

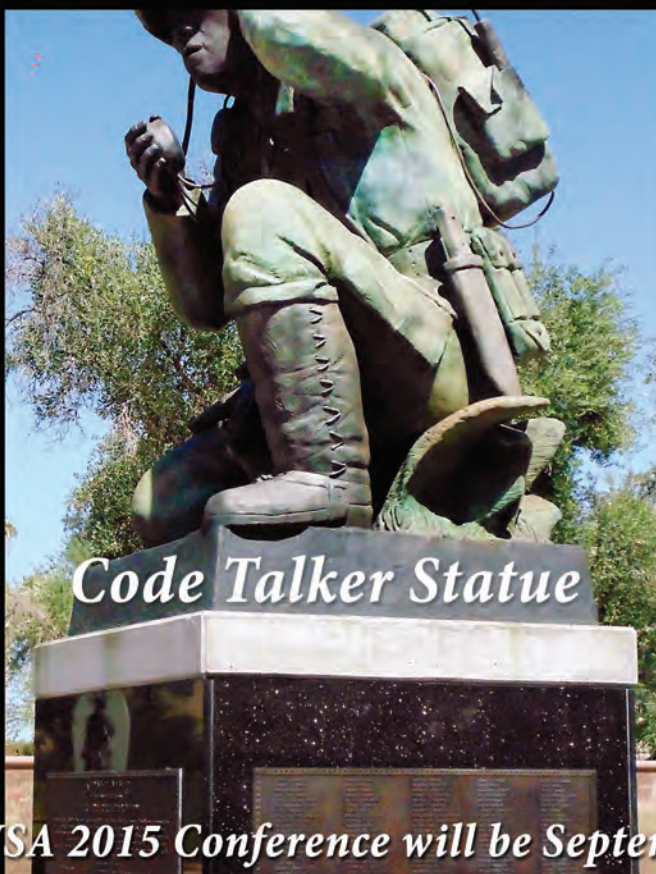
DISPATCHES

MILITARY
WRITERS
SOCIETY OF
AMERICA

Rescuing History One Story at a Time

www.militarywriters.com

Summer 2015



Code Talker Statue

*MWSA 2015 Conference will be September 24-27
Holiday Inn & Suites Phoenix Airport North,
1515 North 44th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85008*

Survey Results

Election for Officers and Board - 2016-2018

Rush Moore, Sr. - Farrell Chiles

The Only Reason I'm Alive - Interview by Jenny LaSala

Travel and Photography - Pat McGrath Avery

Summer Reading List - Bob Doerr

Letter from the editor

Progress ... Change.

MWSA is moving forward to provide new and better benefits for our members. Last month, many of you took part in a survey that pointed the organization in the direction of the future. (See survey results on page 36).

We listened and in our June Board Meeting, we addressed the most pressing needs facing our organization. This issue of *Dispatches* focuses on the ways we plan to grow MWSA.

The September conference in Phoenix will soon be here and we hope to see many of you there. In this issue, you'll find a list of the exciting new offerings and as well as information on the area.

The most exciting news is that we are finally doing a complete redesign of the website. Difficulty in navigating our current site was the major concern of those who answered the survey.

In addition, we are revamping our conferences to include writer retreats, giving *Dispatches* its own website, introducing more charitable activities that members can participate in, and expanding our awards program.

Beginning with the Winter 2016 issue of *Dispatches*, we will pay feature article contributors \$25 per article and offer them two free print copies. While this isn't a big sum, it puts writers in the category of "paid" for contests and for their resumes. We are implementing this to move our contributors forward in their writing careers.

Throughout this issue, you will find articles relating to the above programs.

Pat McGrath Avery

Editor

Staff

Editor - Pat McGrath Avery
 Columnist - Dwight Jon Zimmerman
 Columnist - Bill McDonald
 Columnist - Bob Doerr
 Columnist - Jim Greenwald
 Columnist - Joyce Faulkner
 Cartoonist - Chuck Bailey
 Feature Writer - Farrell Chiles
 Feature Writer - Jenny LaSala
 Feature - Pat McGrath Avery
 Layout and Design - Joyce Faulkner
 Photography - Pat McGrath Avery
 Photography - Joyce Faulkner

CONTENTS

President's Message, Zimmerman.....	02
MWSA Leadership.....	03
MWSA Members Speak, McDonald.....	04
MWSA Officer & Board Election.....	05
Candidates	06
Rush Moore, Senior, Chiles.....	22
The Only Reason I'm Alive, La Sala.....	26
Conference Information, Greenwald.....	29
Awards 2016 Information, Greenwald.....	34
Summer Reading List, Doerr.....	35
Survey Results, Faulkner	36
Travel and Photography, McGrath Avery....	40
Author/Book of the Month, Greenwald	44
Lead Reviewer's Notes, Greenwald.....	48
In the Ranks, Bailey	50



President's Message

Hello, and welcome to *Dispatches*, the official magazine of the Military Writers Society of America. This is the last issue before our annual conference at Phoenix. This is an election year for the organization, the terms for our officers and board members coming due at the end of September. I'm proud to say that we have a large number of candidates who have agreed to become board member candidates. All are familiar names because of their activities at the conferences, on our Facebook site, and contributions to *Dispatches*.

The list of all candidates will appear again later in the magazine, but I want to take this moment to thank Kathleen Rodgers, Sandra Linhart, Valerie Ormond, Beth Wright Underwood, Edward Zellem, James Tritten, Joe Eply, and Keith Jones for stepping forward. I also want to thank Mike Mullins and Pat Avery for agreeing to stand for re-election as board member and treasurer respectively, and for board member Bob Doerr to be a candidate for vice president.

Two people who will not be returning as members of our executive leadership team are Joyce Faulkner and vice president Betsy Beard. Joyce was my predecessor as president and upon succeeding her, she became a board member and advisor to me during the past three years. She has been a constant source of support and advice and I will always be grateful for her help. Joyce now looks forward to spending more time writing, and I look forward to seeing her next novel. As vice president, Betsy made many wise observations and did an excellent job as editor of our annual anthology. She was responsible — with Joyce Gilmour — for creating the MWSA Style Guide. She also led the development and analysis of the survey. Though she has had to step aside for personal reasons, she will remain a member and I look forward to the time when I next see her and her husband Randy.

A few weeks ago we did our first-ever poll of the organization. I'm happy to say that we had a great response, far larger than we expected, and your input is already guiding us in what we will do next year. One of the first things on that agenda is that Joyce Faulkner has agreed to be the program director, responsible for identifying and organizing programs ranging from local, regional, to national. This is a big task, one that we saw was important to you members, and I'm proud that Joyce agreed to step up and fill this important position regarding the future of our organization.

When I became president of MWSA three years ago, we were beginning a period of transition to becoming a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The approvals process took a long time, during which we had to sit on the fence, waiting. Last year the IRS gave us the authorization establishing us as a nonprofit and now we can begin implementing many plans that have been on hold. That is why I am making the announcement that I am a candidate for re-election as president of MWSA. The next three years are going to be an exciting one for the organization, and I want to help take MWSA to the next level.

Opposing me for the presidency is lead reviewer Jim Greenwald. I have worked for many years with Jim, first as a board member and later as president, and have come to respect and appreciate his knowledge, dedication, and friendship. I am happy that by offering himself as candidate for the office of MWSA president he gives the membership a choice.

Our statements of candidacy appear later in this issue.

Thank you and I hope to see many of you at Phoenix in September.

MWSA Dues

MWSA Leadership

**Founder/Board Member
William McDonald**

President Dwight Jon Zimmerman

**Vice President
Betsy Beard**

**Treasurer
Pat McGrath Avery**

Board Members

Joyce Faulkner

Mike Mullins

Jim Greenwald

Bob Doerr

Consultant – Maria Edwards

Your board voted to change the dues structure so that all memberships are on a calendar year basis. Starting June 15, all payments for those renewing or joining in the second half of the year will only pay \$20. Beginning in 2016, all dues will become payable at the same time. This will allow for better control of expenditures and easier budgeting. The new dues structure will be announced after the board meeting at the Phoenix conference.

In the survey, many of you wondered what was included in the dues. Our guiding principle is that only expenses that benefit all members are included in dues. Awards and Conference Fees do not benefit everyone so they are handled separately.

Here's how dues are used for old and new services:

- * Webmaster (New), web carrier, URLs
- * *Dispatches* (Old) including payment for up to 4 feature articles an issue (New)
- * Accountant (New)
- * Staff Assistant (New), Office Supplies, PO Box, Software
- * Bank Accounts
- * Media Releases, Social Media
- * Anthologies (NOTE: Starting in 2016, all members will receive a digital version of the anthology (New). Print versions will be available for sale on Amazon and at Conferences.)
- * Founder's Expenses
- * Board Meetings
- * Miscellaneous

This change represents a move from an all volunteer organization to one with a few part time employees to support the efforts of our volunteers. Our change in status will require a change in many of our practices and there will be additional benefits to you as members as well. It is critical to our mission and will help us better serve our members.





MWSA ELECTIONS

2015

Founder's Thoughts

by Bill McDonald

I have never been more pleased with the slate of qualified candidates that have come forward to volunteer their time for this Society. It takes a real dedication and a desire to serve without any compensation except for the appreciation of fellow members.

There are many issues facing this organization as it grows and expands and evolves. The original ideas need to be re-explored — back to the fundamentals for which I created the MWSA — to give military writers and veterans a place to call home. It was an unwelcomed genre by major writing groups. The welcoming mat was not visible, nor was anyone trying to cater to, or recruit military genre authors. So that was the beginning birth pain of what inspired me to build the MWSA. The intentions were also to create a safe environment for veterans to write and deal with issues related to war and to personal PTSD issues. But most of all this was a place for patriots and people who loved this country. I made no distinction between veterans and non-veterans as long as there was that love of the military and country — all were welcomed. We are now going on our second decade as a formal organization and it is an evolving process. My intention for this next decade is to lead us back down some of the old pathways lest we forget our roots. There are still no other writers' groups welcoming old patriots and veterans to their fold. So let us embrace what we have achieved and continue to build on its framework.

I personally believe that **ALL** of those listed on this year's ballot for officers or board members share that same deep passion and vision that I

had for the MWSA. I know that we are in good hands with whomever you select from this year's group. I am proud of what we have achieved over the last several years. **I fully support your choices.** I pledge to get more involved in policy and important issues facing the MWSA as my health permits. I ask members to be supportive of this organization and its elected board. It is what you make of it. Please get involved and volunteer when you can.



MWSA Officer and Board Election 2015

The election will be conducted through ElectionBuddy.com and will be moderated by Joyce Faulkner. It will run from August 1 through September 30, 2015. If your dues are current, you will send an email with an exclusive code that will allow you to log onto the site and vote. See the pictures and bios of members who are running for office or board in the following pages. If you have questions, contact me at joycekfaulkner@gmail.com.

Dwight Jon Zimmerman

for Re-election MWSA President

I am running for re-election as president of the Military Writers Society of America. To those who have not met me, I am a civilian. My love and respect for the military began when growing up in North Dakota. My interest started with World War II. My father was a tech sergeant in the Seventh Army during that war. He never talked much about it, though he made a point to telling me that my childhood nickname, Sammy, was the name of the man who saved his life in the war. (I don't think I have to tell you from whom I got my Christian name.)

It was not until the late 1990s that I was finally able to transition my personal interest in the military into a professional one, albeit still in the civilian world. It began as an editor of a line of military books, then as a writer. To date I've written more than 300 articles and a dozen books, most on the military (my comic book experience is another subject for another day). A short rundown of my career appears below.

The reason I am running for re-election can be expressed in one simple, but at the same time complex, word: you.

When I joined MWSA in 2008, I joined for me — to win book awards in order to raise my professional profile. But at the 2009 conference in Orlando, thanks to you and your enthusiastic welcome, my attitude did a 180-degree turn. You overwhelmed me — I had never experienced such an outpouring of interest, enthusiasm, and acceptance for me and for my work as I did in Orlando.

Instead of focusing on me, from that point on I dedicated my focus on you, the members and to use my wide range of experience in the industry to help you. Why? Because you gave so much of yourselves to me then, and have continued to do so ever since.

I have attended every conference since Orlando. Initially I conducted seminars and discussions. Some of the discussions were formal events, but many were informal — individual members approaching me, showing me their books, and then picking my brain. Those one-on-one sessions are my most treasured memories. Then I became a board member, and ultimately, MWSA's president.

As president I faced many challenges these past three years. The biggest challenge was that of transition. Thanks to the hard work by my predecessor Joyce Faulkner, and other key individuals, I oversaw the transition of MWSA to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. This was a watershed change and it took longer than expected for us to deal with its impact. Having established the new framework in my first term, I now want, in what hopefully will be my second, to build a strong foundation for the future.

Thank you.

My record as president in cooperation with the board:

- * MWSA became a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
- * Established *Dispatches* as a paying publication (4 articles per issue), to help members launch their professional careers
- * Initiated partnership talks with Veterans Radio to create a quarterly hour-long MWSA radio program to serve as a promotional platform for the organization and for members and their books (a work-in-progress)
- * Reorganized and simplified the MWSA book awards program
- * Established courtesy protocols for MWSA Facebook site to monitor and eliminate abuse

- * Established outreach programs that included member book donations to VA hospitals and student writing scholarship awards in partnership with local law enforcement agencies
- * Authorized the creation of a new MWSA website (a work-in-progress)
- * Authorized Joyce Faulkner to chair the programming committee responsible for identifying, planning, and coordinating MWSA local, regional, and national events.
- * Oversaw the first-ever membership poll, an extraordinary success that gave senior leadership valuable input about membership expectations. Some expectations are already being addressed. Plans are for the polling to occur at least once a year.

My strategic goals 2015-2018:

- * Expand diversity outreach efforts to include more minority veterans as members.
- * Build upon Jack W. London's excellent writing program, starting with formal authorization of him as the MWSA Director of Writing Skills Outreach, a provisional title to be finalized with his input, authorizing him the flexibility to respond and develop participant and program needs as they occur and in conjunction with regional conferences and writers retreats.
- * Establish regional retreats/conferences to promote greater participation of members who otherwise cannot attend the annual national conference.
- * Establish partnerships with corporations and other veterans and veterans-friendly organizations to hold conferences, fund scholarships and coordinate outreach programs for members.
- * Create and establish eligibility criteria for an MWSA Wall of Honor, a funded program on the website and in *Dispatches* where members, family members, or other interested parties honor fallen or deceased comrades and family members, units, or companies and organizations that supported veterans. Fees collected would be used to fund outreach programs.
- * Establish a naming rights programs for awards, scholarships, and other funded programs as identified and approved of by the officers and board. Name sponsorship would be given on an annual basis and paid for by an organization, company, or individual who pays the naming rights fee, and honorees attached to the names could be the payee or in honor of a fallen or deceased comrade or family member, or unit. Award would be presented by the individual or organization funding the award. If unable to attend, formal donation would be otherwise noted. For example: "The Lieutenant Jane Smith, USA, 2015 President's Award" presented/donated by her comrade retired Staff Sergeant Fred Jones.
- * Expand membership planning participation through active use of subcommittees.

Credentials

Bestselling and award-winning author, editor, radio show host, and television and movie producer. Member of the Military Writers Society of America since 2008, board member, and current president. Writer and editor for more than thirty years.

Publishers include: Marvel Comics, Topps Comics, Henry Holt, St. Martin's Press, HarperCollins, Zenith Press, Motorbooks, iBooks, and Black Dog & Leventhal, and Defense Media Network. Most recent works include *Steve McQueen: Full-Throttle Cool* graphic biography and the *Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Photographic Card Deck: 100 Treasures from the World's Largest Collection of Aircraft and Spacecraft (September 2015)*. Coauthor of the New York Times best-selling book, *Lincoln's Last Days*, a young adult adaptation of Bill O'Reilly's bestselling *Killing Lincoln*. MWSA Founders Award: *Uncommon Valor: The Medal of Honor and the Six Warriors Who Earned It in Afghanistan and Iraq*. Other MWSA awards include gold medals for *The Book of War* and *The Vietnam War: A Graphic History* and bronze medal for *Tecumseh: Shooting Star of the Shawnee*.

Radio host of *At Ease* (2012-2013) for Veterans Radio. Co-executive producer Military Channel miniseries *First Command* based on my book of the same name. 2005 Aurora Platinum Best of Show Award for Historical Programming. Producer of the award-winning independent film *Trooper*. Lectured at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and the Naval War College. Lives in Brooklyn, New York, with wife Joëlle. Two adult children.

Jim Greenwald for MWSA President

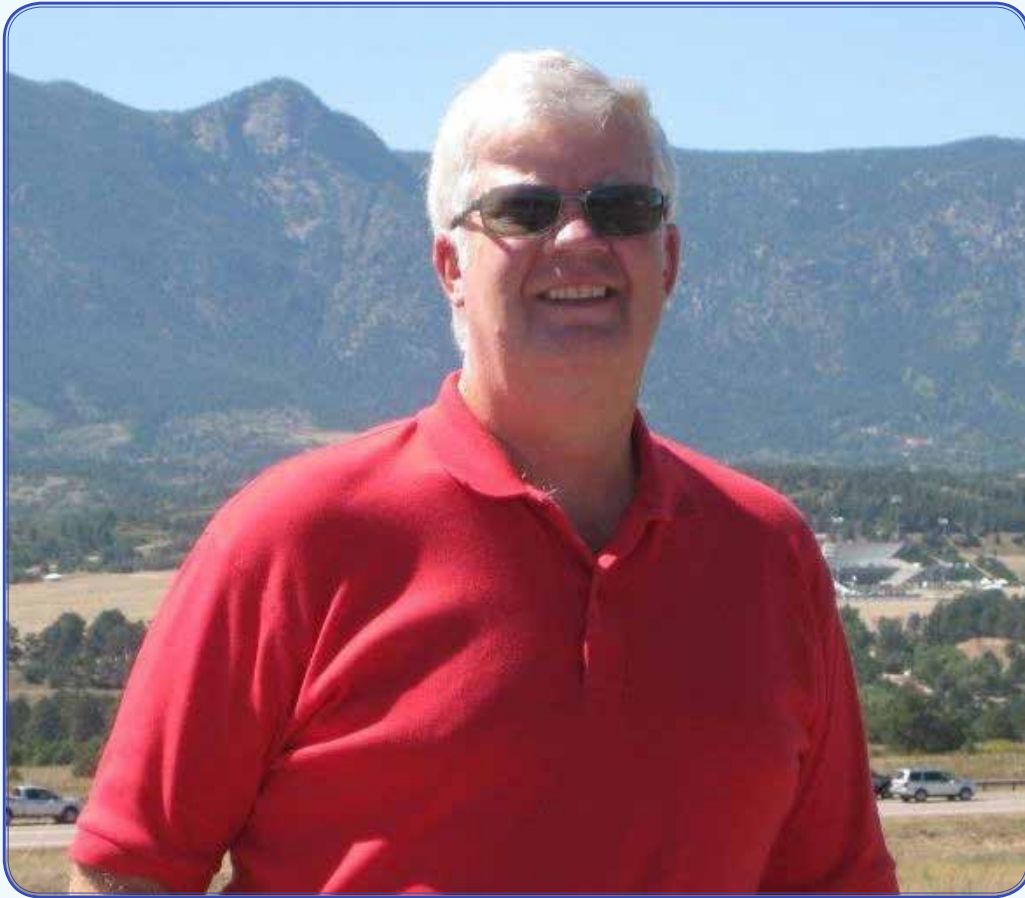


I am placing my name on the ballot for President of MWSA, in the upcoming election. I mentioned it to Bill McDonald and he supports and endorses my candidacy. I would of course appreciate a positive vote from each and every active member and look forward to helping the organization move forward for all members. There is much that needs done and hopefully with the input and active participation of members, MWSA will grow into the future.

It will be my intention to actively seek member involvement and participation. I have been an active and involved lifetime member for a number of years and worked closely on projects involving our bylaws, review and award process, our 501(c)(3) successful effort, creating guidelines and qualifications for the MWSA Author of the Year Award, auction, event organizing, hotel contracts, student writing contest, and the VA Book Donation outreach to mention some of my active participation. I have a strong background in business, having managed retail stores, my own camera shops and studio, and I hold degrees in Applied Science (AAS), Business Administration (ABA), Business Management (BBM), and a Masters in Human Resource Management & Industrial Relations (MHRMIR).

Bob Doerr

for MWSA Vice President



Award winning author Bob Doerr grew up in a military family, graduated from the Air Force Academy, and had a career of his own in the Air Force. Bob specialized in criminal investigations and counterintelligence, gaining significant insight to the worlds of crime, espionage, and terrorism. His work brought him into close coordination with the security agencies of many countries and filled his mind with the fascinating plots and characters found in his books today. His education credits include a Masters in International Relations from Creighton University. A full time author with ten published books and a co-author in another, Bob was selected by the Military Writers Society of America as its Author of the Year for 2013. The Eric Hoffer Awards awarded *No One Else to Kill* its 2013 first runner up to the grand prize for commercial fiction. Two of his other books were finalists for the Eric Hoffer Award in earlier contests. *Loose Ends Kill* won the 2011 silver medal for Fiction/mystery by the Military Writers Society of America. *Another Colorado Kill* received the same silver medal in 2012 and the silver medal for general fiction at the Branson Stars and Flags national book contest in 2012. Bob released an international thriller titled *The Attack* in May 2014, and more recently, *Caffeine Can Kill*, his sixth book in the Jim West mystery series. Bob has also written three novellas for middle grade readers in the Enchanted Coin series: *The Enchanted Coin*, *The Rescue of Vincent*, and *The Magic of Vex*. Bob lives in Garden Ridge, Texas, with Leigh, his wife of 42 years, and Cinco, their ornery cat.

Pat McGrath Avery for MWSA Treasurer



Pat McGrath Avery has a long and varied history in the publishing world. She started a publishing company in 1995 and merged it with Red Engine Press in 2004. Since then, she and her partner, Joyce Faulkner, have published well over 100 books, many of them related to veterans and military history. She served as secretary of MWSA for 4 years and has been treasurer for the past year. In addition to publishing, she is an award-winning author and photographer. She is also the number one treat machine for Luke the Detective/Author Dog!

Farrell J. Chiles for MWSA Board Member



Farrell J. Chiles is a retired United States Army Chief Warrant Officer and Vietnam Veteran with 38 years of military experience. Farrell Chiles was drafted in the Army and served on active duty from May 1970 – April 1972. In 2004, he was mobilized for one year and served as a Leader for a Contingency Operations Team in support of Operations Enduring Freedom. He is a Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the ROCKS, Inc., and the Disabled American Veterans.

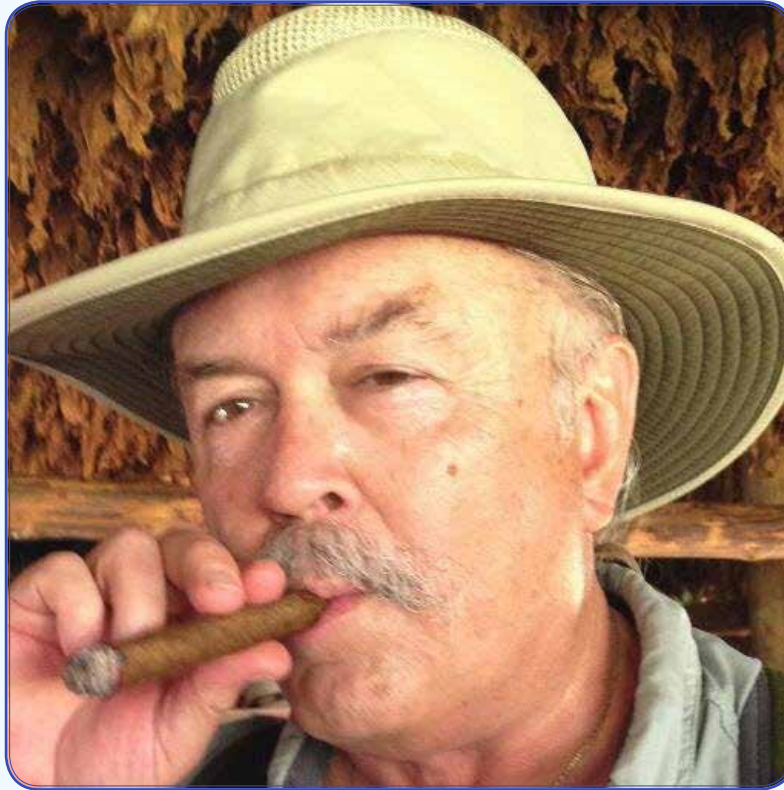
Farrell Chiles served on the Board of Directors of the Tuskegee Airmen Scholarship Foundation and served as its Vice President for Resource Development (2006-2013). He previously served as President of Christian Service Charities, a federation of 95 non-profit religious organizations that participate in the Combined Federal Campaign. He is a former Chairman of the Board of Neighbor to Nation, a federation of 102 nonprofit organizations that participate in state workplace giving campaigns.

Farrell is the author of the books, *“African American Warrant Officers...In Service to our Country”* and *“As BIG As It Gets”* that chronicles the five consecutive years (2002-2006) that he served as Chairman of the Board of the National Organization of Blacks In Government (BIG).

He has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science from the University of the State of New York in Albany, NY. He resides in Phillips Ranch, CA.

Jim Tritten

for MWSA Board Member



Jim retired after a forty-four year career with the Department of Defense including duty as a carrier-based naval aviator. He holds advanced degrees from the University of Southern California and formerly served as a faculty member and National Security Affairs department chair at the Naval Postgraduate School. Dr. Tritten's publications have won him fourteen writing awards, including the Alfred Thayer Mahan Award from the Navy League of the U.S. He has published five books and hundreds of chapters, articles, and government technical reports.

Jim was a frequent speaker at many military and international conferences and has seen his work translated into Russian, French, Spanish, and Portuguese. Jim has been helping fellow scribblers from the time he started to write in high school. Since moving to Albuquerque in 2002, he has been active in the veterans writing group at the Raymond Murphy VA Medical Center, a number of writing groups at county senior centers, and with the Corrales Writing Group in his village. In addition, Jim has been an active member of Scribophile, an online writing group that nurtures new writers in launching and then polishing their work. Jim would like to see the full range of online possibilities made available to MWSA members over the coming years and has posted a number of helpful hints on our Facebook page. He has contributed to two anthologies, *Dispatches*, and has written two book reviews for MWSA.

Valerie Ormond for MWSA Board Member



Valerie Ormond retired as a Navy Captain intelligence officer and was one of the first women to serve on combat aircraft carriers. In her final assignments, she directed efforts of a 500-person organization supporting global operations, coordinated executive level briefing and writing support to the offices of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretary of Defense, and managed policy and programs for 23,000 naval intelligence personnel.

In 2014, she founded Veteran Writing Services, LLC. Her business provides professional writing and consulting services, and clients have included large and small businesses, nonprofit organizations, and individuals.

Valerie's two novels, *Believing In Horses* and *Believing In Horses, Too*, both won Gold Medals from the Military Writers Society of America. Numerous books and magazines feature her non-fiction stories. A member of the National Women Veterans Speakers Bureau, she also speaks to audiences sharing lessons learned.

Her education includes a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College; a Master of Strategic Intelligence from the Defense Intelligence College; and a Bachelor of Arts in English and Mass Communication from Towson University. She belongs to numerous military and veterans' organizations and serves as Secretary of the Maryland Horse Council, a trade organization representing 30,000 people in the horse industry.

She lives with her husband, Jaime Navarro, in Bowie, Md., where they enjoy the company of their wonderful families and friends, their three horses, and four dogs.

Websites: <http://VeteranWritingServices.com> and <http://BelievingInHorses.com/>

Michael D. Mullins for MWSA Board Member



Michael D. Mullins is a graduate Clinch Valley College of the University of Virginia (now U. Va., Wise). He earned an undergraduate degree in English in 1974 after serving in the U. S. Army. He later completed an Associate's Degree in Operations Supervision at Indiana University, Kokomo, Indiana.

In March of 1968, Mullins was assigned to South Vietnam as a soldier in the 199th Infantry Brigade, where he served as an infantry soldier until March, 1969. The experience led to his award winning book, *Vietnam in Verse, poetry for beer drinkers*, in 2007. He co-authored *Kings of the Green Jelly Moon* and published *Out of the Mist, Memories of War*, 2011. *Pass the Salt Doc* in 2013 was his second collaboration, his third, *Memories and Shadows*.

His website is MichaelDMullins.com. He can be reached at mullins.m.1@comcast.net, as well.

Edward Zellem for MWSA Board Member



Edward Zellem is an active-duty U.S. Navy captain currently serving at U.S. Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, FL. He has served as a naval intelligence officer for 28 years in both operations and staff assignments. As a personal project, Captain Zellem is the award-winning author of three bilingual books of Afghan Proverbs in Dari and Pashto, published in 16 languages and available in over 100 countries. The books were illustrated by Afghan high school students, and are being used to teach English in over 200 Afghan schools and for refugee integration in several European countries. They have gained significant media attention and a variety of international book honors, including awards from the Military Writers Society of America, Writer's Digest, the Independent Book Publishers' Association, the IPPY Awards, Readers' Favorite, the London Book Festival, and others. Net proceeds support Afghan-led literacy programs. More information is available at www.afghansayings.com.

Captain Zellem attended the University of Virginia on a football scholarship, earning All-ACC Academic Team honors and a BA in Foreign Affairs. He holds three masters' degrees: MPA, Auburn University at Montgomery; MS, Strategic Intelligence, Defense Intelligence College; and MS, Operations Science, Air Command and Staff College. He serves on the board of directors of Global Impact, a large Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit that builds resources and partnerships for over 100 major charities around the world. He is an avid scuba diver, and resides in Tampa, FL with his wife Cindy and their three children.

J. Keith Jones for MWSA Board Member



J. Keith Jones is a native of Georgia living in North Carolina. He has been interested in military history from an early age. He is the author of *Georgia Remembers Gettysburg* and *The Boys of Diamond Hill* – both gold medal winners from the Military Writers Society of America. He is currently working on *South Carolina Remembers Gettysburg* among other projects. His work has also been published in multiple magazines including *Gettysburg Magazine* and *Georgia Magazine*.

Beth Underwood for MWSA Board Member



A native Kentuckian from the small town of Cythiana, Beth Underwood holds an abiding love for the United States of America and those who defend her. The daughter of a Vietnam flight surgeon and niece of a World War II radioman, she has always been fascinated with American military history, from the stories of the American Revolution and writings of the Founding Fathers to the modern wars of the 21st Century.

During high school, she traveled abroad with the Foreign Study League and American Institute of Foreign Study. Her time in Europe took her to the hallowed grounds of Dachau Concentration camp furthering her passion of World War II history.

In spite of her love of history, her first college degree came in the unlikely field of architecture, where she worked for the next thirteen years. Luckily, she returned to her senses in her late 20s, embraced her love of story-telling, received her degree in journalism, and relaunched her career as a writer.

After the tragic events of 9/11, she seized every opportunity presented to pen the stories of those serving in the United States Armed Forces. Over the past 20 years, her work has appeared in numerous newspapers and magazines, including *Military Officer* magazine. Among her accolades, she was the recipient of MWSA's 2010 People's Choice Award. In March of 2015, her first book, *Gravity*, was published by Red Engine Press. As she looks to the future, she plans to continue preserving the stories of America's heroes. She currently lives in central Kentucky with her son, Colton, and their German Shepherd, Stryker.

Sandra Miller Linhart for MWSA Board Member



Sandra Miller Linhart was born in Lander, Wyoming on a warm, summer day in 1962, in a hospital which has since been turned into a mental institution ... which most likely holds no correlation ... probably. She has five daughters, and seven grandkids, and currently resides in the beautiful mountains of Colorado. Sandra's formal education includes CA Barstow College, where she studied and excelled in Art & Design, as well as receiving a degree in Sociology, focusing on family and child psychology, both of which were of great use to her when she had children of her own. Ms. Linhart also attended the University of Georgia, where she received certificates in Private Investigation and Creative Writing.

She is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) and the Military Writers Society of America (MWSA). Look for her upcoming titles: *What Does a Hero Look Like?*; *When I Grow Up*; *Oh My! What Happened?*; *Stackable Paige*; *Squat*; *Sophe's on the Sofa*; *Hallie of the Harvey Houses*; *Stuck in the Middle with Jones*, *JEEP*, *Buck & Blue*; *Diary of an Unkempt Woman*; *Peace of Heaven*; and *Living with LV Brown*.

Joe S. Epley for MWSA Board Member



Joe Epley has worn many hats: public relations executive, Green Beret, television journalist, change agent, adventurer, and novelist. Although supposedly retired now, he remains active in community affairs and writing about the American Revolutionary War in the South.

A world traveler, Joe was the global chair of the Worldcom Public Relations Group, the world's largest consortium of independent PR firms, and national president of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA). The PRSA College of Fellows also elected him its chair. His skills and leadership earned him international recognition and numerous professional honors including PRSA's prestigious Gold Anvil for lifetime achievements. He was awarded a lifetime membership in the Russian Public Relations Association for helping introduce the profession to Russia in the waning days of the Soviet Union.

After a stint in television news, Joe established Epley Associates/Public Relations in Charlotte, NC in 1968 and grew the firm into international prominence. He sold the business in 2005 when he retired and moved to the Tryon, N.C. area. In addition to his day job, he served in National Guard and Army Reserve Special Forces for 13 years, retiring from the military in 1977 as a Master Sergeant.

He is a member of the Halls of Fame at the University of North Carolina School of Journalism and the Defense Information School. His successes earned him North Carolina's prestigious "Order of the Long Leaf Pine," the state's highest award for noteworthy achievements by its citizens.

Married since 1959, Joe and his wife, Dorcas, have two children, six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Kathleen M. Rodgers for MWSA Board Member



Texas based author Kathleen M. Rodgers is a former frequent contributor to Family Circle Magazine and Military Times. Her work has also appeared in anthologies published by McGraw-Hill, University of Nebraska Press/Potomac Books, Health Communications, Inc., AMG Publishers, Press 53, and Military Writers Society of America.

In 2009, her debut novel, *The Final Salute*, won a silver medal from MWSA and was featured in *USA Today*, *The Associated Press*, and *Military Times*. Deer Hawk Publications reissued the novel in e-book and paperback September of 2014. Her second novel, *Johnnie Come Lately*, released from Camel Press February 1, 2015. Winner of the Best Covers Award from *Southern Writers Magazine*, the novel has also been featured in *Stars & Stripes*, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, and on *The Author's Corner* on Public Radio.

In 2014, Kathleen was named a Distinguished Alumna from Tarrant County College/NE Campus. She is the mother of two grown sons, Thomas, a graduate of University of North Texas and a working artist in Denton, TX, and J.P., a graduate of Texas Tech University and a former Army officer who earned a Bronze Star in 2014 in Afghanistan. Kathleen's husband, Tom, is a retired fighter pilot/commercial airline pilot, and they reside in Colleyville, TX with their rescue dog, Denton. Kathleen is working on a new novel titled *Seven Wings to Glory* and is represented by Loiacono Literary Agency.

Published and Proud!

SUBMISSIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED



*The Second Annual
TAZ (The Authors' Zone)
Awards ~ coming in
October 2015!*

*Publishers are
welcome to bring
books to TAZ's
attention. The book
and media awards
will be presented at
the October awards
ceremony.*

- ★ Deadline to enter is August 21, 2015.
- ★ Publishers must complete the online entry form and submit payment by August 21, 2015. Please send books as early as possible.
- ★ Send books to:
The Authors' Zone, PO Box 9687
Pittsburgh, PA 15226
- ★ For submission guidelines, go to: www.theauthorszone.com



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**ADVANCING
ENTRIES**



RUSH MOORE SR. - PROUD TO BE A MONTFORD POINT MARINE

By Farrell J. Chiles



Rush Moore never thought he'd see the day.

Moore, 90, faced racism, discrimination, and segregation growing up in Aberdeen, Mississippi and wanted no part of it. So, he joined the United States Marine Corps. Little did he know that he would also face segregation and racism in the military.

He first volunteered when he was 17, but was too young so he had to wait a year or so. Moore said, "I was mad when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and I wanted to do my part in fighting for my country. When I saw the sign 'Uncle Sam wants you,' I wanted Uncle Sam also."

Continued on Page 23

Continued from Page 22

A family member said the Marines taught him how to be a man and fight for himself and not let anyone push him around, including white people.

“I was sent to Montford Point to train with other black Marines. The Marines were a segregated service,” Moore said. “The Marines taught me how to keep busy and how to use weapons and self defense.”

They also taught him “you can give in, but never give out.” Moore served in the Marines from April 3, 1943 to February 19, 1946. His first duty assignment was with the 44th Platoon, Camp Montford Point, North Carolina. His military occupation was a Steward’s Assistant — First Class. He loved the Marines.

Moore, who currently lives in Ecorse, Michigan, left the Marines in 1946, married Everlena Chandler; settled in Michigan; and had six children. They now have 20 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren, and 13 great-great-grandkids. He retired in 1985 after 31 years working as an inventory specialist at Ford Motor Company Engine Plant in Dearborn, Michigan.



Everlena and Rush Moore

Moore said the Ford Motor Company was the only employer that let him know they appreciated his military service. Ford also awarded Moore four years’ seniority for his service. He said some of the younger whites didn’t like that, but he was

able to hold his own, due to his training with the Marines. Moore served with the Ecorse Auxiliary Police Force and participated in other community activities prior to his retirement.

He never talked to his children about his military experience. Moore does receive some disability pay from a war wound that he suffered from a conflict with a Japanese soldier during World War II. The Japanese soldier came from behind and cut him across the chin. A fellow marine, Oscar Posten, saw what was going on and came up from behind the enemy soldier and stabbed him in the back with the bayonet on his rifle. Moore’s life was spared. He has a scar on the right side of his chin to constantly remind him of the attack.

“I didn’t know I had been cut. Some of the other Marines saw all the blood and rushed me over to the medics, where they sewed me up with anesthesia. I’ll never forget that. Had it been a little deeper, my jugular vein would have been cut,” Moore said.

Moore, along with other surviving members of the Montford Point Marines traveled to Washington, DC to collectively receive the Congressional Gold Medal on June 27, 2012. His youngest son, Rush Moore Jr., accompanied him. Moore said, “Finally, after more than 65 years, the country is paying tribute to our service. Many of my fellow Marines didn’t get to see this day”.

The trip to Washington, DC was difficult. Nevertheless, Moore was determined to be at the Capitol Rotunda along with his fellow Montford Point Marines. He’s not in the best of health these days and requires the use of a cane or walker to get around.

After arriving at the hotel in Arlington, Virginia, he attended a “Meet and Greet” reception looking for fellow Marines he served with. He didn’t recognize anyone. However, he did meet other Montford Point Marines and was able to share his story and experiences.

During the ceremony, you could see a tear in his eyes as the Medal was presented in honor of this outstanding group of Americans. Moore said, “This trip was well worth it. I’m glad of the award. I will cherish the replica of the

Continued on Page 24

Continued from Page 24

Congressional Gold Medal. As the saying goes, “better late than never.”



Moore’s daughters, Theresa Tue, of Mantua, New Jersey, and Elaine Bullard of Texas City, Texas stated, “We are very proud of our father and his contribution to our country. We’re glad the Montford Point Marines received this overdue honor for what they endured and achieved. We’re also glad that our father is now sharing his military experience with his family.”

Unfortunately, Moore misplaced his original Release from Active Duty Discharge Certificate. When he requested a replacement, he received an abbreviated certificate that does not provide information on where he served or the medals that he was awarded. Moore believes that the Marines failed to award him a Purple Heart for injuries incurred during combat. He can’t recall ever receiving the award.

Today Moore loves to play cards, especially bid

whist, which he plays with other retirees at UAW Local 600. Family members said he and Everlena once did a lot of traveling until health problems prevented them from doing so, but when the pair visited Mount Rushmore, South Dakota, the city made Moore feel like he was the mayor.

Another moment in history that moved Moore was the election of President Barack Obama. “My dad has always said ‘I never thought I would see a black president voted in during my life time,’ so that was truly a moment of honor,” Tue said of her father.

This writer met Rush Moore, Sr. over 58 years ago, when I was a young kid. Our families attended the same church. He was a devout member. However, he never exhibited any signs that he had served in the military. Moore is a Christian man and a caring father. He is also a hero, along with the other men who proudly served as the Montford Point Marines.

From 1942 to 1949, approximately 19,000 black marines trained at the segregated Montford Point Camp, adjacent to Camp Lejeune, where whites were assigned. After their initial boot training, the Montford Point Marines were assigned to segregated battalions and units. About 400 are still living.





IN THE RANKS...

The business of a
naval officer
is one which above
all others, needs
daring and decision.

I CAN DO
THAT!



2014 C. Bailey

"NAVY"

Douglas Szczepanski, Jr, Interview

From the files of Jenny LaSala

THE ONLY REASON I AM ALIVE IS BECAUSE OF JESUS



My name is Douglas Szczepanski, Jr., and I am a medically retired SGT with the U.S. Army and Michigan Army National Guard.

My job and specialty training was 13M (MLRS) Rockets-Field Artillery Crewmember and Combat 31B Military Police Gunner.

I began my service in March of 2001, when I joined the Army as a 13M (MLRS) Field Artillery Crew member. I shot large rockets capable of destroying enemy armor, artillery and vehicles.

I joined a few months short of the devastating 9/11

Continued on Page 27

Continued from Page 26

attacks. In fact, I was supposed to be on my way to basic training the day the attacks happened. My boot camp was cut short a week because of it.

After basic training and Field Artillery AIT (Advanced Individual Training), my duty station was the B Battery 1-182 FA (MLRS), a National Guard armory in my hometown of Bay City, MI. I served as a citizen-soldier for almost three years, performing the tasks of a 13M (MLRS) gunner, which include, maintenance, fire missions and unit drill. In 2004 after many months of meeting, where we were in the dark about our future, my unit, the 1/182 FA Battalion, was re-formed into one smaller unit in order to fulfill a security mission in Baghdad, Iraq.

Our unit designation fluctuated, but it was most commonly known as C 182 SECFOR (Security Force) or C182 MP (Military Police.) We were sent to Ft. Dix, N.J. for mobilization training in preparation for our mission to Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 3 (OIF III). This lasted

for about three or so months and in January of 2005, my unit was deployed to the sandbox.

I was asked to become my commander's gunner and personal security detachment and since I didn't really have a choice I said yes. My commander was and is a great guy. C182 was tasked with training over 27 Iraqi police stations, route patrol, detainee operations and Iraqi police academy training. My team leader SGT Vic and I had the primary duty and responsibility for keeping my commander safe; doing route patrol, making sure the convoy was safe and being his personal security. In this capacity I performed over 8000 miles of route patrol and security as an MP 50cal gunner.

My life was completely upended on September 15, 2005. While on route patrol, in pursuit of Taco Bell at Camp Taji (The official mission was to meet the incoming unit's commander), I was wounded in combat. As we traveled from our base, Camp Rusty, in southeast Baghdad, I began to look for threats. I noticed a gray Opel, a German car found

Continued on Page 28



Continued from Page 27

in abundance in Iraq. I knew it was a threat and prayed and asked the Lord for peace, protection and courage. Going 60 miles an hour a car neared on the right side of our HUMMVEE. I yelled and waved it off. Then I turned and the gray Opel was there. I started to draw down and began firing and that's when it exploded, a suicide car bomber with seven 155 rounds detonated inches from my face.

I began to go into shock and was transported into surgery and almost died many times on my way back home to the states. I spent almost a year and half at Ft. Sam Houston, in Brooke Army Medical Center, where I recovered from a TBI, blindness in my left eye, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd degree burns, broken wrist, face and hand bones. I have two metal plates holding my jaw together, no vision in my left eye and a piece of shrapnel in my brain to this day. I medically retired in December of 2006. The only reason I'm alive is because of Jesus.

My great grandparents served in the Army during WWII, but I never really knew them. I had a cousin who served in the Marines in the '90s, during peacetime, who almost persuaded me to join the USMC. It didn't work. I picked the better branch! That being said, I have much love and respect for my fellow brothers and sisters in the USMC. My dad is currently a Michigan State Police officer and his influence on my life is one of the big reasons why I chose to join the military. I wanted to become a police officer like my dad and I wanted to be in the Army since I was little kid, these two reasons together were instrumental in why I joined.

I wanted to serve my country, get help to pay for college, prepare for the Michigan State Police and I wanted to be a soldier.

There were a few bad parts that stood out. Aside from being wounded, which turned out to be a blessing in my life, the worst days were when my unit lost a soldier, SSG Ricky Kieffer in March of 2005 and the day PTSD took another one of our unit in 2014. These events were the hardest to endure. It has changed everything in my life. My college plans, my goals, my occupation, where I live and my outlook on life have all changed because of my combat experience. I made many sacrifices, as do all of us in the Armed Forces. I could no longer be a police officer due to the loss of vision

in my left eye, I couldn't do my job. I can do more with one of my eyes being blind, than I could've ever done with full sight!

If I had not been blown up, countless doors for the message of the gospel would not be open to me, yet here I am able to go and share today in schools, churches and even the government. My whole life was changed because of my military service.

My greatest fear was always that I would pull the trigger on someone at the wrong moment or prematurely. I didn't fear losing my life. The return home and reception was overwhelmingly positive. Wounded Warrior Project gave me and my family financial aid, clothing and resources. Fellow veterans hosted free dinners. Basketball teams gave me free tickets. Baseball players flew us to California for a game. Over the years, many people, organizations and fellow veterans have made me feel welcome and given me so much. Now I'm trying to reach out to my fellow veterans and make sure they are taken care of. I'm medically retired from the U.S. Army, on VA disability. My wife and I have two boys, Elijah and Micah.

I started a non-profit, which I run, called Douglas Szczepanski Ministries. Under my ministry, www.douglasszczepanski.org, I do public speaking, evangelism, preaching and veteran's advocacy. I am also writing a book about my story and seeking to expand veteran's outreach.

I am a licensed minister and I attend Liberty University School of Divinity online, in the Master of Divinity, in the Theology program.

~Douglas Szczepanski, Iraq Veteran

We are grateful to Douglas for sharing his service and story. It is a great privilege and honor to collect these stories from our veterans of all wars, none of whom reached out to me. I have found them to be a humble group of men and women. These stories are their stories.

~ **Jenny Lasala**

www.JennyLasala.com

The Officers/Board members are proud to present the
Military Writers Society of America Phoenix Conference

September 24 - 27, 2015

Holiday Inn & Suites Phoenix Airport North,
 1515 North 44th. Street, Phoenix, AZ 85008
 [Free Hotel shuttle from Sky Harbor Airport]

After checking into your room, stop in Salon C to register (Opens at 10:00AM Thursday). We have a name tag and anthology for each person (member or guest) that signed up and paid a minimum of the one day rate of (\$300/150.00).

We urge members to arrive no later than noon on Thursday so as to take advantage of all that is being offered.

Print this form off – It is your conference Program!

If you would like your anthology signed by fellow members please leave it in the back of Salon C in the area identified for that purpose (put your name in your book). Please do not interrupt seminars for this purpose. If you do leave it, remember to pick it up by noon on Saturday. Please make time to sign members' anthologies.

If you are participating in the "Book Table" this is the time to hand your books to the person on duty at the registration desk. Remember to bring a spare copy for various uses during the conference. We would appreciate your not asking or simply removing a copy from the book table.

NOTE: The conference application form must be requested from LeansToFar@aol.com and the completed form emailed to LeanstoFar@aol.com. Do not mail it to the MWSA P.O. Box.

To pay for conference fees, request a PayPal invoice from LeansToFar@aol.com OR mail a check to MWSA P.O. Box 1768, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066. We request that you please do so prior to September 10, 2015.

This year's fee includes a buffet dinner Thursday evening, lunch and dinner on Friday, lunch and the awards banquet on Saturday. MWSA will also be providing coffee, tea, water, soda, and cookies in the seminar and registration area.

Your hotel room cost includes all taxes & fees (\$107.60/night) and a hot breakfast buffet each morning. The hotel does hold a small amount against your credit card for and in case of incidental charges.

Be sure to call the hotel reservation desk at (888) Holiday or (888)-465-4329, ask for the Military Writers Society of America block of rooms to get our pricing. The hotel provides a free shuttle service to and from Sky Harbor Airport (All rooms have Microwaves & Refrigerators).

Conference	Member Fee	Guest Fee
3 – Days	\$360.00	\$180.00
2 – Days	\$320.00	\$160.00
1 – Day	\$300.00	\$150.00

Auction Donations

We are accepting them now, so please contribute to 2015's fun auction. You earn the value of the donation plus the difference between it and the selling price. Donations will only be accepted until August 15, 2015 (40 items total, get your donation in quickly. No last minute additions)! Thursday Program [Registration Opens 10:00 AM]

Time	Exec. Suite 232/232A	Salon A
09:00 – 10:30	Board Meeting	
11:00 – 12:00	Lunch on your own	
12:15 – 01:00		Orientation & State of Industry
01:00 – 01:15		Betsy Beard
01:15 – 01:30		Why We Write [Keynote – Jack London]
01:45 – 02:45		After the Idea
03:00 – 04:00		You've Landed a Publisher, Now What?
04:15 – 05:00		Investments and Taxes
05:15 – 06:15	Dinner Palm Court Restaurant	
06:30 – ?		Auction Part #1

Friday Program [Registration Opens 8:00AM]

Time	Executive Suite 232/232A	Salon A
08:00 – 09:00		The Shadow Economy [Phoenix Police]
09:30 – 10:30		Gun Crime Intelligence [Phoenix Police]
11:00 – 2:00		THE “OCD BANDITS”; A CASE STUDY IN SERIAL ARMED ROBBERIES [Phoenix Police]
12:15 – 1:15	Lunch Palm Court Restaurant	
01:30 – 2:30		Missing Persons [Phoenix Police]
03:00 – 4:00		The Business of Writing
04:30 – 5:30	Dinner Palm Court Restaurant	
05:45 – 6:45		Style Guide
07:00 – ?		Auction Part #2

Cash Bar – 7:00 – 8:00 Salon A Saturday Program [Registration Opens 8:00 AM and Closes at 2:00PM]

Time		Salon A
08:00 – 09:30		Through the Lens
09:45 – 10:45		Dealing with Dialogue
11:00 – 12:00		Open Mic
12:10 – 1:10	Lunch Palm Garden Restaurant	
01:30 – 3:00		The Code Talkers [The Heard Museum]
04:00 – 5:30	Pre-Banquet Socializing & Pictures	
06:00 – ?	Banquet Salon A & B	Opening Remarks

Cash Bar – 4:00 – 8:30 Salon B A complete list of what is being auctioned off at the Buckaroo Auction is listed on the form you will receive when requested.

Wednesday – An all-day writing seminar will be presented at Montecito for veterans and high school students. Seminar is being put on by Jack London. He will be assisted by Don Helin. Members are welcome to attend if they are in town early. Lunch will be supplied by the VA. Montecito Community School, 715 E. Montecito Ave., Phoenix, AZ [9 AM – 5 PM]

Thursday

9:00 - Executive Suite 232 Executive Session [Board and Officers] 90 minutes

11:00 – Lunch on your own [60 minutes]

02:15 – Salon A Orientation & State of the Industry – Dwight Zimmerman. Whether this is your first time attending the conference or your tenth, this is a workshop we do not want you to miss! Find out what MWSA is up to. Meet your officers and board. Get to know your fellow members.

01:15 – Keynote Address by Jack London “Why We Write”

01:45 – Salon A – After the Idea with Don Helin You’ve got the idea, the one that won’t let you go. But how do you grow that kernel into a compelling story? This class will help you find the tools to turn a good idea into a great novel.

03:00 – Salon A – You’ve Landed a Publisher, Now What? with Don Helin This workshop will highlight the importance of developing a quality marketing plan six months before your book is due to come out.

04:15 – Salon A – Are you a business or a hobby? – John Pournaras John will teach you why to file as a business and how to comply with IRS rules.

05:15 - Dinner Palm Court Restaurant

06:30 – Salon A – Auction Part 1 – End the day at the first half of our auction. A fun break and a chance to spend those buckaroos on some great stuff.

Friday

08:00 – Police Seminar in Salon A - “Unrestricted Warfare and the Shadow Economy” Sergeant Lake will present an overview of the Shadow Economy and its impact on the local, national and international community. He will present case studies on various investigations he has personally conducted to illustrate various aspects of the problem. He will also discuss the vulnerabilities and challenges facing all of the countries in the world to include how the Shadow Economy can be weaponized.

09:00 – Scheduled interviews on radio with Joanne Quinn-Smith – Tentative Will schedule you and ask you to be prepared. A copy of your book is needed and Joanne may contact you for additional information. [Interviews 9-4 in Rear of Salon B]

09:30 – Police Seminar in Salon A – “GUN CRIME INTELLIGENCE” Sgt. Brandon Huntley and Reserve Officer Darrell Smith will discuss the intricacies of firearms investigations and NIBIN

11:00 – Salon A – THE “OCD BANDITS”; A CASE STUDY IN SERIAL ARMED ROBBERS Sergeant Knueppel and Detective Barrett will present a case study of the “OCD Bandits” serial pharmaceutical robbers.

12:15 – Lunch – Palm Court Restaurant

01:30 – Police Seminar in Salon A – “Case Studies in Missing and Unidentified Persons” This presentation will include the Christmas day 2009 abduction and rescue of a five year old girl including the issuance of an amber alert and lessons learned from the investigation. A second case study will involve the February 2012 disappearance/homicide of a local father of four.

03:00 – The Business of Writing in Salon A with Valerie Ormond – Congratulations, you are a writer! Now what? This session includes reasons to treat your writing as a business, thoughts on time management, considerations for business models, and practical tips for success. Come to this interactive workshop and walk away with new ideas to help manage your writing business, whether you are a part-time blogger, a full-time professional writer, are helping support a writer, or are thinking about becoming an “authorpreneur.”

04:30 – Dinner – Palm Court Restaurant

05:45 – Style Guide Salon A with Betsy Beard – We have discussed, for some years, the need to publish our own style guide for use by MWSA members. The newly completed style guide incorporates elements from each of the branches of service as well as the Center for Military History. The workshop will serve to enlighten us as well as to elicit further additions to the style guide. Y’all come, and bring your ideas. Handouts will be provided to keep or share, depending on attendance.

07:00 – Cash Bar Salon A

07:00 – Auction Part 2 in Salon A – End the day on a relaxing and fun note while spending those accumulated buckaroos.

Saturday

08:00 – Through the Lens – Developing a Point of View in Salon A [90 mins.] with Don Helin A look at Point of View. Who’s telling the story and what are they saying. Learn the elements of Point of View and dialogue, and how to transform POV into a powerful asset in your novel. 9:45 - Dealing with Dialogue in Salon A with Jack London A one hour workshop on writing dialogue, with exercises and examples that focus on finding language that both moves the story and gives a sense of life to the characters who speak it.

11:00 – Open Mic in Salon A If you wish to perform, read, whatever contact Betsy Beard eabeard@nc.rr.com

Continued from Page 31

02:10 – Lunch – Palm Court Restaurant

01:30 – The Code Talkers in Salon A with Marcus Monenerkit, Assistant Curator of the Heard Museum. [90 mins. We would like all attendees to attend this seminar] Will cover American Indian Code Talker history beginning with early American Indian involvement in the U.S. Armed Forces.

02:00 – Registration Desk closes – Remove all books & pick-up your anthology

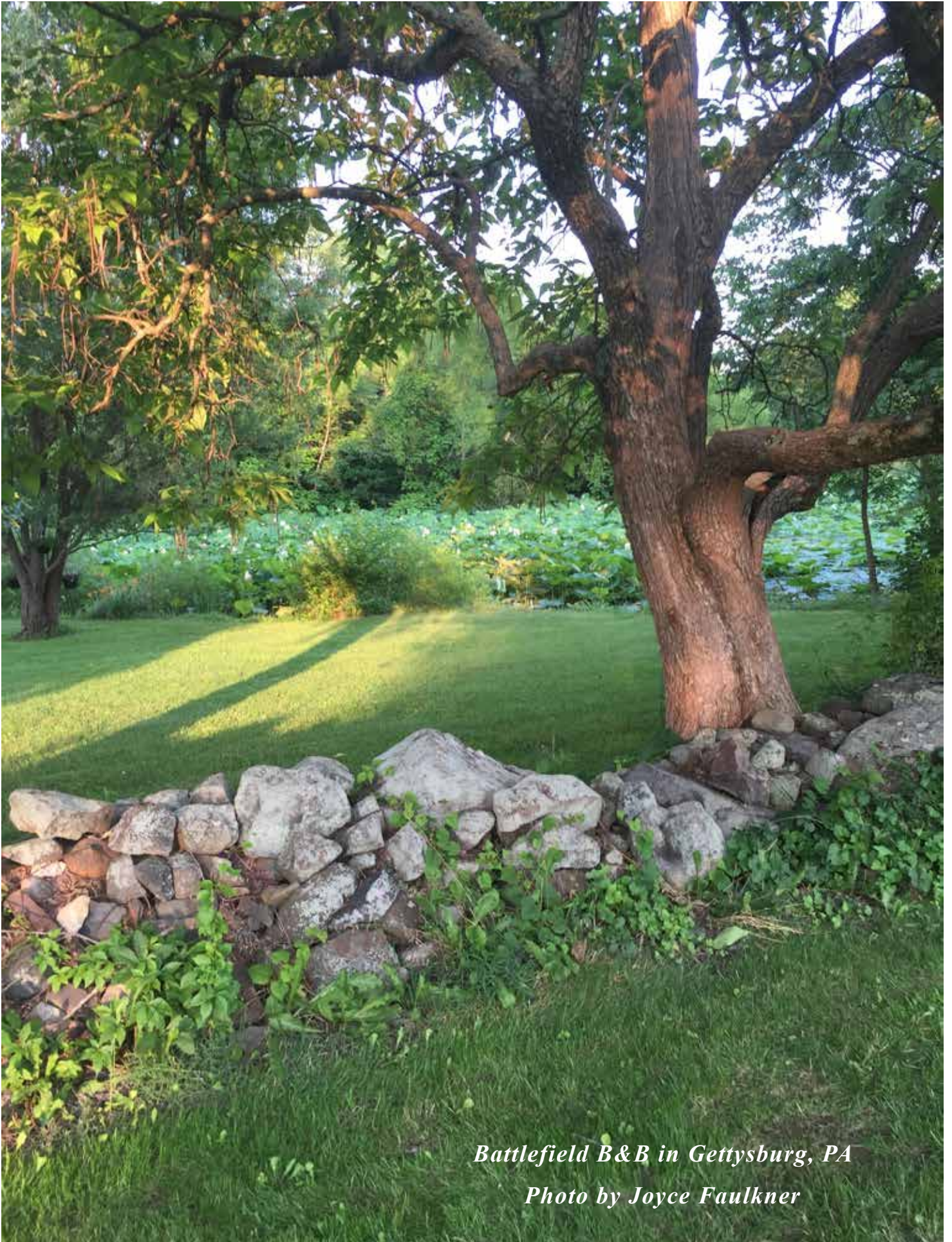
04:00 – Pre-Banquet Pictures and Socializing

06:00 – Opening Remarks 4:00–8:30 in Salon B Cash Bar

2015 Banquet & Award Ceremony [Being held in Salon A & B]

Start Time	Event Item	Speaker
04:00	Cash Bar Open in Salon B 4:00 – 8:30	
04:00	Get your picture taken, have a drink, socialize	
05:45	Opening Remarks	Dwight Zimmerman
05:55	Pledge of Allegiance	Jack London
06:00	Meal Blessing	Bill McDonald
06:05	Banquet is Served followed by dessert [Sheet Cake w/MWSA Logo]	
07:30	President's Award	Dwight Zimmerman
07:40	Founders Award	Bill McDonald
07:55	Gold, Silver, and Bronze Book Awards	
	Children, Reference, Th/Mys, and Poetry	Betsy Beard
	Audio Book, Spiritual, Cr Non-Fict, Bio, Hist, and Lit Fiction	Don Helin
	Historical Fiction and Memoir	Valerie Ormond
	Student Writing Awards	Dwight
	Introduction of new Governing Body	Bill McDonald
	Closing Remarks	Dwight





Battlefield B&B in Gettysburg, PA

Photo by Joyce Faulkner

ANNOUNCING 2016 MWSA AWARDS CONTEST OPENED JULY 16, 2015 CLOSES APRIL 15, 2016

Winners will receive gold, silver, or bronze medals. Reviews will be posted to Amazon. The contest is open to members and non-members. Fee is \$75.00 for members and \$110 for non-members. Winners will be notified by email in July, 2016. Awards will be announced at our annual conference in 2016 site which will be announced in January. Finalists are encouraged to attend but not required to in order to win. Members and non-members may also just submit a request for a book review. Member Fee \$50.00 and non-members \$75.00.

Membership Initiative

Beginning in 2016, members who encourage other writers to join MWSA will receive a \$10 credit toward their dues or conference fees. This incentive would be for a new member(not someone who signed on entered a book and dropped out until they wrote another).



Bob Doerr's MWSA Recommended Reading List - Summer 2015

The Military Writers Society of America (MWSA) is an organization of over one thousand writers, poets, and artists drawn together by a common bond of military service. One purpose of our Society is to review the written works of our members. From our recent book reviews, and from a list of old favorites, we've selected the following as our 2015 Summer Recommended Reading List:

Charentin, 1918 by David Andrew Westwood
Edge of Valor by John J. Gobbell
Deliver Us From Evil: The Lord's Prayer Mystery Series, Vol V by Richard Davidson
Murder in the Slaughterhouse by Tom Crowley
I Flew with Heroes by Thomas R. Waldron
Oveta Culp Hobby: Colonel, Cabinet Member, Philanthropist by Debra L. Winegarten
Surrender September 2, 1945 by Suzanne Simon Dietz & James L. Starnes Jr.
Wait Until Sunset: Memories of a Distant Conflict by Robert E. Burt
Warfilms: An Overview of Motion Pictures Within Military Record Groups by Philip W. Stewart
Evil Deeds by Joseph Badal
Silent Invaders: Combat Gliders of the Second World War by Gary A. Best
Secret Assault by Don Helin
African American Warrant Officers...In Service to Our Country by Farrell J. Chiles
The Dare by Linda Swink
Hellbound by Chester D. Campbell
Yankee in Atlanta by Jocelyn Green
Damned Yankee by Carolyn Schriber
Emmerspitz, 1938 by David Andrew Westwood
The Asian Imperative by Kenneth Andrus

I don't know about where you are, but here it's been a very wet spring. It's great for the yard, but that just means weeds to pull and grass to mow. The mosquitoes are everywhere, and they're out for blood, literally. Sometimes it's just plain smart to stay inside, find a place to hide, and stay quiet. If your boss, spouse, or parent don't know where you are, they might think you're already outside doing something productive. My best solution for staying quiet is to read a book, and I know from experience it's easy to do while hiding. That's right, entertain and educate yourself with a book. Settle back with your Kindle, Nook, iPad, or just an old fashioned book. One of those listed above would be a great place to start. More info about the books listed above and the authors can be found at www.mwsadispatches.com.

MWSA MEMBERSHIP SURVEY - 2015

Joyce Faulkner

Last summer, MWSA achieved a milestone for which we'd been working for three years — the status of 501(3c). Since then, the board has been working to move MWSA forward in this new environment. We have evaluated and prioritized existing and proposed practices and activities. As part of this process in June of 2015, the Board conducted the first MWSA membership survey. Eighty-five of you took the time to give us feedback and we thank you for that. In the rest of this magazine, we will share your thoughts and our responses. The whole document of your responses will be posted on the new website when it is launched.

Dues

One of the most interesting elements of the first question concerning dues was not the satisfaction most folks felt with the level but the number of people who didn't know what were included in the dues. See page 3 for a run down of what has been included in Dues and what will be included starting in 2016.

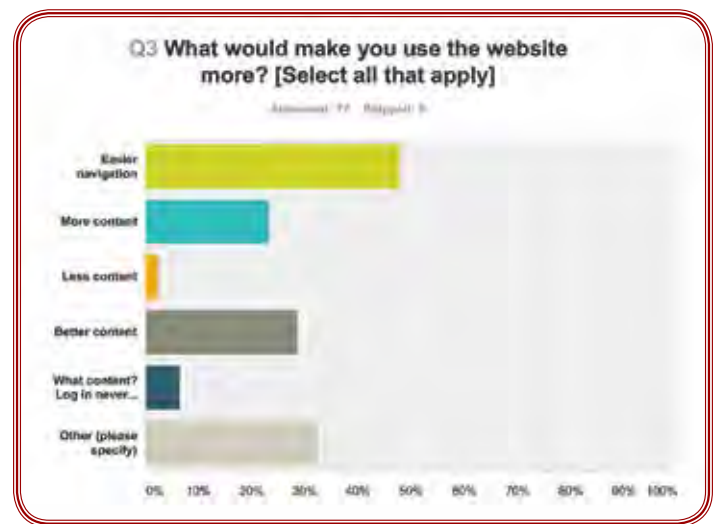
Website

While we knew that there were problems with the website, your responses made it clear that this was an ongoing roadblock in communications. As such, we felt that the move to use a professional website developer (rather than a member volunteer) to create a new version and to maintain it was justified. A committee chaired by Founder Bill McDonald and including Betsy Beard, Vice President, and Maria Edwards, Membership Secretary, is using your responses to guide the new developer who has already been hired and is working on the new site now.

The separate comments on the questions about the website indicated a confusion in members minds about *Dispatches* the magazine which comes to their email address quarterly — and www.MWSADispatches.com the website. To clarify, the

MWSA website will use both www.MilitaryWriters.com URL and www.MWSADispatches.com.

In terms of website content, folks are split between those who are interested in marketing and those who are interested in the art of writing. We will be addressing that in our future strategies for the website, *Dispatches*, and event programming.



Some members said they would like to use the site as a place for networking. This is at odds with other folks who value their privacy and do not want their emails to be published. We tried to resolve that with the current system where you can email someone from the membership list and they will receive a proxy email. However, members found that too hard to use — both physically and conceptually. We will see what the committee can come up with to address this particular challenge. In the meantime, we suggest you make better use of the Facebook Group or come to the events if you enjoy networking with other members.

Communications

Although this wasn't a question, several members pointed out that there is no way to get in touch with a real live person if you have questions. This is not a problem that the board knew existed specifically because our emails are posted on the site.

Continued from Page 36

The respondents of this survey made it clear that a contact email and telephone number on the site and on Facebook is necessary to better answer questions, problem solve, and direct members and perspective members to the correct officer or committee chair. To address this, the board has decided to employ a part-time staff assistant whose job will be to answer phone calls and emails from members. This job will be one of the new functions that will be supported by an increase in dues.

Facebook

Your responses about our Facebook group were generally disappointing. There are a few of you who use it regularly, but most do not. We haven't yet come up with a plan to address this, but it will be on future board agendas.

Dispatches

Several people mentioned that they were not receiving *Dispatches* notifications. Since this is a function of the website and the membership list, this issue has been included as part of the redesign checklist. One person said that he didn't read *Dispatches* because it's not in paper form. You can contact Pat Avery at patavery@gmail.com to get a subscription if you prefer hard copies. In addition, *Dispatches* will no longer be used as the program for the conference and will focus on broader issues for the entire membership.

Additionally, members who are working towards careers as freelancers want to use articles that have been published in *Dispatches* in their resumes as "paid" credits. In response, we will be paying for up to four feature articles per issue at a rate of \$25 plus two print copies beginning with the Winter 2016 issue. (Also, if a writer would like a pdf of their article, that will be available on request.)

Anthology

With respect to the anthology, folks had many reasons why they didn't participate in this opportunity to get their stories published. Some were simple — they didn't have a story they thought would fit the themes. One member said, "I don't write short stories." To that point, submissions don't have to be fictional. They can

be essays, poetry, illustrations, or photography. Others members said, "I didn't get around to it in time." The easiest ones to address had to do with communications — the how, why, and where's of the project each year.

The most interesting responses had to do with why people didn't buy the anthology. They didn't know where to find them, they didn't have the money, they wanted electronic versions, etc.

Coincidentally, there had been board discussion about the anthology. It was originally conceived as a "year book" for those who came to the conferences — but it was officially published, sold to others who might want it, and made available on Amazon. So armed with your responses and our new mission, we have decided to make a few changes.

First, the awards information in the second part of the book will be dropped and the book will be reconfigured to use for fundraising.

Second, I am pleased to announce that the anthology will now be one of the benefits of membership. Everyone whose dues are current will receive a digital version of the book starting with the 2016 edition. Print versions will continue to be available on Amazon and for sale at MWSA functions.

Third, the schedule will be adjusted so that it doesn't have to be produced in the build up to conference. So keep an eye open for details of those changes in future *Dispatches* and on the new website.

Programming

When asked about the annual conferences, there was the perception that they were too far away. The conferences have rotated over the years with events in San Diego, Branson, Orlando, Pittsburgh, Dayton, and Phoenix to try to be close to members living in different parts of the country. We are looking into different types of activities as well — like writers' retreats, book signings, and regional activities. Hopefully we will be having some kind of event near you soon.

Some of the concerns members expressed had to do with ability to hear

When asked what content people would like to see at the annual conference, far and away the most



requested programming is marketing tips. Many people said they would like to pitch their books to either agents or publishers. Efforts will be made to accommodate these wishes starting with the 2015 Conference in Phoenix. Future *Dispatches* will include marketing tips as well.

Publishing tips and writing techniques were the next most requested content whether at the conference, on the website, or in *Dispatches*. There is an ongoing column for writing techniques called “Tips and Tricks” which appears in this publication. If you have specific questions you would like to see added to this article, contact PatAvery@gmail.com. In addition, Jack Woodville London, MWSA Author of the Year 2011, has agreed to become the Director of Education and will be creating a curriculum for MWSA members and for outreach. In the weeks and months to follow, the program that he develops will be in evidence — in this publication, at the regional and national events, and on the website.

The members who attend the annual conferences seem to have good things to say about it. However, we were interested in the reasons why people don’t come. Cost and health were the two biggest reasons. The board has discussed this and believes that aside from doing the best “bang for the buck” conferences, cost is mostly associated with distance our members need to travel. So as mentioned earlier, we will focus on offering more regional events.

From the perspective of health, we already have policies about only using facilities that are properly outfitted for those with disabilities. We also request a certain number of rooms to have refrigerators for members who have drugs that must be kept cool. We had comments about hearing issues and we presume that there are those with visual problems too. We will be brainstorming solutions for those situations. However, if you want to come to an event, please be sure to specify your problem and we will do our best to accommodate you.

We asked about locations for events and it seems that our members are spread out across the country. However, the regions with the most interest were the northeast, the south and the midwest. We will use your responses in our future plans.

Most respondents said they wanted a different location every year — and they wanted the annual conference to be at airline hubs. We will take these requests into account in future plans.

Interactive activities, outside speakers, panel discussions, and round robin conversations were the most popular formats followed by having a big name author or expert present. Commenters favored networking events and teaching writing skills to veterans.

Buckaroo Auction

The Buckaroo auction seems to have run its course. Some thought it was a nice ice breaker, but members who never came to the conference didn’t know what it was. As a result, we will be rethinking that particular event for future MWSA conferences.

The awards program was supported as is by the majority of responders but there were some who felt that how it worked was confusing.

Awards Banquet

The awards banquet was supported as is by a large majority. While we had some complaints about assigned seating in the past, most of the people who responded to that question liked assigned seating.

Volunteering

We were heartened to see that a number of you are willing to volunteer to help MWSA grow. That was evidenced by the wonderful members who stepped forward to run for the board. Almost thirty of you said you would be willing to review books. Please contact lead reviewer Jim Greenwald at leanstofar@aol.com because the more reviewers we have the faster books can be processed.

If you are willing to serve on a committee, please contact Dwight Zimmerman (djonzim@gmail.com) when one that interests you is announced. As we begin more expansive programming and start building our charitable outreach, we will be needing more minds, hands, and hearts to make things happen.

In terms of fundraising, contact Dwight as soon as possible so that we can include your expertise in our future plans.



TRAVEL AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Pat McGrath Avery

Do you take a camera with you when you travel? When you write about your experiences, do you use photos to highlight your articles or blog posts?

We have only to look at the success of Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest and other social tools to understand the importance of visual aids. The “don’t tell me, show me” strategy that most of us employ in our writing extends to photos.

Smartphones have enriched our lives in many

aspects and the ability to capture a scene and post it immediately is one of the most rewarding features.

If you’re into photography, you probably carry your smartphone and at least one good camera with you most of the time. I know I do. I use them, too.

Like travel, photography broadens your world. I find that I have become more aware of my surroundings, more appreciative of beauty in its

Fall Leaves



Pat McGrath Avery



Wet Leaves

Pat McGrath Avery

many forms, and more likely to stay involved with social media.

I take photos in color and in black and white. Sometimes I convert color pictures to black and white. I choose based on the subject, the mood of the photo and my purpose. For those of you who love to visit historical sites, black and white is often an obvious choice. For example, places like Gettysburg and Route 66 attractions are subjects I often choose for black & white. Certain nature and scenic photos lend themselves to the crispness and contrast that it produces.

In these examples, I'll explain which I chose and why. In the fall leaves photo, color reigns supreme. It's why we travel throughout the country to see the fall colors. However, in the other three nature photos, I chose black & white. I took all three of them — the lily pads, the wet leaves, and the trees — in the pouring rain. Rain might dim the color but in black & white, it adds a certain mystique. Raindrops glisten more than in color. I'm not sure why, but that's what I find in my photos.

I took the photo of the fishing lure in color because of the bright green of the lure. The historic photos of Jefferson Motorcycle Shop and the old Route 66 gas pump speak of times gone by and black & white captures that mood.

If you photograph in both formats, how do you choose? I invite you to share your photography tips with us.





Lily Pads



Fishing Lures



Jefferson Motorcycle Shop



Trees in Pouring Rain



Gas Pumps



APRIL 2015

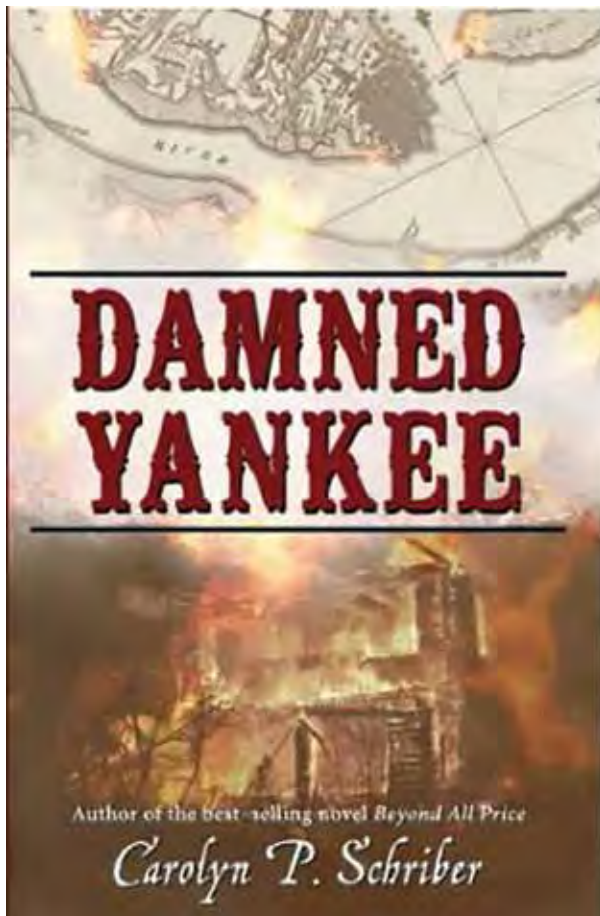
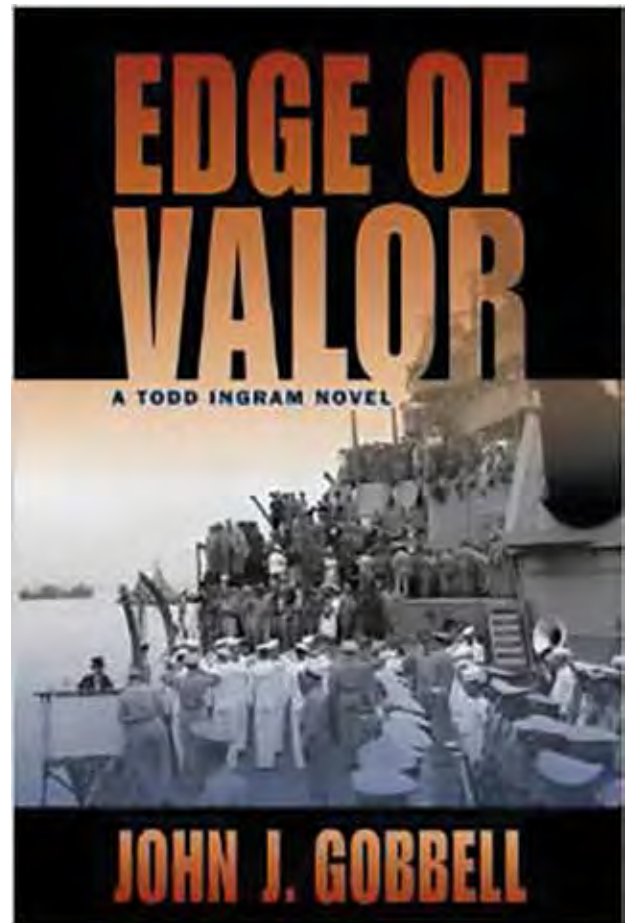
Author

OF THE MONTH

John J. Gobbell

Edge of Valor

Historical Fiction



JUNE 2015

Author

OF THE MONTH

Carolyn Scriber

Damn Yankees

Historical Fiction



MAY 2015

Author

OF THE MONTH

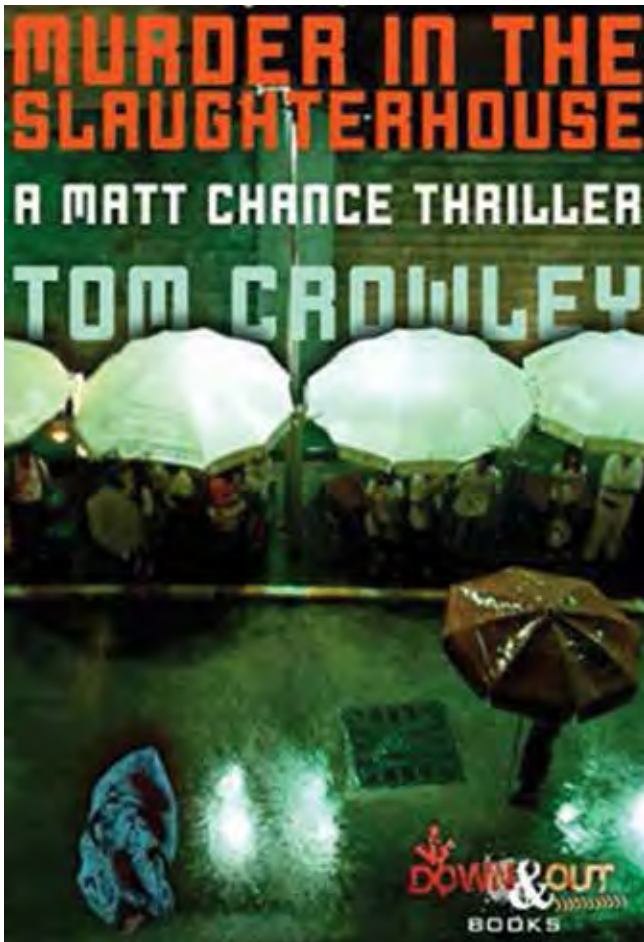
Don Helin

Secret Assault

Literary Fiction



Sedona View from the Chapel of the Holy Cross
Photo by Pat McGrath Avery



APRIL 2015

Book

OF THE MONTH

**Murder in the
Slaughterhouse**

Tom Crowley

Mystery/Thriller

JUNE 2015

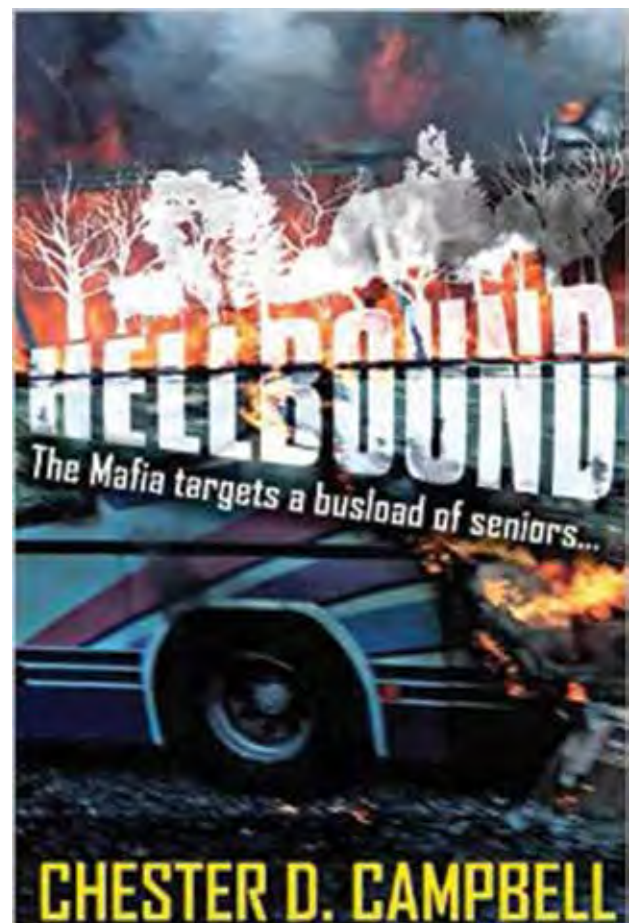
Book

OF THE MONTH

HELLBOUND

Chester D. Campbell

Mystery/Thriller

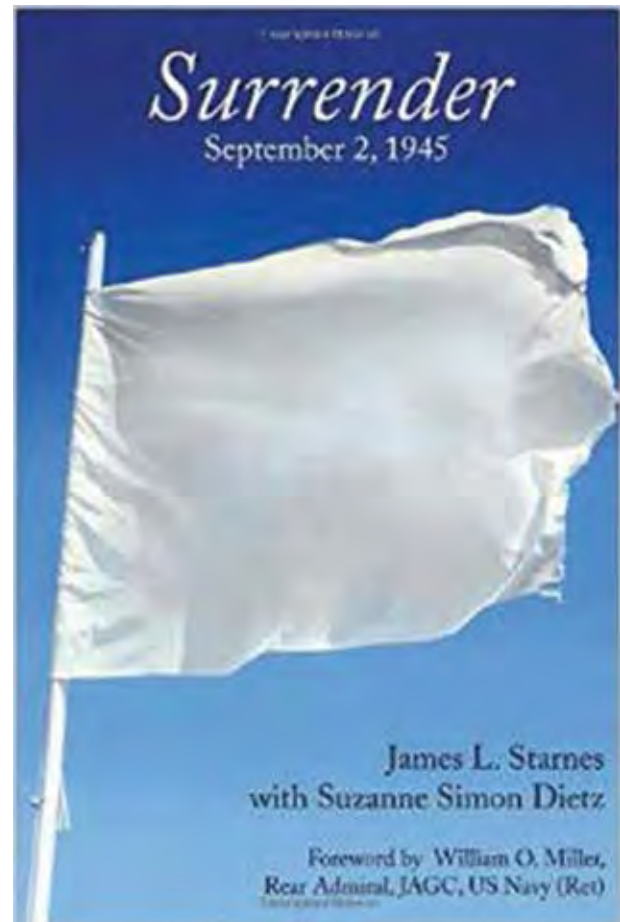


MAY 2015
Book
OF THE MONTH

Surrender
September 2, 1945

Suzanne Simon Dietz
&
James L. Starnes Jr

Memoir



LEAD REVIEWER NOTES

JIM GREENWALD

We desperately need more folks to volunteer their time to review books. Email me now at LeansToFar@aol.com to offer your time to help fellow members by becoming a Book Reviewer. Looking for folks that can review at least four books a year, not really that much when one looks at actual time involved (Average book 300 pages, 13 weeks per book, one week for scoring and 12 to read equals 25 pages a week, or the time it takes to read only about four pages a day).

The 2015 Phoenix Conference Program is complete. A variety of interesting new seminars will be presented. Outside speakers/presenters that will inform, and provide ideas to enhance your writing skills and provide information for your next writing project. This is an excellent opportunity to meet fellow members and participate fully in MWSA. The current up-to-date file on the conference is here in *Dispatches* for you to check out. We of course hope each and every member will attend. It is a great facility, the staff is excellent, and the weather is great. The conference application you need to fill out and return is available now by emailing LeansToFar@aol.com. We look forward to meeting old and new friends. If you are planning on attending contact me now for the program and application. Print off a copy of the program to bring with you so you know what is going on and when.

The Phoenix Police Department will be presenting four seminars on Friday by highly qualified members of the force that will positively hold your interest and provide a wealth of solid information to enhance your writing project(s). Television may present “real life,” these officers live what they speak about. So, do not miss these seminars. Free access to inside information does not often arrive on your doorstep; take advantage of this excellent opportunity.

Sgt. Huntley will return to do a more complete seminar on “Gun Intelligence.” Well received by

members, this seminar will be interesting to gun enthusiasts and non-enthusiasts alike. Check out the schedule, and ink these seminars on your copy [also *The Shadow Economy*, *Robbery*, and *Missing Persons*].

On Saturday afternoon Marcus Monenerkit the Assistant Curator of the Heard Museum will present a talk and power point presentation [1.5 hours] on the “Code Talkers.” He will cover the history of the Code Talkers and early American Indian involvement in the U.S. Armed Forces. Covering both the Navajo and Comanche Code Talkers.

This is another one to ink in for your attendance. Check out the lineup for your conference this year (Phoenix 2015). Make an effort to be an active part of your organization, come early on Thursday and join us at orientation at 12:15. We still need about nine items for the auction. Donate a service, gift card, maybe a trip to Hawaii, something that would interest your fellow members.



*Photos on Page 49
by Pat McGrath Avery*



Arizona



IN THE RANKS...

"THE DETERRENCE
OF WAR IS
THE PRIMARY
OBJECTIVE OF THE
ARMED FORCES."



GENERAL
MAXWELL D.
TAYLOR!!



"ARMY"

2014 c.bailey

IN THE RANKS...

"Whosoever commands
the sea commands the
trade; whosoever
commands the trade of
the world commands
the riches of the
world, and consequently
the world itself."



SIR WALTER
RALEIGH,
MA'AM?



"COAST GUARD"

2014 c.bailey

IN THE RANKS...

INTEGRITY...



THE "I" WORD



"AIR FORCE"

2014 c.bailey

IN THE RANKS...

If at first you
don't succeed,
call in an air
strike.



HE'S
LEARNING.



"MARINES"

2014 c.bailey



Chapel of the Holy Cross

