

Gathering Gazette

Volume 7, Issue 1



**ROUND THE
CAMPFIRE**

ROUND THE CAMPFIRE



Editor—Ival Secret

Hello Pardners,

Summer will soon hand over weather responsibility to winter, which signifies to those of us who love Western music and poetry that we will soon have the opportunity to enjoy live Western Music and Poetry at the annual Cochise County Cowboy Poetry and Music Gathering the second weekend of February 2019. Maybe you have kept your sanity since the 2018 Gathering by turning off your TV and listening to Western music or poetry. Now, I know some of you are not fans of poetry regardless of the genre, and I must ask the question, "Why?" Is it because you were turned off by a boring teacher trying to get you to understand dry poetry in high school? If you fall into that category, then I would challenge you to attend a session or two of poetry during the day on Saturday of the Gathering.

As most of you know one of the significant attributes of our Gathering is what we frequently refer to as the "Schools Program" where by the Gathering in coordination with teachers in Cochise County have a poetry competition for all grade levels. This gives the teachers a tool to help kids learn about words and how to tell a story in poetry form. Check out the article about the "Schools Program" for the 2019 Gathering by Eileen Ahearn in this issue.

Is your understanding of the cowboy way of life based on movies you have seen, rodeos, TV shows or working on a ranch? The Western Way has been somewhat narrowly defined by a few of our western states but that gives a very incomplete picture at best. There are cowboys in Mexico, South America, Australia, Russia, and our own state of Hawaii. You probably call up some image other than cowboy when you think about Hawaii. Co-Chair John Voishan has an enlightening article about cowboys in Hawaii in this issue.

For timely information regarding the 2018 Gathering go to www.cowboypoets.com and [Cochise Cowboy Poetry and Music Gathering](#) on Facebook. Be sure to like us on Facebook as that helps promote the event.

Ival



Gathering Co-Chairs

George Wheat

John Voishan



ROUND THE CAMPFIRE

2019

COCHISE COWBOY POETRY and MUSIC GATHERING

ONCE AGAIN SINGERS, SONG WRITERS, POETS AND STORY TELLERS WILL COME TO SIERRA VISTA FOR A WEEKEND OF CELEBRATION. STELLAR HEADLINE SHOWS ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHT WILL CAP AN EXPANDED DAY LONG "GATHERING" DURING THE DAY ON SATURDAY, WITH ANOTHER VERY POPULAR "BARN DANCE" IN THE AFTERNOON. MARK YOUR CALENDARS. **CCPMG 2019 FEBRUARY 8 & 9**

Facebook Users

Let's not let our western artists fall in the category of 'starving artist'. We want to see the western heritage continue so it is important that we support our ambassadors who are the poets, musicians and singers. If you are a Facebook user then you can consider establishing a donation request to support the "Gathering". On the Facebook home page there is a donations link on the lower left. After selecting donations/fundraiser, select non-profit and type "cowboy". The Cochise Cowboy Poets Inc link will appear in a list of organizations. Fill in the format. I did one for a "Birthday" gift donation in lieu of a present. We raised nearly \$500.00.



Artist Liaison Co-Chairs Gene & Sharon Raymond

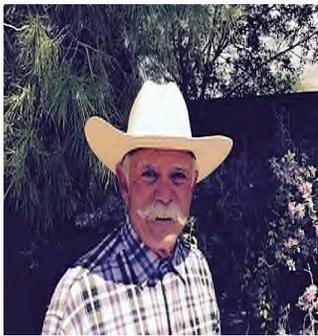
Howdy everyone from Gene and Sharon. Well it's taken a little while to get the herd gathered in for the drive, and we still have a few strays to round up, but it's time to saddle up for our 27th Gathering. The Gathering will take place February 8-9, 2019 at Buena High School in Sierra Vista, Arizona. We have selected "Around the Campfire" as this year's theme to celebrate the "swapin' of yarns and songs" that happened after a hard day on the trail.

This year we will have two Headline shows (on Friday and Saturday evening), a full day of sessions on Saturday, and a barn dance on Saturday just before the Headline show. To help us relax around the campfire after a hard day on the trail we will have some of your favorite song and story "wranglers" like Mike Moutoux, Terry Nash, Susie Knight, Joe Herrington, 3 Trails West, and The Hanson Family. We also have a new wrangle or should I say *Paniolo*, Gordon Freitas all the way from Hawaii.



So start spreading the word to your friends and neighbors, the roundup for the 27th Gathering is underway and we plan to "hit the trail" on February 8 & 9, 2019!





Paniolo

“Did ya hear the one about the cowboy that went East to get to the Wild, Wild West?” His name, Ikua Purdy. A Paniolo from Hawaii that travelled with two others from the islands to Cheyenne Waiomina (that is Wyoming in Hawaiian). Oh but I am getting ahead of myself.....

In 1793 the explorer Captain George Vancouver gave a simple gift of a few head of cattle to King Kamehameha. That generous act had a major impact on Hawaii’s ecosystem and economy. This occurring as George Washington was starting his second term as President of the United States. The cattle were “Tabu” or protected by the order of Kamehameha. The cattle flourished but turned into a dangerous nuisance. In 1832 Kamehameha III sought help from California. Three Vaqueros came to the islands to break horse, manage cattle and teach native Hawaiians how to become Paniolos (cowboys). Although a few small ranches had developed (Parker Ranch on the Big Island-1815), the majority of cattle were still wild. By 1846 there were 25,000 wild cattle and 10,000 semi domestic cattle. The cattle destroyed crops, knocked down walls, ate thatched roofs, injured and killed people. Those Paniolos had their work cut out for them.....

Coincidental with the abundance of cattle and the development of cowboy skills was the Whaling ships need for supplies. An industry was born. Long before sugar cane and pineapples, salt beef, hides and tallow were the booming industry.

As part of the 2019 CCPMG, a talented entertainer from Hawaii will join us. Gordon Freitas will share Paniolo history through song and “talking story” as they say on the islands. Mark your calendar for the 2019 event. Learn more of the fascinating story of the Hawaiian Cowboy. We might even have an extra special surprise!!??

And that Paniolo Ikua Purdy? After arriving in 1908 in Vaquero style Hawaiian chaps and a woven hat with a flower lei he went on to win the World Championship Steer Roping Contest (notice I said steer, they weren’t calves then) in 56 seconds. His companions finished 2nd and 6th.

ALOHA
John



Western Heritage and Schools Outreach Chair—Eileen Ahearn

Western Heritage Schools Outreach Program (SCHOOLS)

Co-Chair needed
Presenters needed
Phone callers needed

Have you ever listened to the students perform their poems during the Gathering and said...."I wish they would.....". Well if you have, this is your chance to make a difference.

We could sure use your help to make the schools program even better. Mentors are needed to make presentations in schools and work with the students when they are selected as winners. Volunteers are needed to call the schools to arrange for mentors to make presentations and for artist to perform in the schools. And a Co-chair is needed to help lead the WHSOP team.

So if you enjoy teaching and mentoring our youth, please come join us. If you want to help keep poetry alive in our schools, please come join us. Contact Eileen at cowboypoetryeil@gmail.com.

Lastly but not leastly, we would like to thank David and Sue Walker for many MANY years of service to the Western Heritage Schools Outreach Program. They have decided to "throw in the saddle blanket" and retire to pursue other adventures. We will miss them. They have made countless presentations, shared poetry with over 10K students, traveled hundreds of miles each year, opened many school doors, mentored over 400 student winners, and shared their talents with fellow volunteers. They have made a difference. God Bless them both and we'll see them along the trail.

Volunteer Coordinator—Regina Rutledge

The CCPMG is still in need of committee chairs and co-chairs.

Schools & Western Heritage

Eileen Ahern (cowboypoetryeil@gmail.com) needs a co-chair for Schools and Western Heritage. You would be helping her coordinate the youth program with the schools starting in August each year. You would help deliver packets and posters to the schools, judge poetry contests which include selecting judges and notifying winners. You would help arrange publicity photos for the SV Herald and the Saddlebags of Poems. Help prepare information for The Gathering's Program, prepare prize packages, coordinate the Cowpie Party. Help coordinate artists with their schools and students with their practices. It is a very fun and rewarding position.

Marketing and Media

The Marketing committee is responsible for designing and implementing the advertising and public relations campaign for The Gathering. This includes television, radio and print media, writing news releases on artists, human-interest stories and participating in the planning and creation of theme related approaches. It is a very exciting position.

Ticket Sales

The tickets sales committee distributes tickets to local outlets and arranges for their re-supply, collects the funds and deposits them in the bank. They coordinate ticket sales at featured performances and during the Saturday Day events. Your volunteers would collect tickets at the door and distribute the Programs. They provide a final count on ticketed attendees for each performance. This is a very important position.

If you are interested in helping on any of these committees or any committee please let us know.

George Wheat, Co-Chair buckwheat4@cox.net
John Voishan, Co-Chair voishan@yahoo.com
Regina Rutledge, Volunteer Chair reginarut53@gmail.com

Thank you,
Regina Rutledge, Volunteer Chair