



# ***The Legend***

**West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.**  
Member Newsletter

[www.wflf.org](http://www.wflf.org)

**December 2021 Edition**

---

## **No Open Mic in December**

WFLF will not hold an Open Mic in December. We wish you and your families a happy holiday season, and we look forward to planning special events and programs for you in 2022!

We hold Open Mic every third Tuesday of the month. All paid members and emeritus members will receive a Zoom invitation. Registration is required. (*Annual dues can be paid online.*) Below is a link for a short Zoom tutorial.

[https://www.youtube.com/embed/hlkCmbvAHQQ?rel=0&autoplay=1&cc\\_load\\_policy=1](https://www.youtube.com/embed/hlkCmbvAHQQ?rel=0&autoplay=1&cc_load_policy=1)

## MEET OUR MEMBERS



**Pam Mathison-Levitt** joined WFLF to connect with local writers, learn strategies for a successful writing life, to share work and to gain support. Pam was

published in the 2021 Emerald Coast Review (ECR) and read her work at the October open mic. After that “kind and supportive experience,” Pam officially joined WFLF.

Pam is married and homeschools her two children. The family has two guinea pigs, and she has been known to have temporary animals for educational purposes, such as observing anoles and butterflies. During COVID-19, Pam coordinated a virtual homeschool co-op where she taught workshops in poetry writing and fiction focused on character development, setting and plot. Pam’s kids also enjoy writing.

Two threads have always run through Pam’s life: writing and teaching. She began journal writing at age 9. She’s compelled to create and express emotions through her work and says, “Although I feel tremendous vulnerability in sharing my work, I really love that feeling when I share a poem or essay with someone, and it resonates emotionally. Connecting with others over a shared experience

expressed through the written word is such a powerful moment.”

Pam also uses writing as a way to process her experiences with chronic illness and disability. She has written and impacted others who face health challenges. She empowers herself by using her struggles to lift up others while expanding compassion and understanding. Her writing goals are focusing on “doing the next write thing” and following a very intuitive writing path as it unfolds. She plans to build a more disciplined and frequent writing practice through NaPoWriMo and the WFLF November writing challenge. Pam has been published in the following publications: The Anthology of Appalachian Writers: Bobbie Ann Mason Volumes III and V, Fluent Magazine, Good Shepherds Good Town newspaper and Emerald Coast Review 21. You can read her essays published on The Mighty, here:

- [themighty.com/2021/09/battling-guilt-grief-ehlers-danlos-syndrome-chronic-disability/](https://themighty.com/2021/09/battling-guilt-grief-ehlers-danlos-syndrome-chronic-disability/)
- [themighty.com/2021/07/traveling-chronic-disability-eds-pots-mcas/](https://themighty.com/2021/07/traveling-chronic-disability-eds-pots-mcas/)

When not writing and teaching, Pam enjoys watching Netflix, particularly British murder mysteries, cooking shows, and romantic comedies. She also likes crafting, playing board games and gardening. Pam enjoys reading different genres from what she writes, such as mysteries and nonfiction books. As a general rule, Pam tries to read and write whatever feels natural and just brings her joy.

# 2ND ANNUAL POEM-A-DAY CHAPBOOK CHALLENGE

Join the 2020 winner and see your poetry chapbook published! (#WFLFNOVPAD)

The WFLF 2021 poetry chapbook challenge is open for entries. The winning chapbook receives 2022 publication through Amazon KDP, with a publication contract, five free author copies, and a \$100 prize.

**Submission Dates:**

Dec. 5 – 20, 2021

**Fee:**

\$15 US (members)

\$20 (non-members  
includes 2022 membership)

**Winner Announcement:**

January 18, 2022 Open Mic

**Judge:**

Katherine Nelson-Born, Poet Laureate of  
Northwest Florida

The contest is limited to the first 50  
submissions.

**Submit:** [SUBMITTABLE](#)

**SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:**

1. Submit a collection or sequence of original poems not to exceed 30 pages/poems.
2. The author's name should not appear anywhere in the manuscript or anywhere in the file.
3. All submissions are kept anonymous to the judge. Manuscripts should be typed, with pages numbered and formatted with easy-to-read font.
4. Please provide a title page and table of contents.
5. Poems that have been published elsewhere are NOT eligible for submission. Please note that the



2020 Winner, NOVPAD Challenge

30-page limit does not include title page or table of contents.

6. File name should be the title of the submitted manuscript. Only .DOCX and .DOC files are accepted.


### **SUBMISSION AGREEMENT**

When you submit to the WFLF Poem-A-Day Chapbook Contest and/or publish with the WFLF, here is what you are agreeing to:

1. First serial rights. We accept simultaneous submissions, but if your work is accepted elsewhere, we ask you to let us know as soon as possible so we can withdraw your application.
2. If your body of work is accepted and published, rights revert back to you.
3. You grant us non-exclusive re-print rights. We may utilize parts of your work for promotional materials, for example, to market our next contest
4. Publication of your work by the WFLF is subject to a contract between you the author and WFLF the publisher
5. Chapbook should be published in time for books sales/promo during April 2022, National Poetry Month.

**NOTE:** Writers will be notified the status of their manuscript via email. Due to the high

volume of applications, we are not able to provide feedback at this time.



### **WFLF at the 2021 Great Gulfcoast Arts Festival**

Ten authors and WFLF combined at the 2021 Great Gulfcoast Arts Festival (Heritage Arts) to make 80 sales totaling over \$1300. After deducting \$200 for the booth fee, WFLF made \$135 on sales of the *Emerald Coast Review XXI* and other books from past years. We also gave out dozens of free books to both child and adult festival goers.

Sales reports and checks have been sent out to all selling authors. The booth was provided by WFLF to our members at no charge. Our top selling author was Michele Le Blanc with 20 sales, while the top-selling title was *Lost Scrolls of Archimedes* by Tom Roberts.

Most importantly, our presence at GGAF exposed WFLF to the general public and to local writers—whether current or aspiring—and gained us recognition as a local organization supporting writers. We hope to see many of the writers join our organization.

Thank you to all who participated in the event or who stopped by and supported us!

## IN OUR WRITE MINDS

In lieu of my regular column, I'd like to share an exciting writing opportunity with you! The West Florida Literary Federation, (WFLF) will sponsor a contest for short, creative nonfiction, starting in January 2022. It's titled ***In Focus: A Contest for Flash Memoir***. Luke Wallin, professor of creative writing, former Editor of ***The Louisville Review***, and award-winning author of national acclaim, will serve as a guest judge.



### ENTRY FEE

If you are a WFLF member, there is no entry fee. Non-members will pay \$10, which goes to support programs and projects that promote the literary arts.

### PRIZES

First, second and third place will be awarded cash prizes of \$100, \$50, and \$25.

### MENTIONS

Honorable mentions will receive certificates of merit. Winning memoirs will be published in West Florida Literary Federation's electronic newsletter, ***The Legend***, which will be emailed to winners and WFLF members. Winners will be announced at the Federation's annual meeting in Pensacola, Florida, which is scheduled for February 2022.

### SUBMISSIONS

Entries will be accepted beginning January 1, through midnight, January 31, 2022.

Submissions will be accepted via the online submission management system named **SUBMITTABLE**. If you are unfamiliar with this system, you can easily set up a free account at: <https://manager.submittable.com>.

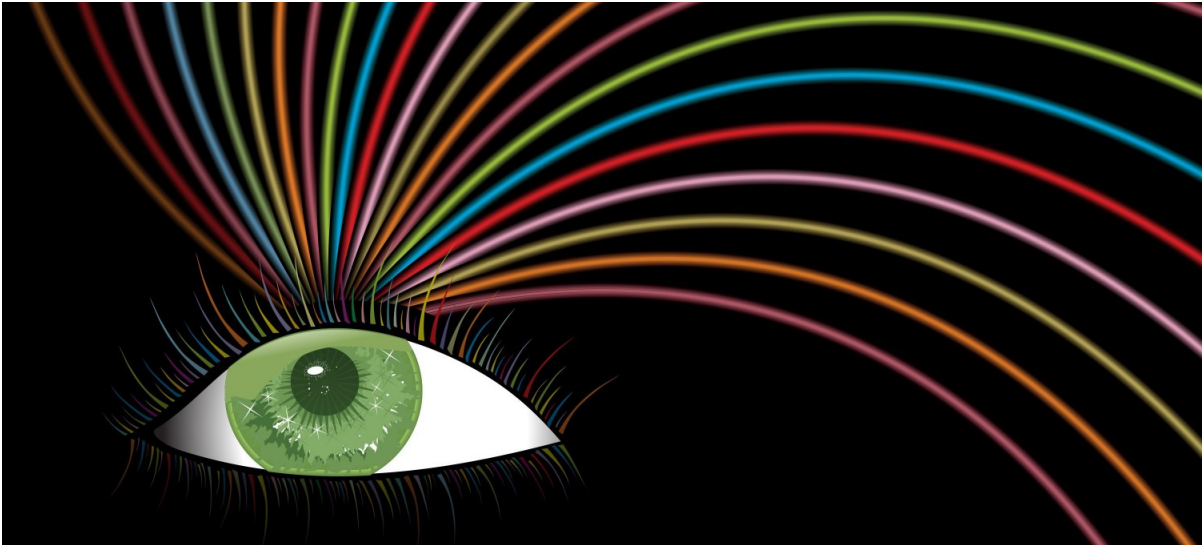
### STAY TUNED

Submission Guidelines will be available by mid-December, 2021 on Submittable and at [www.wflf.org](http://www.wflf.org).

Start the New Year by taking advantage of this fun writing opportunity. Share your moments of truth, the crossroads and rest stops on your life journey, the images that define who you were and who you are. If you'd like to read more about brief forms of memoir, explore <https://brevitymag.com/craft-essays>.

See the flyer ***In Focus: A Contest for Flash Memoir*** on the next page. We look forward to reading your entry!

—Claire Massey



# IN FOCUS

a flash fiction contest

Think back on your flashpoint moments, your pivotal scenes, the revealing snapshots in time, the short take on a brief but oh-so-meaningful encounter. In no more than 800 words, share the heart of your story, the keepsake take-away, the kernel, the essence. Enter "In Focus" to win up to \$100.

Contest open to any resident 18 and older in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay counties (FL) and Escambia, Mobile, Baldwin counties (AL), and to members of West Florida Literary Federation and Florida Writers Association. Entry fee \$10, free for WFLF members. Limited to one entry per writer, all submissions online at Submittable. Deadline midnight 1.31.22

cash prizes • national judge  
enter January 1 - 31, 2022

ENTRY INFORMATION AT [WFLF.ORG](http://WFLF.ORG) or SUBMITTABLE

Sponsored by West Florida Literary Federation, Inc. Pensacola, FL • a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization • westfloraliteraryfederation@gmail.com

## WRITING NEWS

### Congratulations Pen Women!

Various competitions are held biennially by the Florida State Association (FSA) of the National League of American Pen Women. Several members also are WFLF members.

At the FSA biennial business meeting in October, Karen Morris was re-elected president, and Andrea Walker was elected secretary for the 2022-2024 term. In this year's Letters competition, these members of the Pensacola branch earned the following awards:

**Pat Black-Gould** won 1<sup>st</sup> place in short story, scripts and Libretti for "Murder in Hell's Kitchen"

**Claire Massey** won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in short story, scripts, and Libretti for "Tantrum on the Beach" which was published in Saw Palm: Journal of Florida Art and Literature and honorable mention for her poem, "Coronosphere" in the free verse category, which was published in Persimmon Tree Literary Journal.

**Karen Morris** won 1<sup>st</sup> place in traditional poetry for "A Spring Still Winter" Karen also won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in free verse for "Leavings," and she was also selected Pen Woman of the Year at the 2021 State Biennial Conference.

**Andrea Walker** won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in memoir, personal essay, and inspirational for "29 Houses: A Moving Journey"



Pat Black-Gould



Claire Massey



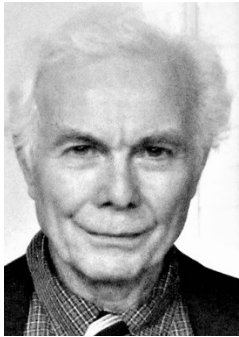
Karen Morris



Andrea Walker

## More Congratulations!

During the Alabama State Poetry Society's 2021 fall meeting, two WFLF members received multiple awards:



### Leonard Temme

- Truth Award, 1<sup>st</sup> place “The Reception”
- Professor Suzanne MacRae Memorial Award, 2<sup>nd</sup> place, “Moment”
- Haibun Award, 3<sup>rd</sup> place, “Now I Understand”



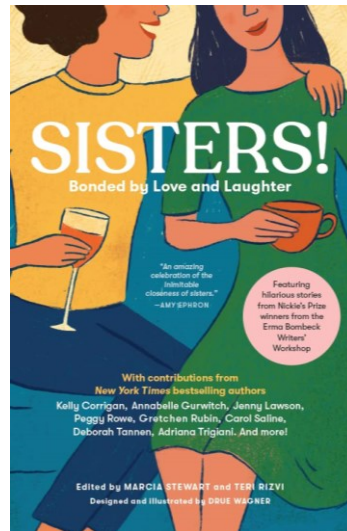
### Karen McAferty Morris

- Alabama State Poetry Society Fall Contest Award, 2<sup>nd</sup> place for “In August, a Gleaning”
- Haibun Award for “Oak Fall”
- Buddy Roberts Memorial Award, 2<sup>nd</sup> place for “Italian Autumn”
- I’ll Take the French Form Award, 2<sup>nd</sup> place for “Dawn Can Come” (a quatern)

## Poems Accepted for Publication

Two poems written by Claire Massey will appear in the upcoming issue of POEM. “Mark as Read” and “Cigarettes and Scratch-offs” will appear in the poetry journal, published twice a year, (spring and late fall) by the Huntsville Literary Association. The print issue will be available in December. For sample copies and subscription details, visit: <https://hlahsv.org/poem/>

## Essay Publishing News



Mandy Fernandez’s essay was published in the University of Dayton’s Erma Bombeck Writers’ Workshop’s latest book “Sisters! Bonded by Love and Laughter.” The

collection features 21 insightful and hilarious stories about sisters and sisterly bonds experienced among friends and other influential women. Her essay is one of 21 winners of Nickie’s Prize for Humor Writing. She read this essay with her oldest daughter at the Nov. 16 WFLF open mic meeting. The book also features stories and interviews with New York Times bestselling authors. Buy a copy at: [amazon.com/dp/0578993791?ref=pe\\_3052080\\_397514860](https://amazon.com/dp/0578993791?ref=pe_3052080_397514860) to share with your sisters and friends this holiday season.



# Writing for Your Website

By Lori Zavada, Legend editor



Few of us may ever achieve J.K. Rowling or John Grisham writing success levels, but we can try! Most of us will not only write books, but we also will create and manage our own

websites on which to promote our work. If you have a website, here are some considerations for good web content:

**You can't trick readers** onto your site simply by using key words. Your words must be used in a meaningful, authentic way. Readers—and algorithms—can tell when you are forcing specific words into your content for the sake of search engine optimization (SEO). The best way to achieve this is to be an expert on your topic. Be honest. Share something of value.

**Use plain language** or words that the average person searches by on the internet. Otherwise, it's highly likely no one will find your website unless it's by accident.

**Write short.** Web readers are “skimmers.” According to Seattleu.edu, a web reader

only consumes about 20% of the content on a page, so write short paragraphs, about 5 sentences long. Also write relatively short sentences, no more than 20 words long. Use bullets, lists and headers. Questions often work well as headlines.

**Write a clear call-to-action.** For instance, if you want someone to email you, sign up for a newsletter, attend a book signing or click on a link to buy your book, make that clear on the page.

**Use hyperlinks.** Linking meaningful content throughout content pages will keep readers on your site, exploring and learning more about you.

**Use active voice** and speak directly to the reader in second person language.

It's not as sexy as a romance novel or as exhilarating as a thriller, but writing good web content serves a purpose. It can help you promote your work, and it lends credibility to you as a writer.

Further explore this topic by reading the following articles on the following sites:

“Checklist for Plain Language on the Web” at [Plainlanguage.gov](http://Plainlanguage.gov)

“How to Write User-Friendly Content” at [Usability.gov](http://Usability.gov)

“Writing for the Web” at [Seattleu.edu](http://Seattleu.edu)

“Writing for the Web” at [HHS.gov](http://HHS.gov)

## **Renew Your Membership and Encourage Others to Join WFLF!**

The time is coming up to renew your WFLF membership! Please renew your membership **by Jan. 1, 2022**. Encourage writers, artists and friends you know to join and renew too.

Why should you renew? We're glad you asked! Here's why:

### **Connect**

Be among our network of writers, artists and creative enthusiasts! We have something for everyone at every level. We support and encourage your writing goals.

- monthly meetings on the third Tuesday of every month where we share writing and have speakers
- weekly writing critique groups where members share feedback on work to enhance creativity
- member-written features in our monthly newsletter
- sharing writing opportunities and resources on social media. We have an outward facing Facebook page and Twitter Page. Here are the links to both:
  1. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/West-Florida-Literary-Federation-WFLF-255101747857712>
  2. Twitter: <https://twitter.com/wstflitfed>
  3. We also have a private Facebook group page for our current members. There is where we can get more personal in a private,

secure setting. In this group we share writing ideas, ask questions, share writing contests and more.

### **Learn**

As writers and artists, we never stop learning and developing our craft. WFLF shares free workshops and will offer workshops as needs and interest occurs. As a member, you gain access to these free or discounted resources. Read about our rich history and how we formed in 1986 - [wflf.org/History](http://wflf.org/History).

### **Publish**

We offer ongoing ways to help you be published as well as encourage you to seek traditional publication.

- Submit work to the Emerald Coast Review. Every other year since 1989, the WFLF has published the Emerald Coast Review (ECR), an anthology that showcases gulf coast Florida and Alabama regional writers and artists. Read more about the ECR on our website, <https://wflf.org/ecr>.
- Submit work, columns and features to our monthly newsletter to be published.
- Our website will have ongoing ways to be published and share your creativity.
- We can help you find resources (books, websites, workshops, cover artists, etc.) to further your self-publishing plans.
- WFLF offers engaging writing challenges and opportunities to

share writing throughout the year in different ways.

1. Past examples include a poem-a-day challenge and a Haiku challenge.
2. The November 2020 poem-a-day challenge resulted in a published chapbook for one WFLF member.

You can learn more about these events and how we sponsor or host them from our website and monthly newsletter.

### **Achieve**

When we work together, we share our love of art and let our creative voices be heard! We all have different goals and skills, but we have that mutual respect and admiration for the craft. Let us know how we can help you share your talents and support you!

Besides connecting, learning, publishing and achieving goals, we also offer leadership and volunteer opportunities!

### **Leadership and Volunteer Opportunities**

If you have great ideas and energy to share, make your voice known and volunteer to serve in a WFLF board member position or on a committee. The board consists of several elected members

for two-year terms (president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, and three general members). The board typically meets once a month to discuss membership, education, networking, and other ways to enhance the organization. In addition, volunteers on committees are always in need, such as youth writing, biannual publications, workshops, grant-seeking opportunities, etc. Become a leader or mentor for other writers. Share your knowledge and experience to help other artists in our region. We welcome you.

### **How to Renew**

We want you to renew and encourage others to join or renew as well by our Jan 1, 2022 deadline. You can renew now online at [wflf.org/Membership](http://wflf.org/Membership). You may also mail in your check to:

West Florida Literary Federation  
400 South Jefferson Street, Suite 212  
Pensacola, FL 32502.

If you joined as a new member after November 1, 2021, your dues include membership for 2022. For any questions related to membership, reach out to us at [westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com](mailto:westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com).

## Nominations for the 2022 WFLF Board

It's that time of year. Nominations are now being accepted for the following open positions on the 2022 West Florida Literary Federation board.

Positions become open when the term of an incumbent board member expires or the member resigns. Current members of WFLF may nominate a member for an open position by submitting the name of the member by email to our nominating chair, Debra Stogner at: [debrastogner@gmail.com](mailto:debrastogner@gmail.com). Include "WFLF Board Nominations" in the subject line of your email, which should be sent by February 1, 2022.

Please check with an individual before nominating him or her for one of the open positions.

To quote from our bylaws:

"All officers shall be nominated by membership and elected by ballot at the annual meeting by a majority of members of the Federation present and voting. Only those officers who have signified their consent to serve if elected shall be nominated."

"The officers of the Federation shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Terms of office for officers shall be two (2) years. No officer may serve more than two consecutive terms in office."

"Directors shall be nominated and elected by the general membership of the Federation."

"A term of office for a director is two (2) years. Directors may be reelected to subsequent terms, but may not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms."

The four open positions are:

- President
- Treasurer
- Director 1
- Director 2

Copies of the WFLF bylaws can be requested by sending an email to:  
[westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com](mailto:westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com)

## WORKSHOPS and PUBLISHING

### MONDAY POETRY

An informal group of poets with varying levels of experience get together and share work, discuss writing or just listen. We welcome respectful critiques and feedback. The group meets virtually on the first Monday of the month from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information, please contact Debra Stogner at: [debrastogner@gmail.com](mailto:debrastogner@gmail.com).

This group is at capacity right now, but contact us to be put on a waitlist if you're interested in joining. Participants roll off and on causing membership to fluctuate. We'll contact you if an opening occurs.

### WEDNESDAY PORTFOLIO and EXCHANGE SOCIETY

A lively critique group meets every Wednesday, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., on Zoom. The group is looking for writers of any genre — memoir, poetry, fiction, nonfiction — who want to work on completing a project in 12 months. Since the group formed, several members have published books. Participants exchange writing tips, websites, and general trivia. For more information, please reach out to Diane Skelton at [dianeskelton@att.net](mailto:dianeskelton@att.net). Please contact Diane regarding meetings during this time.

### LEGEND SUBMISSIONS NEW EMAIL

Please share your creative work or writing news with us at a **new email address!**

**[editor@WFLF.org](mailto:editor@WFLF.org)**

Send us your headshot and a graphic of the publication in jpeg format so that people recognize you as the author or your book cover. Submit creative writing, literary news, advice or writing achievements.

**Submission deadline:** 15<sup>th</sup> of each month  
**Publication date:** on or near the 1st of the following month.

Thanks for supporting our newsletter.

---

**Happy Holidays to you and**

**wishes for a wonder-filled**

**New Year!**

## **WFLF 2021 Board of Directors**

President: Lisa Rawson

Vice President: Mandy Fernandez

Secretary: Charline Barger

Treasurer: Tom Roberts

Director: Claire Massey

Director: Jeannie Zokan

Director/Poet Laureate: Katherine Nelson-Born

The Legend Editor: Lori Zavada, [editor@WFLF.org](mailto:editor@WFLF.org)

Directors can be contacted at: [WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com](mailto:WestFloridaLiteraryFederation@gmail.com)

Check out our website at: [www.wflf.org](http://www.wflf.org)

“Like” us on Facebook, (under) West Florida Literary Federation at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/WestFlorida-Literary-FederationWFLF/255101747857712?ref=h>

“Follow” us on Twitter @ WSTFLLITFED

### **WFLF Member of Community of Literary Magazines and Presses**

PROUD MEMBER



COMMUNITY OF LITERARY MAGAZINES & PRESSES  
W W W . C L M P . O R G

West Florida Literary Federation ~ Join or Renew

Memberships are good for one calendar year beginning January 1 and ending December 31.

Individual membership is \$35/year, two-year \$60. Couple one-year \$60, two-year \$115. New members with no previous WFLF membership pay \$20 and, if joining after July 1, their dues include the current year and the following year. Subsequent years are due annually by January 1. Student membership is \$15.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Check one please:      New \_\_\_\_\_      Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle the items you **do not** want published in the WFLF members only directory:

Address                      Phone                      Email

If no item is circled, we will include all your information in the next published directory.

**Pensacola, FL 32502**

Send your payment via PayPal at  
<http://wflf.org> and email this form to:  
[westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com](mailto:westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com) or

Mail your check and this form to:  
West Florida Literary Federation,  
400 South Jefferson Street, Suite 212  
Pensacola, FL 32502



**West Florida Literary Federation, Inc.**  
**Pensacola Cultural Center**  
**400 South Jefferson Street Suite 212**