**WLOV September 2018 Meeting**

**Meeting date, time and location:**

Wednesday, September 5, 8:30 a.m., Laurel Manor Recreation Center, The Villages

**Presiding officer**: WLOV President Rita Boehm

**Introduction of new members:**

* Spence Langford
* Kate Hanson
* Gail Santoro
* Bob McElroy
* Jan Palmer
* Carmine Tyron
* Alberto Rubio

**New Book Announcements:**

* Dan Kincaid – “*Kate Holly: Forest Ranger*”
* Beverly Johnson - *“The Life of Rembrandt”*
* Phyllis Walter – *“Creating Balance and Purpose in Your Life”*
* Millard Johnson - *“Blazing Star”* and *“The Hear Doctor”*
* Alberto Rubio - *“Blood Legacy”*
* Rita Boehm – *“Bluebirds in the Garden”*

**Special Announcements**

* Mark Newhouse announced the FWA’s Writer’s Conference for middle and high school students.
* Paula Howard was announced as the 2018 President Elect who will take on the role of 2019 President.
  + Paula and her husband have lived in TV for the past three years. Paula has authored three non-fiction books and is preparing to publish her first creative fiction novella: “The Hidden Pricetag”
* A request was made for candidates for the WLOV elections in October.
  + Angela Love has agreed to run to continue her role as Secretary.
  + Open positions: Treasurer and President Elect
  + Although not an elected position, Phil Walker agreed to continue as Membership Chair
* Volunteers are needed for EXPO 2019 and newsletter.
  + This is a good opportunity for members to get involved
* Because of positive member response Lt. Siemer will be invited to be a program speaker in 2019.

**Upcoming Meetings**

* October meeting: An audiobook panel with Dave Bishop and Ann Heathman, facilitated by Phil Walker
* November meeting: Greg Sharp with Sea Hill Press will discuss marketing plans and secrets to successful publishing
* December meeting: Continental breakfast and entertainment.
  + Rita asked members to send her entertainment ideas.
* EXPO: Report from Jim Meyer:
  + 90 plus authors participating. Tables will be assigned in October. TooJay’s will be food vendor.
* Love Story Reading – February 14, 2019
  + Report from Millard Johnson – Program will be held at O’Dell Recreation Center. Submissions should be 2,000 words or less; Deadline for entry will be in October, exact date TBA. Poetry and songs needed as well as stories.
* Don Canaan announced an idea for a WLOV author marketing plan. Details will in the WLOV newsletter. Volunteers are needed.

**Guest Speaker**

* **Anne Dalton, General Counsel for the Florida Writers’ Association**

**“Five Scary Legal Things Every Writer Needs to Know”**

**Following is a summary of the points presented by Anne Dalton as understood by the writer. Ms. Dalton has not reviewed or commented on these notes to confirm their accuracy.**

**Scary Thing - #1-Death and Copyright**

* **What is copyright?** A monopoly owned by creator of work for a specific period of time, must be an original work fixed in a tangible expression.
* Copyright law is different in every country. References are made to U.S. copyright law
* Excerpting from material published before 1923 – No permission required; no fee paid.
  + Exceptions: Material published before 1923 is changed and reprinted, new printed date applies for purposes of copyright.
* Reprints: Penguin editions of Mark Twain’s works – falls under the before 1923 copyright law.
* Copyright for material published between 1923 – 1978 is vague. Do not assume public domain until 2065.
* As of January 1978 there was total overhaul of copyright law to be more protective of writers and artists.
  + Material published after January 1, 1978.Copyright is established for writer’s life plus 70 years. Estate owns the copyright after writer dies.
* Estate planning - writer has options for who owns copyright beyond heirs. Consider addressing this in your will.
* Can do a search with copyright office to find out who has copyright of a certain work.
* Three levels of copyright notification:
  + Create work. It is original and tangible – you own it.
  + Add the word ‘copyright’ or the symbol © to your work.
  + Best Protection – register the copyright. This can be done online at copyright.gov.

**Scary Thing #2 – Joint Copyright**

* Joint Copyright – creation of work by two or more persons with the intent to merge contributions into one work.
* Unless there is a written contract, unequal contribution equals equal copyright ownership.
* Collaboration with other creatives regarding your work outside their prescribed assignment can result in a joint copyright.
* Joint copyright participants should protect themselves with a contract to determine profit distribution, determining the decision maker and how profits are to be used.
* Consider creating a one page transfer of copyright to protect yourself when you collaborate with illustrators, editors, etc. Something as simple as: ‘To the extent that you are creating any content, I (name of author) own the copyright and you transfer any of your rights to me.’ Collaborator’s signature is required.

**Scary Thing #3 – Fair Use Law - Song Titles and Lyrics and other material**

* Who decides Fair Use? The Courts do. This is a complex and murky area of law. ‘Fair Use’ entitles you to use copyrighted material without permission or payment. The use is considered ‘fair’ for the public to have.
* Fair Use Categories – There are only four. Use must fall into one of these four categories:
  + News Reporting
  + Research and Scholarship
  + Teaching
  + Criticism and Content
* Attribution does not get you out of hot water. It may lessen the copyright owner’s inclination to come after you.
* There is no magic percentage of content or number of words that you can use without fear of infringement.
* Fair Use is a major area of litigation.

**Scary Thing #4 – Memoirs – Defamation, Invasion of Privacy, or Fair Game?**

* Defamation in Florida is publication of a false statement causing injury to plaintiff.
* Right of Privacy – statement can be 100% true and still invade right to privacy.
* There is provision in Florida state constitution guaranteeing right to privacy. In Florida Right to Privacy is for life plus 40 years.

**Scary Thing #5- Contracts and Publishers**

* Read contracts back to front!
* Read the very back of the contract thoroughly that is where many of the most onerous provisions are hidden.
* Beware of administrative costs. Also, what are they taking out of gross to get to net?
* Pay close attention to the termination provision.