

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

No. 16 July 1, 2017



Literary Review: Where Do We Go from Here?

With the resignation of *Literary Review* editor Dave LaRoche comes a challenge and an opportunity. Specifically, what should we do about the annual magazine as we head into 2017-18 and beyond? As I see it, we have three broad possibilities that we can consider:

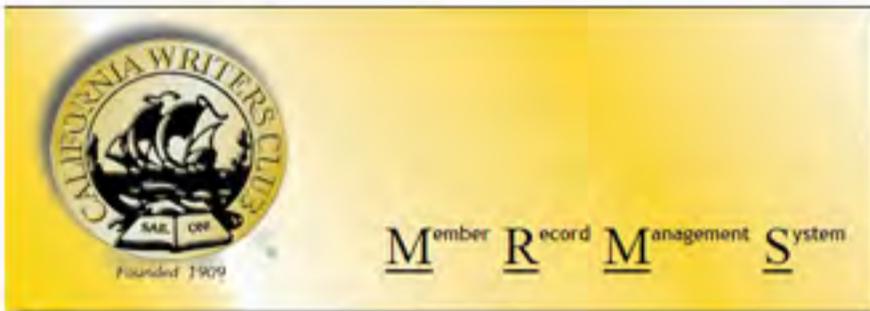
1. We continue publication of the *Literary Review* in pretty much the same format and under the same guidelines established by Dave.
2. We continue to send an annual print publication to our members, but with a new look, different content, or other innovations.
3. We discontinue any sort of annual print publication and use the funds for some other purpose, as yet unknown, in carrying out our mission of educating writers.

I strongly encourage you branch presidents to discuss this with your boards and general membership prior to the July 23 Central Board meeting, and for the reps to come to the meeting prepared with ideas and recommendations.

None of the above should be taken as a criticism of Editor Dave. He had the original vision and poured countless hours of his time and talent into this project, and deserves our deepest thanks.



Reminder: It's That Time of Year to Update MRMS



You've held your annual election of officers and possibly appointed new committee chairs. Now, before you "sail on" into 2017-18, please don't forget to update your branch's listings in MRMS. I don't know about the rest of you, but Madame President really depends on those handy Peer Lists to keep in touch with the branches, and it's important to keep the information up-to-date.

If you've got questions, issues or problems when it comes to using our membership database, your first step should be to get in touch with CWC Membership Chair Sharon Svitak, membership@calwriters.org. She is extremely knowledgeable when it comes to using MRMS and should be able to deal with routine issues. If your problem is technical in nature, she'll put you in touch with MRMS System Administrator Dick Amyx. Please resist the urge to contact Dave George with MRMS questions. He did an invaluable service to CWC in stepping in and basically rescuing MRMS after the death of Ray Malus, but has now earned his retirement.

Since You Asked: Was Our Election Legal?

I've been contacted by several branches with concerns about their recent election of officers, and whether it was "legal" if they didn't follow every single provision in their branch by-laws or PnPs. I always respond by gathering information on three key questions: 1. Did your officers run opposed? 2. Did you get the word out through your branch newsletter or email blasts? 3. Are any of your members challenging the results?

If the answers are yes, yes and no, my response is along the lines of, "Don't worry about it." I know that's not going to make you strict constructionists out there in CWC-land happy, but there it is.

Of course, if this had been a contested election, or you didn't give adequate notice to your members, or if one of your members is raising objections, then absolutely, you must follow your branch's governing documents. The last thing you want to do is create the impression that a cabal is running your branch and that fresh faces aren't welcome. But if you made a good faith effort to follow the rules and all candidates were running unopposed, seems to me a far greater harm would be done by having all branch activities grind to a halt while you attempt to sort everything out. Far better in my opinion is to learn from the experience, vow to follow the rules next time, and just "sail on" as best you can.

