

# The Public Safety Writer

Volume 1, Number

3

August 2005

## Membership in New Organization Grows

We're very pleased to report a steady stream of new memberships now that we've evolved the former Police Writers Association into the Public Safety Writers Association. As you'll see later on in the newsletter, our members represent a wide range of experience in the public safety field and come from all over the country. All have expressed enthusiasm for the organization and are looking forward to opportunities to share their expertise and network with other members.

Please look through this website for a lot of updated information in the newsletter, on the conference page and on our "tips" page. If you have any "tips" you'd like to share, please contact us.

As you'll see from a later article about the conference, plans are now firming up. The conference will be held in Las Vegas March 23-26 at the Boardwalk Hotel and Casino located right on the Las Vegas strip. Check out the Conference page on this website for details.

We're also updating our listserve, a members-only service that you'll be sure to want to take advantage of. If you have questions about the listserve, please contact our webmaster, Tim Dees at [tdees@policewriter.com](mailto:tdees@policewriter.com).

## Annual Conference to be held in Las Vegas

Our annual conference will be held in Las Vegas, March 23-26, 2006 at the Boardwalk Hotel and Casino. The conference will begin with a reception Thursday evening, March 23. We're still firming up the exact agenda, but a tentative agenda can be found on the Conference page of this website. At this point, we're very anxious for your input. What topics would you like to have covered? Are there areas of expertise you have and would be willing to share as one of our presenters?

Although the exact schedule is still not set, we do know we'll be offering concurrent sessions. One series of presentations will be intended for those primarily interested in writing fiction. A second series of presentations will be intended for those primarily interested in writing non-fiction. Joint sessions will present information we think everyone will want to know: options for publishing and how to market yourself and your writing. Additional options will include how to create a website and/or blog and how to effectively manage your writing as a business.

There will also be opportunities to present your work for peer review and to talk one-on-one with successfully published writers.

Our conference bookstore will be open throughout the conference. You are invited to bring your books to sell.

Additionally, on Friday and Saturday afternoons, time will be allotted for conference participants to give brief readings from their works and participate in a book signing.

The conference will include lunches on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, but all evenings will be free so you can enjoy the sights and sounds of Las Vegas.

The awards banquet for the writing competition will be held Sunday noon.

### **Writing Competition Open to All Members**

Writing Competition winners will be announced at the conference (you don't have to be present to win, but it would be a lot more fun if you were). The rules, deadlines and applications for the competition are now available on this website (click on [Writing Competition](#)) to give you plenty of time to work on your entry.

### **Committees Now Being Organized**

We're also recruiting members willing to serve on the committees necessary to make all this happen. Committees include: membership, conference, newsletter and writing competition. If you'd be willing to serve on any of these committees or have any questions about any of this, please feel free to contact Marilyn Olsen at [molsen@policewriter.com](mailto:molsen@policewriter.com).

### **The Website is Always There for You**

All members will receive a quarterly newsletter, however a vibrant organization like ours often has late breaking news that occurs more often than quarterly. We are fortunate to have member Tim Dees as our webmaster. Tim and the board are dedicated to keeping the website as up to date as we possibly can. To that end, we will also need your help. Just published a book? Just got an article published? Know about a new public safety organization or publication that you don't see listed? Let us know.

Or do you need some help with your manuscript? Looking for a publisher? Need an agent? Just need a little moral support when writer's block hits? If the website itself doesn't have the information you need, chances are one of our members will. Contact us and we'll see if we can help. The website is available to you wherever you are, 24-7.

[www.policewriter.com](http://www.policewriter.com). (Yes, although we've changed the name of the organization, we still have the old domain name. We also have the domain names [www.publicsafetywriter.com](http://www.publicsafetywriter.com) and [www.publicsafetywriter.org](http://www.publicsafetywriter.org), both of which point to this same site.

## **Please Join Us!**

Membership in the Public Safety Writers Association is open to all new and experienced, published and not yet published authors interested in law enforcement topics and other public safety professionals (sworn and civilian) including fire, emergency medical, search and rescue and related fields and those who write about them.

Membership applications are available on this website. Just click on *Join*. Please mail yours in today!

## **Welcome New and Renewing Members**

The Public Safety Writers Association is pleased to welcome the following new and renewing members:

We're pleased to welcome the following new members:

**Andrew Borrello.** Andrew Borello is a 16-year veteran and lieutenant with the San Gabriel, California Police Department. He trains throughout California and serves as a POST Master Instructor, mentor, seminar presenter, consultant, and curriculum designer. He is the author of *Oral Interview Dynamics* and has contributed numerous articles to magazines, newsletters, journals and websites.

**George F. Breed, Jr.** George F. Breed, Jr. began his career 30 years ago working for courts in the metro Washington, D.C. area. He was responsible for tracking and apprehension of fugitives who had either escaped from custody or violated their release on bond, parole or probation. He had administration and operational responsibility for a full-service public safety/security department for the largest private controlled access location in the eastern US, oversaw a \$3+ million, budget and direct management for a staff of 58.

**Micqui Miller.** Micqui Miller wrote her first novel at the age of 12, and earned her first byline as a sports writer for a local Detroit newspaper at 15. Since that time, she has published more than 100 articles and short stories and has three novels in current release. Micqui's February 2005 release, *Sweet Caroline*, is the forerunner to the Caroline Spring Mystery Series. The first book of the series, *All in the Game*, is scheduled for release in 2006.

**Eliot Sefrin.** Eliot Sefrin has had more than 30 years experience as a

journalist, editor and publisher for newspapers and magazines. His wife was one of the first female police officers assigned to the streets of New York City.

**Michael Berish.** Michael Berish was a supervisor with the City of Miami Police Department for more than 20 years, 13 of which were spent as an undercover detective. He holds a BS in psychology and a Master's degree in communications. He has written numerous short stories which have been published or been accepted for publication, in *Hardboiled Magazine*, *Enigma*, *Rembrandt and Company*, *Low Budget Adventure Stories*, and *Poetry Forum Short Stories*. He has also written two screenplays and several plays.

**Michelle Perin.** Michelle Perin recently graduated from Arizona State University with a degree in Justice and Social Inquiry/English Literature. She has been a Police Telecommunications Operator for the Phoenix Police Department, a free lance writer and is completing one novel and beginning another.

**David C. Shampine.** David has more than 30 years as a police reporter with the *Watertown Daily Times* newspaper. He is also contributing writer and copy editor for *The Bulletin of the Jefferson County Historical Society* in Watertown NY. He has received numerous awards for writing.

**Paul R. Laska.** Paul has been Identification Officer with the Belle Glade, FL PD, a detective in a crime scene unit, a Sergeant in Identification, a supervisor of a Forensic Science Unit and an Environmental Investigations supervisor. He started a bomb disposal unit and is currently a consultant in forensic science and anti-terrorism and works as an instructor in several anti-terrorism/bom/wmd programs. He has had numerous articles published in *Law Enforcement Technology*, *The Detonator*, *The Journal of Forensic Identification* and the *Journal of Emergency Medical Services*.

## Book Reviews

Each issue of *The Public Safety Writer* will contain reviews of books by our members and others we think our members might enjoy. If you'd like to have your book reviewed in *The Public Safety Writer*, please send a copy of your book to: Public Safety Writers Association, 2024 Falcon Court, Bellingham, WA 98229.

### **The Publishing Game: Publish a Book in 30 Days**

by Fern Reiss

Peanut Butter and Jelly Press

252 pp.

If you had nothing else to do and you never had to sleep, it might be possible, as the name of this book suggests, to publish a book in 30 days. Our guess is that it might take a few months longer, but having said that, this book is still a valuable tool to anyone who is considering self-publishing. In a no-nonsense, straightforward way, the book offers a series of checklists that include everything from general topics such as defining goals to specific information on how to order a barcode. Even better, the book prioritizes all the tasks involved in self publishing and suggests a logical order in which to accomplish them. It not only gives ideas on each topic, but lists many options, including specific contact information for vendors and contacts in every area of book publishing you might need. In each section, Reiss also includes estimated costs involved so, with your handy calculator in hand, you can quickly determine just what such a venture might cost you before you complete step one.

Publish a Book in 30 Days is one in a series of books including: Bestseller in 30 Days, Find an Agent in 30 Days, Syndicate in 30 Days, and Ebooks in 30 days. For more information on this book, click on [www.PublishingGame.com](http://www.PublishingGame.com).

Excerpt:

*The opportunity to publish exists as never before. Even as few as ten years ago, the only real option for authors was to bang their heads against the establishment wall, querying agents and publishers endlessly. Today, it is possible to publish your book yourself, easily – design a cover, secure a printer, enlist a wholesaler, get your book into bookstores and libraries. Anyone can do it. All you need is a plan. This book is that plan.*

*Now you can not only publish yourself, you can actually make money at it. There are over 50,000 independent publishers in America today, generating an estimated annual \$14 billion in book sales. You can be one of them.*

*You can move faster than the big publishing houses. Most big publishers will sit on your manuscript for months, then send you a form rejection letter. Even if you could get a big publisher to accept your book – an increasingly difficult proposition – it would take them at least nine to 18 months to bring it to press. You can do it yourself in a matter of weeks.*

**The ASJA Guide to Freelance Writing: A Professional Guide to the Business, for Nonfiction Writers of All Experience Levels**

Edited by Timothy Harper

St. Martin's Griffin

314 pp.

As in any field, there are a lot of how-to writing books, most

written by successful authors who are willing to share the secrets of their success with those who aspire to write, publish and market their works. What makes this book different is that it is an anthology of articles by 26 successful writers who have in common the fact that they are members of the American Society of Journalists and Authors, a national association of independent nonfiction writers founded in 1948.

As a result the reader gets not just the opinion of one successful writer, but a take on the subject by more than two dozen writers, well known and respected for their ability to create and sell their work. Although some articles are a bit on the philosophical side, most get right to the point on subjects such as how to sell a book, how to find experts, writer-editor relations and protecting your rights as an author. The result is a wealth of practical ideas for writers of all levels of experience from those who are just considering a foray into the business to those who've been writing and selling their work for years.

Excerpt

From Chapter 4, The Mystery of Ideas by Jack El-Hai, author of the best selling new nonfiction book, The Lobotomist.

*Ideas do us no good, and they certainly make us no money, if they are not developed and proposed, so some writers set aside time each day or week to hone their ideas and write proposals based on them. Many writers devote time to thinking about ideas, and some consider it an important part of their regular business planning. Some ideas quickly show themselves to be right or wrong for you, and some need time to ripen or sour. Virtually every writer who makes a living as a freelancer has a system for jotting down ideas, gathering more background information, and keeping track of ideas that have been pitched and the editors who have received them. The respective lists are fluid and ever-changing.*

*Carol Bly, one of America's best writers and teachers of fiction, once described a story as "a combination of what the writer supposed the story would be about – plus what actually turned up in the course of writing." Creating good and satisfying ideas for articles and books involves that same engrossing process of seizing your donnee and poking at it until you have something new and mysterious that's all your own. You start with something you saw or heard or read and turn it like wet clay on a potter's wheel. The end product can surprise even you.*

**NOTE:** We'd love to review your book in our newsletter. Please send a copy of your book to: Public Safety Writers Association, 2024 Falcon Court, Bellingham, WA, 98229. Feel free to suggest excerpts.

## **News from our Members**

**Books published:**

### **The Con Man's Daughter**

**Ed Dee**, one of the PSWA's favorite conference speakers and writing competition judges, has published *The Con Man's Daughter*. Ed's other books include *14 Peck Slip*, *Bronx Angel*, *Little Boy Blue* and *Nightbird*. For more information go to [www.eddeauthor.com](http://www.eddeauthor.com).

### **Bad Tidings and Wingbeat**

**Marilyn Meredith**, award winning author of 14 books, announces *Bad Tidings* the latest in her Rocky Bluff P.D. series. Also recently published, *Wingbeat*, the fifth in the Deputy Tempe Crabtree series. For more information: [www.fictionforyou.com](http://www.fictionforyou.com).

### **Burden of the Badge**

Nine-year Saginaw PD veteran **Michael East** has just published *Burden of the Badge: A Year in the Life of a Street Cop*. The book documents nearly 1,000 calls over a full year in the life of a patrol officer in Saginaw, Michigan. For more information: [www.fire-police-ems.com](http://www.fire-police-ems.com).

### **A Proactive Law Enforcement Guide for the War on Terror**

Long-time PWA member **Lou Savelli** has published *A Proactive Law Enforcement Guide for the War on Terror*. Lou is also author of *Pocket Guide to Basic Crime Scene Investigation*, *Pocket Guide to Gangs Across America and Their Symbols* and *Pocket Guide to Identity Theft*. To find out more about Lou's books, go to [www.looseleaflaw.com](http://www.looseleaflaw.com).

### **The Retail Manager's Guide to Crime & Loss Prevention**

In her new book also long-time member **Liz Martinez** offers a rare, insider look at retail theft and the strategies that effectively combat it. For more information, go to: [www.looseleaflaw.com](http://www.looseleaflaw.com).

### **The Beach Club**

In his newly published book, **Richard Paloma** reveals a behind the scenes look at the dark humor and aggravations of being a uniformed police officer. Click on [www.publishersdrive.com/beach\\_club\\_info.html](http://www.publishersdrive.com/beach_club_info.html). for more information.

### **Pension**

One of the Association's most prolific authors, **Dennis Griffin** now has six books in print, the newest of which is *Pension*, a novel that features a private investigator caught up in a case of fraud in

public employee pension funds. Other books by Dennis include: Policing Las Vegas, Killer In Par-A-Dice, One-Armed Bandit, The Morgue and Blood Money. For more about Dennis and his books, go to [www.authorsden.com/dennisgriffin](http://www.authorsden.com/dennisgriffin).

### **Common Man Books series.**

Police Writers Association Founder **Roger Fulton** and long-time PWA member **Mike Carpenter** are collaborating on a series of bicycle and hiking trail guides in Florida and New York. So far there are four in New York (hiking and biking guides for the 1000 Islands area, and hiking guides for both the Lake George and Saratoga Springs areas). There are two hiking guides and a biking guide in Florida and soon to come a wildlife viewing guide in Florida. For more information on these books, go to [www.commonmanbooks.com](http://www.commonmanbooks.com).

**Tim Dees**, the webmaster for the Public Safety Writers Association, has accepted appointment as the Editor-in-Chief of [Officer.com](http://Officer.com), a web portal and information resource for law enforcement. [Officer.com](http://Officer.com) is published by Cygnus Business Media, which also publishes the print journals *Law Enforcement Technology* and *Law Enforcement Product News*, as well as 67 other trade publications and several web portals. Tim's new job requires a move from his current home in southeast Washington State to Maryland. His new position will entail producing more editorial content for the web portal, and recruiting subject matter experts for columns and webcasts.

The change in Tim's status requires a departure from his former slot as the technology editor at *Law and Order*. That post will be assumed by PSWA member **Kevin Gordon**, who will be writing a thus-far-unnamed monthly column.

NOTE: If you've recently published a book or article, please let us know so we can share the good news with other members. Send your notice to: [molsen@policewriter.com](mailto:molsen@policewriter.com).

### **Newsletter Needs News**

Since this is your newsletter, by definition it thrives on news. Published a book or article lately? Received an award? Have a writing-related experience (good, bad, ugly or hilarious) you'd be willing to share? Need some specific writing-related advice? Have a joke or story we can send through the mail? All submissions welcome. Send them to [molsen@policewriter.com](mailto:molsen@policewriter.com).