

Writers' Guild of Alberta
Annual General Meeting

September 17, 2020

7:00 – 8:30 pm

Virtual AGM

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes: AGM, June 9, 2019
4. President's Welcome & Report
5. Executive Director's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Committee Reports
 - i. Youth Committee
8. Appointment of Auditors
9. Elections of WGA Executive and Board for 2020 / 2021
10. Other Business
11. Adjournment

Candidates and Incumbents
 Writers' Guild of Alberta
 Executive and Board 2020/2021

Position	2019/2020	Nominations
President Leslie Chivers, Edmonton Completed second year of first term	Vacant	Leslie Chivers
Vice President Leanne Myggland-Carter, Spruce Grove Completed first year of first term	Vacant	Theresa Uchechi Ezeuko
Secretary Kevin Thornton, Fort McMurray Completed first year of first term	Filled	
Treasurer Susan Carpenter, Calgary Completed first year of first term	Filled	
Member at Large Lisa Mulrooney, Stony Plain Completed second year of first term	Vacant	
Member at Large Alison Clarke, Edmonton Completed first year of second term	Filled	
Member at Large Kim Fraser, Sherwood Park Completed first year of first term	Filled	
Member at Large Therese Greenwood, Fort McMurray Completed first year of first term	Filled	
Member at Large (Youth Representative) Sophie Pinkoski, Edmonton Completed second year of first term	Vacant	Sophie Pinkoski
Past President Outgoing: Carol Parchewsky, Calgary	Filled	Not an elected position, Carol

- Each Board member is voted in for a term of two years and limited to a maximum of two terms for a total of four years, except in the case of the past president who may hold office during the term of his/her successor.
 - In rare circumstances by unanimous, anonymous vote by the board an individual board member will be permitted to stand for election for a third two-year term based on the needs of the board, the extension of the third term to be ratified at the Annual General Meeting.
 - Under no circumstances can this term be extended. The additional year as past president is outside of these terms.
- There shall be no more than three members of the board who reside in the same centre.
- Board members need to be elected into Executive positions. If a member is nominated mid-term for an Executive position but fails to be elected, that member reverts back to their original position to finish their two-year term
- Written nominations for the Board of Directors may be made in advance of the AGM, signed by the candidate and two members of the Guild who are in good standing. Additionally, nominations and seconding motions may be put forth at the AGM by Guild members who are in good standing with the consent of the nominee.
- Board members are elected by the majority vote of members present or, under Robert's Rules of Order, if there is no opposition there is no need for a formal vote. The matter is decided by "acclamation" or by "unanimous consent."

Vacant Positions

Member at Large

Members seeking election to the Executive

Vice President

Theresa Uchechi Ezeuko is a Canada (Calgary Alberta) based creative writer and author of five lovely books, "Storytales For Little Minds ", "Jasmine the Ladybird ", "Kachi the handyman", "Betty's Desire. and "Sọchima awakening of the gods"

She obtained a bachelor's degree in theater arts from Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka Nigeria. A master's degree in International marketing from the University of West of Scotland, United Kingdom. A specialization in Creative writing from Wesleyan University Connecticut in the United States of America and a specialization in coaching skills for managers from University of California Davis.

She is an active member of the writer's alliance of Newfoundland and Labrador and a one-time member of the writer's guild of Newfoundland and Labrador Canada. Theresa was a jury for the Newfoundland and

Labrador 2018 young adults/children's book award. She also served as a member of the board for St. John's public library and the writer's guild of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Election Statement: Redefining creativity by merging our literary passion towards building a reputable organisation. The unprecedented challenges of 2020 highlight the criticality of a nimble and dynamic leadership. Vote Uchechi Theresa Ezeuko as Vice President of Writer's Guild of Alberta.

Endorsement: Leslie Chivers (leslie.chivers@icloud.com)

Endorsement: Kevin Thornton (kevinphilipthornton@gmail.com) -- I would like to both recommend and endorse Theresa Ezeuko for the position of VP of the WGA. I have heard excellent things about her and as a published author she brings her experience and gravitas to our board.

Current Board members seeking re-election to the Executive

President

Leslie Chivers is a writer of fiction currently living in Edmonton but who has lived in numerous places all over the province. He attended university in the fine arts program majoring in visual arts and minoring in creative writing. He currently has three short stories published and is working on a full-length novel. Also, a member of PEN Canada and PEN America, Leslie believes in and advocates for free speech and the freedom to write.

Current Board members seeking re-election to Member at Large

Member at Large (Youth Representative)

Sophie Pinkoski has been active on the board since October 2017 and is the current chair of the WGA Youth Committee. She received a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Victoria, and a Master of Science in Publishing from Edinburgh Napier University. She is a dark fantasy novelist in both the adult and young adult age brackets and offers marketing and editorial services through Pinkoski Consulting. While completing her Master's, she took on a Managing Editor role at Merchiston Publishing and Features Editor role for *Buzz Magazine*, as well as working in the Children's Marketing and Publicity office at Penguin Random House London. Her experience in the UK has given her opportunities to work closely alongside agents, publishers, and authors alike.

Current Board members not requiring election

Treasurer

Susan Carpenter earned an Honours English Degree from Western University, a PR Certificate through Mount Royal University, and a Creative Writing Certificate from the Humber School for Writers. Her short fiction has been nominated for the Howard O'Hagan Award, the Journey Prize, was a finalist in the Short

Prose Competition through the Writers' Union of Canada, came first-runner-up in the Little Bird Contest, and won The Fringe Contest at the Eden Mills Writers' Festival. In 2016, she was chosen by The Writers' Guild of Alberta as one of five emerging voices to receive a mentorship for a YA novel.

Susan teaches Sarah Selecky's Story Intensive online. By day, she works as an Associate Investment Advisor in Calgary, and by night raises a blended family of five sons in various stages of higher learning and moving out, and a chocolate lab that refuses to launch.

Secretary

Kevin Thornton was born in Kenya and has lived or worked in New Zealand, South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, England, Dubai and Afghanistan. He has lived in Alberta for nearly 14 years. Kevin believes in community involvement. He was the Library board chair, is a member of the Heritage society and the local Arts Council, who awarded him the first Fort McMurray Literary award in 2016. Kevin is also on the board of the Crime Writers of Canada and is a member of the CWA, the ITW, the IACW and the Keys. Kevin has had numerous short stories and poems published in over 20 collections and has been shortlisted seven times for the Arthur Ellis Awards.

Member at Large

Alison Clarke is a poet and fantasy author who is also a creative writing and visual arts instructor. She also experiences life as a spoken word artist. Alison is the author of *Phillis: A Poetry Collection*, to be published by the University of Calgary Press in October 2020. She is also the author of *The Sisterhood*, a young adult fantasy novel about Oppie, a sorceress' daughter, and her best friend, Aurie, who is a dragon, and the journey they go on to save the universe. *The Sisterhood* is Book One of *The Sisterhood Series*, for which Alison won the award 2016 Writer of The Year by Diversity magazine. The second book in the series is *Racine* and the third is *Circle* which was released on November 27, 2018. Alison believes that storytelling can change the world.

Member at Large

Dr. Kimberly Fraser, an author with an MFA in Creative Nonfiction, has extensive clinical practice and leadership in nursing and health care. A nurse entrepreneur, Kim owned a successful home care company and vocational school with her husband for 25 years.

Her research program and her writing focuses on family caregiving and home care using innovative and arts-based approaches. She recently retired from her fulltime role as a professor (University of Alberta) and Clinician Scientist (Alberta Health Services). Kim uses applied research to incite public conversations and inform policy for better outcomes for home care clients and family caregivers. Kim has embarked on a second career as author and recently completed her first full length book manuscript, *The Accidental Caregiver*, forthcoming in 2021. She does contract teaching with Athabasca University.

Kim has been active on several community boards in the past and is currently, she Vice-President of Caregivers Alberta. She is looking forward to the second year of her term on the board with AWG.

Member at Large

Therese Greenwood's memoir *What You Take With You: Wildfire, Family and the Road Home*, published by University of Alberta Press, is a Finalist for a 2020 Book Publishers Association of Alberta Award. She won the 2019 Spur Award from the Western Writers of America for her story "Buck's Last Ride" in *Kill As You Go*, her 2018 short story collection from Calgary publisher Coffin Hop Press. She is a three-time Finalist for the Arthur Ellis Award, Canada's top mystery-writing prize, and has co-edited two short crime fiction anthologies. Her short crime fiction has appeared across Canada and the U.S. She has worked as a journalist and spent a decade as a weekly CBC Radio correspondent. Her feature stories and columns have appeared in publications ranging from *The Globe and Mail* to *Cottage Life*, and she has a Master's degree in journalism.

Past President

Carol Parchewsky will be the **Past President** for the 2020/21 year.

Carol has been an active member of the WGA for over four years. She received her Master of Fine Arts, Creative Writing from Queens University of Charlotte, her Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering, from the University of Saskatchewan, and her Postgraduate Certificates in Professional Management—PEG, e-Learning, and Creative Writing from the University of Calgary. She is a knowledgeable senior leader with experience in government organizations, civic organizations, and in the private sector. Currently, she is Operations Director of Legend Grafix, an all-inclusive graphic design house and wide-format printer based in Calgary, Alberta. Carol also teaches ESL classes and writing classes. Carol writes picture books, middle grade, adult fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction. She is working on a novel and a collection of short stories.

Writers' Guild of Alberta Annual General Meeting Minutes
Sunday, June 9, 2019 11:00am – 12:00 pm
Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel, Valley Ballroom, 2nd Floor
10155-105th Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 1E2

Board Members Present:

Carol Parchewsky, President; Leslie Chivers, Vice-President; Dustin Archibald, Past President; Falon Reed, Treasurer; Lori Hahnel, Secretary; Sophie Pinkoski, Youth Representative; Joan Crate, Alison Clarke, Members-at-Large

Regrets: Lisa Mulrooney, Member-at-Large

Staff Present:

Carol Holmes, Giorgia Severini, Ellen Kartz, Jason Norman, Mike Maguire, Tania Gigliotti

Members Present:

Akosua Adapi, Rona Altrows, Graham Bell, Lori Brietzke, Jenna Butler, Dymphny Dronyk, Caterina Edwards, Lorraine Feldberg, Kimberly Fraser, Myrna Garanis, Raymond Gariépy, Susan Glasier, Jo-Ann Godfrey, Leslie Greentree, Therese Greenwood, Shelly Ann Guinn, Jane Harris (Harris-Zsovan), Pamela Harry, Betty Jane Hegerat, Gulshan Hussein, Shirley Kabachia Fran Kimmel, Diana Lee, Donald Lee, Pearl Lorentzen, Janice MacDonald, Joy Magnusson, Alice Major, Kim Mannix, Lisa Martin, Erin McCandless, Maggie McCourt, Renée Meloche, Anna Mioduchowska, Catalina Morales Velez, Blaine Newton, Rick (Richard) Ogle, Eileen Omosa, Robert Proudfoot, Jane Ross, Paula Ryan, Rose Marie Sackela, J. Marilyn Scott, Audrey Seehagen, Shirley Serviss, Phyllis Shuell, Bob Stallworthy, Brian Stanko, Melissa Talbot, Kevin Thornton, Mike Tol, Emily Unland, S. G. (Sandra) Wong, Vivian Zenari

Members Present by Proxy: Shirlee Matheson

Non-Members Present: Elizabeth Hodgson, Brian Jones, Jody Tol

1. Call to Order at 11:06 AM by Carol Parchewsky

2. Approval of Agenda. MOTION: Moved by Alice Major, seconded by Marilyn Scott, to approve agenda. CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes: AGM, June 3, 2018. **MOTION: Moved by Audrey Seehagen, seconded by Marilyn Scott, to approve minutes. CARRIED**

4. President's Welcome & Report – Carol Parchewsky

- The WGA holds a wealth of information for all writers in Alberta. This year the board explored new fundraising opportunities and brought together regional representatives for digital strategy sessions. As well, our Strategic Plan was updated to 2025. The Buddy Program was restarted in 2019, and our Youth Committee brought in many new members. Thanks to Carol Holmes and the board for their hard work, and thanks to Dustin Archibald for his service to the board in many positions.

5. Executive Director's Report – Carol Holmes

- Pleased with Digital Strategy Funding from Canada Council, excited about progress on program.
- This year we partnered with Calgary's Alexandra Writers Centre Society on Borderlines program, which had run for six or seven years in Edmonton before we lost funding.
- We were happy to work with group in Lethbridge on WordBridge conference, which was very successful.
- Advocacy: at last year's AGM we were asked to contact the Public Lending Right program in regard to the new guidelines which imposed a payments cut off for registered titles at 25 years. We did write a letter to PLR, who were sympathetic but firm in their stance.
- Copyright: Since the 2012 Fair Dealing changes to the copyright act, Access Copyright has seen an 89% reduction in revenue. The House Heritage Committee released its Shifting Paradigms report last month, and recommended refunding. This was referred back to the government on Friday. No response yet.
- Staffing: With Julie Robinson and Natalie Cook leaving, there was a delay in some projects, notably the Borderlines program. Staff is now Ellen Kartz, Giorgia Severini, Jason Norman, Mike Maguire, Tania Gigliotti, Raymond Gariépy, Samantha Warwick, Colin Matthew.
- Membership is now the largest ever at 1,081 members. The increase is coming from across categories – more students, more seniors.
- Casino funding averages 75 to 85 K. Other funders are Canada Council, Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Calgary Arts Development Association, Edmonton Arts Council. Biggest question is AFA on three-year cycle contingent on budget. Guaranteed ¼ of funding at this point, therefore budgeting is challenging.
- Thanks to volunteers, staff, donors.

6. Treasurer's Report

Falon Reed

- We've seen a steady year of positive growth. Staff kept expenses closely to budget.
- RBC funded mentorship program.
- Fund Development Committee was disbanded, board regularly discusses funding.
- Casino revenue split over two years.
- Endowment fund growing. This fund enables us to diversify funding strategy.
- Thanks to WGA for her time on the board.

7. Committee Reports

i. Youth Committee – Sophie Pinkoski

- Calgary member Erin Vance departing to do masters, Amy le Blanc will take over.

- New plans for social media engagement.
- Ask a Publisher / Author events went well; carrying on with events to motivate writers.
- Amy working with Loft 112 and CPL.
- Researching book sale as fundraiser.
- Delighted with the increase in youth members.
- Plan to put up webpage for youth writers.

From the Floor:

Question: Where is membership located?

Statement: Carol Holmes says about one-third in Calgary, one third in Edmonton, one-third in 116 rural communities.

- Marilyn commends efforts in rural, comments that Lethbridge conference was good. Carol Holmes comments that there may be another next year.

Question: What about seniors, asks Rick Ogle.

Statement: Carol H says seniors make up at least 30% of our membership.

Question: Alice Major asks if we think about the needs of senior writers?

Statement: Carol H says this is something we'd like to work on further.

Question: Have we asked members for contact info or sponsorship ideas?

Statement: Carol Parchewsky says we put out calls for sponsors for book awards; for endowment fund, contact Carol Holmes; estate planning is an opportunity.

Question: Alice Major asks that given the uncertainty of AFA funding, should we do preliminary work to get it on new minister's agenda?

Statement: Carol Holmes says it's on the radar, WGA is a provincial arts service organization according to AFA. Minister did contact us and is hoping for a meeting.

MOTION: Moved by Leslie Greentree, seconded by Rona Altrows to accept reports as presented. CARRIED

8. Appointment of Auditors

MOTION: Moved by Blaine Newton, seconded by Fran Kimmel, to approve the appointment of Bergeron and Company as auditors for the 2019 / 20 fiscal year. CARRIED

9. Elections of WGA Executive and Board for 2019 / 2020

- One nomination for President: Leslie Chivers from Calgary. Leslie Chivers elected President by acclamation.
- One nomination for Vice President: Leanne Myggland-Carter from Spruce Grove. Leanne Myggland-Carter elected Vice President by acclamation.

- One nomination for Secretary: Kevin Thornton from Fort McMurray. Kevin Thornton elected Secretary by acclamation
- One nomination for Treasurer: Susan Carpenter from Calgary. Bob Stallworthy asks if the Treasurer needs to be an accountant. Audrey Seehagen and Dymphny Dronyk comment that it used to be. Susan has a strong financial background as an investment advisor. Falon comments that she spoke with Susan, and while she is not an accountant, Falon could mentor. Susan also could consult with our auditors. Bob withdraws his concerns.
Susan Carpenter elected by acclamation.

Election of Members at Large

There are two available positions.

- Nominations for Member at Large: Kim Fraser, Sherwood Park; Therese Greenwood, Fort McMurray; Alison Clarke, Edmonton (running for second term). Kim Fraser, Therese Greenwood, Alison Clarke elected Members-at-Large by acclamation.

Past President: Carol Parchewsky, Calgary (Not an elected position).

Youth Member-at-Large Sophie Pinkoski, Edmonton. Completed first year of first term.

Appointed after AGM 2017.

Lisa Mulrooney, Stony Plain Completed first year of first term as Member at Large.

10. Other Business

- Rona Altrows wishes to introduce a motion regarding book awards, towards the board reviewing policy and procedures with regard to four points:

1. What constitutes conflict of interest for juries?
2. Should Alberta writers be on juries?
3. How should the prize money be distributed?
4. Should the winner be kept secret until last minute?

- She suggests these guidelines:

- No Alberta writers on juries
- Each shortlisted author should receive an honorarium
- Advise the shortlist of the winner in advance

- Blaine Newton: Doesn't necessarily agree, but if the motion generally is to review process, then he would support.

- Lisa Martin: As a juror, she does jury work as a contribution to community.

- Joan Crate: If we review the process, should we define what the process is?

- Jason Norman: Current process is two in-province and one out-of-province juror on each jury. Jurors can recuse in the case of a direct relationship or interest in a nominee's work.
- Alice Major asks if guidelines are on website. Jason responds that guidelines given to jurors.
- Alice Major is concerned about this taking up time and funds, since workload of board and staff is significant. Rona Altrows says mechanism could be flexible.
- Carol Parchewsky says the board will talk about and plan to review.
- A survey is suggested; Rona thinks board should decide on mechanism.
- Audrey Seehagen: Agrees in theory, but points out that it is difficult for board to find funding for awards, and that the board and staff deal with awards all the time. She recommends an ad hoc committee to report to the board on all these questions and the funding aspect bringing back to board.
- Blaine Newton: Rona's intention was to give board full discretion.
- Carol Parchewsky: Agrees; Rona put a question to the board to carry out a review of awards with regard to the four points she brought up.

MOTION: Moved by Rona Altrows, seconded by Rose Marie Sackela to have the board review policies and procedures around book awards. CARRIED

- Bob Stallworthy moves to thank the board and staff for their hard work this year. CARRIED.

11. Adjournment Meeting adjourned by Carol Parchewsky at 12:18 PM

-- Submitted by Lori Hahnel, June 14, 2019