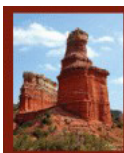


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The PPW Window

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PPW *Panhandle
Professional
Writers*

March 2015

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter

What makes a good story? Show, don't tell.

**We are delighted to have Jon Mark Beilue speak
at this month's meeting on Saturday, March 21.**



John Mark Beilue has spent his entire professional career, nearly 34 years, at the Amarillo Globe-News. Since 2006, he has been the general columnist for the Globe-News, responsible for three columns a week plus a monthly column for Amarillo Magazine as well as a video series, "Out of the Beilue." Prior to that, the native of Groom and graduate of Texas Tech spent 25 years in the sports department, the first eight as a sportswriter and assistant sports editor and then 17 as sports editor. He has won numerous statewide and national awards for his writing in sports and general columns. In December 2014, a collection of 75 columns was published in his book *This Might Be A Good Story*.

Meetings are held on the third Saturday in odd-numbered months: January, March, May, July, September, and November.

The public and PPW members are invited to hear speakers on writing or related topics.

Check-In and Meet & Greet:
9:00 - 9:30 a.m.

Program/
Presentation:
9:30 a.m. - Noon

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	<p>bring a sack lunch. Box lunches are \$10.</p> <p>Unless otherwise specified, meeting location is at</p> <p>Amarillo Senior Citizens Center 1217 S. Tyler Amarillo, Texas</p> <p><i>(Note: We must occasionally switch our meeting location, or we may need to change the date to avoid conflicts. So, please check the address and date for each meeting.)</i></p>	<p>Noon - 12:15 p.m.</p> <p>Lunch: 12:15 - 1 p.m.</p> <p>Critique Session 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.</p>	

From the President

Janet Taylor

Committees

You know the saying, “If you want something done, ask a woman.” Well, it’s the same with committees. If you want to get something done, form a committee. Our fundraising committee organized the Dinner with Mark Twain, and is now working on another fundraising event. We are looking for members to serve on our Centennial Event Committee. PPW’s 100th anniversary is five years away. Sounds like a long time to be on a committee, doesn’t it? The length of time one serves on that committee is up to them. Don’t stand on the sidelines and watch things happen, step up and help make them happen. Email us at panhandlewriters@gmail.com to let us know you want to be on the Centennial Event Committee.

Social Activities

Sometimes good ideas unrelated to the purpose of a committee meeting come up when discussions invariably get off topic. That’s how our social gatherings came about. We’ve now had four, and you really must come to the next one. I do believe everyone who attended our February social enjoyed it. We laughed, had interesting conversations, and the food was pretty good, too. In an email to me, one of the attendees wrote, “Last night was a fun evening, and everybody there seemed to relate in some way—it was just a delight. ... I came home feeling refreshed and connected at a different level with everyone there.” Our next social should be in April. Stay tuned for details.

Getting to Know You

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another better, we are starting a "Let Us Get to Know You" campaign. At the bi-monthly meetings, we will be asking members to tell us about themselves in 50 words or less. At future meetings, photos of the members and their handwritten mini memoirs, so to speak, will be on display for all attendees to peruse. Talk about your icebreaker!

Changing Our Name

Throughout the years there have been conversations about changing our organization's name. It is once again a topic of discussion. I wrote the article "What's in a Name?" for a previous newsletter. It has been reprinted in this edition of the PPW Window. Please take the time to read the article. In it I explain this Board's reasoning for making the change. The article also tells you why and how we are and are not, technically, changing the name. The board will be asking for suggestions for assumed names from members who attend this month's meeting. Hope to see you there.

The Thigh Bone's Connected to the ... or Why You Should Join PPW!

Janda Raker

What if you met a new friend who was a member of Panhandle Professional Writers? And she found out you were a writer and encouraged you to attend a meeting, but you wouldn't because you weren't a professional and she was, had published an article in Texas Highways! But what if, that same month, a coworker placed several copies of the PPW newsletter in the lounge? And she saw you looking at one, and she encouraged you to attend the next meeting, professional or not? So you did. And both of them introduced you around, helped you feel at home, where you've been ever since. And what if the connection with the professional led to your writing an article that was accepted and published--your FIRST national publication?

And what if one of the PPW meetings provided a guest speaker who was the editor of a small magazine for writers, published in Oklahoma? What if she was friendly and encouraging, and you felt confident enough to submit to her publication. And what if she liked your article, published it, and actually PAID you, your first paid gig?

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such valuable information from those knowledgeable ladies, fabulous writers all, that you became a much better writer? And what if you love The Writer magazine, have subscribed to it for many years? And what if you decided to interview Jodi Thomas, write an article about her, and pitch it to The Writer? And what if they liked it, published it, and paid you more than you'd ever made writing, for just one page, for your largest audience, which at that time numbered about 40,000 circulation?

And what if you attended a Frontiers in Writing conference, put on by PPW, where a REALLY-FAMOUS author was the keynote speaker? And what if you pitched the idea to her for you to interview her also, by e-mail, and what if you wrote the article and published it too in The Writer, resulting in another nice paycheck?

And what if you realized you needed to be in a critique group? (Every writer does!) And what if your PPW connection provided you with the opportunity to be included in a series of critique groups over the years that are almost always composed of members who are caring, intelligent, skilled writers who help bring your writing up to a high standard?

And what if, at a PPW meeting, an editor introduced you to a new (to you) type of fiction that became an exercise that kept you and your sometimes-lazy critique group productive for a couple of years? And what if you thought of trying to publish an anthology of those stories?

And what if, at the next Frontiers in Writing conference, you met a small publisher who seemed receptive to new projects? And what if you pitched that anthology to her and a couple of years later that anthology was published by that publisher, with the members of your critique group as authors? And what if you conducted an ongoing contest in that genre, and what if, using more stories from your critique group and winners of the contest, you later published a second anthology, with 23 authors and 176 stories, which continues to be available, selling a lot of books, with many authors happy, being in print, and sharing their stories?

And what if, at another Frontiers in Writing, a local author spoke about writing online? And what if you decided to try it and have now written 20 articles for them and posted accompanying photos? And what if it is an ongoing project and you've set up a new website, sharing with readers from around the globe, hoping to lead to publication in more anthologies, maybe even one of your own?

So what about the thigh bone? The information above intends to show the connection between PPW and most of my publications. Like the bones of the body,

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no. It's really not the organization but the people. But wait! The people ARE the organization! So each of you is a part of what makes ME a successful writer. And what about YOU? Are the rest of us what will help make YOU successful? With all these connections, we are working together as a "body" to accomplish what we want. The thigh bone's connected to the hip bone!

Dianne Sagan's *Miriam's Room*

Dianne Sagan's *Miriam's Room* has been nominated for Christian Fiction Book of the year from Small Christian Publishers/Historical fiction category. You can [vote](#) for it to win. (You'll need to scroll down to the category.) Her book can be found at [Goodreads](#) and [Amazon](#).

What's in a Name?

Reprint

PPW is coming up on its 100th anniversary. Our history tells us we started out as Panhandle Pen Women in 1920. In 1987, the organization felt the need to change its name so as not to exclude anyone who wanted to join (that being men). Thus, Panhandle Pen Women became Panhandle Professional Writers — thereby keeping the acronym PPW.

Once again, the times are telling us there is a need for change. The word "professional" can imply that only published authors, or others who write for a living, can join. Because the world is becoming a smaller place, we can reach out and touch authors and writers across the globe. That can be done with a name that welcomes all who desire to write, all who write professionally, and all of those in-between.

With that in mind, the board members have considered the merits of an assumed name (a "d/b/a", doing business as). Due to PPW's 501c(3) charitable organization status it's probably best not to change its name as our predecessors did. However, we can keep the name "Panhandle Professional Writers" and adopt an assumed name by which we can also be known. For example: "Panhandle Professional Writers d/b/a Texas Panhandle Writers." An assumed name can say who we are, where we are, and what we do. It can be a name that entices people around the world and around the corner to take a peek at us through our window on the world-wide Web and, hopefully, become a member. We want PPW to stay alive and flourish, so we must adapt or fade away.

The board would like your input on this subject. Please email any comments,

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a majority vote. The board will keep you updated on this subject via the Website, email, and newsletter.

Our current mission statement is: To bring together writers of the Panhandle of Texas and surrounding regions; to help them in attaining higher writing standards; to encourage them toward their goals of publication; and to help published writers promote their work.

Let's bring together the writers of the world.

Writers at Work

Barbara Myers

Published a poetry book for sale for \$15.00, called Gifts from the Heart. I also have lots of art for sale for \$20.00 up.

Ryan McSwain

Recently published a horror thriller,"Monsters All the Way Down." He is planning to launch a crowd-funding campaign to help finance his next novel.

Barbara Myers

Published a poetry book, "Gifts from the Heart," for \$15.00
Lots of art for sale as well, \$20 up

Marianne Logan

Trying to write again...

Lana Velasquez

Working on a 31-day devotional featuring Texas prairie ski photos and accompanying Bible verses.

Linda Hill

Finished "Up Gander Road" - work on cover
Writing "Never More"
Write Monthly column for magazine,
"Life in the Colonies"

Vicki Schoen

After annoying several friends, I successfully self-published a book of memoirs written by my father, EddievMelin. It is available in paperback and as an ebook on Amazon. The title is "Stories from an Old Man." Although, at 102, Eddie is no longer

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published in an anthology about Christmas traditions.

Ruth Beasley

Edited and compiled a dual memoir by my grandmother and her sister called "The Jones Girls of Wheeler County." It's made up of passages from two published books and two memoirs. An excerpt is currently at a university press and I have my fingers crossed.

-Writing a fictional prequel to this memoir based on the lives of the Jones girls' grandparents, beginning in 1842.

-Writing a new novel set in 1972.

(In a previous life, I wrote and produced a radio feature on public radio called "Learning the Birds." It aired for 11 years.

Suzi Sandoval

-Writing "Through the Fire" - a memoir

-Speaking at MADD Victims Impact Panel for Potter County

Kim Black

-published "Lyndia, Woman of Purple," "Pockets," and "A Fiction Writer's Character Workbook.

-WIP = Her Most Precious Gift

Shooting Stars Traveling Circus

Little Black Dress.

Blog: www.kimblackink.com

B. R. Tillery

-finishing sci fi novel, not sure of title. It's a follow-up of another sci fi novel I called "The Burning," which I self-published through LuLu.

Andrea' Elise

-Finishing a collection of 15 poems called, "I Shall not Want."

-Finishing a long essay called "Inconstancy in the Morning C-- about my two years in the Peace Corps in South Korea.

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