

Getting Work Via Social Networks

Everyone is using social networks like Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Countless others abound, including networks and applications for people who are interested in certain topics or involved in certain professions. Here are some tips on how you can get work using those social networks.

First, you should *use* social networks because that is where the people are. There are five hundred million Facebook members and climbing, millions of Twitter and LinkedIn users, and millions more on other sites. That is a market you can't afford to ignore. Writers, editors, website owners, and corporate types who actually do the hiring are waiting there to notice you.

Publish your profile — Start by publishing your professional profile on LinkedIn. Mine is at <http://www.linkedin.com/in/technologycontent>. There you can post your resume, website links and clips, publish recommendations from editors and clients, summarize your career and offerings, and join groups where you may find markets.

Capitalize on your profile by linking to it from your professional website, your Twitter and Facebook accounts, your articles, and your emails so people will know where to look for more information about you and your services.

Share your samples — Whenever I publish a new story, I post a notice with a link to it on Twitter and Facebook, with an interesting question or comment about the topic or just to share my work. The more followers and friends you have on these sites, the more people that will see your work samples and know you are available and what you have to offer.

Introduce yourself — You can use any of the social networking sites to introduce yourself to fellow writers, editors and potential clients. Follow people and they often will follow you.

Pitch ideas — By getting people to open up you will get to that level of conversation where you can ask whether they accept pitches, know who at the publication or firm does, and how to reach them with just what they are looking for. And they will tell you.

Use your expertise to help those who can later help you — Use the socialization and the networking to your advantage. Help those who may some day

be able to help you. Be an expert on topics you cover and on writing itself, and people will want to work with you. They will want to hire you.

Written by *David Geer*, Ashtabula, Ohio.

Books Of Interest

Books, Crooks and Counselors by Leslie Budewitz. Quill Driver Books, 2006 S. Mary Street, Fresno CA 93721; www.QuillDriverBooks.com; on Amazon.com: <http://tinyurl.com/63lq645>. Paperback, 206 pages. \$14.95.

Subtitle: How to Write Accurately About Criminal Law and Courtroom Procedure. The mystery/suspense genre is hot, but inaccurate or implausible legal terms or procedures can throw cold water on the most gripping scenes. Too many legal errors may prevent a potential sale to a major publisher. A mystery writer herself, as well as a practicing attorney, Budewitz explains legal terminology, procedure and concepts — and how to use credible legal situations to create fiction with real-world tension and conflict. Chapters cover trials, legal issues in criminal investigation, the different types of crime, sentencing, the death penalty, civil matters, common legal terms; wills, probate and adoption; thinking like a lawyer or judge, the law and other professions, and legal ethics. Worth keeping close at hand if you're writing fiction — or even nonfiction — that touches on the law.

Wordpreneur WordCash Notebook by Eldon Sarte, www.wordcash.com; on Amazon.com: <http://tinyurl.com/4y23zgv> Kindle book, can be read on a PC or Mac via the free Kindle app. \$3.99.

A compilation of Sarte's blog posts on making money with words. Perfect for this time of year — while setting out your plans for the new year, you can consider one of his ideas each day, beginning today through 2012 — putting into action those that most fit your situation. And there will be several if you're serious about making money with words. For example, chapter one includes 39 ideas for easy commercial e-book generation. Also of interest to freelancers: sources of article and blog post ideas, making money with blogs, how to *quickly* make money writing, increasing e-book publishing revenue, writing tips, and what to charge.

Writers Wanted

Note: 96 requests for freelance writers or editors or material were posted on our Network Bulletin Board during September. Best strategy is to check that page on www.writers-editors.com several times a week. If you don't recall your password, contact password@writers-editors.com. A few of those postings are listed here; be forewarned — they may already be filled.

► We Are Looking For Proofreaders Who Have ► a thorough knowledge of English language, ► a methodical working style, ► concentration, accuracy and great attention to detail, ► the ability to work in tight deadlines. www.pandoraprojectpublisher.com/proofreader/proofreader3.html

► This gentleman has written one or more books and needs several services — 1) Editing; 2) Literary agency services — to publishers, film, TV; 3) Distribution; 4) E-book version and Marketing; 4) Publicity, TV and print reviews; 5) Syndication. I suggested that we have members who offer book editing and publishing consulting. If you are interested, contact him at: Alex Kaufman, 81 Intervale, Roslyn, NY 11576-1906; (516) 621-1538, fax (516) 484-5617, cell (516) 443-7169; akcinc@aol.com

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WDB Update

When did you last update your Writer Data Bank listing? You can complete a WDB Listing Form in the Members section of www.Writers-Editors.com. Here are recent requests for which names and contact info were sent:

- Proofreading and manuscript editing/revision, located anywhere
- Ad copy, case studies, desktop publishing, education, and research, preferably located in California