

## Book Festivals Sponsored by JM Northern Media, February 1, 2019

National Writers Union member Jan Maher, who won the grand prize at the 2017 Great Midwest Book Festival sponsored by JM Northern Media, has still not received a check for the \$1,100 appearance fee and travel expenses she was due for appearing at the New England Book Festival in February 2018. The final due date for the check was May 10. But still no check despite a series of email exchanges between Bruce Haring, the principal of JM Northern Media, and Maher from April 2018 to September 7 when he promised to “start sending you some small amounts.” Both the Director of Legal Services at the Authors Guild in September and the National Grievance and Contract Officer at the National Writers Union in November have written to Haring on Maher’s behalf demanding payment.

Haring, however, has not responded to Maher, the Authors Guild or the National Writers Union, though, he continues to mount Book Festivals. One website, which reports cases of deadbeats who don’t pay writers, estimates that JM Northern Media takes in over \$1.25 million in entry fees alone each year.

Jan Maher has given Haring an ultimatum: Pay her by January 31, two weeks from the time of an email demanding final payment of \$1,100. Otherwise she will report JM Northern Media to the Better Business Bureau in and the Attorney General of California. Meanwhile, it behooves all book writers looking to promote their work to boycott Book Festival contests and all JM Northern Media events in solidarity with Jan Maher.

*If you are having problems with JM Northern Media, or any other publisher or market, please contact us at [advice@nwu.org](mailto:advice@nwu.org) or [gcdcoordinator@nwu.org](mailto:gcdcoordinator@nwu.org)*