

# MWG 2012 Annual Contests

Please note: There are still categories for which we need sponsors. If you, your business or your chapter is willing to sponsor a contest, please contact Deb Marshall at [mwgpres@gmail.com](mailto:mwgpres@gmail.com)

► Important ◀

Categories and category numbers are subject to change.

All contests and categories open for entries January 1, 2012. These are the official rules and guidelines.

Only one entry per category will be allowed. Applicants may enter more than one category but may not submit the same entry for multiple categories in ANY of the contests.

Only Missouri Writers' Guild members may enter the President's Contest categories.

## President's Contest Categories

1. **Walter Williams Major Work Award (Sponsored by: Missouri Center for the Book)**

Per MWG bylaws, *this should be a major work whether in book form or in some other form of publication, a work considered to be worthy of special recognition because of the research or high literary quality involved in its creation.*

This award is open to any type of publication or production, including fiction, nonfiction, scripts, poetry (as in a poetry collection in a book), books and anthologies (if sole author or editor).

Self-published works are not allowed in this category.

2. **Best Newspaper Article or Column (Sponsored by: Missouri Press Association)**

3. **Best Magazine Article (Sponsored by: Missouri Life Magazine)**

4. **Best Anthology (Sponsored by: Blank Slate Press)**

5. **Best Short Story (Sponsored by: MWG President Deborah Marshall)**

6. **Best Poem (Sponsored by: Mozark Press)**

7. **"Show Me" Best Book Award (Sponsored by: Blank Slate Press)** Book-length works of fiction, including juvenile, or nonfiction, as well as books of poetry are accepted.

*Note: The president reserves the right to consolidate or cancel categories receiving less than six unique entries.*

## Chapter and Sponsor Contest Categories

Please read the following rules carefully!  
This is a different contest than the President's Contest!

All Missouri Writers' Guild members, all MWG chapter members and all PAID conference attendees may enter contests 8-20.

8. **Flash Fiction** Maximum 500 words (Sponsored by Saturday Writers)  
Mail entries to MWG Contest Coordinator, Saturday Writers, PO Box 2093, St. Peters, MO 63376
9. **Free Verse Poem** 40 lines or less; any topic (Sponsored by St. Louis Writers Guild)  
Mail entries to MWG Contest Coordinator Faye Adams, 12600 McKinstry Road, DeSoto, MO 63020-3444
10. **Ozarks Article** Maximum 2500 words (Sponsored by Ozarks Mountaineer Magazine)  
Mail entries to MWG Contest Coordinator, 1203 Spartina Dr., Florissant, MO 63031
11. **Humorous Short Story** 1000 – 2000 words (Sponsored by: Joanna Dale)  
Mail entries to MWG Contest Coordinator, 1203 Spartina Dr., Florissant, MO 63031
12. **Inspirational Essay** Maximum 2500 words (Sponsored by: Saturday Writers)  
Mail entries to MWG Contest Coordinator, Saturday Writers, PO Box 2093, St. Peters, MO 63376
13. **Travel Article** Maximum 2500 words (Sponsored by: AAA Midwest Traveler Magazine)  
Mail entries to MWG Contest Coordinator, 1203 Spartina Dr., Florissant, MO 63031
14. **Short Story** 1000 – 2000 words (Sponsored by: Southeast Missouri Writers Guild)  
Mail entries to MWG Contest Coordinator Donna Essner, SEMO Writers Guild,  
c/o Dr. Susan Swartwout, One University Plaza, MS 2650, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
15. **Blog Post: Writing Craft** Maximum 2500 words (Sponsored by: Kansas City Writers Group/Whispering Prairie Press)  
Mail entries to MWG Contest Coordinator, 1203 Spartina Dr., Florissant, MO 63031
16. **Historical Article: Nonfiction** Maximum 2500 words (Sponsored by: Rural Missouri Magazine)  
Mail entries to MWG Contest Coordinator, 1203 Spartina Dr., Florissant, MO 63031
17. **Regional Story or Legend** Maximum 2500 words (Sponsored by: Columbia Chapter of the Missouri Writers' Guild)  
Mail entries to MWG Contest Coordinator Judy Stock, 1202 6<sup>th</sup> St., Boonville, MO 65233
18. **Character Sketch or Profile** Maximum 2500 words (Sponsored by: Rural Missouri Magazine)  
Mail entries to MWG Contest Coordinator, 1203 Spartina Dr., Florissant, MO 65233
19. **Historical/Nostalgia Story** Maximum 2500 words (Sponsored by: Boonville Writers Guild)  
Mail entries to MWG Contest Coordinator Judy Stock, 1202 6<sup>th</sup> St., Boonville, MO 65233

20. [Essay: Why do I feel incomplete if I do not write?](#) Maximum 2500 words (Sponsored by Joplin Writers Guild)

Mail entries to MWG Contest Coordinator Sandy Jordan, 9246 Highway AA, Neosho, MO 64850

21. [Form Poem](#) Any subject, any form except free verse or prose, maximum 40 lines (Sponsored by Ellen Gray Massey)

Form must be stated on entry. Mail entries to MWG Contest Coordinator, 1203 Spartina Dr., Florissant, MO 63031

22. [Query Letter](#) Maximum 1500 words (Sponsored by Bylines Writer's Desk Calendar/Snowflake Press)

Mail entries to MWG Contest Coordinator, 1203 Spartina Dr., Florissant, MO 63031

The following categories do not have sponsors at the present time. Please check the website before submitting because additional categories may be added until December 30.

23. Food Article

24. Book Review of a MWG or Chapter Member's Book

25. Business Article

26. Short Story: Any Western theme

27. Health Article

28. Restaurant Review

29. Hook Me with First Novel Page

30. Ghost or Paranormal Short Story

## Qualification Requirements for President's Contest Categories

1. All entries must have been published, presented or performed in the 2011 calendar year.

2. Entries must have been published for a royalty or fee from the publisher. This means that money has to have changed hands from the publisher/publication to the writer.

a. Payment in contributor copies does not count, except for categories Number 5 (Best Short Story or Number 6 (Best Poem).

b. For all other president's categories, the writer must have been paid by the publisher or publication for his or her work.

3. Audio or electronic entries (book, newspaper, magazine) may be entered in any appropriate category.

4. All books must have an ISBN number.

5. A member may enter multiple categories.

6. A member may enter **ONLY ONE** submission per category. Be sure when you send a check, you include a list of titles and categories you are entering.

7. A member MAY NOT submit the same work in more than one 2012 contest category. (For instance a children's author may enter a book in the "Show-Me" Best Book Category and Major Work Category but not the same book).

8. Missouri Writers' Guild membership dues must be current (paid by December 31, 2011) for entries to be accepted in president's categories.

a. In cases of co-authorship, both authors must be current, paid members.

b. The editor of a multiple-author anthology must be a member and can enter the complete book with individual authors published in the anthology eligible to enter their work in appropriate individual categories.

## Submission Procedures for the President's Contests

Poor quality submissions will be disqualified. Your entry represents the Missouri Writers' Guild to the judges. Therefore, entries that are tattered, smeared, difficult to read, poor quality photocopy, or otherwise unprofessional looking may be disqualified.

1. **Books:** Send one copy of print book. Send tape and manuscript of audio book. Send disk and printout of e-book. Books will not be returned, but donated to libraries, schools, or Missouri Writers' Guild chapters.

2. **Short Works:** Send one copy of each entry, as published. NO manuscript printout is accepted for the President's Contest, except for audio works. Photocopy is acceptable for articles, short stories and poems. Send printout of electronic publications, manuscript of audio.

3. **Scripts:** Send manuscript; include date and place of production, number of performances, and audience composition. Audio or video tape of performance is optional.

4. Materials submitted for the contest will not be returned.

5. With each entry, send a 3 x 5 index card which includes:

a. For all works - the category number and title (e.g. Category 1 Walter Williams Award), the writer's name, address, telephone number and e-mail address, and the title of the submission

b. For books - the publisher's name and date of publication

c. For short works - the name and date of publication or performance.

6. **Entry fee:** Entry fees should be remitted by check or money order, payable to the Missouri Writers' Guild in the total amount for all entries submitted. a. Category 1 (\$10 each)

b. Categories 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 (\$5 each)

\*\*Please note: If you are entering the President's Contest, and then decide to enter a chapter or sponsored contest, you may send TWO separate checks, OR all your entry fees can be included in ONE check. Please make sure when you send a check, you include a list of titles and categories you are entering.

7. **Disqualification:** Entries which do not follow the guidelines will be disqualified and the entry fee will not be returned. Any entries not meeting the requirements of these rules may be disqualified at the discretion of the contest coordinator of the Missouri Writers' Guild Contest.

8. **Acknowledgement:** Entries may be acknowledged if entrants include a stamped, self-addressed postcard with the words, "Your entry was received on \_\_\_\_\_."

9. **Entry period/deadline:** Submissions FOR THE PRESIDENT'S CONTEST must be postmarked between January 1 and January 31, 2012. MWG is not responsible for any lost or misdirected mail or mail with insufficient postage.

10. **Address:** Mail entries with sufficient postage to:  
Missouri Writers' Guild President's Contest  
c/o Deborah Marshall, President  
1203 Spartina Drive  
Florissant, MO 63031

11. For questions, contact Deb at [mwgpres@gmail.com](mailto:mwgpres@gmail.com). Put MWG Contest in the subject line of the email.

12. Names of contest winners, sponsors, and judges will be posted on the MWG web site in May 2012 and published in the MWG summer newsletter.

**\*\*Please note:** If you are entering the President's Contest, and then decide to enter a chapter or sponsored contest, you may send Deb TWO separate checks, OR all your entry fees can be included in ONE check. Please make sure when you send a check, you include a list of titles and categories you are entering.

## Awards

1. First, second, and third place awards for category 1 are: first place receives \$100, second place receives a certificate and \$50, third place receives a certificate and \$25. Honorable mentions may be named at the discretion of the judges. First place in the Walter Williams Award will also receive a plaque.

2. Awards in president's categories 2, 3,4,5,6, 7 are: First place a certificate and \$25, second place a certificate and \$15, and third place a certificate and \$10. Honorable mentions may be named at the discretion of the judges.

3. In accordance with Article X, section 3 of the MWG bylaws: Awards may be given at the judges' discretion. If there are fewer than six entries in any category, except for the Walter Williams Award, no prizes will be given in that category unless in the judges' opinion, the work submitted is of such quality as to merit recognition. Similarly, the Walter Williams Award may be withheld if in the opinion of the judges, no material of sufficient literary merit is submitted.

4. Awards Presentation. Awards will be announced at the Annual Missouri Writers' Guild Awards Banquet on April 21, 2012 in Chesterfield (St. Louis), Missouri.

## MWG Conference Chapter and Sponsor Contest Rules

Qualification requirements for Chapter and Sponsor Contest categories

1. All entries can be previously published or unpublished. They can be published in ANY year, but a former winner (honorable mentions, third, second, or first place) of an MWG contest **MAY NOT** be entered in these contests.
2. Chapter contests are for Missouri Writers' Guild members, MWG chapter members, and ANYONE attending the 2012 MWG conference and who has PAID their attendance fee.
3. A member or attendee may enter multiple categories.
4. A member or attendee may enter ONLY ONE submission per category.
5. A member or attendee MAY NOT submit the same work in more than one category.
6. Missouri Writers' Guild membership dues must be current (paid by December 31, 2011) for entries to be accepted in chapter and sponsor categories. Chapter membership must be up-to-date for chapter members. Conference registration must be paid to enter contest if you are a non-member. (If you are a MWG member and paid your dues after 12/31/11, but you paid to go to the conference, you are ABLE to enter the chapter and sponsor contests).
  - a. In cases of co-authorship, both authors must be current, paid members or attendees.
  - b. The editor of a multiple-author anthology must be a member or attendee and can enter the complete book with individual authors published in the anthology eligible to enter their work in appropriate individual categories.
7. Chapter members may enter their OWN chapter's contest as long as the contest is being judged by a judge, who DOES NOT BELONG to the chapter. Contest coordinators will be responsible for letting their chapter members know if an OUTSIDE judge is NOT used. Otherwise assume the chapter has found an OUTSIDE judge.
8. Manuscripts should not have the author's name ANYWHERE on the pages. Judging will be blind.

## Submission Procedures for Chapter and Sponsor Contests

1. Manuscripts should look professional as if being submitted to a publisher. All entries (even if they have been previously published) need to be double spaced (single-space for poetry), 12pt font Times New Roman or Courier New. Remember to include the title on your manuscript and number the pages. PLEASE DO NOT LIST ANYWHERE on the manuscript if the work has been previously published.
2. The author's name must not appear on the manuscript(s). A title page needs to be included with name, address, telephone number, email address, word count, and title of submission. If the work has been previously published, please list the place of publication.



3. Materials submitted for the contest will not be returned.

4. Entry fee: Entry fees should be remitted by check or money order, payable either to the Chapter listed on Chapter Contests

a. Write down ALL categories you are entering on an index card with the title of your submissions and the categories.

b. Send a check for ALL SPONSOR categories with your index card to Deb Marshall, Missouri Writers' Guild President, 1203 Spartina Dr., Florissant, MO 63031

c. Each chapter (categories 8, 9, 12, 14, 17, 19, 20) or sponsor category (categories 10, 11, 13, 15, 16) is \$5.00. (One entry per category).

d. Send a check for CHAPTER categories made out to the appropriate chapter along with your cover sheet and entry to the contest coordinator for the chapter. If you chose to enter more than one category, it will require separate checks and separate mailings. If your entries are misdirected, they will be disqualified.

EXAMPLE: You are a Missouri Writers' Guild member, so you are entering President's Contests 2, 4 and 5, which equals \$15. Then you are entering Saturday Writers Chapter Contest category #8 (\$5) and Sponsor Contest category #16 (\$5). You will send a card with all 5 entries listed on it to Deb along with a check to Missouri Writers' Guild for \$20 along with entries for 2, 4, 5, and 16, then you will send your title sheet and entry with a check to Saturday Writers for \$5 to the contest coordinator for category 8.

5. **Disqualification:** Entries which do not follow the guidelines will be disqualified and the entry fee will not be returned.

6. **Entry period/deadline:** Submissions for the CHAPTER AND SPONSOR CONTESTS must be postmarked between January 1 and March 1, 2012. MWG and its chapters are not responsible for any lost or misdirected mail or mail with insufficient postage.

7. If chapter contests do not receive at least 12 entries, the category will be canceled. If a category is canceled, entry fees will be returned.

8. For questions, contact Deb Marshall at [mwgpres@gmail.com](mailto:mwgpres@gmail.com). Put MWG Chapter and Sponsor Contest Question in the subject line of the e-mail.

### **Awards for the MWG Conference Chapter and Sponsor Contests**

1. All categories #8 through #22 will be awarded a first place prize of \$25 and a certificate, a second place prize of \$15 and a certificate, and a third place prize of \$10 and a certificate. Honorable mention certificates can be awarded if the judges wish to recognize certain entries.

2. Awards will be presented at the 2012 Missouri Writers' Guild Banquet on April 21 in Chesterfield, Missouri.

3. Names of contest winners, sponsors, and judges will be posted on the MWG web site in May 2012 and published in the MWG summer newsletter.