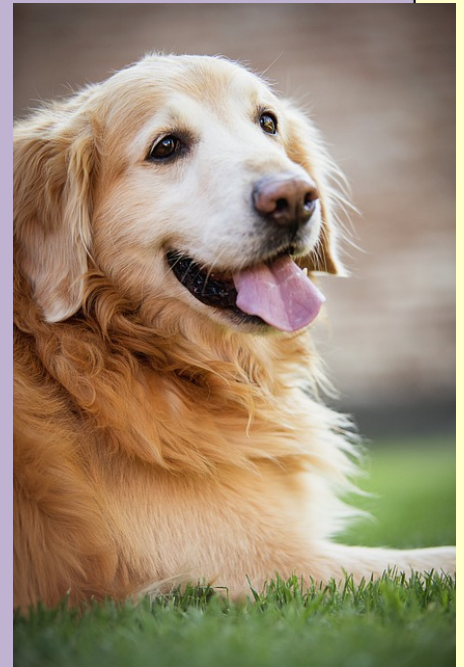
We gave her a hug and a quick goodbye. "Sorry, you can't make it today." I said.

"Don't be sad. I'm going home in a few days. The swelling will go down. I believe it."

"We'll be praying for you." I replied.

"Thanks."

Next, we rushed to the seafood restaurant to meet Carol, another long-time friend, and hear about her husband Floyd's current health update. And I knew that wouldn't be a pleasant one.



*To be continued... <>*

## ETWG Conference Schedule

- 8:30-9:00**      **Sign-in, registration (Mingle, get a snack, find your seat)**
- 9:00-9:10**      **Welcome, housekeeping (Get your pens ready!)**
- 9:10-10:10**      **Maya Golden Bethany “Stand Out in the Stacks: Book Marketing on a Budget” (Read more about Maya and her topic on Page 10)**
- 10:10-10:25**      **Door Prizes, Break (Who doesn’t like winning a door prize?)**
- 10:25-11:25**      **Brad Maule “The Stranger in Your Screenplay” (Read more about Brad and his topic on Page 15)**
- 11:25-12:25**      **Lunch (Included in price of registration)**
- 12:25-12:35**      **Door Prizes (Whoop! Whoop! Freebies!)**
- 12:35-1:35**      **Jodi Thompson “Terrible Advice: TACKLED” (Read more about Jodi and her topic on Page 16)**
- 1:35-1:45**      **Door Prizes, Break (Wow! Your chances of winning just got better!)**
- 1:45-2:45**      **Reneé La Viness “Editing: Less Equals More” (Read more about Reneé and her topic on Page 11)**
- 2:45-3:00**      **Concluding Remarks, Grand Prize drawings (Grand Prize!!! Something worth staying for!)**

**The conference will be held at TJC West. Don’t miss out! Register today!**

**(Link to purchase tickets is on Page 5.)◊**



## TOP TEN REASONS YOU SHOULD ATTEND THE JULY CONFERENCE

*April Coker*

So, you can't decide whether or not to attend July's conference. You've heard it all before. The speakers are always the same, and they say the same old things. Apply your seat to the chair, write something every day, don't give up. . .blah, blah, blah. The room is always too cold, the sandwiches are the same, and you could be doing something else on a Saturday. Okay, I get it. But hear me out.

I attend the conference because I have to. I'm the conference chairperson and I lead the planning for the whole event. Would I go if I didn't have to? Absolutely! But why?

Here are my top 10 reasons for attending ETWG's annual summer conference:

1. The speakers are wonderful. Even if they say the same things as past speakers, they bring a unique perspective to share with us. Their energy is contagious. They are role models. They make me want to be a writer when I grow up. And this year, *General Hospital*'s Brad Maule is coming! I get to meet Dr. Tony Jones!
2. I get to be in the same room with other writers. There is an energy there that is palpable. We all want the same thing: for people to read our work.
3. I learn something new every time I listen to another writer. Sometimes it's life-changing. Sometimes it's disheartening. But I would never have learned it if I had missed the conference.
4. The price is right. I did a survey of prices for other similar conferences, and ours is right in line with others. A big plus is that we offer an early bird discount, and a huge student discount.
5. The location is convenient. Even if you don't live in Tyler, the location is easy to find.
6. The food and refreshments are yummy. Even if you aren't a big fan of sandwiches, you have to admit that Jason's Deli does a great job with their boxed lunches. And oh, the cookies! The refreshment table has a wide variety of choices, and the coffee is hot.
7. I can bring a jacket. What is the big deal about the room being cold? Bring. A. Sweater.
8. There are door prizes! Great door prizes! That in itself should draw you in.
9. The camaraderie and networking is fantastic. We get a whole hour for lunch, and there is no need to leave the campus, so we get to chat and visit with other attendees and even the speakers.

AND. . .

10. There is no other conference quite like this one, planned by writers, organized by writers, conducted by writers, for writers. I wouldn't miss it.

Will I see you there? (Saturday, July 15, at TJC West Campus, 8:30 – 3:00) Register at [etwritersguild.org](http://etwritersguild.org). <

## The Best Part of a Conference

*Lydia Holley*

When I was in elementary school, the best part of the day was lunch. When I was in high school, the best part of the day was Study Hall. When I got a job, the best part of the day was going home.

What's the best part of a writer's conference? I've been to several, so I've gotten over the jitters of not knowing what to expect. (If you're new and have those, the only way to get over them is to come anyway.) You may want to bring a sweater. You might want to bring extra pens. Otherwise, relax. You'll be well fed. Snacks, drinks, and lunch will be provided (it's all included in the price of the conference), but believe me, this isn't elementary school. No one comes solely for the lunch.



Many writers, especially new writers, will say the speakers are the best part of the conference. Which is understandable. The speakers come to share their knowledge and experience. You go away not only better informed, but motivated, too, which is reason enough to attend. Motivational speakers are popular for a reason—and writing is a hard, lonely job. We all need a boost of motivation.

But I think a conference is more like high school. You have teachers you love, some you could do without, some subjects so interesting you consider majoring in it, some subjects you doodle the time through. However, remember Study Hall? What a misnomer! No one studies in Study Hall—they visit.

To me, the best part of a conference is the visiting. Visiting not only with the speakers, but with other writers. At the conference, you will find writers who are just starting out, writers who have multiple books published, writers who come to every meeting of ETWG, writers who only show for the conference. Every one has a story, and if you talk to them, there is something you can learn from each one. Or, you may find yourself passing along advice and motivation to others. A conference is like a day-long Study Hall with other people who have writing in their blood.

Find a new friend, a new critique partner, a new mentor, a new mentee, or just strike up a casual conversation. The conference gives you plenty of time to mingle and meet others. But it's only held once a year, so you don't want to miss this opportunity.

A writer's conference is definitely not work—it's a boost of education, motivation, and fun. Unlike a job, you may find yourself not wanting to go home afterward. <>

## TNC Newsletter and ETWG Information

### 2022 ETWG Officers & Leadership Positions

|                          |                                                                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Founder:</b>          | <b>“K” Sellers</b>                                              |
| <b>President:</b>        | <b>April Coker</b>                                              |
| <b>Vice President:</b>   | <b>Woody Edmiston</b>                                           |
| <b>Secretary:</b>        | <b>Patricia La Vigne</b>                                        |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>        |                                                                 |
| <b>Historian:</b>        | <b>Laura Bentz</b>                                              |
| <b>TNC Editor:</b>       | <b>Lydia Holley</b>                                             |
| <b>Membership:</b>       | <b>Ilenya Marrin</b>                                            |
| <b>Publicity:</b>        | <b>Lynn Pinkerton</b>                                           |
| <b>Website:</b>          | <b>Nikki Brown</b><br><b>Lisa Holcomb</b><br><b>Laura Bentz</b> |
| <b>Technical:</b>        | <b>Mike Wigington</b>                                           |
| <b>Conference Chair:</b> | <b>April Coker</b>                                              |
| <b>Parliamentarian:</b>  | <b>Lisa Holcomb</b>                                             |



#### **East Texas Writers' Guild**

P.O. Box 10074  
Tyler, TX 75711

**Website:**

<https://etwritersguild.org>

**Facebook page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/etwritersguild/>

**Email:**

[etwritersguild@gmail.com](mailto:etwritersguild@gmail.com)

### TNC Submission Guidelines and Deadlines

All submitted data must be received by the 30<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the month in which art/ad/etc. will appear.

Length—up to 500 words (ask if more)

Format—single space, no indent

Fonts—12 pt. Times New Roman

Photos—jpeg with caption instructions

**Send to:**

[LydiaHolley@aol.com](mailto:LydiaHolley@aol.com)