

## DECEMBER 2021

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

- ☐ pg. 2: President's Message
- ☐ pg. 3: December Events
- ☐ pg. 4: SCWA Member Bookstore
- ☐ pg. 5: NaNoWriMo and Hump Day
- ☐ pg. 6: Hump Day Authors
- ☐ pg. 8: LitUp OC
- ☐ pg. 9: Good News!
- ☐ pg. 10: SCWA Showcase
- ☐ pg. 11: Speaker Highlights: Lee Matthew Goldberg
- ☐ pg. 13: Resources for Writers
- ☐ pg. 15: Member Benefits
- ☐ pg. 16: Board & Terms of Use



## Southern California Writer's Association

### December 2021

- **President Larry Porricelli's Message**
- **December's Featured Event: Jingle & Mingle at Mimi's Café, Irvine**
- **NEW SCWA Member Bookstore**
- **Hump Day: Every Wednesday 10 a.m. on SCWA Facebook page:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/southernwriters>
- **Debby's Room: Wednesdays 10:20 a.m. following Hump Day (on the SCWA Facebook page ROOMS tab)**
- **Such Good News!**
- **November Highlights: Lee Matthew Goldberg**



### Have you subscribed?

Check out our new YouTube channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLrqSfwTMaCi139ISRV50KQ>

## President's Message for December 2021 from Larry Porricelli

Join us for our first in-person event of 2021



SCWA Monthly meeting for December will be LIVE!

Celebrate the holidays LIVE AND IN-PERSON with SCWA members and friends. Join us for readings, giveaways, hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Stay for a few hours or just drop in for a drink and say hi. Bring copies of your books to share for holiday reviews! Guests are welcome.

Your safety and health are important to us. We welcome vaccinated members and guests. You must register online and prepay by Thursday, 12/16/21. No walk-ins or pay at the door.

Don't miss our sure-to-be-memorable holiday get together—limited to the first 40 people who sign up.

**What:** SCWA JINGLE AND MINGLE—LIVE AND IN-PERSON!

**Who:** SCWA Members and guests

**When:** Saturday, December 18, 2021

**Time:** 2:30-4:30 pm PT

**Where:** Mimi's Café

4030 Barranca Pkwy

Irvine, Ca 92604

**Cost:** \$10.00

**Sign up on our website at**

<https://www.southernwriters.org/events/scwa-jingle-and-mingle-live-and-in-person/>

**Mark your Calendars!**



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.

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

## SCWA Events This Month: December 2021

"The first sentence can't be written until the last sentence is written."

Joyce Carol Oates

- SCWA Featured Monthly Guests - You ALL will be our featured guests for Jingle & Mingle, December 18, 2021 at 2 p.m. at Mimi's Café in Irvine. RSVP on the website.  
Register at: <https://www.southernwriters.org/>
- SCWA VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR: Every Friday at 4:30 p.m. PST Join us with your funny stories and holiday 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: Join **Maddie Margarita** and fascinating authors for lively conversation on their books. Livestream it every Wednesday at 10 a.m. PST on our Facebook page. You can also access previous interviews on SCWA's YouTube channel.  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/southernwriters>
- Debby's Room: Every Wednesday at 10:20 a.m. PST. 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:

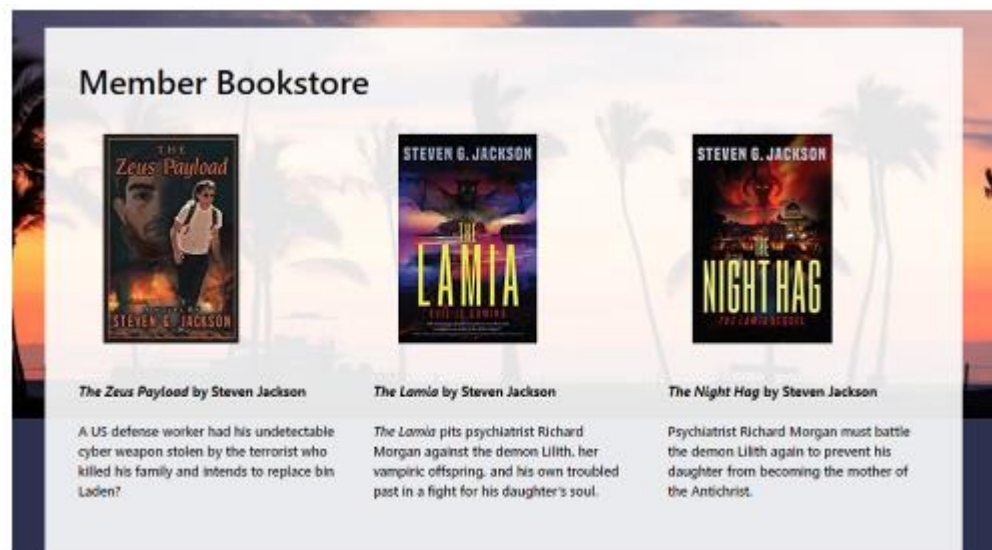
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLrqSfwTMaci139ISRV50KQ>

## JOIN 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.

We hope you will 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](#).

Below is 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. Just in time for the holidays!



## About NaNoWriMo

NaNoWriMo is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that believes in the transformational power of creativity. We provide the structure, community, and encouragement to help people find their voices, achieve creative goals, and build new worlds—on and off the page.

It's now December, and many of you have participated along with thousands of other writers in NaNoWriMo. How did *your* word count add up?

Join several SCWA members and share news of your success at our Friday Happy Hour on Zoom or in Debby's Room on Wednesdays at 10:20 am PST on our Facebook page.

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Hump Day  
Book Tour

LIVESTREAMED  
Every  
Wednesday  
10:00 a.m.

SCWA Hump Day  
Book Tour

Wednesdays at  
10 a.m. PT  
in the SCWA  
Facebook Room

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

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

**If you can't join us, look for replays on the SCWA Facebook group page and on SCWA's YouTube channel. Subscribe anytime at**

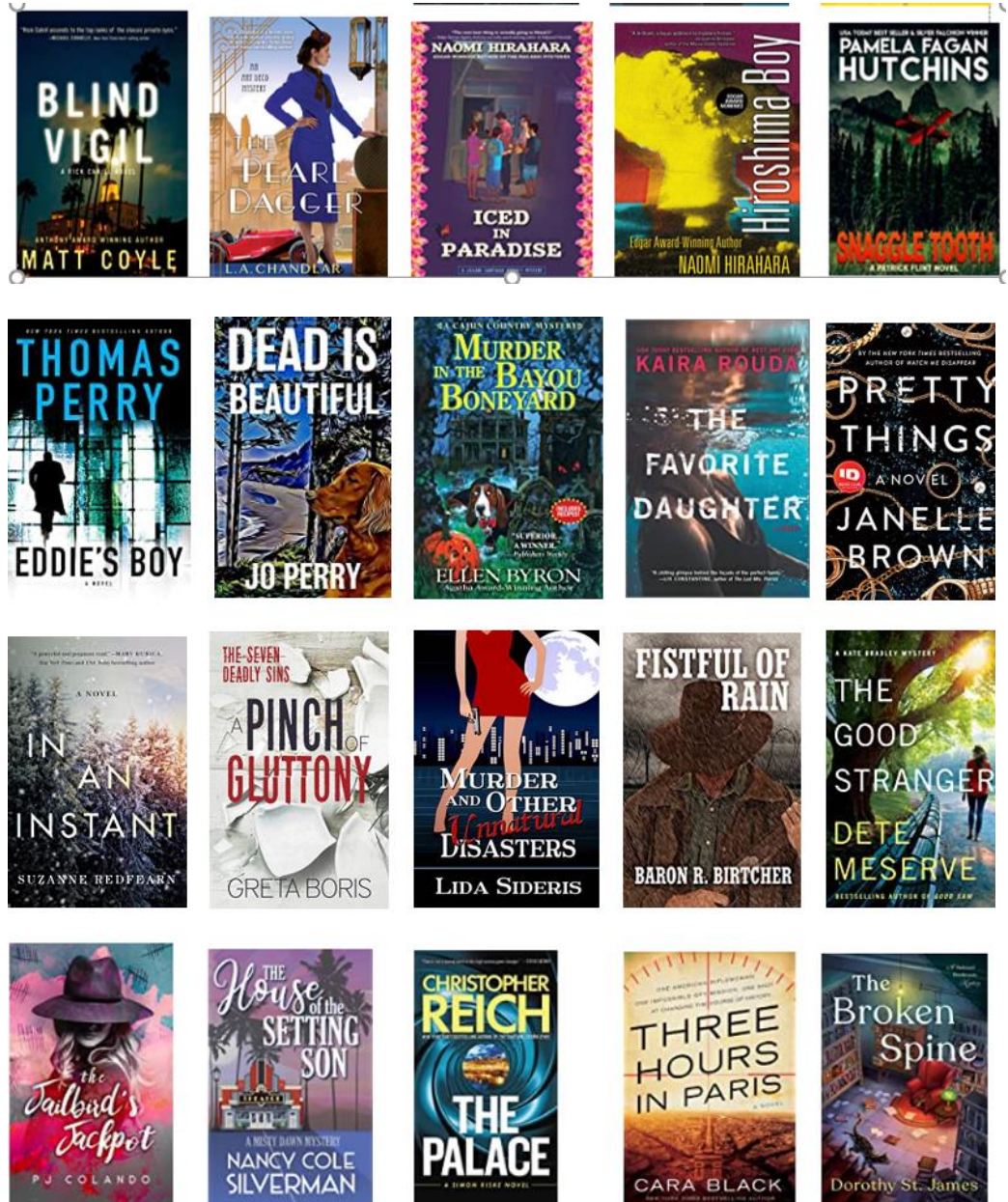
<https://bit.ly/2I890Db>

**Recent Hump Day guests include:**

James Bartlett Tara Laskowski Susan Farese Dennis Palumbo Dorothy McFalls  
 Lee Matthew Goldberg Dr. Mary Hill-Wagner Joe Clifford Sheila Lowe  
 Pamela Fagan Hutchins Richard Miller Morgan Kristy Tate Mary Castilla  
 Shawn Reilly Simmons Nancy Cole Silverman Quan Huynh Wendy Hornsby  
 Kathleen Krevat David Putnam Mike Farley Lani Forbes Caitlyn O'Leary  
 Janelle Brown Mary Anna Evans Kaira Rouda Laurie Stevens Matt Coyle  
 Glen Erik Hamilton August Norman Tori Eldridge Ava Homa Dana Swift  
 Naomi Hirahara LA Chandlar Greta Boris Joe Perry Thomas Perry  
 Suzanne Redfearn Chris Reich Baron R. Birtcher Dete Meserve  
 Anne Cleeland Cara Black Christopher Reich Kaira Rouda Dorothy St. James  
 PJ Colando Patricia Smiley Lisa Black Johathan Brown Nancy Cole Silverman

**Build up your stack of TBRs with some of the books by our guest authors:**







Lit Up Orange County is brought to you monthly by **Maddie Margarita**, hosting a lively salon of notable authors reading and discussing their books. If you've missed any of these special events, check on Facebook Lit Up Orange County for replays and announcements.

**Stay tuned. LitUp! OC will livestream its monthly program here:**

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

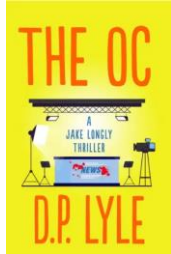


Watch the replay on Facebook Live on <https://www.facebook.com/litupoc> or participate live and almost in person via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81123324768...>

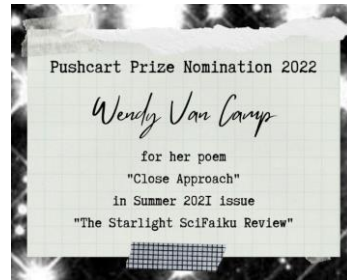
Check back on the LitUp OC page for the next program!



## CELEBRATE ALL THE GOOD NEWS!



**DP Lyle's** *The OC* and *Jake Longly* were named by Fran Lewis as the Outstanding Series of the Year 2021



We are so excited for **Wendy Van Camp's** nomination for the 2022 Pushcart Prize for her science fiction themed haiku poetry!

### 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.

Sign up for **Dot Caffrey's** newsletter on her website: [www.dotcaffrey.com](http://www.dotcaffrey.com).

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 our 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](mailto: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.

Posting in the Member showcase is always Good News for our newsletter as well as for Facebook. We look forward to waving a flag for your books!

## HIGHLIGHTS: Featured Speaker for December 2021 Lee Matthew Goldberg Writing a Reliable Unreliable Narrator



11-20-21 SCWA Highlights Lee Matthew Goldberg

“Writing a Reliable Unreliable Narrator—or Not!  
With Lee Matthew Goldberg”

“We are all unreliable narrators,” Lee Matthew Goldberg says, “because our memories just aren’t 100 percent accurate when we relate our own stories. Thus, we fill in the gaps or exaggerate, even unintentionally.” There are also narrators who steer you “through a seriously distorted version of events because they are insane, immature, dishonest, egocentric,

insecure, defensive, addicted, and/or immoral. These unreliable narrators are not to be trusted—but they are to be enjoyed.”

Our speaker graduated with a Master of Fine Arts from the New School. He has been published in multiple languages and nominated for the Prix du Polar. (Other career details below.)

Five of Goldberg’s eight novels use unreliable narrators, not all in first person: *The Mentor* has a book editor and an author who both appear unreliable. Other novels include *Stalker Stalked*, *Slow Down*, *Orange City*, and Goldberg’s favorite, *The Ancestor*, whose protagonist is a mix of unreliable types.

### Unreliable narrators fall into four types:

1. **The Picaro**--“A character who exaggerates” and is “the most reliable of the unreliable.”

He is “a cynical and amoral rascal who, if given half a chance, would rather live by his wits than by honorable work. The picaro wanders about and has adventures among all people from all social classes and professions, often just barely escaping punishment for his own lying, cheating, and stealing.”

2. **The Madman**--“Detached from reality.”

3. **The Naif**--“Abilities impacted by inexperience or age. His unreliability is unintentional. Naifs can even be likable and lovable as in *Forrest Gump*.”
4. **The Liar**--“Fabricates stories.” The trickiest of the types. A narrator who intentionally misrepresents the truth, often for self-preservation. Goldberg says *Gone Girl* has one of the most complex unreliable narrators. “You read 40% before you realize someone is off.”

**Seven ways in which to create and incorporate twists, turns, and suspense in your story:** Readers generally trust the narrator’s story.

You must set up these inconsistencies with a plan; just being a pantsner won’t do it.

- A. **“Keep your reader in the dark.”** Goldberg says to go against the “norm” where readers have more info than the characters do. “Have your narrator withhold certain information and see how it impacts the story.”
- B. **“Your narrator should be unreliable from the start.”** No one is totally accurate since people filter their point of view through their own experiences and beliefs. Early on, “hint at any qualities that might compromise them.”
- C. **“Let other characters be a sounding board.”** “Every character’s interpretation of events is filtered through [his/her] own lens.” What narrator inconsistencies become apparent through what other characters say or do?
- D. **“Experiment with just a pinch of unreliability.”** Even a morally good soul can give the reader misinformation because it fits in with his beliefs. “Even if your character is well-intentioned, give [him/her] unreliable moments to make [the person] slightly flawed—and, thus, more believable.”
- E. **“Add in an unpredictable act.”** When a reliable and thoughtful character unpredictably says or takes an action opposite of his usual habits or beliefs, the reader will view him/her differently—and afterward perhaps watch him/her carefully. What is the person capable of?
- F. **“Muddy the Motivations.”** Creating a character “with conflicting or different drives” makes readers always unsure of the character’s mindset. When he/she reacts to his/her shifts in motives, the ground also shifts beneath your reader’s feet. These erratic changes can “unnerve your reader.”
- G. **“Keep Things Believable.”** To make all these tactics work, you, the author, must believe the character and his/her actions. Even if hard to believe, these inconsistencies must still be “grounded in some type of reality.”

**Other Great Books/ Films with Unreliable Narrators:** *Catcher in the Rye*, *Lolita*, *As I Lay Dying*, *A Beautiful Mind*, *Notes on a Scandal*, *Shutter Island*, *The Sound and the Fury*, and *The Usual Suspects* among others.

Goldberg's writing has also contributed to LitHub, *Pipeline Artists*, *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, *LitReactor*, *Fiction Writers Review*, *The Montreal Review*, and others.

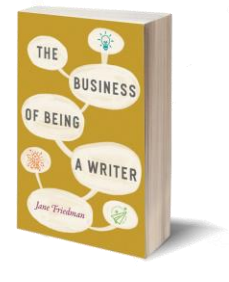
From SCWA's announcement sheet, we learned that Lee Matthew Goldberg's "pilots and screenplays have been finalists in Script Pipeline, Book Pipeline, Stage 32, We Screenplay, the New York Screenplay, Screencraft, and the Hollywood Screenplay contests. He is the co-curator of The Guerrilla Lit Reading Series and lives in New York City. Follow him at [LeeMatthewGoldberg.com](http://LeeMatthewGoldberg.com)."

Glenda Brown Rynn, Reporter  
[grynn@cox.net](mailto:grynn@cox.net)

## RESOURCES FOR WRITERS

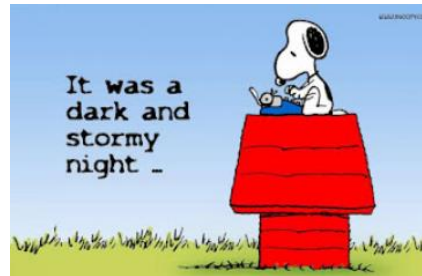
How do you find your way through the ocean of resources available online for writers like us? Check out this sampling of what we have found to be of interest. Links are included so you will be able to investigate further.

**MOST RELIABLE:** [www.janefriedman.com](http://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](http://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 intital 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.



## 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](http://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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 Vice President of Finances ..... Don Westenhaver  
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 Vice President - Social Media..... Diana Pardee  
 Newsletter Editor.....Pam Sheppard  
 Membership Chairman.....Karen Walker  
 Scribe and Speaker Reporter.....Glenda Rynn  
 At-Large.....Sharon Goldinger

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

**Southern California Writer's Association**

[www.southernwriters.org](http://www.southernwriters.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.southernwriters.org](http://www.southernwriters.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.