



## 2022 EIWL Outlook and Statistics

We have 20 members on the Facebook group page.

We have 30 members on the roster ( some without Facebook capabilities.)

We have six youth under 18 years of age.

We have at least five published authors—we have little information on some of the new members so that number could be higher.

At least six members have reported working on new projects since the conference or renewing projects that had been stagnant.

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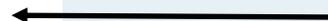
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### Special points of interest

## Membership

### Renewal:



## Renew Your EIWL Membership

Membership Fees are waived for early renewal for 2023.

Send an email to [cowpirancher@aol.com](mailto:cowpirancher@aol.com) stating that you plan to renew membership in the group for 2023. Include your name , address, phone number and email address. Please feel free to include any suggestions for speakers and events for the coming year.

See attached EIWL survey if you have not filled one our already.

## Conference Committee Report by Amy McClellan

The conference committee reports favorable feedback from our first major event. Costs came in below estimated projections due to donations of goods and services and our speakers all did a great job. Attendance was not as high as predicted due to some members having scheduling conflicts. We had a surge of interest when the radio announcement aired and EIWL website went partially operational. A lot was accomplished in 2022 and a growth trend seems imminent.

We would like to thank everyone that participated. As Conference Committee Chairperson, I would like to thank Becca Giebel and Sharlene Jolley for their efforts and donations and the Bielby Family for decorating as well as helping set up and cleaning up after the event! The venue passed inspection and our cleaning deposit was returned!

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*“Team. Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress.  
Working together is success.”*

*Henry Ford*

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## Upcoming Events

**EIWL Group Meeting:** Everyone is invited to attend via Zoom. Please send rsvp to Terri at [robinsonwritenow@gmail.com](mailto:robinsonwritenow@gmail.com) so you can get the Zoom link and invite. Meeting is scheduled for October 11th at 6:00 p.m. and we may set up a live meeting in conjunction with the event if there is interest. Hosted by EIWL President Terri Robinson.

**Dialog Workshop:** Hosted by Bret Wilson.

January 21, 2023 at 6 p.m. via Zoom      RSVP for the meeting link



I did NaNoWriMo twice and wrote the first draft of *The Suitcase* on it, only finishing 100,000. You have to write nearly 2000 words a day if you skip Sundays, which I did. You write 50,000 words during the month, which is enough for the shortest possible novel. Less words, it's a novella. If you finish 50,000, they email you a certificate. I got 2, and my granddaughter bought me a NaNoWriMo T-shirt, my best "prize." You report your daily output every day, which leaves that open to the honesty of the writer. What's the point in lying? They also ding you for donations.

At the end, you have a very rough first draft. With discipline, I could write the same number of words in a month on my own. Groups often form in towns to meet together to write. In Pocatello, the meetings were at Denny's, but I didn't attend so don't know if there was any group feedback. I was already getting mine at IWL. There is probably a NaNoWriMo group in Idaho Falls, too, but I imagine it fluctuates by year.

It took me another two years to polish the novel and another to cut it to 116,000 words, still too long for the publisher. I pitched it to a Shadow Mountain editor at the 2017 IWL conference, but because of the religious aspect, it would actually have been looked at by Ensign Peak, Shadow Mountain's religious fiction arm. I cut it unmercifully to get it to 116,000 and didn't feel that I could cut it any more without ruining Hank's adventures, which were already pretty bare-bones by then, so I went with Amazon.

That, too, is a lot of work. It doesn't cost anything, but you have to download Amazon's instructions, which are massive, and edit/format everything yourself or hire someone, pretty pricy, for both paperback and electronic. They accepted it for the electronic version early on--you submit it well ahead of your paperback. Amazon pre-sold quite a few, and then withdrew it and returned all the pre-sale monies. I did not pursue why.

Amazon prints exactly what you send them, even the cover, your typing and spelling, no editing at all. A friend counted 120 errors in the published book, probably not all mine, some due to spacing on the page. I had spaced according to their specs. However, I used 12 size font and 1.5 line spacing. Another time I would use 10 font and 1.0 spacing. The book would have been many fewer pages and no more difficult to read than a usual Amazon paperback.

I was always a plodding writer. I thought NaNoWriMo would help me discipline myself to get the story down faster, and it works for that. However, the rough draft needs a lot of editing--and cutting--after the story is written. Maybe it sped me up, maybe not.

## Back Story: Meet Colleen Story



**Colleen M. Story** is a novelist, freelance writer, writing coach, and speaker who loves animals, music, and the great Pacific Northwest.

Her supernatural thriller, *[The Beached Ones](#)*, is forthcoming from CamCat Books in July 2022. Her novel, *[Loreena's Gift](#)*, was a Foreword Reviews' INDIES Book of the Year Awards winner, among others.

Colleen has written three books to help writers succeed. *[Your Writing Matters](#)* was a bronze medal winner in the Reader Views Literary Awards (2022).

*[Writer Get Noticed!](#)* was a gold-medal winner in the Reader's Favorite Book Awards and a first-place winner in the Reader Views Literary Awards (2019). *[Overwhelmed Writer Rescue](#)* was named Book by Book Publicity's Best Writing/Publishing Book in 2018.

With over 20 years as a professional in the creative industry, Colleen has authored thousands of articles for publications like "Healthline" and "Women's Health;" worked with high-profile clients like Gerber Baby Products and Kellogg's; and ghostwritten books on back pain, nutrition, and cancer recovery. She continues to work as a full-time freelance writer, helping clients create informative and inspiring communications in a variety of media formats.

Colleen frequently serves as a workshop leader, writing coach, and motivational speaker, where she helps attendees remove mental and emotional blocks and tap into their unique creative powers.

A lifelong musician, Colleen plays the French horn in her local symphony and pit orchestras. When not writing, she's reading, practicing yoga, listening to music, exploring the beautiful Northwest, and making up more challenging games for her smart German Shepherd to play.

Find more at her author website ([colleenmstory.com](http://colleenmstory.com)), motivational website ([writingandwellness.com](http://writingandwellness.com)), and mystical blog ([lifeandeverythingafter.com](http://lifeandeverythingafter.com)), or connect with her on Twitter ([@colleen\\_m\\_story](https://twitter.com/colleen_m_story)), [LinkedIn](#), and [YouTube](#).