Thank you for your registration for the Southwest Florida Writers Conference.  This is your opportunity to get personal advice and counseling from our New York publishing professionals and other members of our faculty with strong experience in one or more publishing areas. You’ll get an honest opinion of your work and, most importantly, the areas you need to improve on from a person qualified to do it! You can make great strides forward in your writing progress from what you learn at this one day conference. You may select (*on a first come first serve basis*) an agent or faculty member to have a twenty-minute one-to-one counseling meeting. Yes - the agents will expect you to pitch your work to them *if* they have connections to your genre, general fiction, or non-fiction interest area.

\*Please note:  Additional agents and editors will be added within the next thirty days. You'll be notified who they are and their areas of interest.

Here’s how it works:

        You***must be a registered participant of the conference*** to be eligible for the one-to-one sessions.

        Read about each faculty member’s area of expertise and determine which members you would like to consult. There is a limit of two sessions with our New York Agents/Editors per participant. There is no limit on our “local” faculty. Make your selection from the Faculty Lists on the conference Website or from the attached summary and enter them on the form attached.

        Each agent/faculty member will have a writing sample requirement that must be submitted to the conference 60 days (in our hands) prior to the conference. This allows the faculty member to review your work in advance and give you better suggestions. Requirements are specified in the “selection sheets” in this program.

        You will have a time(s) and place(s) provided to you in your registration packet the day of the conference.

        If the agent/faculty member you’ve chosen already has been “sold out” you will be given the opportunity to select another member. Availability of all agent/faculty is on a first-come-first-serve basis based on receipt of registrations.

        Rates per session with each individual are marked on the selection sheets. New York Agent/Editor is $50 for each session. The faculty is $30 for each session.

Read the rules and tips listed here:

         Rules & tips for submissions for faculty review. The sample will consist of – for books (all fiction & non-fiction) 1) 200-word description of the book, 2) the first 15 pages of manuscript in standard format (double space, inch margins, etc.) and a 100-word flash bio. All attendees will receive a “1-to-1 sample rules” with tips and format requirements.

         The sample will consist of – for articles, essays, short stories,  etc. (all fiction & non-fiction) 1) 50-word description of the work, 2) the first 2500 words of the manuscript in standard format (double space, inch margins, etc.) and a 100-word flash bio. All attendees will receive a “1-to-1 sample rules” with tips and format requirements.

         Formatting – All manuscript (ms) must: 1) be double-spaced, 2) have 1” margins on all sides, 3) use Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, and 4) be submitted in Word format or as a PDF.

         Every page must have the writer’s name on it. (Suggested that it appear in front of the page #)

         Every page must have a page number on the upper right-hand corner.

         It is highly recommended that: 1) the work you submit is as “sparkling clean” as you can make it, 2) that means grammar and spelling are excruciatingly correct, continuity should be perfect, and 3) you’ve carefully reviewed your style to be sure it represents what you wish to portray.

         It is strongly suggested that you select agents and editors that would have interest and knowledge of the work you are submitting.

         Research the faculty member in preparation for your selection and session.

         Important tip #1 – Be prepared not only to succinctly interest the agent/editor in the subject/story and quality of your work, but to also identify to whom you intend to sell the book and how you intend to reach them.

         Important tip #2 – Remember that it is important that the agent/editor must work with you as well as like your book. (YOU are for sale, author!) Temper your actions, but don’t be somebody you’re not.

         Important tip #3 – Remember that one opinion is just that, one opinion. That said, the worst thing you can do is become combative if the review doesn’t nominate your work as the next “sliced bread.”

         Tip #4 – It is suggested you bring a printed copy of your submission with you.

         Tip #5 – Even if you do not wish to submit a sample, having a face-to-face with an agent can be a very educational experience. It provides an opportunity to learn a lot about the industry and the people that drive it. Go prepared!

         Under NO circumstances attempt to contact the faculty member prior to the conference day!

         Good luck!