



THE OWL'S HOOT

Official Newsletter of
The Ozarks Writers League 501(c)(3)
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OFFICERS:

President – Larry Wood
Vice President – Mary-Lane
Kamberg
Secretary – Margarite Stever
Treasurer – Duke Pennell

***Have you paid
your 2025
dues yet?***

Newsletter Editor: Margarite Stever

***For only \$30.00, you can enjoy
all that OWL has to offer this
year!***

**Meet Your 2025 OWL Officers. Stay Tuned for Spring 2025 Conference
Information in Our Next Newsletter!**

Message from the president:



As the incoming 2025 president of the Ozarks Writers League, I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I've been a member of OWL continuously for the past several years and off and on almost since the group's inception in the 1980s. While I already know many of you, there are also a number of you I have never met, but I hope to lower that number during the coming year.

I've started making some preliminary plans for our spring 2025 conference, and I'm looking forward to another successful year of OWLs. As most of you know, we have traditionally held our conferences in the Branson area, but nothing in our current bylaws mandates that we do so. Since I live in Joplin, I'd like to have the spring conference in Joplin. More details to come. Although I'm not looking beyond the spring right now, I suspect that we may move back to Branson for the fall conference, but I do like the idea of not necessarily always meeting in the same city or town.

I want to thank Ronda Del Boccio, our outgoing president, for two years of excellent leadership and for helping me with the transition. We currently still have a couple of 2025 positions that need filling. Among the most pressing needs is a social media coordinator. A link to a handbook outlining the duties of the various OWL offices and positions can be found on our OWL website, but one of the main duties of the social media coordinator is posting on and moderating our Facebook page. We also need a coordinator for fundraising. If you think you might be interested in either of these positions, you can email me at larryewood@mail.com.

Larry Wood
2025 OWL President



President Larry Wood has been an OWL member off and on since the 1980s. No doubt he will lead us to great things in 2025.

Larry Wood has been writing professionally for 45 years. He has written everything from children's fiction to how-to articles, but during most of his career he has specialized in historical nonfiction, having written eighteen nonfiction history books. He is also the author of two historical novels and approximately 500 magazine articles and stories. In addition, he has contributed short stories to several anthologies. Wood especially enjoys writing about episodes of the Civil War and the Old West that occurred in or near his home territory of the Ozarks.



Vice President Mary-Lane Kamberg is a professional writer, editor, and speaker. She specializes in nonfiction, but also writes short fiction and poetry. She has written more than 30 books for middle school and high school libraries and has also written extensively for trade and business publications in the hydroelectric, veterinary, and produce industries. She also writes nonfiction books and magazine articles for adults and children. She was first published at the age of seven. She used a toy printing press to

publish a neighborhood newspaper, which she sold for 2 cents. She earned her first dollar for poetry at the age of 9. She is co-leader of the Kansas City Writers Group. She also founded and directs the I Love To Write Camps for young writers. She has a B.S. in Journalism from the University of Kansas (Go Jayhawks!) and is an avid basketball fan. She is a former coach for the Kansas City Blazers swim team. She lives in Olathe, Kansas.



Duke Pennell will serve as OWL's Treasurer one more time.

Duke is a many-year member, and a past president, of OWL. He and wife Kimberly founded Pen-L Publishing in 2012, and have now published over 130 fiction and non-fiction books. (Note they are closed for submissions.)

Named one of the Top Ten Editors of both Novels and Ezines by Preditors & Editors, Duke has edited many authors' books that won national and regional awards and is himself an award-winning author

By the way, Duke is his real name, and his advice to writers is "Push harder, learn more, and dig deeper into yourself. That's where the gold lies."



Diana Collard at Fall OWL Conference



Lia Wu of Ozark Hollow Press



David Corbly sharing website wisdom



Annie Lisenby selling her books



Margarite Stever will serve as Secretary for 2025.

Margarite Stever grew up in Asbury, a tiny Missouri town of just over 200 people. She lives in a larger city now but tries to stay true to her small town, country roots. She has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English from Missouri Southern State University. She is an award-winning author who writes stories and essays that touch a person's heart. She is a member of Joplin Writers' Guild, Missouri Writers Guild, Sleuths' Ink Mystery Writers, serves on the board of Ozarks Writers League, and is Vice President of Ozarks Romance Authors. She published her novel, *Sally's Secret Legacy*, in October of 2023 and her short story collection, *Moonbeams and Ashes*, in October of 2021. Her work has appeared in several literary journals, magazines, and anthologies, including *Chicken Soup for the Soul: It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas*. You can visit her website at www.margaritestever.com. Her seeds of wisdom and joy can be seen on her blog at ozarksmaven.com.

We look forward to seeing you at OWL in 2025!

Conference fun from November



2025 Officers Duke Pennell, Mary-Lane Kamberg, Larry Wood, Margarite Stever



Tex Thompson sharing her wisdom



Bonnie Tesh with her new book



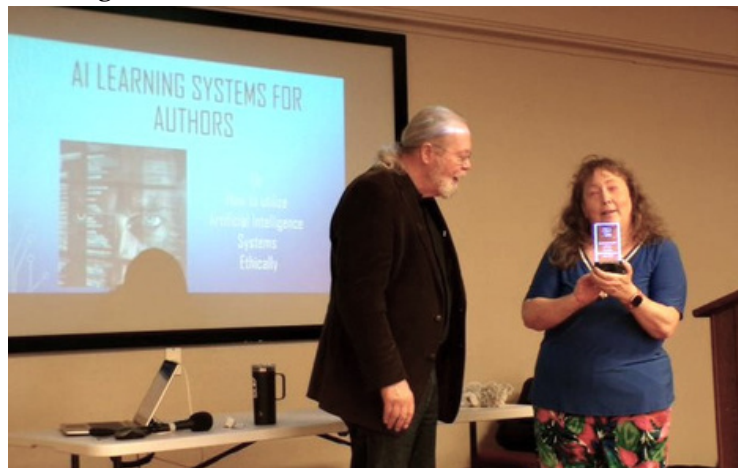
Rose Heaser browsing



Rochelle Wisoff-Fields and her work



OWL Members enjoying a break between sessions



Duke Pennell with 2023 and 2024 President Ronda Del Boccio