



# JULY 2013 NEWSLETTER

## Summer Break

**The Valley Byliners do not meet in July.**

**Meetings resume in August**

*The second Saturday of each month,  
1:30 pm at the Harlingen Public Library  
410 '76 Drive, Harlingen, TX*

**Elections of Officers belatedly took place at the June Meeting.**

President—**Sue Groves**

V.P for Programs—**Frank Cortazo**

V.P for Public Relations—**Bruce Nelson**

Treasurer —**Jose Alvarez**

**Don Clifford** was elected to the Board of Directors..term to expire May 2016

The other members of the board are:

**Verne Wheelwright**..term to expire May 2014

**Janice Workman**..term to expire May 2015

The speaker at our June meeting was **Shirley Rickett**. Her Topic was “**Critique Groups.**”



A Critique group can be a useful tool in developing your work. There are techniques that can be used by the writer and by the group to make the critique more productive. “The goal of questioning is to induce thoughts and feelings the writer may not have been aware of, *not to help the writer move into agreement with the questioner.*”





**The Winner of the June Writing Challenge was: “Wiley Coyote” by LeRoy Overstreet**

The other entries were:

- “Off a Trifle” by **Judy Stevens**
- “The Pain of the Gunslinger” by **Frank Cortazo**
- “Are You a Bad Egg or a Good Egg” by **Edna Ratliff**
- “Exodus” by **Jose A. Alvarez**
- “Civics” by **Gene Novogrodsky**

**The August Writing Challenge**

***For Valley Byliners Members only***

Send your work of up to **1500** words to **Edna Ratliff** by **Aug 5th** to:

**writerscontest2012@gmail.com.**

- Edna will re-send your entry, sans the author’s name, to the membership.
- Each member can cast his or her vote by sending an e-mail to Edna or by voting in person at the Valley Byliners meeting.
- The winning author will receive \$10.00.

**Please note**

Every third month the Writing Challenge accepts works up to 4000 words in length. These months are:

- **March**
- **June**
- **September**
- **December**

Every other month the limit is 1500 words except for **May and November**, which are for poetry up to 60 lines long.

**Critiquing the Monthly Writing Challenge entries:**

**Any author who wishes his or her entry to be critiqued** must label his work “*Critique invited.*”

**Anyone who would like to critique an entry** can send the critique to Edna and Edna will forward the critique to the author. Edna requires that the critiques be sent to her no later than Wednesday of the week after our meeting and she will forward the critique to the author on the next day.

**Looking Ahead**  
**Valley Byliners Presenters**

Aug 10— Kevin Garcia, “Story Telling and myth making

Sept 14—Brenda Riojas, “Creativity”

Oct 12—Nelda Perez

Nov 9—Roger Young,

Dec 14—Christmas Party TBA

Jan 11—TBA

Feb 8—Writers Workshop

March 8 —TBA

April 12—TBA

May 10—TBA

For a list of other events that Valley writers might be interested in, check out **Edgar Clinton’s** website, [Writers of the Rio Grande](#).