

Showcase Awards

1. Grand Showcase Award - 3 Prizes (\$200/\$100/\$50)

- Short story or essay. Limit 2500 words.
- Sponsor: Ozark Creative Writers Board of Directors.

2. Oxbow Award in Memory of Dusty & Pat Richards - 3 Prizes (\$200/\$100/\$50)

- Western short story.
- Limit: 2500 words.
- Sponsor: Ozark Creative Writers Board of Directors

3. Founding Member Award in Memory of Arkansas Poet Laureate Peggy Vining - 1 Prize (\$100)

- Poem about change, any style. Limit: 24 lines.
- Sponsor: Ozark Creative Writers Board of Directors.

4. Mike Willis Inspiration Award - 1 Prize (\$100)

- An inspirational short story about sibling rivalry.
- Limit: 2000 words.
- Sponsor: Chrissy Willis in memory of her late husband, Mike Willis

5. Published Newspaper Column/Blog Award -1 Prize (\$50)

- Best opinion essay or column published in a newspaper, online news outlet, or blog for the 12 months preceding August 1, 2023. Columns or blogs may be on any subject or theme, including reviews or humor.
- Limit: 2500 words.
- Sponsor: Max McCoy

Grand Conference Awards- 3 Prizes (\$50/\$30/\$20)

6. Search for Excellence Award

- Nonfiction memoir or essay.
- Limit: 2500 words.
- Sponsor: Leon Combs

7. Native American Short Story Award

- Short story with a Native American theme.
- Limit: 2500 words.
- Sponsor: Clouse Literary Arts and Theater

8. Flash Fiction

- Must have a beginning, middle, and end.
- Limit: 99 words.
- Sponsor: David Kirkland

9. Haiku Award

- Write a haiku
- Limit: Traditional 5-7-5 syllables
- Sponsor: David Kirkland

10. A Fish Out of Water Tale

- A short story that includes someone or something in unusual surroundings. Examples: A 12-year-old enrolls at Harvard, a wolf finds himself appointed king of a lost colony of highly intelligent rabbits, a car mechanic travels back or forward in time, a New Yorker is stranded at the Midland/Odessa airport, etc. Make it zany or believable but write to entertain.
- Limit: 1000 words.
- Sponsor: Micki Fuhrman

11. Birthday Party Romance Contest

- While at a painting party for a friend's birthday, the protagonist feels an immediate, undeniable connection with the artist in charge.
- Limit: 1500-2000 words.
- Sponsor: Ozark Romance Authors, Springfield, MO

12. "Steamy" Romance Contest

- Write a steamy romance. Must use the words escape and delicious.
- Limit: 1000-4000 words
- Sponsor: Delicious Escape Publications

13. Sleuths' Ink Contest

- A vigilante in Cancun. Must include a crime.
- Limit: 500 words
- Sponsor: Sleuths' Ink, Springfield, Mo

14. From Dusk To Dawn

- Tell a spooky tale of a monster that prowls the night from dusk to dawn.
- Limit: 2000 words
- Sponsor: Homegrown Books

Conference Awards- 3 Prizes (\$25/\$15/\$10)

15. Goddesses of Poetic License Challenge

- Write a short story, any genre including all the following words: trajectory, pragmatic, fish, sunflower, and ice cream.
- Limit: 1000 words.
- Sponsor: The Goddesses of Poetic License (Linda Apple, Chrissy Willis & Ruth Weeks)

16. Senior Moments

- Write a story, any genre, where the protagonist is over 50. Limit: 1500 words.
- Sponsor: Betsy Gray

17. A Scream in the Night

- A horror short story. Limit: 3000 words.
- Sponsor: Tahlequah Writers

18. Tales from the Trip

- Write about a memorable trip (fact or fiction). Examples: family vacation, honeymoon, car buying trip, stagecoach ride in the old west, or a trip to the moon. Impress us with your writing and wow us with your story.
- Limit: 500 words.
- Sponsor: Coffee and Critique Writers of O'Fallon, MO

19. Middle-Grade Fiction for Boys Ages 9-12

- Write a story that will appeal to boys. Limit: 1500-2500 words.
- Sponsor: Renee LaViness

20. Historical Romance Contest

- Historical Romance short story. Limit: 3000 words.
- Sponsors: The Deadline Dames (Joy Keeney & Rhonda Harvey)

21. Hometown Nostalgia Column

- Write a nostalgic article about the Ozarks that is suitable for a newspaper column. The article should have a headline (title) and give your column a name. Limit: 500-1000 words.
- Sponsor: Lonnie Whitaker

22. Funeral Mystery

- While attending a funeral you notice someone secreting a piece of paper into the coffin. What do you suppose it says and why? May be sad, funny, poignant...you decide. Edit carefully.
- Limit: 500 words (short story) or Up to 24 lines (poem).
- Sponsor: Marcia Gaye

23. Space Journey

- Science fiction genre in the style of 50's Sci-Fi movies. Limit: 2000 words.
- Sponsor: Tahlequah Writers

24. Winston's Quotable Quote Blog

- Choose a favorite quote and blog about it. Limit: 500 words.
- Sponsor: Linda Apple

25. Travel Article

- Write it as if you were sending it to a reputable magazine. No photos, please. Limit: 1500 words.
- Sponsor: Johnny D. Boggs

26. Things That Go Bump In The Night!

- Paranormal short story (No Horror). Limit: 3000 words.
- Sponsor: Ruth Weeks

27. Give Us The Best of Friends

- Humorous short story, any genre, about best friends on a cross-country trip. Must include the following words: dachshund, magic, mystery, and pinto beans.
- Limit: 2500 words.
- Sponsors: Joni Cogbill and Betsy Gray

28. My Favorite Day in Nature

- Free Verse Poem
- Sponsor: Linda Sartin in memory of her late husband, Gary

29. Best First Paragraph

- Hook us with your best first paragraph from a novel or short story.
- Sponsors: Margarite Stever and Bonnie Tesh

30. A Drop In The Bucket

- A Short Story about checking off an item from your bucket list (can be fact or fiction). Make it exciting and entertaining.
- Limit: 1500 words.
- Sponsor: Little Red Writing Hood

31. CW Indie Press Children's Book Award

- Children's Book suitable for ages 3-7.
- Limit 750 words.
- Sponsor: CW Indie Press

On-The-Spot Contest- One Prize \$25

- **Open only to those attending the OCW Conference in October**
- **Details to be announced at the conference**
- **Entries are due by noon Saturday**
- **Must be present at the Awards Banquet Saturday Evening to win**