

2019 Lakefly Writers Conference – Final Report

The Lakefly Writers Conference was held Friday and Saturday, May 10 and 11, at the Oshkosh Convention Center. Wisconsin novelist Liam Callanan (*Cloud Atlas*, *Paris By the Book*) was the keynote speaker. Other speakers included Wisconsin Poet Laureate Margaret Rozga, author and television personality Silvia Acevedo, John Holland of the Oshkosh Fire Department, Madison-based national book reviewer/blogger Bobbi Dumas, and founder of the hybrid publishing company HenschelHaus Books, Kira Henschel.

Highlights

A new logo was designed by Justin Cole of the Oshkosh Public Library, and a new website was designed by the Library's Kim Hoffman.

We received a \$1000 grant from the Wisconsin Writers Association. As part of the agreement, we offered WWA members a \$15 discount off registration fees; 19 WWA members took advantage of the discount.

We also received a \$1000 grant from the Friends of the Oshkosh Public Library, and a \$750 grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board/Oshkosh Community Foundation. Both grants were applied to writing contests expenses.

Regarding the writing contests, we received a total of 111 entries from 89 authors, representing 43 communities across the state. This year, we held the awards ceremony on Saturday as the concluding program at the conference, and contest winners joined conference attendees for the closing speaker, author and motivational speaker Larry Cockerel. One neat highlight of the writing contests is that the teen who took first place in the teen category was also a first place winner last year.

An open mic was held Friday evening at the Library, under the dome. The event was free and open to the public. Over 35 people attended the event, including local writers who participated in the Library's Write Now series of writing classes held this spring.

Conference attendance this year was a record 114 attendees (up from 82 in 2018 and 96 in 2017). Driving forces may include our partnership with WWA, a small feature article about the conference in the spring issue of *Writer's Digest*, and that UW graduation ceremonies were not held the same weekend as the conference.

Financial Report

Revenue	
Foundation Grant	750.00
WWA grant	1000.00
Registration	6797.32
Ad in conference booklet	40.00
Friends grant	1000.00
OPL Memorial Fund	<u>2569.57</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	12156.89

Expenses

Contests

Journals	108.00
Cash prizes	900.00
Printing of Contest Winners Booklet (150)	823.05
Refreshments	79.80

Open Mic

Refreshments	59.96
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Conference

Door Prizes	160.08
Speaker fees	3000.00

Printing

Registration form (1000)	310.00
Program booklet (175)	325.05
Program booklet Cover (175)	56.20

Convention Center

Venue	689.00
Food	4100.00
Hotel (14 speakers)	<u>1544.85</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES	12156.89
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