

## OUR NOVEMBER 2025 MEETINGS

Compiled by Dave McChesney

Spokane Authors met at the Sans Souci West Club House, on Friday November 14 at 2:00 pm. Attending were Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Joel Craig, Larry Danek, Mary DeBord, Betty Deuber, Gary Edwards, Sue Eller, Mark Lee Golden, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, Esther Haldahl, Bob Hildahl, Kevin Hostbjor, Joan Kopczynski, Stephen Lalonde, Amy Logan, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Carl Northrup, Elena Smith, Linda Sonntag, Terry Stratton, and Sarah Vail. Guests included Kat Collins, Dennis Thomas, and Genny La Morgan.

Bob Manion talked a little about setting up a book signing, book sales event at the local VA Hospital. Steve Lalonde introduced a short pamphlet sized “chapter book” he’d compiled, called *Ecstasy Through Agony: The Writer’s Odyssey*. He had several copies of it available for those that might want a copy.

Dave McChesney was our featured speaker for the day. He talked about character names and used examples from the Stone Island Sea Stories to illustrate the points he tried to make. He suggested that naming a character made them more important in the story and allowed the reader to better identify that character as a unique individual. He also mentioned the importance of names fitting the time and place of the story, along with matching nationality, ethnicity, and so on.

Following a break, Elena Smith talked about Spokane Authors doing an educational presentation at the Museum of Arts and Culture, probably sometime in the spring. There are a number of rules we would have to comply with, and we need to let the Museum know our intentions by the end of this year. Sue Eller told us of fellow member Gail Saunders’ new children’s book. Amy Logan mentioned a new book/magazine for or about veterans. *Military Experience In The Arts*. (She has since provided a link for the site: <https://militaryexperience.org/>)

A number of upcoming craft fairs were also noted, with Shadle Park High School and Mead High School both being the weekend beginning the next day. Coming up in the early part of December are craft fairs at Ridgeline High School and Stratton Elementary School in Newport, Washington.

We also held elections to choose our officers for the coming year. Everyone currently serving as an officer ran again, and no one opposed them. We did have

two new individuals run unopposed for Advisory Board positions. While we did have a couple of write-in votes for Secretary, it was not enough of a majority to declare either of those individuals as Secretary. Thus, we still need a Secretary, specifically, a Recording Secretary to help record the events at our meetings.

Officers and Advisors for 2026 include: Carl Northrup – President, Sue Eller – Vice President, Dave McChesney – Treasurer, Caryl Criscoe-Michas, Debby Putman, and Mary De Bord, Advisors. Having volunteered to do the job, Denise and D. J. Guy were approved by acclamation to be our new Public Relations Team. Likewise, it was noted that Dave McChesney continues to serve as Editor for the LITERARY GAZETTE, and as our Web Master.

As our afternoon drew to a close, we drew for door prizes, set the room to rights and went our separate ways. Remember, our meeting on December 12, 2025 will feature an open mic session, where members and guests can share some of their work with fellow writers. Please try to keep presentations to five minutes or less.

Here is the link to the presentation at our November 2025 meeting.

<https://youtu.be/Y4mh2IAHxdI>

As the individual who normally unlocks our meeting room at St. Francis of Assisi would not be available to do that, we did not meet on Saturday, November 15, 2025. We have also decided not to meet on the third Saturday of December, the 20<sup>th</sup>.



*Page created 11/22/2025 dam*

