

Q. Why do I need to be a Florida Writers Association member to attend the conference?

FWA offers the conference at or below cost each year as a benefit of membership. It wouldn't be fair to pass this incredible opportunity on to a non-member. You may become a member and register for the conference at the same time.

Q. How do I check in to the conference?

Follow the signs to the FWA registration desk: left out of the hotel lobby, past the restaurant. Give your name, and our volunteers will issue your conference identification badge and your goody bag.

Q. Do I need a receipt or any ID to check in?

You should not, but bring it just in case. If you are paying by credit card, we will need the complete billing address for the card. If you are paying by check, it must be your personal check. We cannot accept third party checks.

Q. How late can I register for the conference?

You can obtain a registration form on our website and register by mail, or register online with a credit card through our online store. You may register as late as October 31, 2008. After that date, you should bring your registration form with you when you come to the conference, so nothing gets lost in the mail. Registrations are accepted each morning of the weekend at daily rates.

Q. What form of payments are accepted at the conference for registration or at the bookstore?

We accept cash, personal check, MasterCard or Visa.

Q. If I've already sent in my conference registration, can I sign up for a mentoring or interview session?

Yes. Just mail your check and a note to Joyce Moore at joyce@joycemoorebooks.com telling her with whom you want your interview to have your name added. All interviews are booked on a first come, first serve basis.

Q. What if I have a question about the conference while I'm there?

Go to the conference registration desk, or ask a conference director or volunteer. They can be identified by their special badges.

Q. What are those little slips of paper I get at each workshop?

Please fill out these evaluation forms when the session is over and tell us the impression that the speaker made on you in terms of delivery and interaction, knowledge of topic, addressing your questions, etc. FWA needs your help to evaluate each speaker for quality of content and presentation.

Q. Where do I turn in the evaluation forms?

Evaluation forms are returned to the box set up at the main registration counter. For each evaluation for you turn in, you will receive a ticket and be entered into the door prize drawing.

Q. Do I need to be present to win these door prizes?

Yes, or someone else can have your ticket for you. We draw for door prizes at each scheduled break, beginning Friday afternoon, continuing Saturday morning and afternoon, and Sunday morning. The grand door prizes will be part of the closing ceremonies Sunday morning. The drawings are part of our networking opportunities. We don't throw away any door prize tickets, except the winners, until the entire conference is over. If the winner is not there during the break when their number is called, their ticket goes on an easel and is taken to registration. At the next break, we'll put those tickets back in the pot. So, a door prize ticket you received on Friday when you turn in your evaluate may well be the winning ticket drawn Sunday morning for one of the grand door prizes, if that particular ticket has not been a winner before.

Q. Can I win more than one door prize?

Yes. Each door prize ticket you have is an opportunity to win. There is no limit.

Q. How many mentoring/interview sessions can I have?

There is no limit. You may sign up and pay for as many as you like.

Q. What do I do if I can't make my mentoring/interview session?

You should make every effort to make the session. These sessions usually sell out, and we may not be able to re-book you to another time. If at all possible, we will try to re-book you, but there is no guarantee.

Q. How do these one-on-one sessions work?

This session is a chance for an in-depth conversation with one of the faculty members. Interviews with publishers and agents at our conference give you a chance to make a personal pitch about your work.

Q. Are the guest agents and publishers open to receiving submissions at the conference?

Absolutely! That's why they're here! They want to meet with our attendees during scheduled interview times to hear your query and your pitch. Each year, contracts are given either at the conference, or immediately following.

Q. Is it permissible to leave a workshop to go to my mentoring/interview session?

Yes. All faculty members are aware of interviews taking place, and know that their attendees may be leaving during the presentation. Please leave as discreetly as possible, and be sure to turn in your evaluation form for that workshop, even if you don't get to stay for the entire time.

Q. Will there be informal networking sessions other than the meals?

Yes, there will be a Welcome Reception Friday night followed by an Open Microphone session. On Saturday evening, before the Royal Palm Literary Award Banquet, there will be another reception. And, there will be thirty minute scheduled breaks on Friday afternoon, Saturday morning and afternoon, and Sunday morning.

Q. Can I bring a spouse, who is not an FWA member and hasn't paid for the conference, to my workshops?

No. The only people permitted in the workshops, meals, and breaks are those who have a conference registration badge, which indicates they are fully paid and registered.

Q. Can my spouse join me at breakfast and/or lunch?

If you purchase meals for your spouse, they will receive a registration badge that allows them to enter the room for meals only. The volunteer door monitors will know what to look for on the badges.

Q. What is there for a spouse not attending the conference to do?

We're a short hop from Disney, SeaWorld, Universal Studios and all the other wonderful Orlando attractions. The conference hotel has a pool.

Q. What is the Royal Palm Literary Award Contest?

It is our annual writer's contest, culminating in awards given out Saturday night at the Royal Palm Literary Award Banquet. Complete information about the RPLA can be found on the FWA website.

Q. Is there a separate charge for the banquet?

No, the banquet is included with your registration for the conference, as are all other conference meals.

Q. What is the dress code for the banquet?

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There is no set dress code. Some folks come in formal dress, others in semi-formal and still others in casual. The important thing is for you to be comfortable and to celebrate being a writer with other writers.

Q. How do I volunteer to work next year's conference?

Contact Chrissy Jackson chrissyj@earthlink.net or Eliz Neilson FWABookstoreAdvi@aol.com to offer your time, and let them know which area interests you most.