



# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

No. 21 Nov. 9, 2017

## Looking to 2018 and Beyond for our Writers Club



As many of you have heard by now, we're forgoing our traditional January Central Board meeting based on your feedback to an earlier "President's Desk" newsletter. Basically, there's no business facing us so urgent as to warrant dragging 23 of us to a live, in-person meeting in Oakland. Instead, the officers and key committee chairs will be gathering for a long-term planning summit. In my mind, the major long-term issues facing CWC include:

**Leadership:** Who do we have waiting in the wings to take top leadership roles when those of us currently holding these positions burn out, move away, decide to retire for real this time, or hit the best-seller lists and go on a national tour?

**Sustainability:** Is it reasonable or even possible to continue running an organization of some 2,000 members in 22 branches with an all-volunteer crew? Especially as government paperwork becomes increasingly complex? What are the options?

**Members:** What services are they seeking from CWC? What can we do to serve them better, and to strengthen the ties between the rank-and-file and the state organization? What about the CWC brand in general? What can we do to increase our visibility with the members, and in the general literary community?

Most importantly, I want to hear from *you*. Beyond liability insurance, accounting services and the nonprofit status, what services would your branch like to see from the mother ship? What's working with your branch's relationship with CWC? What's *not* working and/or needs fixing? I crave your feedback as I put together the agenda for our long-term planning summit: [president@calwriters.org](mailto:president@calwriters.org).

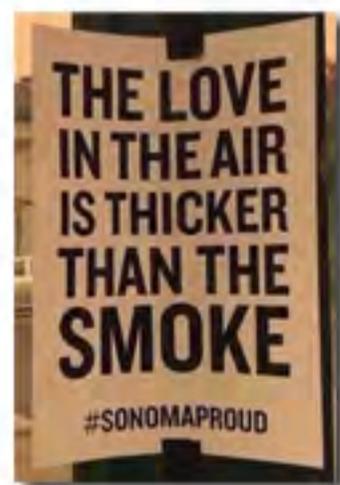
One last detail, for those who may be wondering—yes, we do have money for the long-term planning summit in the budget approved at the July Central Board meeting, in the "Meetings" line. The budget does not specify that this money *must* be spent on Central Board sessions, just "meetings." Actually, we should be able to enjoy some significant savings, as far fewer of us will be traveling. And that's always good news!

## A Small Gesture of Support for our Friends

Our thoughts are with our colleagues at the Redwood and Napa Valley branches as they continue to recover from the horrifying firestorms that ravaged their communities last month.

While the CWC *Literary Review* is probably far down the list of priorities for our members affected by the fires in Napa and Sonoma counties, Managing Editors Elisabeth Tuck and Scott Evans are making a small gesture of support by extending the submission deadline to December 15 for those members belonging to the Redwood and Napa Valley branches.

The deadline remains at November 30 for members of all other branches. I encourage all of you reading this message to make one last push with your members to submit their best short stories, essays and poetry to our annual literary showcase. For details, go to the CWC website, [calwriters.org](http://calwriters.org).



## Our Newest Ina Coolbrith Honoree

On October 21, I had the pleasure of attending a meeting of the Sacramento branch and presenting the Ina Coolbrith award to Anthony Folcarelli. "The Ina" is similar to the Jack London Award, only it honors exemplary service at the state level as opposed to the branches. Anthony was selected for this honor by vote of the Central Board for his work in 2003 with the state legislature in designating the third week in October as California Writers Week. Although it is somewhat unusual to honor someone for an achievement that took place some 14 years ago, up until now, Anthony had never received proper thanks or recognition for an achievement that benefits us to this day. Congratulations and thank you, Anthony!