

OUR FEBRUARY 2026 MEETINGS

Compiled by Dave McChesney

Friday, February 13th found Spokane Authors meeting at the Sans Souci West Club House. Attending were: Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Joel Craig, Larry Danek, Mary De Bord, Betty Deuber, Gary Edwards, Sue Eller, Mark Lee Golden, Anna Goodwin, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, Esther Hildahl, Bob Hildahl, Keven Hostbjor, Joan Kopczynski, Amy Logan, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Jon R. Miller, Carl Northrup, Mikel and Mrs. Stevenson, Terry Stratton, and Sarah Vail. Guests included Genny La Morgan, who has since joined, Correen Morrill, Mike Jackson, and Oscar Calhoun.

Carl opened the meeting by reminding everyone to be alert to bogus emails supposedly from him. He also told a joke having to do with “hiring dumb asses in government.” Sue mentioned she was looking for a couple of books that she had inadvertently left on the display table the month before.

Our speaker for the day was Dave McChesney who talked about standard format. Rather than going into the detailed process of putting one’s manuscript in standard format, he offered an explanation of what it is, why we might want to use it, and provided a possible scenario as to how it came to be. He pointed out that if one is dealing with anyone in the traditional writing and publishing industry, those folks normally expected submitted manuscripts to be in standard format. Dave told us that he would send (and has since sent) a copy of his presentation notes and a basic guide to implementing standard format.

Following a break, Larry Danek mentioned he had entered a nationwide short story contest. Terry Stratton told us about his latest writing project. Joan Kopccynski revealed that a review of her latest book had appeared in the March edition of *Publisher’s Weekly*. She also noted that the reviewer apparently didn’t pick up on the humor of the story and suggested that humor is subjective. Oscar Calhoun introduced himself as a screenwriter.

Carl Northrup reported working with students at a small private school and was working with them to produce an anthology of their work. He is also working to finish and publish *Yank*, as well as progressing with republishing a book his father wrote and published many years ago.

We ended the day by drawing for door prizes. As always, thanks to all who donate books and other items for our drawings.

Spokane Authors also met at Sans Souci West on Wednesday evening, the 18th of February. Present were: Gena Bradford, Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Sue Eller, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, Genny La Morgan, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, and Terry Stratton. Kate Collins attended as a guest and has shown interest in becoming a Spokane Authors member.

Michael Murray of the Coeur d' Alene Writers League was our speaker for the evening and talked about various aspects of writing and being a writer. He suggested we ask ourselves why we do what we do, noted that writers often feel unappreciated and should thank ourselves for our efforts. Likewise, he noted we should thank critique readers for pointing out possible problem areas in our work. Michael suggested we become our own cheerleaders.

He also mentioned that we should subject our characters to on-going challenges to make the story more interesting. Further, during the course of his presentation, he had us participate in a character developing exercise.

