



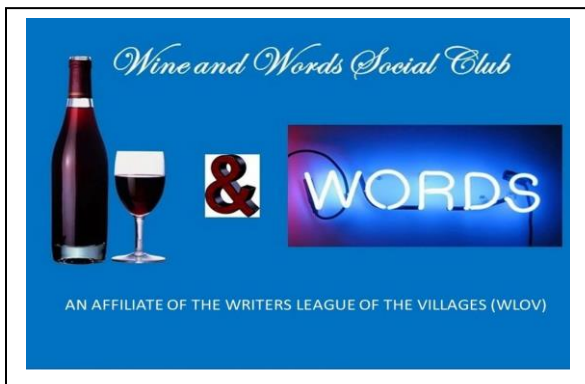
WLOV Newsletter March 2026 Edition

- *Check out our quick calendar for a peek at our upcoming March events*
- *Take a look at our new section highlighting the businesses and authors participating in the Tuesday book-signing events*
- *Read this month's book review and delve into the writing life of Stephen King*
- *Also,*
 - *Wine and Words, a live event*
 - *Letters from your president and editor*
 - *Sunshine committee announcement*
 - *Scams!*

March 2026 Upcoming Events Quick Calendar

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Contact</i>	<i>Featured Authors</i>
Thursday 3/5	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Wine and Words	Riverbend Rec Center	Frank Lancione 703-626-7514	Holly Bell Ken Van Camp Tom Bruce Frank Lancione
Tuesday 3/10	11:00 – 2:00 pm	Book signing	All Booked Up Colony Plaza	Paula Howard 407-432-9931	Nathan Hunter (Ron Whetsell, Barry Robbins Bobbie Calhoun
Wednesday 3/11	9:00 – 11:00 am	WLOV Monthly Meeting	Laurel Manor Rec Center	Bob Peterson 612-581-9110	Program: Rick Bettencourt - “From Overwhelmed to Book Sales – How Writers Build Confidence”
Tuesday 3/17	12:00 - 4:00 pm	Book signing	Patchington Spanish Springs	Rita Boehm 240-751-3978	Judith Glynn
Tuesday 3/24	1:00 – 3:00 pm	Book signing	Peachwave Frozen Yogurt Colony Plaza	Jeanne Rogers 203-300-1760	TBD

Come out and join us for this month’s “WLOV General Meeting.” It’s a tremendous event that lets us spend some time together. Each month, you will hear from our newly published authors, and from fellow writers, new to our group. You’ll also get valuable updates from our leadership, and enjoy informative monthly educational presentations.



Live event! Wine and Words,
Thursday evening, March 5th
Riverbend Recreation Center
doors open at 6pm.
Presentation starts at 6:30pm

Bring a friend, bring a beverage, meet our authors and listen to their stories.

Created and Hosted by Frank Lancione

WLOV March General Meeting



Come and spend some time with people who share your enthusiasm for writing. This educational event promises to have something for everyone.

***Successful Author and Educator,
Rick Bettencourt***

Presents,

***From Overwhelmed to Book Sales:
How Writers Build Confidence, Readers, and Real
Connections
Without Sleazy Marketing***

Date: March 11, 2026

Time: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Location: Laurel Manor Rec Center, The Villages

March, 2026 Local Author Tuesdays - Hosted by 3 Local Businesses



All Booked Up

March 10, 2026.

11:00 am – 2:00 pm at

Colony Plaza

Featuring,

Desert Ghost, The Arabian Affair

By Nathan Hunter, (Ron Whetsell)

Dancing with Donnie: The Ballroom Awaits

By Barry Robbins

Folio

By Bobbie Calhoun

March featured author, "The Village's Magazine"

Patchington

March 17, 2026

12:00 to 4:00 pm at

Spanish Springs Town Square

Featuring,

Judith Glynn

Peachwave Frozen Yogurt

March 24, 2026

1:00 TO 3:00 pm

at Colony Plaza

Featuring,

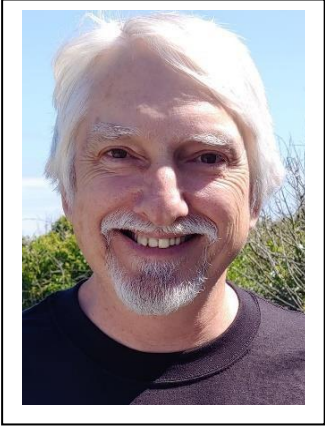
TBD

Spring is in the air, so please come out and support the authors at these great events. These businesses have given our writers a wonderful platform to promote their books.

Let's give them something back by visiting these establishments and supporting our fellow writers.

If you haven't signed up to present your work at one of these events, please contact us at WLOVwriters@gmail.com or sign up at the next General Meeting.

From the desk of Bob Peterson, 2026 WLOV President



Hi Writers,

Hopefully the cold weather is behind us and Spring is doing its magic to get your creative juices flowing. We have some exciting plans for this year, including in-person classes in the logistics of writing. Our writers are coming out of the woodwork to share their expertise in self-publishing, marketing, writing contests, and logistics.

The biggest part of what makes WLOV such a great organization is our members. Our people don't just write. They inspire, and not only with their writing, but with their knowledge and experience. Nothing is more motivating than hearing about other writers' accomplishments.

When I hear about one of our members getting published, I think to myself, "Geez, I need to get off my butt and make some progress on my project." When I hear from members who appeared on a radio show or a podcast, I'm inspired (or shamed into!) looking for more opportunities to promote my own writing.

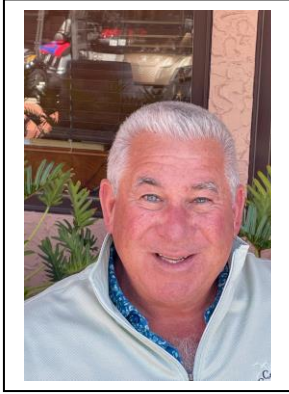
When I hear about the good and bad experiences of my fellow writers, I learn to make connections with the "right" people and organizations, and avoid the "wrong" ones. In WLOV, we learn not only from the expertise and successes of fellow members, we are inspired to explore new avenues, new creativity, and new opportunities. Together, we help each other grow as writers.

Please join us for our next general meeting on March 11 from 9 to 11, at Laurel Manor Rec Center.

Keep writing!

Bob Peterson

From the desk of Tom Bruce, editor of Quill de Ville



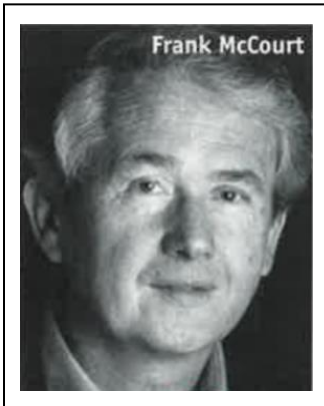
Members,

Just like that, March has come around again.

The longer days have started turning browns to greens and flower beds are waking up to find their roots. In our past, when we knew winter's wrath, March was a false prophet. A month to take one step forward, and two steps back. One day you got warm spring breezes, and the next day you got slush, mud, and frozen drizzle. There was a time, long ago now, when March only brought the promise of spring. A promise so close, and yet so far.

No longer is that the case. Here in The Villages, the month of March is full of life and we can all walk out into the sweet morning air, and celebrate the renewal of spring.

As writers, we should embrace new beginnings, new thoughts, and new experiences. We must dispel any notion that age is a barrier to us finding our writing voices. Throughout history, a long list has accumulated of successful authors who discovered their love of writing late in life.



If March is a month of renewal, then strive to feel renewed as a writer. Take risks and then follow those risks wherever they lead you. Writing gives us many chances to look at the world in different ways. Many chances to rearrange things more to our liking. This March, write with the same clarity and freshness as the new spring season taking hold all around you, and never let age throw out a stop sign.

Frank McCourt's first book, *Angela's Ashes* was published in 1996 and won a Pulitzer Prize. He was sixty-five years old when it was first published and most of the writing for the book was done after the author turned sixty.

Tom Bruce



Know of a member recuperating from surgery, down with the flu, suffering from the loss of a loved one - or facing some other traumatic event? Please contact us at wlovwriters@gmail.com and share the member's name and situation. Or, come to the Membership Services table at a General Meeting and let one of us know.

We'll forward the information to our Sunshine Committee Chair, Kathy deMaCarty, who will send them a card with a caring message to show WLOV's support.

SCAMS!

Rita Boehm

At every general meeting, we spend some time covering the latest scams. Thanks to AI, it has become easier for scammers—and harder for the rest of us.

Some scams to be on the lookout for:

- Receipt of an email that appears to be from another WLOV member asking for your help – or for gift cards.
 - o THIS IS A SCAM. DO NOT RESPOND. If you have even the slightest question, call the person, or send an email to WLOVwriters@gmail.com. The simplest approach is to hover your mouse over the email address. You'll likely see that it is coming from an email address you don't recognize and they've hijacked the member's name.

- Receipt of an email that provides a glowing review of one of your books, and other emails that invite you to speak to an online book club or literary event.
 - Scammers, usually using Gmail accounts, send out thousands of AI generated reviews, hoping to get you to respond. They offer to provide reviews and other services – ALL ARE SCAMS. Other scammers have hijacked the names of legitimate online book clubs. The legitimate clubs DO NOT solicit authors.
 - Note: Local Villages book clubs are different. They sometimes do solicit speakers. However, it should be very easy to tell the difference.
 - If you respond to the scammers, they will attempt to sell you a variety of services, others will try to hack you KDP accounts.

BEST TOOL FOR CHECKING OUT THE LATEST INFORMATION ON SCAMMERS:

Go to: writerbeware.blog

You can also do a Google search, using the information from the email, and asking a simple question, such as, “Is Mary Oliphant a legitimate book reviewer?”, or “Does the Seattle Book Club solicit authors?”

Stay alert and stay safe.

Shout Out! Congrats to Dave McKeon for climbing the ladder toward the top of this prestigious award.



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These titles are in the running for the First Place and Grand Prize Winners of the 2025 Global Thriller Book Awards novel competition for High Stakes Thriller Fiction!

Join us in cheering on the following authors and their works!

- **Avanti Centrae – *The Picasso Job a Phoenix Thriller***
- **Brad M Meslin – *The Moldavian Gambit***
- **Dave McKeon – *Sabotage***
- **David R Leng – *Echoes of Fortune the Search for Braddock's Lost Gold***
- **Dheepa R. Maturi – *108 an Eco-Thriller***
- **Ellis K. Popa – *Dawn To Dusk***
- **J.L. Spears – *Daemon Protocol***
- **James Alan Mcgettigan – *The Altered Moon Dust Cosmos Book 1 the Second Edition***

Advice for Writers of any Level, Book Reviews

By Larry Martin, drlarry437@gmail.com

Past President, WLOV

In my memoir/autobiography *My Writing Life*, I mention several books that had some influence on my own writing. Of all the books mentioned, however, only two do I consider “must read” for the beginning writer: Stephen King’s *A Memoir of the Craft*, and Strunk and White’s *The Elements of Style*.

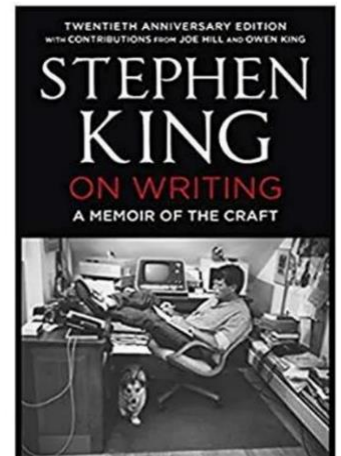
For my longer analysis of these two books, go to www.lakesidepress.com/MyWritingLife.pdf. It’s free and you might find it helpful along your writing journey.

On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft by Stephen King

King’s book is highly recommended for beginning writers. The beginner can get lost in a sea of titles, all purporting to teach the writing craft. How does one begin? I recommend beginning with this book.

On Writing gives a review of the tools one needs to be a competent writer. These include wide vocabulary, good grammar, use of active verbs, and avoidance of adverbs. Beyond learning all the basic “tools”, King delivers marvelous insights into a writing life.

King pulls no punches on the overall usefulness of other books about writing, but he does recommend one in particular, *Elements of Style*.



Elements of Style by Strunk and White

The original *Elements* was written by William Strunk Jr. in 1918, and comprised of eight “elementary rules of usage,” ten “elementary principles of composition”, and a few matters of form. The “Strunk and White” we are familiar with today dates from 1959, when E. B. White greatly enlarged and revised the book for publication. The current edition, the fourth, was published in 1999. In 2011 Time Magazine named *The Elements of Style* one of the 100 best and most influential books written in English since 1923.

The book, though only 95 pages, emphasizes clarity, concision, and directness in writing. Key principles include using active voice, placing important words at the end of sentences, omitting needless words, and revising drafts for clarity.

