



VOWA NEWS

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Virginia Outdoor Writers Association Newsletter
Editor: Marika Byrd

From the President

This is a particularly busy time of year for most of us, with cleaning up the leaves in the yard, bringing in the plants to carry over to next spring, getting the winter garden into shape, and maybe even enough time to squeeze in a hunt.

VOWA is doing well—with a healthy treasury, a slowly growing membership, and our high school and collegiate contests are up and running. This year Bass Pro Shops doubled their contributions for prizes, and we agreed to call the contest the VOWA—Bass Pro Shops High School Writing Contest. That was certainly appreciated!

But with all the good news, we have some challenges that must be addressed. Of most immediate concern, **no one has stepped up to chair the Excellence in Craft contests for our members.** In the past we had nine categories, but at our recent board meeting we agreed we could reduce that number to six, which would be newspaper, photography, book, news-letter, feature article, and illustration. However, if no one comes forward by **December 1** to chair these contests, we will not have a member contest this year in any category. Please contact Milan Majarov, VOWA Board Chair at

marie.milan@majarov.com or call him at 540-667-3083 to volunteer for this important function of our organization. As the old saying goes, you only get as much out of an organization as you put into it.

I'm soon headed with my son for a cross country trip to Seattle, a ferry ride to Haines, Alaska, a 780 mile drive through the Yukon and eastern Alaska, and finally (I hope) to Fairbanks, where my son reports for duty at Fort Wainwright. And to think we have already had snow in Virginia!

Thanks and have a great fall.

VOWA—Bass Pro Shops High School Writing Competition

VOWA is excited that Bass Pro Shops has chosen to corporately support the High School competition with substantial gift cards to their stores. Additionally, prizes will be awarded for gear donated by corporate entities, supporting groups, and individual members.

The High School writing contest is for students in Virginia schools grades 9-12, including the home schooled. The submission rules and permission form are on the web site at www.vowa.org; click on the appropriate topic on the lower left side of the screen.

Please note that submissions need to be **received by February 13, 2012**, and the theme is about a memorable outdoor experience.

Recognition of the top three winners, awarding of prizes, and reading of the entry will take place on March 28, 2012, the Double Tree in Charlottesville. Winners and their family will be guests of the Association.

Notices were sent schools, The Outdoor Report and *Virginia Wildlife* magazine published by the Va. Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Va. science teachers, Va. Department of Environmental Education, and the Home School Association inviting submissions.

Collegiate Undergraduate Writing Competition

VOWA is announcing the opening of their writing competition for undergraduate students in Virginia colleges and universities, two-year community colleges, public, and private post-secondary institutions.

The theme for the contest is to write about a memorable outdoor experience or special interest.

Submission rules and entry form are on the web site at www.vowa.org; click on the appropriate title on the left lower

side of the web site.

Submissions are to be received by **February 13, 2012**. The top two winners, along with family will be guests of the Association, recognized, receive their money awards, and read their entry to the assemblage on March 28, 2012, at the Charlottesville Double Tree.



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Mark your calendar now and attend the

VOWA Annual Meeting

March 28, 2012 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Double Tree, Charlottesville (off US 29 North)

(More information to come after the late January board meeting.)

Continental Breakfast and Lunch Buffet

Guest speakers

Annual Program

Business Meeting

Awards

Exhibits

Silent Auction

Connect with friends, make new ones; relive old memories, and create new ones.