OUR OCTOBER 2026 MEETINGS

Compiled by Dave McChesney

On Friday, October 9, Spokane Authors met at the Sans Souci West Club House on West Boone Avenue. Attending were Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Joel Craig, Larry Danek, Mary De Bord, Betty Deuber, Gary Edwards, Sue Eller, Mark Lee Golden, D. J. Guy, Denise, Guy, Esther Hildahl, Bob Hildahl, Amy Logan, Dave McChesney, Carl Northrup, Elena Smith, and Terry Stratton. No visitors joined us for the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm. Fellow member Dave McChesney talked about editing one's work in order to take it from a just completed "first draft" to what might be called a "clean manuscript." He suggested that one should let a recently completed work set for some time to lessen or eliminate any emotional connections. He then said that one should simply read it and get a feel for what needs to be fixed and what is good as it is. Dave suggested making several passes through the work, each time concentrating on a specific type or level of editing. Levels mentioned included structural or developmental editing, content editing, and lastly line editing. He noted that when we hear the term editing, we often think of line editing. That's when we look for errors or mistakes is punctuation, spelling, grammar and more. (Thanks to Sue Eller for reading the final part of Dave's presentation when his voice went away part of the way through the presentation.)

Following a short break we reconvened to discuss other items. Since we have not had that many folks attending our third Wednesday of the month meetings, we decided to cancel them. We will meet for the last time on Wednesday, November 18, 2026. This will also save us the rent we pay each month for the space.

Carl called for nominations for our various offices and positions so we can hold elections at our November meeting on Friday the 13th. Tentative nominations included Sue Eller for president, Dave McChesney for Treasurer, and Caryl Briscoe-Michas and Mary De Bord for Advisory Board members. Since the response to a call for nominations or volunteering for office was somewhat on the slim side, Dave McChesney said he would email the entire membership asking for nominations or volunteers to serve. He would further specify that names to go on the ballot should

be submitted by the end of the October. Then he would be able to prepare and send ballots out to everyone. (Ballots could then be returned via e-mail, USPS, or brought to our November 13th meeting. Ballots would also be available at the meeting for any who need them.)

We finished the day by drawing for door prizes

Spokane Authors also met on Wednesday October 21 at 6:00 pm at the Sans Souci West Club House on West Boone Ave. Present were Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Sue Eller, D. J. Guy, Denise Guy, Dave McChesney, and Terry Stratton. Guests included Diane Karg and Jacob Hawes.

Dave McChesney continued his presentation on editing, this time looking at the advisability of having others help in the process. He mentioned that it is good to have other eyes on our work because we might miss things doing it ourselves. He also talked about finding and hiring editors. That would include looking at how individual editors charge for their services and offering a free sample edit so a writer can determine if that editor will be the ideal fit. Additionally, Dave noted that when working with an editor, the process should be one of collaboration and coordination, rather than competition or confrontation.

He also touched on having critique readers, those we often refer to as alpha or beta readers go over our work. While these folks don't point out specific errors, they can help us with more subtle subjective things.

Following Dave's presentation, we talked in general and got to know a little about our guests for the evening. Once we were done, we put the meeting room to rights and headed home.

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