

MARCH 2022

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www.Southernwriters.org

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Southern California Writer's Association

March 2022

- **President Larry Porricelli's Message**
- **March's Featured Event: Janis Thomas: "Crafting Killer Scenes."**
- **NEW! Publishing News and Insights**
- **Hump Day: Every Wednesday 10 a.m. on SCWA Facebook Group page.**
Hump Day is on Vacation until March 30 -
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/southernwriters>
- **Debby's Room: Wednesdays 10:20 a.m. following Hump Day (on the SCWA Facebook page ROOMS tab)**
- **Highlights: Elaine Ash "Novel Writing 911"**



Have you subscribed?

Check out our fancy new URL for the YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/SCWAWritersOnline>

Announcement for March 2022 from Larry Porricelli

Our plans for our first live meeting has been CANCELLED. Our location at the Joint Forces Training Center in Los Alamitos was turned over to the military for exercises and closed to civilian activity.



Your March To-Do List

- **RENEW your SCWA Membership—consider all the benefits!** Meetings, friends, speakers, writing tips, friends, publishing insider information, support, Member's Showcase, workshops, and all the friends.
RENEW by March 31 to maintain your website presence and stay in the Facebook Members only group. Remember your books, showcase, and profile stay on the website for active members only.
- **Participate in the SCWA Bookstore.**
- **SUBSCRIBE to the SCWA WRITERS ONLINE YouTube channel** and enjoy 66 Hump Day interviews, 18 featured speakers, and 8 workshops



SCWA Events This Month: March 2022

- SCWA Featured Monthly Guest, Janis Thomas on “Crafting Killer Scenes” March 19, 2022 at 10 a.m. PT on Zoom.
Register at: <https://www.southernwriters.org/>
- SCWA VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR: Every Friday at 4:30 p.m. PT
Join us with your funny stories and libations for good news and good cheer. Sign up on our website and we’ll email you a link and password. <https://www.southernwriters.org/>
- SCWA HUMP DAY BOOK TOUR: **Hump Day will be ON VACATION until March 30.** Catch up with the replays of previous interviews on SCWA’s YouTube channel.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/southernwriters>
- Debby’s Room: Every Wednesday at 10:20 a.m. PT. Join **Debby Putman** and **Dot Caffrey** for casual conversation about the writing craft and anything that you wish to bring for discussion. Click on the Rooms tab for Debby’s Room on the SCWA Facebook page.

Have you missed an SCWA event? We will upload replays as they are edited and ready on SCWA’s YouTube channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLrqSfwTMaci139ISRV50KQ>

NEW! Publishing News and Insights:

10 Things Nobody Tells You About Traditional Publishing

From Publisher's Weekly, Sept 24, 2021



- The industry moves slowly. Very slowly.
- There are more gatekeepers than you think.
- Not every deal is a good deal.
- It matters how big a fish you are, and what size the pond.
- You'll have to sit on good news.
- You'll feel more competitive than you're proud of.
- The goal line is always moving.
- Readers are a tricky bunch to please.
- It takes a long time to get paid, and income is sporadic.
- The intangible makes the struggle worth it.

Best Book Promotion Sites 2022

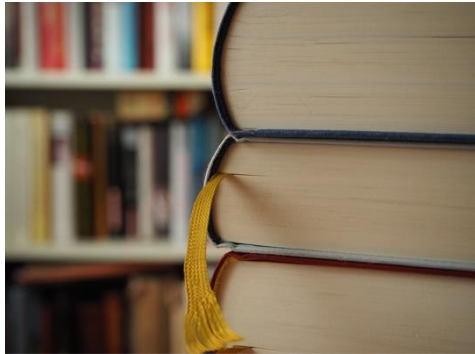
Updated by [David Gaughran](#) January 26, 2022.

These are the best book promo sites in 2022 for boosting your sales, launches, free promotions, series promotions, and mailing list too. Something for all budgets and experience levels with self-publishing—including a few completely free options.

This list of book promotion sites is curated by David Gaughran. All sites in the list have been vetted, tested extensively, and are here because of the results they generate. No filler!

Find David's list by visiting:

<https://davidgaughran.com/best-promo-sites-books/>



Are you doing research for your novel?

Check some of these research websites collected by Diana Pardee from the “I Love Reading” page on Facebook. Bookmark or keep a list of sites you never heard of:

www.refseek.com —Academic Resource Search. More than a billion sources: encyclopedia, monographies, magazines.

www.worldcat.org —a search for the contents of 20,000 worldwide libraries. Find out where lies the nearest rare book you need.

<https://link.springer.com> — access to more than 10 million scientific documents: books, articles, research protocols.

www.bioline.org.br is a library of scientific bioscience journals published in developing countries.

<http://repec.org> —volunteers from 102 countries have collected almost 4 million publications on economics and related science.

www.science.gov is an American state search engine on 2200+ scientific sites. More than 200 million articles are indexed.

www.pdfdrive.com is the largest website for free download of books in PDF format. Claiming over 225 million names.

www.base-search.net is one of the most powerful research sources of academic studies texts. More than 100 million scientific documents, 70% of them are free.

Featured Monthly Speaker: March 19, 2022

JANIS THOMAS

Crafting Killer Scenes

Title: Crafting Killer Scenes
Who: Janis Thomas
When: Saturday, March 19, 2022
Time: 10:00 am PDT

Where: Zoom
Cost: \$10.00 Members
 \$15.00 Nonmembers



Register: at [https:// www.southernwriters.org](https://www.southernwriters.org)

Well-constructed scenes are the building blocks of a great story!

Join us on Saturday, March 19, 2022, at 10:00 am when multitalented author and writing instructor, Janis Thomas, talks scene construction, story beats, and character/story arcs!

Janis Thomas is the author of three humorous novels (Penguin), *Murder in A-Minor*, which was featured on ABC, CBS, NBC, and FOX as well as in the *Miami Herald*, *The Boston Globe*, and the *LA Daily News*, and her latest *Finding Grace* due out April 12, 2022, by Blackstone. A writing instructor and sought-after speaker, Janis is an avid reader, writer, and tennis player who currently resides in Southern California with her family and their dog, Ruby.



For information about SCWA and membership please go to <https://www.southernwriters.org/>



<https://www.facebook.com/groups.SCWAMembersOnly>

We've been posting deeper content to help members succeed among the posts in our SCWA Members Only Facebook group. Make sure your dues are up-to-date and join us there. Some recent topics include self-publishing lingo, landing pages, building your tribe, tips for author headshots, and book launch success. Diana Pardee is curating the best quality content she can find and welcomes your suggestions. DM her on Facebook at Diana Pardee.

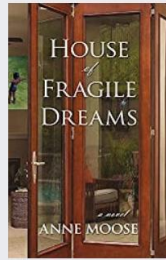
ADD YOUR BOOKS TO THE SCWA BOOKSTORE

At last we have created an [SCWA Bookstore](#) to feature books by our talented members in the Member Bookstore tab on the website. We'd love for you to be a part of it. Take advantage of this new SCWA benefit—which is open only to SCWA members who have a profile page on our website ([Member Profiles—Southern California Writers Association](#)). If you don't have a member profile page yet, you can create one [here](#).

Here's a sample of what the [SCWA Bookstore](#) looks like, as well as some sample book covers and loglines. Clicking on the cover image takes you directly to Amazon for an easy purchase option. SCWA earns benefits as an affiliate.

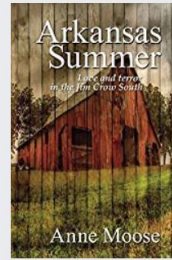
If you'd like to participate, please use the CONTACT SCWA tab on the website where you can upload cover images and other information (20-30 words. We'll do the rest.)

Here's a sample page from the SCWA Bookstore:



House of Fragile Dreams by Anne Moose

House of Fragile Dreams tells the story of a woman whose attempt to find love is threatened by her brother. He is disturbed, gun obsessed, and, as she discovers, involved with people who threaten much more than her dream of a happy home.



Arkansas Summer by Anne Moose

Arkansas Summer is both a touching love story and gripping immersion into the twisted ethos and violence of the Jim Crow South.

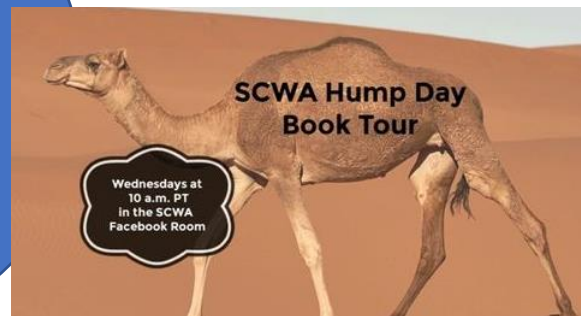


Crown Hunt by R. M. Morgan

Two detectives—a brainy, eccentric woman and her rowdy right-hand man—chase a priceless crown heisted in the Korean War and a psychopathic killer.

Hump Day
Book Tour

LIVESTREAMED
Every
Wednesday
10:00 a.m.



Did you catch Solange Ritchie on March 9? Did you miss Tori Eldridge on the March 3 Hump Day? Did you miss David Putnam's visit on February 23?

Hump Day streams LIVE on SCWA's Facebook page.

Look for our SCWA group on Facebook. Click on the Events tab to join us!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/southerncafwriters/events>

Can't make it at that time? Go to the SCWA page and click VIDEOS to find replays. Or go to our YouTube channel SCWA Writers Online.

Subscribe anytime at <https://bit.ly/2I890Db>

CELEBRATE ALL THE GOOD NEWS!



Barbara Schnell's second novel has won a National Indie Excellence Award.

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07TWH65RD>

Freedom! Excitement! Adventure! That's what's missing in Marianne's life. Apparently, it's all available in Los Angeles. When the bright lights beckon, she packs her meager belongings and leaves her small town and domineering mother behind. But she finds that freedom is lonely, excitement can be scary, and adventures aren't always pleasant. Sometimes she thinks of giving up and going home to her mother. On second thought, can anything be that bad?

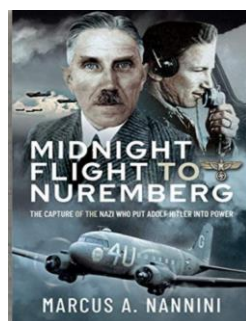
Wendy Van Camp has posted a new poem in Medium, stretching beyond her favorite SciFaiku speculative poetry to a charming literary piece. Find it here:

<https://medium.com/the-junction/cats-are-not-allowed-in-paradise-2db964fff3>

Marcus Nannini's Spectacular news for March! Last month the good news was *Publisher's Weekly's* *BOOK LIFE* review of *Midnight Flight to Nuremberg*.

This month his book won the Reader Views Literary Award for Overall Grand Prize for Non-Fiction and their Gold Award Winner!

Contratulations, Marcus!



“Nannini proves adept at war-time storytelling, with an emphasis on bravery and camaraderie; his accounts of Watson's missions take an engaging novelistic approach, with memorable detail.”

For more information, visit

<https://www.amazon.com/Midnight-Flight-Nuremberg-Capture-Hitler/dp/1526792737/>



LIT UP!

A Conversation with Orange County Readers and Writers; a monthly salon with authors reading and discussing their book hosted by Maddie Tighe Margarita

New authors...new works...new worlds. Find your next favorite author, or a new fan. LIT UP Orange County is currently accepting submissions from authors interested in sharing their work with Orange County readers and writers. Submissions should be fiction or memoir, 6-8 double-spaced pages, and engage our audience. Interested writers please contact @MadelineTigheMargarita for more details!

Watch for announcements of upcoming LitUp events here and on Maddie's LitUp facebook page.

The February 22 Lit Up featured a conversation with Joe Ide and Alex Finlay, a rare opportunity to see two bestselling authors talk writing and publishing.

Catch the replay at: <https://www.facebook.com/litupoc>

CALLING ALL NEWSLETTERS!

Many of SCWA's members offer regular newsletters or blogs for their readers. We'd love to post connections for any and all of our members. Your blog, website, and newsletter can also be included in your SCWA website profile.

Send us your links for your blogs, podcasts, and newsletters so we can feature them and let all our members discover the wealth of information within reach.

Use the CONTACT SCWA tab in the website to add yours to share with other members.

Members' Showcase: OPEN for your Submissions

Did you know SCWA will publish excerpts of your work in the Members' Showcase on the SCWA website? Yes, we will.

We want to show your works-in-progress, excerpts from your published book, first lines, favorite paragraphs, and anything you would like to share in any genre, even a page of rants from your journal. The range of creativity among our members is impressive. Take a look at some of the fine work our members have already shared and then share some of your own.

<https://www.southernwriters.org/members-showcase-2/>

Here are the details for the SCWA Showcase:

- Send the work you'd like to showcase, for instance, first lines, an excerpt, an essay or a poem or something else (up to 1500 words). Include your byline (your name, the name of the book it is from, if applicable, and your website).
- All current SCWA members are eligible.
- You retain your copyright.
- Submit for free!
- Send to scwashowcase@gmail.com

Take a look at the Showcase entries by many of our members. It's a terrific way to get acquainted, share your work, and learn about SCWA members.

Sample excerpts or works-in-process of fellow members. Books are available through the SCWA Bookstore where a click on the book cover links directly to Amazon for your purchase.

SCWA receives a small portion of the sale as an affiliate.

HIGHLIGHTS: February, 2022

ELAINE ASH

Novel Writing 101



SCWA Highlights for February 19, 2022

Novel Writing 911 with Elaine Ash

Southern California Writers Association identifies Elaine Ash as a book doctor/developmental editor/author/cheerleader, and more. Our speaker threw light on many problems she sees in writers' novels.

First of all, Ms. Ash says to write your full draft [probably with an outline]. When you do rewrites, don't yet worry about spelling and details. Get your story down as you intended.

At the next phase, you need to check many factors:

- A. Did you use the right tone and choices for your main character? It's unfortunately easy to unwittingly use the voice that was necessary in an earlier book or especially a series of books.
- B. Clear any take-away messages from the beginning of the story.
- C. If your story has important technical factors, don't do a complete dump from your actual technical sheet; it's too much for the reader to absorb. Slow it down and use the reader-friendly information. If the technical source has info on a particular person, but he/she is not in your story, do not use that person's name.
- D. "Simply and streamline a complicated plot."
- E. Overwriting is a natural occurrence—probably because of feedback and the fact that the reader is so close to the work. All the rewrites may have made the story "murky and difficult to follow."
- F. You may need a developmental editor.

- G. Do be aware that developmental editors prefer center genres. However, as member Pam Sheppard, a developmental editor herself reminded us, "A story is a story, no matter the genre."

- H. Test yourself by summarizing each chapter. Do they move the story along?
- I. Include the protagonist's goals and motivation.
- J. Be careful that the Third Person Omniscient point of view is not like a character itself. [More about this below.]

Ms. Ash provided our attendees special handout information to accompany her talk. Next is from “Tenses in Bestselling Novels.”

She illustrated changes in point of view for novels in recent years. Most of us grew up reading in Third Person Omniscient (TPO). However, the use of TPO these days has dwindled. “Third Person Limited (TPL) is used now almost exclusively for mystery, thrillers, and other genres, except comedy. First Person is also a popular choice for commercial bestsellers of all genres.” Her presentation taught her viewers to discern the difference between TPO and TPL.

Because TPL tends to put us in the main character's shoes or head, we learn what he's thinking and how that reflects his character—whereas the TPO just gives us information as from an outside observer. Ash says, “If the Omniscient Narrator gets too much page time, he or she can get intrusive and wedge between the reader and the main character [protagonist], siphoning off attention” to that character.

The following examples from Ash's handout shows selections written in Third Person Omniscient. Each is followed by Ash's **comments in red** on where the TPO is intrusive. Then the paragraph is repeated with Ash's corrections/editing **in bold black**.

1.a The unmarked van, parked far enough from the mosque entrance so as not to cause suspicion, was able to survey all who entered or exited the building. It was past midnight, and the wide street on Washington's embassy row, at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Belmont Street, was dark and quiet. **Do you see how this paragraph is coming from the thoughts of a disembodied observer and not an actual character in the story? This is the hallmark of the Omniscient Narrator (ON). The ON is actually a separate, omnipresent character in every novel written in this tense.**

1.b The unmarked van, parked far enough from the mosque entrance so as not to cause suspicion, was able to survey all who entered or exited the building. **FBI Agent Don Kelly glanced at his watch.** It was past midnight and the wide street on Washington's embassy row, at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Belmont Street, was dark and quiet.

2.a FBI agents Don Kelly and Sam Malone were on an eight-hour shift. Kelly offered his partner a smoke. Malone happened to be a newly recruited agent fresh on this case. **More disembodied ON observations.**

2.b Halfway through an eight-hour shift Kelly offered his partner a smoke. He was a veteran while Malone happened to be a newly recruited agent fresh on his case.

3.a Kelly, a veteran in the force, provided a briefing: **(Again, the ON announces that Kelly is about to speak.)** “We’ve been tracking this mosque for six months. Lately, we observed some young men coming in and out of the back entrance of the building, mostly in the early morning hours. We’ve never seen these guys before, so Counterterrorism concluded that it might be a good idea to assign round-the-clock surveillance.”

3.b “We’ve been tracking this mosque for six months,” **Kelly offered.** “Lately, we observed some young men coming in and out of the back entrance of the building, mostly in the early morning hours. We’ve never seen these guys before, so Counterterrorism concluded that it might be a good idea to assign round-the-clock surveillance.”

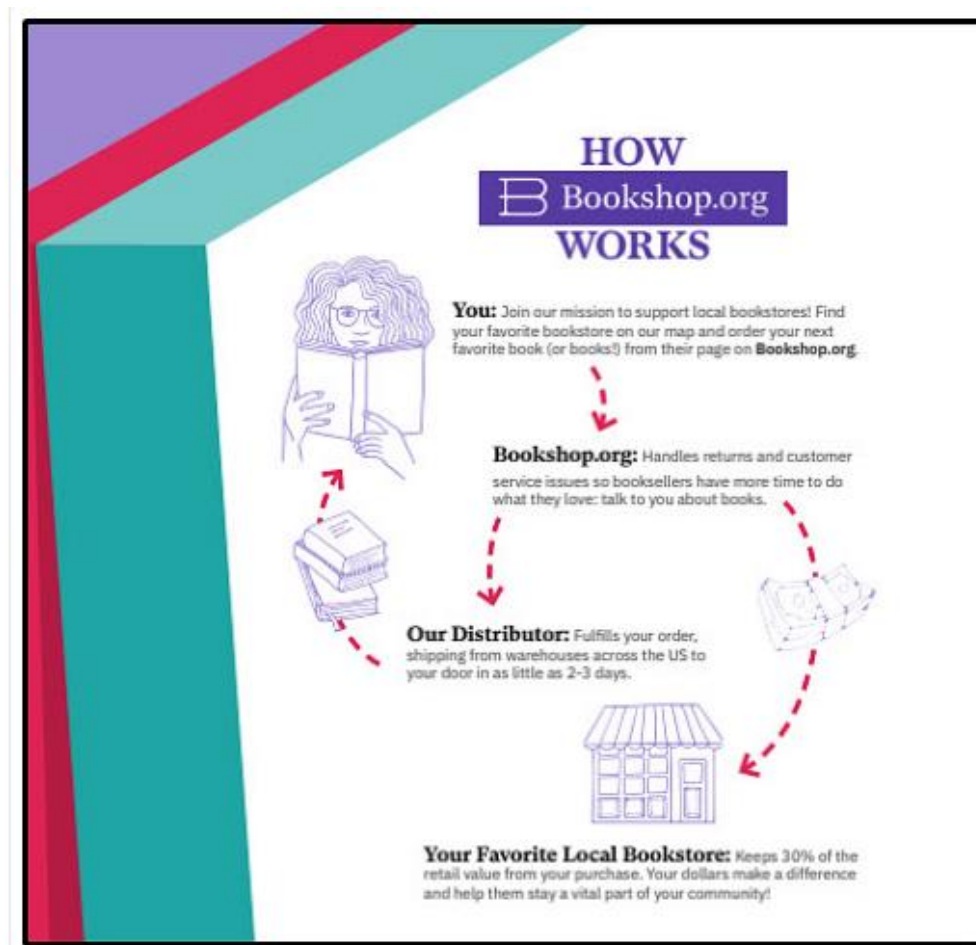
Our attendees expressed great satisfaction in what Elaine Ash taught them. Ms. Ash has shepherded clients such as Susan Ouellette, Jonathan Brown, M. Todd Henderson, and Neil V. Young to agents and publishing deals.

Glenda Brown Rynn, Reporter

grynn@cox.net

RESOURCES FOR WRITERS

How do you find your way through the ocean of resources available online for writers like us? Check out this sampling of what we have found to be of interest. Links are included so you will be able to investigate further.





LitNuts was created to share the “Best of the Indies” with booklovers.

- Subscribers get a free newsletter featuring only indie books.
- Authors and publishers get an affordable way to share their work with engaged readers.

<https://litnuts.com/> LitNuts promotes *only* books from independent presses and authors. Details on its website:

<https://litnuts.com/pages/authors-and-publishers>

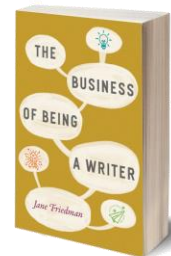
MOST RELIABLE: www.janefriedman.com Jane has a long history in all areas of book publishing and has a solid reputation for being the best go-to for writers of all levels.

- WRITERS HELPING WRITERS: www.writershelpingwriters.net has many one-of-a-kind tools and resources for writers. Newsletter available.

- ***Authors Publish, A Magazine for Writers.*** <https://www.authorspublish.com/>, assembles

monthly lists of themed submission calls by magazines and journals, often paying for your work.

Even a modest payment is at least encouragement and can add to your portfolio.





- *Publishing ... and Other Forms of Insanity*, the newsletter for the website Published to Death, sends a monthly list of writers' conferences, fee free contests, and agents for all genres who are looking for submissions.
- For emerging writers, establishing a publications resume can be quite a challenge, especially if you have never published any of your work. But there always has to be a first—your very first short story, poem or personal essay published by a literary magazine.

Take heart, new writers! There are magazines that want your work and will even pay you for it.

Also see: [Mega-List of Science Fiction and Fantasy Magazines-Paying markets](#)—Many speculative fiction magazines are happy to publish emerging writers.

See these lists and much more at:

<https://publishedtodeath.blogspot.com/>

Details of what agents are looking for and how to reach them will give you a head start for your submission process. Check the website every month for up-to-date information and resources.

Note: Always check the agency website and agent bio before submitting. Agents can switch agencies or close their lists, and submission requirements can change.

**“A writer, I think,
is someone who
pays attention to the world.”**

Susan Sontag

Benefits of SCWA Membership

WELCOME, WELCOME, WELCOME!

- ❖ **Active members receive up to 60% off admission to SCWA meetings.**
- ❖ **Members are eligible for a free 30-minute consultation from book shepherd Sharon Goldinger on any publishing contract.**
- ❖ **Discounts are available for active SCWA members for registration for the La Jolla Writer's Conference and for early registration for the Southern California Writers' Conference.**
- ❖ **Access to professional network of publishing, business consultants and editors.**
- ❖ **Participation in SCWA marketing platforms on southerncalwriters.org and SCWA social media platforms.**
- ❖ **SCWA Member's Only group on Facebook where we rewind and replay recent featured guests and their presentations.**

SCWA Board of Directors

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Mailing Address for inquiries by mail: PO Box 47, Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Southern California Writer's Association

www.southerncalwriters.org

TERMS OF USE AND CONTENT INFORMATION DISCLAIMER

The SCWA encourages open, respectful communication between individuals interested in the craft of writing through a variety of social and traditional media, such as Facebook, SCWA website and emails. Any individual using inappropriate language, discussing inappropriate topics, or commenting in a disrespectful way will be removed from access to any future SCWA communication methods.

The SCWA communication sites should only be used for dialogues related to the craft of writing. Non-writing related topics should be done via other forms of personal communication. Please review the content disclaimer located in the newsletter via the SCWA website www.southerncalwriters.org or on the About page of the SCWA Facebook page. The SCWA does not endorse individual opinions placed of any of its sites.

The SCWA receives information on various services, writing contests, and events. As a courtesy, we will forward the information to our members. Unless otherwise indicated, the SCWA does not discourage, encourage, or recommend any of the services, contests, or events. Many of these services, contests and events cost money; therefore, we recommend that you evaluate the opportunities based on your individual situation and interest. Because of our membership email protection policy, please do not forward information to the general membership directly. **We request that all members forward any information to the SCWA President for approval and forwarding to the membership.**

SCWA members wishing to share appropriate writing-related information and resources are welcome to do so via the SCWA Facebook page. The SCWA Board members and Newsletter Editor will determine the information to be contained in the SCWA on-line newsletter, which is primarily used for official SCWA information.