

## Our August 2019 Meeting



*Dennis Held, our August 1<sup>st</sup> speaker*

As has come to be expected, President Jim Parry started the meeting with a humorous anecdote. As has come to be expected, it was met with a combination of laughs, chuckles, groans and boos. Once the uproar died down, he asked any guests to introduce themselves. Joining us for the afternoon were Celia Hoath and Carl Northrup, along with his wife, Beverly. (Celia joined the group later in the day and is now a member of Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers.)

Our speaker for the day was fellow Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers member Dennis Held. He presented a tutorial on the importance of correct spelling and editing. He was the copyeditor for Spokane Coeur d'Alene Living Magazine for many years. Dennis provided some tips to help remember the correct spelling of certain words. For *secretary*, consider the root is *secret* and a good secretary keeps secrets. He suggested we turn off or at least do not rely on grammar check and mentioned it's best not to use hyperbole. He talked about homophones, words that sound the same but are spelled differently (they're tricky), and Jim illustrated with *compliment* and *complement*. Dennis also said good sentence structure allows the author to pull the reader along on a rope.

After Dennis' presentation there was a brief discussion about the cost of ordering books on Amazon. It was mentioned that Amazon charges for shipping and handling, plus the cost of the book, typically leaving the author about 40%.

Following the break Sue suggested various ways to use our group funds. It was suggested we could use them to bring in speakers who charge a higher fee, provide writing

scholarships for students, and pay for select individuals' conference fees. Sue said we already have speakers scheduled for September and October, but she encouraged us to recommend future speakers.

Jim passed out book review forms provided by Bob Manion and then asked about upcoming events or other writing and publishing news. J. B Rivard noted the mayors of Spokane and Spokane Valley would proclaim August 15-20 "Nick Mamer Days" honoring the 90th anniversary of the record flight of the *Spokane Sun God* in 1929. This flight is the subject of J. B.'s book *Low on Gas - High on Sky*, now available nationally, and on Amazon. Tiffani Harvey announced she will promote her books at the valley Players & Spectators from 11 am until 4 pm, on Saturday August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Following a tie the previous month, we voted again on limiting what books could be offered as door prizes. The vote was close, but we decided we should limit books to those by local authors or members, and those dealing with writing. We will implement the new guidelines next month. Sue pointed out the raffle was originally set up to make our fellow members' books available so we could write reviews.

Tiffani held the raffle and winners today included: Linda Sontagg, Esther Hildahl, Kate Poitevin, Carl Northrup, Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Sue Eller, Beverly Northup, Dennis Held, Joyce Seebaum, Jim Silliman, Bob Manion, Celia Hoath, Cindy Silliman, Dave McChesney, Kylea Carter, Betty Deuber, Samijo Tinsley, and Marilee Hudon. (Apologies if any door prize winner was omitted from this list. The individual recording names happened to win a prize and may have missed recording one or two individuals while selecting a prize.)

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday September 5<sup>th</sup>. We'll meet at the usual time and location, the Golden Corral on North Division St. in Spokane, with the meeting proper starting at 2:30 pm. Our own Marilee Hudon is scheduled to speak about social media.



**Spokane Authors & Self-Publishers**

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