



# Stet

## Independent Writers of Chicago

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

▪ SEPTEMBER MEETING	1
▪ SLATE OF OFFICERS	1
▪ PRESIDENT'S COLUMN	2
▪ DID YOU KNOW?	4
▪ IWOCFEST PHOTO RECAP	5
▪ AMAZON SHOPPING TIPS	6
▪ AMAZON ANDROID APPS	6
▪ 12 IPHONE & ANDROID APPS	7
▪ WHAT'S UP IN SEPTEMBER?	9

JOIN THE SEPTEMBER ROUNDTABLES

## Ask the Experts . . .

It's time once again for the IWOC Roundtables. This is the opportunity for all members to become speakers at the September program. We've done this sort of thing before, and so many members will be familiar with the format. For newcomers, it's a time to get to know folks—and pick their brains—who have been involved in IWOC for a number of years.

Here's how it works. We'll divide up into small groups, each with a leader. The leaders will talk a bit about how the program will progress and then moderate group discussions. Each group leader will have several conversation starters at hand, but the overriding point of the evening is to ensure that there will be ample time for everyone to talk about his or her own particular questions or topics.

Think about an issue that's been puzzling you: collecting on aging invoices, assignments that seem to grow and change beyond what your quot-

ed price included, marketing your talents into a new field, practice management, making more money. Write it down now so that you won't forget it and bring it along to the meeting. Any topic that applies to writing, ed-



iting, freelancing—any communications art and skill or small business management hurdle—is fair game. The only proviso is that it be something that can be explained and discussed in a few minutes.

To get you started, here are a few broad topics we'll try to cover:

*Continued on page 4.*

## *Slate of Officers*

This slate of officers also appeared in last month's *Stet* because the bylaws required it, but we thought we'd run it again, since you'll be voting on it at the September meeting.

President: David Epstein  
Vice President: Betsy Storm  
Secretary: Jennifer Lyng Rueff  
Treasurer: Nancy Solomon  
Parliamentarian: Roger Rueff

Board members: Jim Hodl, Ann Kepler, Joen Kinnan, Catherine Rategan, and Laura Stigler

We hope you'll attend to welcome in the new members — Nancy Solomon as treasurer and Laura Stigler as a member of the board. We'll also salute those who are retiring — treasurer Barbara Dillard and board member Michelle Beuscher — after having given tremendous service. They will be missed.

Before the election, there will be a brief business meeting to summarize the state of the organization, including IWOC's financial position. Neither of these things will take much time, so we'll have a full program. ■

## Officers

### President

David Epstein 708/567-9705

president@iwoc.org

### Executive Vice President

Betsy Storm 312/421-1510

### Treasurer

Barbara Dillard 312/642-3065

### Secretary

Jennifer Lyng 773/769-5291

### Parliamentarian

Roger Rueff 773/769-5291

### Board of Directors

Michelle Beuscher 773/478-6778

Jim Hodl 773/777-5710

Ann Kepler 773/761-1858

Joel Kinnan 708/366-8573

Catherine Rategan 312/266-8146

## Committees

### Public Relations

Katherine Mikkelsen 847/253-3681 chair

Laura Stigler 773/248-0158 chair

### Membership

Brent Brotine 312/214-2907 chair

Jeff Steele 773/481-0010

Katie Valentino 630/946-9500

### Programs

Stewart Truelsen 847/962-1393 chair

Karen Schwartz 708/386-3044

Nancy Solomon 773/262-8070

### Social Media

Roger Rueff 773/769-5291 chair

Jim Kepler 773/761-1858

### Writers' Line

chair open

Karleen McAllester 847/644-2524

Rosetta Gervasi 630/637-9383

Web Site: [www.iwoc.org](http://www.iwoc.org)

Roger Rueff, webmaster

webmaster@iwoc.org

Stet is published 11 times per year by the Independent Writers of Chicago, 332 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 1032, #W686, Chicago, IL 60604-4434, 800/804-4962. Internet address: [www.iwoc.org](http://www.iwoc.org). Copy submissions are due by the 15th of the month preceding publication. All submissions and ideas will be considered. Copyright ©2012 by Independent Writers of Chicago.

### Stet Editor

Joel Kinnan

stet@iwoc.org

### Contributors:

David Epstein, Jim Kepler, Joel Kinnan, David Steinkraus

# In Defense of "Plagiarism"?



Imagine my horror when I learned that Fareed Zakaria had been suspended both by Time and CNN for committing plagiarism. He admitted his vile sin, apologized, and resigned from Yale's Board of Trustees. Ever since reading FZ's *The Post-American World*, I have greatly admired his thoughtful, balanced analyses, his broad international worldview, his fluent, cultured prose, and his refusal to let interviewees evade his questions with lies or platitudes. Ryba and I try to watch *Fareed Zakaria GPS* on CNN every Sunday. Sadly, because of the suspension—now rescinded—we could not do so two Sundays ago.

Within days both suspensions were lifted, but the stain endures. I am beyond horror. I am *shocked and awed*! How **could** he? Plagiarism is something up with which I will not put and guilty of which surely I have never been!

But wait—harrow and alas! I have just now nearly fallen into the pit myself—using a famous phrase without proper attribution. Let me hasten to identify my source: adapted from Donald Rumsfeld, former US Secretary of State, *circa* 1991, *passim* (I don't recall what *passim* means, but I think it sounds good to throw it in here). Brothers and sisters, I shall henceforth cite my sources scrupulously that thou mayest find me pure, sinless, and without blemish.

Plagiarism and accusations thereof are an old story. Just before Zakaria's fall, Jonah Lehrer, a rising young New Yorker star was caught repackaging his own earlier work as new material and making up quotes from Bob Dylan for his latest book.

The historian Stephen Ambrose was accused of lifting his nonfiction book,

*The Wild Blue: The Men and Boys Who Flew the B-24s over Germany* from a 1995 book called *Wings of Morning: The Story of the Last American Bomber Shot Down over Germany in World War II*, by Thomas Childers, a history professor from the University of Pennsylvania (see <http://www.onlineclasses.org/2009/10/21/top-10-plagiarism-scandals-of-all-time/>). Ambrose was also accused by one of the Easy Company veterans of stealing entire passages from letters he lent the author to help him research his best-selling *Band of Brothers*. And let me plug another excellent book by Tom Childers, *Soldier from the War Returning*, in which he uses the life stories of several WW II GIs to reveal what life was really like for many of the "Greatest Generation" boys both right after they came home from winning "The Good War" and in their later years. Another notable historian, Doris Kearns Goodwin, admitted "unconsciously" plagiarizing something, but I can't recall what and I don't want to look up another source.

Shakespeare is notorious for stealing from poor Holinshed and a throng of ancient Greeks, Romans, and medieval Italians. Countless luminaries have also been accused of plagiarism, including Martin Luther King, George Harrison of the Beatles (for "borrowing" the melody for his hit song, "My Sweet Lord"), Teddy Kennedy, and T. S. Eliot. Eliot's work was once described as a "kind of verbal kleptomania" (Nick Selby, ed., *T. S. Eliot: The Waste Land*, Columbia University Press, 1999, p. 136). Eliot himself boasted, "Immature poets imitate; mature poets steal" (Eliot obviously does not deserve a source note).

*Continued on page 3.*



# In Defense of “Plagiary”?

Continued from page 2.

E. L. Doctorow borrowed plot, characters, names, and complete episodes for his novel *Ragtime* from an 1811 historical novel by Heinrich von Kleist, a once famous, now long forgotten German writer. That old book, titled *Michael Kohlhaas*, is based on the real-life struggle for justice and ultimate execution of a 16th-century merchant named Hans Kohlhaase. In Doctorow's rendition, the German Michael Kohlhaas becomes the young black jazz pianist Coalhouse Walker; a robber baron's men-at-arms become corrupt, bullying firemen and cops; Kohlhaas's stolen horses become Coalhouse's Model-T; and a tyrannical German prince becomes J. P. Morgan.

Doctorow freely admitted what he had done in a 1999 interview. However, I think he was a trifle disingenuous to call *Ragtime* “a quite deliberate homage” to the plundered original. I suspect that, since von Kleist's novel was in public domain and extremely obscure, Doctorow assumed almost no one would notice or care about his literary larceny. You can read about the real Kohlhaase's misadventures and his literary reincarnations at [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael\\_Kohlhaas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Kohlhaas). The article “Hey! Grandpa Was Right—Doctorow Stole *Ragtime*” amusingly relates Doctorow's defense of his “intuitive creative process” (see [observer.com/1998/03/hey-grandpa-was-right-doctorow-stole-ragtime/](http://observer.com/1998/03/hey-grandpa-was-right-doctorow-stole-ragtime/)).

According to various sources, the Roman poet, Martial, invented and named the crime of plagiarism. He accused a rival lyricist, Fidentinus, of stealing his verses, calling him a *plagiarius* (Latin for “kidnapper”). One source for this is ironically titled “The Perfectly Acceptable Practice of Literary Theft: Plagiarism, Copyright, and the Eighteenth Century,” by Jack Lynch, which you may read at [www.writing-world.com/rights/lynch.shtml](http://www.writing-world.com/rights/lynch.shtml).

Lynch calls Ben Franklin “a serial plagiary” for stealing ideas and passages from Jonathan Swift and Rabelais.

*Merriam Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary*, Tenth Edition (1993) traces the word *plagiarism* back to “**plagiary** ... [L *plagiarius*, lit., plunderer, fr. *plagium* hunting net, fr. *plaga* net] (1601) 1. one that plagiarizes. My *Cassell's New Latin Dictionary* (1959) confirms this etymology.

In a sense, the esteemed Zakaria merely continues an ancient and (dis?)honorable literary tradition, practiced by many writers and thinkers we generally revere. Actually plagiarism was not even considered a problem until the 18th century and the birth of the crass notions of literary commerce that led to the invention of copyright. Many ancients said plagiarism was unavoidable, since every word had already been written at some time by someone.

Stephen Moss presents this view in “A history of plagiarism (not my own work)” (*The Guardian*, November 22, 2005, on the web at [www.guardian.co.uk/books/2005/nov/23/comment.stephenmoss](http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2005/nov/23/comment.stephenmoss)). Moss quotes the “verbal kleptomania” remark (but without a source, so I had to look it up), and concludes from it that “To read ‘*The Waste Land*’ is also to read Shakespeare, Chaucer, Webster and many others.... In that sense, then, all culture is plagiarism.”

So is plagiarism always wrong? Or is it essential to a flourishing intellec-



tual and artistic culture? Or is truth somewhere in the middle, as it often is? Are standards different for nonfiction, fiction, poetry, music—and in which category should we place the kind of “opinion” journalism published in many magazines, blogs, and cable news shows? On these issues so crucial to all writers, there is room for diversity of opinion (original and well footnoted, one hopes).

However, I think this article demonstrates emphatically that **oversourcing** prose can be just as deadly a flaw as **undersourcing** prose. But neither is as wicked as outsourcing it to online hacks or to India or the Philippines at 10 cents a word.

Moss's article ends with this tongue-in-cheek editorial note: “We apologise for the fact that three words of the above piece are the author's own” (*op. cit.*). Far more than three of the preceding words are my own. Well, in truth, all of them have been used before by other writers, but I confidently assert that *passim* and *op. cit.*, if not strictly original, have not been plagiarized from any recent works. ■



# Did you know...



**T**he Harold Washington Library is the world's largest public library with over 2 million books.

You can see four states — Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin — from the Willis Tower Skydeck. (Too bad they don't have little black borders so you'd know which is which.)

Chicago's own Adler Planetarium, which opened in 1930, was the first planetarium in the Western Hemisphere.

The famed Route 66 actually starts in Chicago at Grant Park on Adams Street in front of the Art Institute.

The Ferris Wheel made its debut in Chicago at the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893.

Be grateful, couch potatoes: the remote control was invented in Chicago in 1950.

Roller skates whirled on the scene in Chicago in 1884.

Not that this is anything to be proud of, but the Twinkie was invented here in 1930.

Lincoln Park Zoo is one of only three major free zoos in the U.S., and it is the oldest.

Chicago has about 40 museums, more than 150 theaters, and 6,000+ restaurants. (No wonder it's so hard to figure out where to eat.) ■

— Joen Kinnan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.

## Ask the Experts: September Roundtables

**Shameless Self-promotion.** How can you get your name out to potential clients? Learn how to promote yourself and your business through strategic networking, press releases, advertising, public relations, and the Internet.

**Market Building.** Got a hobby, talent, or special interest in which you've become something of an expert? Learn how to develop a niche market that will allow you to command higher earnings while increasing your expertise in the field you love.

**Collections: Getting Paid in Full and on Time.** Having trouble setting rates that enable you to put food on the table and order dessert? Maybe you have a client or two who consistently hold your invoices for 60 — or more — days. Learn how to spot and overcome low- and slow-pay problems.

**Designers vs. Writers — Who Wins?** Do you find your work being compromised by graphic designers who view the written word as just another design element? Learn how to stand your ground with art departments.

**Plugged-in Writing.** Want to write for the web but don't know where or how to start? Learn how to find assignments, how web writing differs from other kinds of work that you may have done in the past and how much to charge.

**Virtual Full-service Firm.** Learn how to partner with other independent communications providers (photographers, marketers, designers, etc.) to form a soup-to-nuts production company.

**The Entrepreneurial Opportunist.** Wondering where the jobs will be in an increasingly multicultural, multilingual, technical economy? Learn how to recognize trends and position yourself for newly developing writing assignments.

We'll wrap up the evening with recaps from the groups that will ensure all voices are heard and all issues addressed. That will make for lively mealtime conversation, so plan to stick around for the after-program dinner.

*None of us is "just a writer." We do far more than simply write for your clients. We help them solve problems; improve the service or product they sell to their customers; talk to different audiences; and improve their market position, strengthen their brand and build their revenues.*

*What happens, though, when we find ourselves up against a problem and need advice from an expert?*

*Easy answer: we turn to our colleagues. Who has a better understanding of the challenges, professional situations and working conditions we face? Most important, who is most apt to examine different facets of a problem that's been driving us nuts and be able to provide us with a perspective we haven't yet considered? Other IWOCers, of course. What a great chance to call upon the talents of a roomful of experts who can give us specific pointers to help get us past a rough spot in our communications practice.*

In addition to the question(s) you want answered, bring a giant appetite for lots of high energy, low calorie advice. As usual, we'll gather at National Lewis University, Room 5033, 122 S. Michigan Avenue (across from the Art Institute) in Chicago. Networking with snacks and beverages begins at 5 p.m. The election and then the program begin at 6 p.m. The meeting is free for all IWOC members, \$10 for preregistered nonmembers, and \$15 at the door. Plan to stay for a buy-your-own dinner at a nearby restaurant afterward for lots more networking. ■

— Jim Kepler



# IWOCFEST PHOTO RECAP



THANKS  
TO ROGER  
RUEFF FOR  
ARRANGING  
THIS SPLENDID  
PARTY. WE  
ALL HAD A  
GLORIOUS  
TIME.





## Amazon Apps for Androids

The title of this sidebar sounds like a sci-fi movie, but I can't help it. Amazon has free apps for Android phones so you can shop on the go. There's AmazonFresh, from which you can order grocery items, either once or on a recurring basis; Amazon Price Check, where you can scan a barcode, snap a picture, or say or type a product name to check prices instantly on millions of products; an app alarmingly labeled MyHabit, which turns out to provide access to daily sale events featuring designer brands for women, men, children, and the home at up to 60 percent off; and many others. Of course, there's also Amazon app, where you can view them all. ■

— The editor

A RAINFOREST, A WARRIOR-WOMAN, A SHOPPING SITE: AMAZON IS BIG!

## Add to Your Amazon Experience and Save Money

Amazon.com couldn't be more aptly named. It's a giant among internet shopping sites — were it a brick-and-mortar store, it would probably cover half the earth — and its prices are often less than those found in the aforementioned brick-and-mortar stores. Plus, it's convenient; you can shop in your really tatty bathrobe. So, chances are you've availed yourself of its wares. Here are some tips to get the most from your next Amazon shopping experience.

### Get an Amazon Prime Subscription

You need to buy enough — or a big-ticket item — to make this worthwhile, but for 80 bucks, you get free two-day shipping on your order, instant streaming of Netflix-like movies and TV shows, and instant access to thousands of Kindle books. (Your Prime account doesn't apply to purchases from most other vendors listed on Amazon, though.) The first month is free, so you can try it out. Tip: If you plan to buy

something large and heavy, e.g., a TV set, sign up for the trial and save on shipping. After that, you can decide whether a paid Prime subscription is worth it to you.

### Download Amazon's Kindle App

You *could* buy a Kindle for \$199 (not a bad price), but Amazon doesn't care what device you use to read the e-books you buy, so you could also download the Kindle app for free and still have access to all those books, newspapers, and magazines. You can get Amazon's Kindle app on [iPhone](#), [iPad](#), [Android](#), [Windows](#), and [Mac](#). Even better, the apps remember where you left off, so you can start reading again on any device. (Another tip: The iPhone won't cut it for *War and Peace* unless you're very young and anticipate a long life.)

### Share your Prime Account with Others

Who knew? You can share your Prime account with up to five friends or family members. From Amazon.com, navi-

gate to Your Account > Manage your Prime account, then invite people from there. They'll have to enter your birthday to confirm that they know you, but after that, they'll enjoy all the same benefits that you do as a Prime subscriber. (Maybe you can get them to ante up for part of the subscription cost too.)

### Subscribe for Frequent Purchases

If you restock household or office products through Amazon, this is for you. In exchange for agreeing to buy an item on a continuing basis, you get a small discount. If an item is available for subscription, you'll see the option upon checkout. You can also set how often you'd like the item delivered, and Amazon e-mails you before shipping, so you can delay your order if you still have enough cat food to feed a tiger.

### Buy Used to Save Money

Maybe you want something but not

*Continued on page 9.*

# Twelve Nifty iPhone Apps for Writers

EDITOR'S NOTE: STARRED APPS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR ANDROID PHONES; DOUBLE STAR MEANS THERE'S AN APP, BUT IT ISN'T IDENTICAL.

About half the U.S. population already owns a smart phone — an iPhone or one of its touch-screen lookalikes — and if you haven't invested in one of these devices you should consider doing so because they are extremely useful tool for writers.

There is of course the ability to look at your e-mail when you're away from home and see whether someone has replied to you or is posing an urgent question. But that is a narrow, if important, use. There are many more ways a smart phone can make your writing life easier. For a sample of ideas and software, read on. Even if you already own a smart phone, read on, for you may find nutritious food for thought.

One word of explanation: I am an iPhone user. Currently that's about 30 percent of the U.S. smart-phone market. Google's Android operating system holds about 46 percent while RIM's Blackberry has 15 percent, and other companies take up the rest. The specific applications (or apps) that I cite below may not be available for Android or other platforms, but you should be able to find software that performs the same functions.

**\*TurboScan.** The first time I realized that my smart phone could photograph a document and save me the chore of copying key points into a notebook, I was thrilled. With a photographic copy of a document you save not only the time writing notes but also the frustration of discover-



ing later that you missed a salient point or omitted vital context from your notes. TurboScan tops simple photography because it combines a series of photos into a single PDF document that can be easily transferred to your computer.

When I was covering courts for a newspaper, I used this all the time to copy case files. All the documents I needed were stored on my laptop for easy reference while writing, and because they were PDFs, I could transfer them to my desktop computer or to co-workers and know they could be opened and read.

**\*\*Notebooks.** A smart phone is about the size of a small pocket notebook, and that is what this app turns your phone into. Our phones are always with us, probably within closer reach than paper and pen, and therefore perfect for writing down story ideas, paragraphs for

an article, lists of items to get from the public library, and so on — and you won't lose these notes in a pile of paper. Notebooks has the advantage that it can be accessed through a Wi-Fi network. It appears on a computer desktop like any other memory device, and you can drag documents to and from the app. Notes can be formatted as plain text that any word processing software can read.

**\*\*FiRe.** There are other choices for a voice-recording app, but I like this one from Audiofile Engineering. It allows me to set markers in a recording, choose the recording format, see the waveform of the recording, do some limited editing, rename files as I wish, and transfer files wirelessly to my computer. It also records in stereo with input from an external mic. (Aside from being an audio file for your own reference, a good quality recording can become the basis for a podcast or online slideshow if a client is so inclined.)

The advantages of using my phone instead of a separate voice recorder are: I don't have to carry another device; the phone's battery is almost always fully charged or close to it; and the recording capacity is greater, roughly 13 hours of stereo sound per gigabyte of free memory.

*Continued on page 8.*



# Useful iPhone Apps for Writers

*Continued from page 7.*

And did I mention that our phones are always with us?

One caveat about recording apps: Make sure the one you pick won't turn itself off. I once tried PCMRecorder by Tascam, maker of the nifty external stereo mic I use with my phone. The problem was that the app did not stop the phone from going to sleep, and when it went to sleep recording stopped. That is not useful when one wants to pay attention to what is happening rather than fussing with the phone.

**\*Dictionary.** I have two: the Pocket Oxford American Dictionary and Thesaurus and Merriam-Webster. Must I justify to a bunch of writers why I have two dictionaries? They're on my phone for the usual reason: The phone is always with me. If I am replying to an e-mail or jotting down a paragraph to solve some writing problem, the dictionaries are at hand if needed.

**\*Dropbox.** This somewhat free app allows the transfer of files between your phone and your computer. Some apps connect over Wi-Fi to your computer, but with Dropbox you can link to the Dropbox server from anywhere you can find an Internet connection. Upload a note file or an audio file or a photograph, and it will be safe in the cloud until you get home and download it. Dropbox makes money by selling storage. An account comes with 2 gigabytes of free space. If you need more, you pay.

**\*Agenda.** This is a calendar app that is better designed and easier to use than the built-in iPhone calendar software. Agenda will also synchronize with your computer and online services such as Google Calendar and Apple's iCloud service. The advantage of synchronization is that information you enter on one device is automatically copied to your other devices. You are spared the bother of entering information again to keep various calendars up to date.

**\*The Weather Channel.** It's not for writing; it's for decisions. If you want to do an interview or take photos outside next week, will you be rained on? This app can help you make that decision. It is easy to read and understand, and it has



great maps. You can see weather patterns across the country, pollen counts, tropical storms, and there is a zooming map that integrates weather radar information so you can see how close rain is to your house and decide whether to stay at your desk or take a walk.

**\*Camera+.** The basic camera software that comes on smart phones tends to be that: basic. Apps such as Camera+ provide more control and thus better photos. This app, for example, has separate target circles for focus and exposure. Drag each around the screen and you determine where the lens will focus as well as the balance between light and dark zones in the image. It also allows you to crop the photo and apply some built-in filters to change contrast and lighting. If you don't have a camera with you, a cell phone can produce a great reference photo of a room, a scene, or a group of people.

**\*\*MyTransit and \*\*Embark CTA.** Like the weather app, these help with decisions. MyTransit displays CTA bus schedules and best of all, draws information from the GPS transmitters on buses. You can stand at a stop and see how many minutes will elapse until the next bus arrives. Embark CTA does the same thing but for the L system.

**\*A wireless keyboard.** OK, it's not an app, but consider one nonetheless. A phone and a small wireless keyboard weigh less than any other communication option. With a wireless keyboard, answering e-mails or jotting notes becomes a breeze, much easier and faster than pecking at virtual keys on a small screen.

**\*Starbucks.** Coffee, tea, and Wi-Fi. And? ■

— David Steinkraus



## Add to Your Amazon Experience and Save Money

enough to pay full price. Browse the “used & new” offerings to see what you can get it for if it’s slightly shopworn. Used items come from third-party vendors, but if the order is fulfilled by Amazon, your Prime account applies, and you get the free two-day shipping. Otherwise, you don’t.

### Use coupon codes

To save still more money, you can find Amazon coupons on a number of sites. RetailMeNot is a good one. You choose from categories like grocery, books, electronics, etc., to bring up the available coupons. Savings are relatively modest (2-4%) on most items, but it

doesn’t take long to check them out. Go to Google and search for “amazon coupons” for other sites. I found dozens, some from Amazon itself.

### Track a Price & Buy when It Drops

This is a great tip if you don’t need something right away. Check out [BuyLater](#), a browser extension that follows Amazon items that interest you and sends you an e-mail alert when the prices drop.

### Get Free Shipping Without Prime

If you don’t buy enough to justify a Prime subscription, you can still get free shipping if your order is over \$25. But suppose it isn’t. Let’s say you

need to spend \$4 more to get that free shipping, which will otherwise cost you \$10.50. What to do? [SlickFillers](#) to the rescue! Go to the site, type in the amount you need, choose from the categories that could possibly offer something you could use, and voila! If you chose the “electronics” category, you could get two sponges (\$4.08) or a spray can of Turtle Wax (\$4.93) (or a bunch of other things) and still save five or six bucks.

Talk about thinking outside the box! Who dreams up things like SlickFillers? Buy something from them. They’ve earned it. ■

—Joan Kinnan



**REJOIN/JOIN IWOC NOW  
DISCOUNT  
UNTIL SEPTEMBER 15**

The annual IWOC membership renewal drive runs from September 1 to October 1, but you can save money by renewing by September 15. Cost is \$125 (regular \$140) for professional members, \$80 (regular \$90) for seniors aged 62 and older, and \$60 (regular \$70) for associates. To renew: log into the website, view your profile, and click “Renew until 1 Oct 2013.” You get **six free** areas of expertise/specialties, nine if you’re on a committee. Choose more and you **must click on an appropriate extra listings package to see what you owe. Otherwise, you’ll underpay. If you change nothing, you still must do this if you have more than your free allotment. Please do it right.**

## In the next issue



- **October 9 Mixer:** We’ll be getting together with the Alliance of Creative Professionals. Details to come. Save the date.
- **President’s column:** You always learn something interesting in this often surprising column.
- **Preview of November 13 Meeting:** The speaker will discuss how to create a website from scratch (or energize a stale one) using WordPress. Don’t miss it!

### Midwest Writers Association September 19 Dinner Program

**D**anielle Miller, president of literary agency Miller and Brown, will discuss what a writer needs to know to find an agent and what B&M looks for in a manuscript. Wednesday, September 19, Hackneys, 1514 E. Lake Ave., Glenview. Networking at 6 p.m., dinner at 6:30, program at 7:30. Cost: \$20 members; \$25 nonmembers. RSVP: [miratetkin@gmail.com](mailto:miratetkin@gmail.com) or [lsb@core.com](mailto:lsb@core.com). Reservations required. ■

