



Independent Writers of Chicago

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CHICAGO COP-TURNED-JOURNALIST TELLS INDEPENDENT WRITERS OF CHICAGO (IWOC) HOW TO MAKE IT IN TODAY'S ROUGH, TOUGH MEDIA MARKETS

Think being a Chicago cop is a tough gig? Ha. Not compared to freelance journalists having to run the gauntlet of sharp elbows when vying for a hot news story. No matter the media – print, online, blogging, broadcast – if there's a story to be told, you can bet there'll be throngs of freelancers stepping over each other to be the first to tell it. How can you compete in that rough arena? Find out at the next IWOC meeting on Tuesday, February 9th when freelance writer, photojournalist and former Chicago policeman Peter Bella presents "Freelance Writing for Today's Tough Media Markets," offering his street-wise insights on surefire ways to collar assignments.

Among his many journalistic beats, Bella blogs about this great and complex city and, having gained a reputation as the "Cooking Cop," is in the heat of authoring his first cook book. Bella is also the Unit Chair of the Chicago News Guild's Working Journalists, a group aimed at supporting and strengthening freelance professionals, from writers, photographers and videographers to bloggers and public relations experts. With impressive law-enforcement creds under his vest, Bella knows how to chase down a good story, sniff out where the media-writing opportunities are, and can identify blindfolded the biggest current challenges independent writers face today. And now Bella's ready to talk. Be witness to it all. Attend the meeting. To miss it would be a crime.

The IWOC meeting will take place Tuesday, **February 9th in Room 4F** (4th fl.) at the Gratz Center, 126 E. Chestnut St. / 115 E. Delaware, Chicago, just west of Michigan Ave., adjacent to Fourth Presbyterian Church. Discounted parking (after 5 pm, with validation) is located at the 900 N. Michigan Ave. garage. Networking at 5 p.m. Main program, 6 p.m. IWOC members admitted free and do not need to register. Nonmembers, \$15. (\$10 if pre-registered at <http://www.iwoc.org/calendar>. Click on "February 9th IWOC Meeting.") Following the meeting, attendees are invited to a nearby restaurant for a buy-your-own dinner to further discuss writing-related topics or to continue networking. For more information, call 800-804-IWOC (800-804-4962) or visit www.iwoc.org.

IWOC is a nonprofit professional association of freelance writers living in the Chicago metropolitan area whose clients range from local to global. Together, IWOC members represent a broad spectrum of writing talents, consultation services, and specialties serving large corporations, small businesses, and not-for-profit organizations.

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