

## **Benefits of ACFW Membership**

- 1) Access to ACFW Loops**
- 2) Free Writing Courses**
- 3) Novel Track**
- 4) Critique Groups**
- 5) Conference Scholarships**
- 6) Local Group membership**
- 7) Resources**
- 8) Access to Genesis Contest, Carol Award, etc.**

## 1) Signing into the Website:

Go to the top of the page, enter your username and password.



## 2) Getting on the Loop Without Going Loopy

ACFW offers private e-mail loops which allow you to receive news, updates, and information from the ACFW. Some of this information can include news about contests, potential writing opportunities, or tips from industry insiders. However, the volume of e-mail can easily become exhausting if you subscribe to individual messages. However, by subscribing via a digest or simply reading messages online, we can get all of the benefits of the Loop having to deal with the volume of individual e-mails.

To begin with, once you've signed into the ACFW website, click on the Get Connected link:



The following options come up under Get Connected:

# Get Connected

[e-Loops](#) - Information on all the various e-Loops available to ACFW members.

[Novel Track](#) - A program to encourage writers to write, edit and submit a book.

[Critique Groups](#) - Information about ACFW's critique group program.

[Chapter Listing](#) - Find a local ACFW Chapter near you.

[Zones and Local Groups](#) - Contact your zone director for more information about connecting with members in your region.

[Zone Newsletters](#) - Read up on what's happening in our zones around the country.

[Forum](#) - A place to chat and connect with fellow members. Why not pop in and check it out today!

[Open Chat](#) - We will be updating our member chat area soon, but for now we invite you to use the chat on the public side of the site.

[Photo Album](#) - Photographs from past conferences.

We then click on, “e-loops” and we get an option of the main loop as well as several additional loops:

- [Main Loop](#)
- [News Loop](#)
- [Course Loop](#)
- [Prayer Loop](#)
- [Children's Fiction Loop](#)
- [Historical Loop](#)
- [Romance Loop](#)
- [Romantic Suspense Loop](#)
- [Speculative Loop](#)
- [Suspense Loop](#)
- [Women's Fiction Loop](#)
- [Young Adult Loop](#)

The main loop is the place where general writing based-discussions and announcements occur. The genre loops focus on topics that relate more to the specific genre. The news loop includes official announcements from the ACFW leadership. The prayer loop is where members can share and pray for each other's prayer needs. The course loop delivers free courses on improving your writing.

## Subscribing to a Loop

Scroll down to find the loop you wish to subscribe to, look for a heading like the shown below, enter your e-mail address and your password, and be sure to check the digest box:

### Subscribe to this list

AccountEmail:   
Password:  Digest Mode:



Digest (only receive email from the list as a daily digest.)



Non-Digest (receive individual email from the list as postings are made.)

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You will then receive an e-mail, confirming your subscription. You will then begin to receive 1-3 e-mails today containing all the e-mails that have been sent out over the loop. Below is an example of what the digest e-mail looks:

1. insightful article (Irondeau@westelcom.com)
2. comics anyone? (Elaine Stock)
3. book covers (Elizabeth Younts)
4. Re: book covers (Jerri Lynn)
5. Thanks for my blogging answers! (Jennifer Hallmark)
6. Re: Cover Design (suzanne@suzannewesley.com)
7. Musings on Creativity (DARLENE FRANKLIN)
8. Re: Book Cover Design (DeAnna Dodson)
9. Separating introspection from outright telling (Omar Campos)
10. Re: Separating introspection from outright telling  
(Michelle Massaro)
11. Re: Book Cover Design (Tiffany Amber Stockton)
12. Re: Separating introspection from outright telling  
(Kristin Billerbeck)
13. market question (Debbie Archer)
14. Re: market question (Mike & Beth Steury)
15. Re: Book Cover Design (Joy Melville)
16. Amazon and affiliates? (Cathy West)
17. Re: Book Cover Design (Cathy West)
18. Re: Book Cover Design (DeAnna Dodson)
19. Re: Book Cover Design- and other designs (Michelle Sutton)
20. Re: market question (pprmint155@yahoo.com)
21. NOVEL TRACK: WRITING beginning again in April!  
(ACFW Volunteer Officer)

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- 22. Book Cover Thanks Again (Elizabeth Younts)
  - 23. Re: Separating introspection from outright telling  
(Michelle Massaro)
  - 24. Re: Amazon and affiliates? (pprmint155@yahoo.com)
  - 25. Re: market question (Lena Nelson Dooley)
  - 26. character arc (D.M. Webb)
  - 27. Re: Separating introspection from outright telling (Jerri Lynn)
  - 28. Re: Separating introspection from outright telling  
(Kristin Billerbeck)

All of the e-mails that have been sent out since the last digest are available in the one e-mail sent to you, so can scroll down and read what is actually interesting to you and not have your e-mail box cluttered up.

### **Reading a Loop Without Subscribing To It**

On the eloops page, where you subscribe to loops, there's a heading that says, "Visit the Loop Archive" and then there's a list of all the loops. If you click on, for example, "The Course Loop" you'll see something like this:

March 2011:	<a href="#">[ Thread ]</a>	<a href="#">[ Subject ]</a>	<a href="#">[ Author ]</a>	<a href="#">[ Date ]</a>	<a href="#">[ Gzip'd Text 46 KB ]</a>
February 2011:	<a href="#">[ Thread ]</a>	<a href="#">[ Subject ]</a>	<a href="#">[ Author ]</a>	<a href="#">[ Date ]</a>	<a href="#">[ Gzip'd Text 170 KB ]</a>
January 2011:	<a href="#">[ Thread ]</a>	<a href="#">[ Subject ]</a>	<a href="#">[ Author ]</a>	<a href="#">[ Date ]</a>	<a href="#">[ Gzip'd Text 44 KB ]</a>
December 2010:	<a href="#">[ Thread ]</a>	<a href="#">[ Subject ]</a>	<a href="#">[ Author ]</a>	<a href="#">[ Date ]</a>	<a href="#">[ Gzip'd Text 18 KB ]</a>
November 2010:	<a href="#">[ Thread ]</a>	<a href="#">[ Subject ]</a>	<a href="#">[ Author ]</a>	<a href="#">[ Date ]</a>	<a href="#">[ Gzip'd Text 226 KB ]</a>

If you click on "Thread" it will show you all the messages posted on the loop during that period. While this is not as convenient as subscribing to the actual loop, it does have some advantages. If, for example, you have deleted a digest from a previous day and decided you needed to read the message. This can also be helpful with the Course Loop as you can read all the lessons that have been mailed out on the loop for the past 2 1/2 years through this archive.

### **Novel Track Writing and Editing**

Return to the "Get Connected Page" and click on the Novel Track Link and this is the information that will display.

**Novel Track: Writing** was developed to help our members sit down and write. It is a place to encourage writers to dig into their story and put it down on paper. One of the best ways to learn writing is to do it. That is what Novel Track: Writing is about.

Novel Track: Writing is an email loop active during the months of January, April, July and October. It is ACFW's version of Book in a Month except that you set your own goal. How many words do you think you can write in one month? We are challenging you to set at least 10,000 words, but if you want to go for more, that is great. We hope you will. Can you do 50,000 words? Why not try? We'll cheer you on to a goal that stretches you, but is attainable.

Once you set your goal, you will send it to the moderator, Jeanne Leach at .(JavaScript must be enabled to view this email address). Then when the month begins, you keep track of how many words you write each day and report that to the loop if you want. There is also a place on the web site for you to keep track of your words. At the end of the month, if you have reached your goal (at least 10,000 words), then you'll receive an ACFW badge you can display on your blog or website or both places.

How do you carve out time each day to write or at least some of the days during the week? At the beginning of the month we will talk about ways you can find time to write. Then you can get started. The object of this email loop is to encourage you and keep you writing until the end of the month. The only way a book will get done is to sit down and write it. That is what we hope to help you do. If you have questions about Novel Track: Writing, please send an email to Kim Sawyer, Volunteer Officer at voloff@acfw.com.

**Novel Track: Editing** will be during the months of February, May, August and November. During the month of Novel Track: Editing the email loop will go through different aspects of editing. There will be mini-lessons on elements to consider when editing your manuscript. The lessons will address the opening, sagging middle, ending, pacing, reasons for a scene, characters, plot structure, show/tell, goals, motivation and conflict. **Published authors will share tips on self-editing.** (emphasis: mine.) Novel Track: Editing will be a place where a writer can ask questions about editing, share their successes and keep track of the pages they edit.

## **Critique Groups**

From the Get Connected page, click on "Critique Groups" and information on how the groups are structured is available there as well as a box like the one you used to subscribe to the loop, to sign up for the next orientation session which is on the first business day of the month.

ACFW has changed its model for critique groups.

We'll focus our efforts on a new model--a large group. In essence, it's a "pool" of ACFW members, newcomers and veterans, who understand the value of the critique experience. From within that larger pool, small groups will form as natural bonds develop.

Thus you won't be stuck with someone you can't work well with, but will be able to form your own smaller group based on who you get to know.

### **Scholarship for ACFW Conference:**

Click on the member home page in header:



At the top of the page is a link that says, “Click Here for the 2011 ACFW Conference Scholarship Application!”

ACFW provides several scholarship to its annual conference including the full conference fee, half the hotel room, and \$250 towards travel expenses if necessary. Members have until 4/20 to apply.

### **Local Group Membership**

To be a member in Idahope Writers, you need to first be a member of the ACFW. It entitles you to voting membership and to participate in the group's direction.

### **Resources**

The resources link takes you to a list of writer and editor resources such as freelance editors, personal assistants, questions to ask your character, etc.

## **Ezine**

The Ezine link takes you to the ACFW Aficionado Ezine which publishes several articles providing industry insider news, information, and tips.

## **Carol Awards (for published authors)**

## **Genesis Award (for unpublished authors)**

## **Other Benefits for Published Authors**

(Available off of the Member Home Page.)

- [ACFW Book Club Submission](#)
- [Apply for an Interview](#)
- [Upcoming Release notices](#)