

Scottish Association of Writers

Newsletter – February, 2013

Greetings, fellow writers

There's less than a month to go until Erskine and the chance to catch up with writing friends again. Unsurprisingly, there's a lot to impart in this newsletter.

Raffle and Book Swop

The raffle provides a vital source of income to the Association and thus far, there has been a fantastic and very varied array of prizes on the tables each year. Clubs and individuals have been so generous in the past and we do hope you will be able to continue to help us out both by donating prizes and purchasing raffle tickets (remember, whichever colour I'm selling are the luckiest ones).

We are also repeating the book swop this year. Just bring along a book you are finished with and for a £1 donation, take away something else to read.

Can you please make it clear to us what anything you hand in is for - if you happen to bring books for the raffle, we don't want a brand new book by one of our authors being swopped for £1 in error!

Return of Trophies

Can all last year's prize winners please ensure they bring their **nicely-polished** trophies back with them or give them to a fellow club member to bring along if they are unable to attend.

Poetry Wall

There will be a Poetry Wall in the conference suite foyer. Anyone attending the Conference can bring along a poem, which will be put up on the wall. The rules are only one entry per person; A5 size maximum; title and nom de plume included; attendees to vote for their favourite in box provided (only one vote per person). (Please note **only velcro fixings to be used** on the boards, no blu-tack or pins.)

Club Display Panels

There are display boards available at the Conference for Clubs to display information, collective works and the writing of their members. It's a great way to showcase both your Club, and the successes of individuals in it. If you would like to reserve space, please contact Marc Sherland at marcsherland@btinternet.com, before the Conference. (Please note, **strictly two panels** maximum per club and **only velcro fixings to be used** on the boards, no blu-tack or pins.)

Advertising your Writing Service

This year, there will be a notice board available in the conference suite foyer for attendees to promote their work and writing services. An A5 sheet and business card will be accepted. (Please note **only velcro fixings to be used** on the boards, no blu-tack or pins.)

Open Stage

On the Friday night, after the main speaker, there will be an Open Stage session for a five-minute sketch or monologue. Anyone wishing to participate should organise performers and rehearsals beforehand.

Standing for the Council

Our President, Mary Edward and Secretary, Marc Sherland are standing down from their current positions on the Council in March. Nominations for all Council posts will be taken at the AGM at Erskine. There is already one nomination for President, but we are particularly keen to secure the nomination(s) for the Secretary's post (see précis of duties at the end of this newsletter).

Facebook

Have you joined our Facebook Page yet? There are currently 132 members and it has been a great source of information and place to exchange news and views. Visit it at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/391088947586072/?fref=ts>

Scottish Federation of Writers Scotland Vernal Equinox Competition 2013

There are two categories for this competition – **poetry** and **short stories** and entrants may submit up to four poems and two short stories, provided they are accompanied by the correct entry fee. The optional theme of *Spring* is suggested, but doesn't have to be used. Poems must not exceed 40 lines including title and short stories to be between 1,500 and 2,000 words.

Entry fees - £3 per poem, £9 for four; £5 per short story, £9 for two. **Closing date, Thursday, 21 March, 2013.** For further details, go to:

<http://www.writersfederation.org.uk/news-and-events/119-fws-competition.html>.

Precis of Council Secretary's Duties (for more info – marcsherland@btinternet.com)

Agendae and Minutes for all meetings
Contact with Hon President Alanna Knight
Communication with delegates (shared with Public Relations Officer)
Communication with Council Members
Maintenance of records
Communication with Speakers and Adjudicators (except for accommodation, and finance)
Programme: arranging; planning, layout, printing
Preparation of Conference Schedule (distribution is undertaken by Affiliation Secretary)
General correspondence
Liaison with hotel (except accommodation and finance issues which are the province of Accommodation Sec. and Treasurer)
Communication with bookshop Manager (except finance which is undertaken by Treasurer)
Various duties throughout Conference

Precis of Council President's Duties

To liaise with the Conference venue
To preside over proceedings at the Conference itself
To chair the AGM and all Delegate and Council meetings
To have the casting vote in any deadlocked situation on the Council

Finally, we look forward to welcoming everyone who is able to attend and will be thinking of those unable to be with us this year.

With warmest good wishes

Sharon
Sharon Mail – Publicity Officer & Conference Hostess