

# WRITERS' NETWORK NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE NORTH CAROLINA WRITERS' NETWORK

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## NCWN 2016 FALL CONFERENCE

### HIGHLIGHTS

Friday, November 4

#### 5:00 pm until Sunday –

##### Exhibitor Tables Open

This is your chance to chat with publishers, literary journals and organizations, and other friends of writers.

#### 7:00–8:00 pm – Opening Reception

You probably joined the Network in order to network; here's where you get started.

*(sponsored by Alice Osborn: Editor/Book Coach/Author)*

#### 8:00–9:00 pm – Keynote Address by

##### Margaret Maron

2016 North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame inductee Margaret Maron is the seven-time Agatha Award-winning author of the Deborah Knott series.

#### 9:00–10:00 pm – Book Signing

*(sponsored by The 2017 Piedmont Laureate Program)*

Saturday, November 5

#### 8:00–9:00 am – All Stories Connect Panel Discussion, "A Conversation about Culture":

Shervon Cassim, Donna Miscolta, Elaine Neil Orr, Sheila Smith McKoy.

#### 12:30–1:30 pm – Luncheon featuring "Food Writing" panel discussion:

Debbie Moose, Bridgette Lacy, John Shelton Reed

*(sponsored by UNC Press)*

#### 1:45–2:15 pm – 9th Annual Network

**Town Hall Meeting:** Your chance to ask Executive Director Ed Southern your questions about the Network.

#### 7:00–8:30 pm –

**Network Banquet featuring North Carolina Poet Laureate and 2014 North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame inductee Shelby Stephenson**

#### 9:00 - 10:00 pm – Open Mic Readings

C'mon, all the cool kids are doing it...

—Continued on Page 27

## Fall Conference Offers Best Chance to Improve Your Writing

RALEIGH—With some 200 writers in attendance, as well as dozens of faculty and publishing professionals, the North Carolina Writers' Network 2016 Fall Conference is the largest writing conference in the state and



one of the biggest and most inclusive in the country. It's a great chance for writers to network, but more importantly, it's a chance for beginners and bestselling authors alike to focus on writing for an entire weekend and quickly improve their craft.

Registration is now open at [www.ncwriters.org](http://www.ncwriters.org).

Fall Conference happens this year November 4-6 at the Raleigh Marriott Crabtree Valley. It's the only Network-sponsored event where attendees can receive one-on-one feedback from editors or agents.

NCWN 2016 FALL CONFERENCE

November 4-6, 2016

Raleigh Marriott Crabtree Valley, Raleigh

[www.ncwriters.org](http://www.ncwriters.org)

• See page 27 for details •

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, October 16, 2:00 pm

2016 NC Literary Hall of Fame  
Induction Ceremony

• See page 45 •

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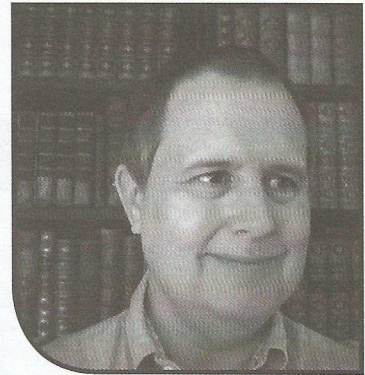
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## SPRING CONFERENCE 2016

by Marc Fountain



It's rare for writers to be able to critique their own work. Constructive feedback, whether from fellow writers or other professionals, delivers the Robert Burns gift: to see our writing as others see it.

It's equally rare for any one person to be an expert on writing, agenting, editing, illustrating, publishing, and marketing, yet each of these skills is crucial for literary success.

Writers' conferences are a great place to find allies with such skills. They bring together aspiring writers, veteran writers, and experts in the other fields whose talents can bolster a writer's own.

For example, the North Carolina Writers' Network 2016 Spring Conference, held at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro on April 23, began with an hour of informal networking among attendees and regional publishers.

This wasn't the moment to make formal pitches, but rather to link faces to names. We didn't worry about mismatches: a publisher of poetry and a Young Adult novelist probably wouldn't find a project they could pursue together, but the morning was a chance for each to glimpse a different aspect of the publishing industry. Besides, many of us meet our eventual business partners through someone acquainted separately with us both.

Spring Conference also offered classes ranging from writing to marketing to social media. The hard part was choosing which to attend in each time slot.

My choice for the morning was "Getting the Word Out: Marketing Your Book." Lauren Moseley, Marketing Manager of Algonquin Books, outlined her typical marketing plan that begins two years prior to publication and hits a hundred opportunities to build market awareness.

My choice for the afternoon was "Tween Fiction: Writing Against the Current," taught by Bonnie Doerr. She taught us that the buyer of MG/YA books is often not the reader. Success involves knowing how to market to parents and teachers, too.

That's why traditional publishing remains, with rare exceptions, more profitable than self-publishing: it brings a team of practiced experts into focus on a shared goal, each contributing what he or she does best. A writer who makes the effort to understand the needs of the existing team stands a better chance of becoming the newest teammate.

## NETWORK NEWS

• "Spring Conference 2016" continued from page 41 •

And then there was the Open Mic. We were encouraged to push past the fear and do it anyway. Reading five minutes of my own writing in front of a sympathetic audience wasn't vanity; it was a chance to see how people reacted to my work.

Finally, Slush Pile Live! gave feedback on the first 300 words of anonymously read submissions. The best part: for each submission, the panel of editors explained what, if anything, would cause them to stop reading, and how to fix it.

The most powerful networking happened in the minutes after each event. Without going into detail, I would swap contact info and hope to be remembered for my smile. Then I followed up the next week.

MARC FOUNTAIN is a career technical writer gradually transitioning to fiction. The webmaster at [www.murderwewrite.org](http://www.murderwewrite.org), he is currently seeking representation for his YA novel [www.themostnoblechoice.com](http://www.themostnoblechoice.com), and is always happiest when working as part of a team.

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# WRITERS' NETWORK NEWS

## About The North Carolina Writers' Network

Founded in 1985, the nonprofit North Carolina Writers' Network is among the largest statewide literary arts organizations in the country. The Network's mission is to connect, lead, and promote emerging and established writers through workshops, conferences, readings, literary competitions, online resources and services, a Critiquing and Editing Service, and more. Its Center for Business and Technical Writing provides on-site workshops tailored to the specific needs of North Carolina companies. For \$75 a year (\$55 for seniors and students), members receive a newsletter, weekly e-updates, a range of resources and services, and discounts on all Network-sponsored programs and events.

### NCWN MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Day) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Writing Interests \_\_\_\_\_

Check here to receive a paperless version of this newsletter \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check One Of The Following Membership Rates:

- \$75 One-Year Individual Membership
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