



California Writers Club – E Business Minutes

Vote to elect Bill Baldwin State Treasurer

Shall Bill Baldwin be elected CWC State Treasurer?

Made by: High Desert

Seconded:

Motion Approved: Ayes: 13; Nays: 0; Abstentions: 0; Absent 8

Ayes: Central Coast, Coastal Dunes, East Sierra, Fremont, High Desert, Long Beach, Mt. Diablo, Orange County, Redwood, Sacramento, SF Valley, South Bay, Tri-Valley

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Berkeley, Inland Empire, Marin, Mendocino Coast, Napa, North State, San Francisco, Writers of Kern

Respectfully submitted: Elisabeth Tuck
Secretary, CWC

APPROVED CENTRAL BOARD OPERATING BUDGET, AND ACTUALS

July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

		Budget	1st Q	2nd Q	3rd Q	4th Q	YTD (Actual)
INCOME			(Actual)	(Actual)	(Actual)	(Actual)	
Donations		200.00		254.46			\$254.46
Membership Dues & Fees (1,950)		39,000.00	9,448.00	31,353.00			\$40,801.00
Life membership		0.00					\$0.00
Fundraiser		0.00					\$0.00
Interest & Dividends		100.00					\$0.00
Merchandise Donations		0.00					\$0.00
Literary Review (copy sales, ads, submissio		3,000.00	631.07	1030.17			\$1,661.24
Bulletin (advertising revenue)		1,400.00		174.18			\$174.18
Sales Tax Collected		200.00	328.15				\$328.15
Miscellaneous **		0.00	100.00	1,280.00			\$1,380.00
Total Income		\$43,900.00	\$10,507.22	\$34,091.81			\$44,599.03

EXPENSES

Administrative							
	Bank & Reg Fees	400.00					\$0.00
	Office Expense	100.00	307.30	14.88			\$322.18
	P.O. Box	150.00		67.00			\$67.00
	Postage	2,000.00	47.00	9.40			\$56.40
	Software	700.00					\$0.00
	Taxes	500.00	407.00	11.15			\$418.15
Accounting		5,800.00	1,452.00				\$1,452.00
Insurance		4,500.00					\$0.00
Dues Refund		0.00					\$0.00
Meetings							\$0.00
	Annual Mtg/Awards	500	148.22	13.43			\$161.65
	Lodging	5,000.00	2,926.52	766.14			\$3,692.66
	Facility Rental/Meals	3,500.00	1,203.79	220.00			\$1,423.79
	Travel	4,000.00	1,836.98	152.20			\$1,989.18
							\$0.00
Membership							\$0.00
	New Branch Devel	200.00					\$0.00
	MRMS Hosting	200.00					\$0.00
Publications							\$0.00
	Literary Review	7,000.00	7,699.75	91.83			\$7,791.58
	Bulletin			298.00			\$298.00
Publicity							\$0.00
	Education/Outreach	1,000.00	52.80				\$52.80
	Print, mail, advertise	650.00	50.00	500.00			\$550.00
	Website	1,500.00	300.00	536.68			\$836.68
	Writers Conferences	2,000.00		900.00			\$900.00
Discretionary Fund		200.00		100.00			\$100.00
NorCal Group		2,000.00	4.66	910.63			\$915.29
CWC South		2,000.00	150.00	375.00			\$525.00
Total Expenses		\$43,900.00	\$16,586.02	\$4,966.34	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$21,552.36
Net (Income - Expenses)		\$0.00	-\$6,078.80	\$29,125.47	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$23,046.67

corporation filing fee,
blank check printing ;
primarily the cost to
include BOE, and Cali
Jack London Awards,
In addition to meals
based on the last edit
restored to original fu
restored to original fu
restored to original fu

CWC Executive Committee Report – Joyce Krieg

Insurance:

Our rates have gone up in a far greater amount than we anticipated. Our broker, Ron Garcia of Diablo Valley Insurance, says it is due to increased costs of extending liability coverage to branch officers. In 2016, we spent \$3,904 on insurance. This year, the amount will be \$5,290. Plus, Ron Garcia charges us a \$500 “broker fee” to compensate him for his time in doing things like issuing certificates to cover special events, bringing the total to \$5,790. We budgeted \$4,500 for insurance this year, which is not going to be enough by some \$1,290. I had no choice but to give Ron the go-ahead to renew our insurance coverage, as it was going to expire on Jan. 5 and we cannot go without insurance. Nothing to be done for 2017, but someone might want to do some research as to less costly alternatives for 2018 and onward.

IRS Group Exemption Form:

If this document has arrived in our Post Office box by January 29, I will be asking each branch to update their information: basically the name of the president and the branch mailing address.

Barbara Truax Memorial Donation:

We lost a legend on October 31 with the death of former CWC President Barbara Truax. I attended a memorial service for “Barb” on December 9, along with former president Dave George and several members of the Marin branch. The Executive Committee approved a donation of \$100 in the name of CWC to one of her favorite charities, the American Association of University Women’s “Tech Trek,” a science camp for eighth grade girls.

Storage Locker:

The club has a pressing need to locate secure, convenient and reasonably priced storage space for club property like the Perham Nahl woodblock of our corporate seal, the banner, and boxes of archive materials. We just cannot continue to store material like this in members’ garages and basements. Logically, this storage should be somewhere in the East Bay (Fremont maybe?), not too far from our Central Board meeting venue or at least “on the way.” Thus far, I have not been able to explore any storage locations due to my lack of proximity to the East Bay, but there is a chance I may be able to do so between now and January 29. If so, I will be asking for the board’s approval to spend the money to rent a storage locker.

Jack London Banner:

The Executive Committee approved the expenditure of \$100 to purchase a banner honoring Jack London that was displayed as part of the City of Carmel's 100th birthday celebration in October, Jack having resided in Carmel briefly in the early 1900s. Thanks to a generous donation by Donna McCrohan-Rosenthal, we were able to get the price to the club reduced by a considerable amount. This banner will be made available to branches and regional associations for display purposes, and is a lovely addition to our archives.

Report from
CWC Publicity/Public Relations
Presented at January 29, 2017, CB meeting
Holiday Inn, Oakland, CA p. 1

- At the last meeting, outgoing president David George directed reps to send their suggestions for website redesign to the website redesign committee. The website redesign committee met by email and online meeting. The EC recently voted \$300 to webmaster John Byrne Barry to update the CWC website pursuant to the findings of the committee. Along with the redesign, new content will be added.
- A few of our branches had events for California Writers Week last October. This resulted in visibility for the organization.
- Some branches participated in judging the Scholastic Young Artists & Writing Awards, earning themselves \$2000/branch and good visibility for the organization. I'd like a show of hands on who participated.
- Email announcements have been sent to branches regarding opportunities that seem valid but are not officially sponsored. A disclaimer prefaces these, to the effect that they have crossed our desks but the notice should not be construed as an endorsement.
- I arranged with the nonprofit literary organization 1888 Center to interview president Joyce Krieg in a podcast, available on their website.
- I arranged for \$50 donation from a private-sector publisher toward the Jack London banner acquired for the CWC.
- I arranged for an email blast about the CWC to go out to participants of Writer's Digest Novel Writing Conference in Los Angeles October 28-30, 2016, for a cost of \$250 approved by the EC.
- I have pursued relationships with the American Writers Museum (to open this spring in Chicago) for CWC to become a founding affiliate organization, discounts on *Writers Digest* and *Family Tree*, and with Smashwords to be referenced on our website as a resource with a link to their site, and have been offered member discounts by for-profit and nonprofit entities. Pursuant to policy voted at the last CB meeting, I will need CB votes to proceed with the following:
 - The 1888 Center has asked us to help get the word out on their three two-week California Writing Residencies at Lake Arrowhead (submission period is from January 1 through February 29). I've sent out several email blasts to branches and urge branches to help promote this as an opportunity for their members. Additionally, 1888 would like to credit us on their website as a literary arts partner, providing a link to our site. Do I have a vote to allow them to? I would also like to put a news piece (about the residencies) on our website, referring to 1888 as a literary arts partner. Need a vote.
 - Book Expo, the major book industry event in the US (May 31-Jun 2), can extend discounts to CWC members to display their books in the New Title Showcase for \$145 for ebook or print book, or \$210 for both. This includes physical display, electronic display, and listing in their show catalogue. CWC is allowed to, but doesn't have to, add

a commission to these figures. Do I have a vote to proceed? (There is no minimum requirement for number of authors we sign up.) They can offer us similar discounts for other shows. They have further said, "We're going to include articles for authors (as a resource) to be more productive and to give insights and tips on how to improve their writing and further their career. We'll link back to the authors' web site on our page." They would be happy to post articles from CWC with a link to our website.

- *Publishers Weekly's* PW Select: "When you pay \$149 to participate in PW Select, your book appears in: *Publishers Weekly's* print and digital edition, the home page of PublishersWeekly.com, the home page of BookLife.com, BookLife's weekly email newsletter to 18,000 recipients, BookLife's Twitter and Facebook channels, Plus you receive: a six month digital subscription to *Publishers Weekly*, a one year digital subscription to *Publishers Weekly's* PW Select monthly supplement, a listing of your book in *Publishers Weekly's* special announcements database powered by Edelweiss which reaches tens of thousands of booksellers, librarians and reviewers, and a free copy of the *Publishers Weekly* print issue in which your listing appears." PW is a nonprofit and in the past, reps have not wanted to endorse nonprofits in any way. However, the composition of the CB has changed. Do I have your permission to put this out in an email blast to the branches? We will not endorse the program. We will say this information came to our attention.
- Smashwords (a for-profit company) has asked to be referenced on our website as a resource with a link to their site. They've spoken to many of our branches and have been well received. Do we have your vote to proceed with this?

Respectfully submitted by
Public Relations/Publicity Director
Donna McCrohan Rosenthal
1/29/17

Webmaster Update — January 14, 2017

The calwriters.org site is up-to-date and stable. I am doing my best to record

everything I do in the [webmaster log](#), though I see there are a number of updates I never recorded. I will be attending the January meeting representing the Marin Branch.

— John Byrne Barry

Notes:

1. WordPress, Themes, and Plugins Up-to-Date

We are running the website on the latest version of WordPress (4.7.1), and the latest version of the Genesis (2.4.2) Child Theme (1.3). We have also updated all the plugins.

This version is as up-to-date as it can be without customization.

2. Bulletin, Literary Review, and Advertising

Donna and I reworked and updated the Bulletin, Literary Review, and Advertising section. Fixed problems with the PayPal buttons. Added Bob Isbill and Roberta Smith's

video about advertising on the [Bulletin Advertising page](#).

3. Backups

We have added a new backup system to the automatic and manual backups we have already. (Redundancy is a no-no for writing, but it is fine for backups.)

1. WP-Time Capsule backs up the data file to DropBox once a week.
2. Automatic backup from BackUpWordPress plug-in. (weekly)
3. Manual backup from GoDaddy control panel. (monthly)
4. Manually export of xml file of database and storing it in a shared Google Drive

folder — [CWC-CB/Backup](#) — and on my local computer, which is backed up with Time Machine. (monthly)

Backups are stored in five different places — the GoDaddy server, Google Drive, DropBox, my local computer, and my backup drive.

Last fall, due to some problem with the server, I had to create a staging site, reinstall wordpress, restore the site via backup, and then move it over to the main site.

Fortunately, we had redundant backups because some of the backups were not accessible. (Because of the server problem.)

5. Site Stats

Stats for the past six months are not available. The wordpress.com stats that I shared are no longer available except as part of Jetpack, which I disabled last fall because it may have been the cause of the problems. I have loaded a new statistics program called StatCounter that is now active.

If CWC wants to use stats to track activity, we could install google analytics, which is widely considered the best.

6. Simple Machines Forum

Simple Machines Forum is running on version 1.0.21, and is being backed up on a monthly basis.

7. Website Redesign

Working with Joyce, I am going to do a minor redesign, with a new banner, a different theme, and a new menu. The content will be the same, except for some changes to the home page, where there will be a welcome message from Joyce and the news updates that were formerly in the main content area will now be in the right sidebar. We will also create a resources page where we store the logo, insurance guidelines and some of the other tools that branch leaders have been asking for. Password protected, if necessary.

California Writers Club State Membership Report January 2017 Central Board Meeting

As of January 12, 2017, we have 1771 members

All branches are current through the first quarter with membership dues remittance. Most have remitted second quarter dues as well.

All branches, except for one, are at an acceptable ratio of active vs. associate member.

Membership Summary (January 12, 2017 -- 9:31 am)
(07/01/2016 - 01/12/2017)

Branch	*Members	Active	Associate	Actual	Ratio
1 Berkeley Branch	89	41	40	81	50.62%
2 Central Coast Branch	145	77	49	126	61.11%
3 Coastal Dunes	32	18	14	32	56.25%
4 East Sierra Branch	31	16	15	31	51.61%
5 Fremont Branch	42	22	17	39	56.41%
6 High Desert Branch	89	47	40	87	54.02%
7 Inland Empire Branch	52	31	19	50	62.00%
8 Long Beach Branch	71	39	32	71	54.93%
9 Marin Branch	37	26	10	36	72.22%
10 Mendocino Branch	77	37	27	64	57.81%
11 Mt. Diablo Branch	132	89	38	127	70.08%
12 Napa Valley Writers	83	29	46	75	38.67%
13 North State Writers	48	28	18	46	60.87%
14 Orange County Branch	43	27	15	42	64.29%
15 Redwood Branch	285	144	113	257	56.03%
16 Sacramento Branch	146	83	38	121	68.60%
17 San Fernando Valley Branch	65	40	21	61	65.57%
18 SF-Peninsula Branch	114	74	26	100	74.00%
19 South Bay Branch	161	82	64	146	56.16%
20 Tri-Valley Branch	97	52	31	83	62.65%
21 Writers Of Kern	99	57	39	96	59.38%
Total Membership	1938	1059	712	1771	

* includes dual members who are counted more than once



Founded 1909

California Writers Club

MRMS STATE SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR REPORT For Half-Year Ending 12-31-2016

INCIDENTS

There were no incidents of failure, or data corruption or loss for the period.

ENHANCEMENTS.

There were no major enhancements during the period. Several minor cosmetic enhancements were made.

DISCUSSIONS

Two major issues were posted on the Forum for discussion:

“Is the MRMS E-Ballot facility an adequate method for polling our State-wide Membership.”

(Note: The question is NOT “Should E-Ballot be adopted?” It is simply, “If, in the future, a method should be sought, is E-Ballot suitable?”)

“Should the MRMS Document Vault be adopted as the ‘official’ repository of electronic CWC State Documents”

Respectfully Submitted,

Ray Malus, State MRMS Administrator

January 3, 2017



Tables and Statistics

Membership Totals.

The table on the left represents our membership as of January 16, 2017.

#	Branch	Members	Active	Associate	Ratio
1	Berkeley Branch	89	41	40	50.62%
2	Sacramento Branch	146	83	38	68.60%
3	SF-Peninsula Branch	112	72	26	73.47%
4	Redwood Branch	284	144	112	56.25%
5	Mt. Diablo Branch	132	89	38	70.08%
6	South Bay Branch	156	80	62	56.34%
7	Marin Branch	37	26	10	72.22%
8	Central Coast Branch	145	77	49	61.11%
9	Tri-Valley Branch	97	52	31	62.65%
10	Fremont Branch	42	22	17	56.41%
11	Mendocino Branch	77	37	27	57.81%
12	Napa Valley Writers	82	29	46	38.67%
13	North State Writers	48	28	18	60.87%
14	San Fernando Valley Branch	65	40	21	65.57%
15	High Desert Branch	90	47	41	53.41%
16	Writers Of Kern	98	57	38	60.00%
17	East Sierra Branch	31	16	15	51.61%
18	Inland Empire Branch	52	31	19	62.00%
19	Orange County Branch	43	27	15	64.29%
20	Coastal Dunes	32	18	14	56.25%
21	Long Beach Branch	70	39	31	55.71%
Total Membership		1928 (sum)	1727 (Actual State)		

Please note that one Branch shows financial errors* (not indicated), but membership figures should be accurate.

* 'Financial errors' are member payments which cannot be assigned to a category (often stemming from typos or 'Awards' that are not preceded by a minus sign.) They affect the remittance amount, but do not affect the membership total. However, the report cannot be archived until they are corrected.

Usage.

Here are the login Stats for the period, by branch.

#	Branch	Members	Users	Pct.	Total Logs
1	San Fernando Valley Branch	65	17	26.15	374
2	Berkeley Branch	90	19	21.11	111
3	Napa Valley Writers	82	16	19.51	259
4	High Desert Branch	89	16	17.98	433
5	Fremont Branch	42	7	16.67	29
6	Redwood Branch	281	42	14.95	416
7	Writers Of Kern	98	11	11.22	213
8	North State Writers	48	5	10.42	42
9	East Sierra Branch	31	3	9.68	41
10	Inland Empire Branch	52	5	9.62	48
11	Coastal Dunes	32	3	9.38	37
12	Marin Branch	40	3	7.50	40
13	Tri-Valley Branch	97	7	7.22	238
14	Mt. Diablo Branch	131	8	6.11	224
15	South Bay Branch	160	9	5.62	163
16	SF-Peninsula Branch	112	5	4.46	179
17	Long Beach Branch	70	3	4.29	78
18	Central Coast Branch	145	6	4.14	175
19	Sacramento Branch	146	5	3.42	152
20	Mendocino Branch	77	2	2.60	60
21	Orange County Branch	43	1	2.33	19
	TOTAL	1724	193	11.19	3331

Legend:
 # = (just a counter)
 Branch
 Members = Total persistent branch enrollment.
 Users = Individuals who have logged on
 Pct. = Percent of total members who have logged on.
 Total Logs = Total number of sessions by all users.

Documents All Nonprofits Should Have in Electronic Format

There will come a time in your nonprofit organization's life when you will need to submit a proposal electronically or you will work with someone who will request a document in an electronic format. It is important to have these up-to-date documents in a commonly used format. Documents in PDF (portable document format) are used and accepted by all agencies. Most Microsoft Office Programs allow you to save documents as a PDF. PDFs do not allow changes to be made to your documents, thus providing a level of security.

Important Documents to Have in Electronic Format:

- 501 (c)(3) Letter
- Articles of Incorporation
- Bylaws
- Board of Directors with affiliation(s), addresses
- Audited Financials or Compilation of Financial Statements
- Biographies/Resumes of Key Personnel
- Previous Grant Award Letters
- Balance Sheet
- Insurance
- Licenses
- Funders
- Letters of Support
- Organizational Structure (Org) Chart

Please remember to update these documents on a regular basis.

2017 Literary Review Status as of 1/12/2017

Submitted by David LaRoche

Submission window – open Sep 1 through Nov 30 – two months (previous issue – 3 months)Submissions received – 206 (previous issue 222)

<u>Branch</u>	<u>Pcs</u>	<u>Authors submitting</u>
Berkeley	4	2
Central Coast	4	3
Coastal Dunes	1	1
Fremont Area	11	6
High Desert	10	6
Inland Empire	6	4
Long Beach	6	3
Marin	2	1
Mendocino Coast	18	10
Mt Diablo	16	12
North State	10	6
Napa Valley	7	4
Orange	4	3
Redwood	11	7
Sacramento	9	5
South Bay	21	14
SF Peninsula	24	12
San Fernando Valley	10	5
San Joaquin	2	1
Tri Valley	14	8
Writers of Kern	16	9

Acquisition Editors

Mark Piper – Marin

Colleen Rae – Marin

Jana McBurney-Lin – South Bay

Roberto Haro – Marin

Elisabeth Tuck – Mt Diablo

Leslie Hoffman – South Bay

Jackie Mutz – South Bay

Assunta Maria Thompson – Inland Empire

Advertising – Nothing received or reported as of this date. Posts in Bulletin and on websitesFees – \$1000 Reported, \$230 Due or not reported as of this date. A full accounting is pending.

2017 Lit Review Schedule/Plan/Report

1/12

Task	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	
Submissions & Fees		[Progress bar from Sept to Nov]				▲						
Ops Setup	[Progress bar in Aug]	▲										
Review/critique			[Progress bar from Oct to Dec]				63%	▲				
Selection							[Progress bar in Feb]	▲				
Proofing selections								[Progress bar in Feb]	▲			
Advertising				[Progress bar from Nov to Dec]				▲				
Ads print-ready							[Progress bar in Feb]	▲				
Composition								[Progress bar from Feb to Mar]	▲			
Proofing Magazine									[Progress bar in Apr]	▲		
PDF to Printer										▲		
Printers Proof										▲		
Print											▲	
Mail											▲	
Ship Extras to Isbill											▲	
Received in PO Box											[Progress bar in May]	▲

REPORT TO THE CENTRAL BOARD – 01/11/2017

Dear Board Members,

Now that we've had a full year of *The Bulletin* magazine-style layout and distribution, I can say that about 85% of membership (based on feedback from branches) have enjoyed the newsletter. Some have questions about using it, some want more features, and yet others have never seen it.

I believe that a lack of technology for some of our older members is complicating this. We need to encourage them to download a free version of Flash 11 to make their viewing optimal. If they can't, then their computers are too old. We offer them the e-mail version but even that is too large now for most viewers.

Some members are very comfortable with new features and want the news in Kindle, streaming to their Smart phones, and iPads, etc. Our software use is restricted by our level of investment. As a non-profit, we have a set feature level for our three issues per year.

Bob Isbill and I are working on a process to make gathering the news a bit easier. Partly, we both don't like G-mail service so the change over to my personal website mail should be better. There will be some time before all of the branches send their news to the correct email address. I do appreciate any suggestions to streamline this process. I have provided a handout to all distributors.

Another way of filtering the news will be by placing the word "BULLETIN" in the subject line so I can filter my mail easier.

Changes for 2017 issues:

- 1) Designated news persons should sign their entries with their name, small photo (if they wish), and title. (Many times, I receive news from just an email address without a branch name and I need to scan the news to figure out where it belongs. Sometimes I'm wrong when a few members belong to more than one branch.)
- 2) I'm attempting to place (when known) the name and a small thumbprint photo with each news provider to encourage more "buy in" with their volunteer efforts to be the voice of their branch. These will fill in as I become aware of their names and titles, etc.
- 3) Photos must be in jpg format. I appreciate any names and titles with the photos. Most contributors have been very good with this detail.
- 4) If the news entry appears to have several contributors, then I just use "Contributors" at the end of the entry. We all know egos are fragile things so I try to work with the names I'm given. If I have a question I can't find an answer to, then I just drop off the contributor's name to neutralize it.
- 5) I use what I'm given; I usually don't go after the news. I just compile it. So, if you wish to share a certain piece of news to be entered please send it in.
- 6) Remove rustylagrange23@gmail.com and use only Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com
- 7) I send personal apologies to omissions that I have caused. I do try to minimize any mistakes. *The Bulletin* is always proofed by another member. I also use Bob as my "debriefeer" to see if I've made any major errors prior to distribution. I hope everyone is enjoying the news. I strive for a quality product.

Rusty LaGrange

Motion for change of P&P language re: The Bulletin

I, Bob Isbill, of the High Desert Branch, make the motion that the following updated changes to the P&P's Section XI E (6):

Policies and Procedures Section XI COMMITTEES AND SPECIALTY DIRECTORATES

E Standing Committees.

6) The Bulletin

- (a) The official newsletter of the CWC shall be The Bulletin.
- (b) The editor of The Bulletin shall chair this committee. The chair may recruit other members of the CWC to assist in production and circulation.
- (c) The Bulletin shall be produced bimonthly and mailed to all members in good standing and certain other people and agencies that the editor deems will further the purposes of the CWC.
- (d) Advertising and sponsorship for The Bulletin is encouraged, but it must conform to Publication 417 of the United States Postal Service for nonprofit organizations.
- (e) Branches are encouraged to submit information to the editor for publication in The Bulletin, but the editor is the sole authority on what is printed and may edit the material for length and content.
- (f) Branches may advertise local events, such as conferences, workshops, and other activities by having inserts included in The Bulletin, but shall reimburse the central board for the direct expense, not including postage, of the printing.

Change to:

Policies and Procedures Section XI COMMITTEES AND SPECIALTY DIRECTORATES

E Standing Committees.

The Bulletin

- (a) The official newsletter of the CWC shall be The Bulletin.
- (b) The editor of The Bulletin shall chair this committee. The chair may recruit other members of the CWC to assist in production and circulation.
- (c) The Bulletin shall be **digitally produced three (3) times a year**, and distributed to all members in good standing and certain other people and agencies that the editor deems will further the purposes of the CWC. **The Bulletin shall be posted on the CWC website upon publication.**
- (d) Advertising and sponsorship for The Bulletin is encouraged. ~~but it must conform to Publication 417 of the United States Postal Service for nonprofit organizations.~~
- (e) Branches are encouraged to submit information to the editor for publication in The Bulletin, but the editor is the sole authority on what is printed and may edit the material for length and content.
- (f) Branches may advertise local events, such as conferences, workshops, and other activities by having inserts included in The Bulletin, ~~but shall reimburse the central board for the direct expense, not including postage, of the printing.~~ **in accordance with the posted advertising rates. Articles announcing such events shall be published at the discretion of the editor at no charge to the branches.**

CWC Advertising & Promotions Report

In December of 2016, Roberta Smith (HDCWC Webmaster) and Bob Isbill wrote and produced an advertising video which tells the story in one and a half minutes about our program in the Lit Review and the Bulletin. It was placed on YouTube, and the file sent to all webmasters with a request that they link it to their website.

The link has been put on the HDCWC Facebook page, and Bob Isbill's personal LinkedIn page. Requests for duplicating this posting have been made to all branches.

In December, Bob also sent out the calwriters.org informational article which includes the link to the YouTube advertising video, requesting that editors publish this page within their January 2017 newsletters. Several branches complied. My thanks to them.

Rusty LaGrange has created a "display ad" that includes author photo, bio, and book cover in a 5x7 ad for The Bulletin for only \$90, which we are asking branches to promote to their members as a way of announcing and promoting their new publications. A good example of this display ad is in the November Bulletin, featuring author Brenda Hill.

In 2017 there will again be three issues of the CWC Bulletin published. I am addressing this email to 4 of the key personnel in your branch who will hopefully coordinate your news submissions.

For your information, and as posted on www.calwriters.org, here are the deadlines for the upcoming issues. Please put them on your respective calendars so that you can plan to submit your branch news, if possible, prior to these deadlines:

Deadline February 28, 2017 for the March publication; deadline July 28 for the August publication, and October 28 for the November issue.

Please encourage your membership to use the advertising available in The Bulletin as well as the 2017 Literary Review to promote their writing accomplishments and/or services. Ads in both publications reach approximately 2,000 potential buyers!

Advertising deadline for the 2017 Literary Review is March 30, 2017.

Please view and distribute on your Facebook and LinkedIn pages our advertising video which is on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TCz4Y-ENAy0&feature=youtu.be>

Bob Isbill
CWC Advertising & Promotions

High Desert Barnes & Noble Book Fair Participation Request

Promo Code 12062972

Kingston Elementary School, Apple Valley, CA, is doing their program, *New Books for Newborns* again with Barnes and Noble.

Last year, with the help of the CWC we were able to raise \$3,000. This money was put into purchasing new baby books which we delivered to the local hospitals to give our newborns the best possible start.

I am hoping the California Writers Club will help us again this year.

The B&N Book Fair is from January 31st to February 5th.

Our promo code for this year is 12062972.

Thanks so much for your support in this effort. Let's help all our kids become avid readers (and writers).

Mike Apodaca, HDCWC Member

CWC Forum Report for January 29, 2017 from Forum Admin Bob Isbill

Three discussion topics were posted on November 28, 2016 during the last 6 months:

Club Ideas, Inspirations & Discussions

MRMS E-Ballot

Is the MRMS E-Ballot facility an adequate method for polling our State-wide Membership

1 13

December 31, 2016, 03:32:51 PM
in Re: Is the MRMS E-Ballot...
by LongBeach

MRMS Document Vault

Should the MRMS Document Vault be adopted as the 'official' repository of electronic CWC State Documents

1 14

December 17, 2016, 03:56:54 PM
in Re: Should the MRMS Docu...
by Bob Isbill, High Desert Branch



Distribution of The CWC Bulletin

Question: Is the present system of distributing The Bulletin adequate, or should we pursue other methods (Mailing Services)?

As of January 9, 2017, less than half the branches were engaged in these Forum discussions.

On September 14, 2016, we had a Forum vote for Treasurer.

8 branches or 38% were absent and did not vote.

CWC Branches voting on Bill Baldwin as Treasurer

Berkeley	Absent
Central Coast	Aye
Coastal Dunes	Aye
East Sierra	Aye
Fremont	Aye
High Desert	Aye
Inland Empire	Absent
Long Beach	Aye
Marin	Absent
Mendocino Coast	Absent
Mt. Diablo	Aye
Napa	Absent
North State	Absent
Orange County	Aye
Redwood	Aye
Sacramento	Aye
SF Valley	Aye
San Francisco	Absent
South Bay	Aye
Tri-Valley	Aye
Writers of Kern	Absent

Aye 13

Absent 8

Total 21

**2017 NORCAL REPORT
FOR THE
STATE BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 29, 2017**

- **THE NORCAL GROUP WILL MEET ON THE 4TH OF FEBRUARY FOR OUR FIRST OF THREE ANNUAL MEETINGS. WE MEET AT PANERA BREAD IN LIVERMORE, CA. FROM 10 TO 3 P.M. FOR ANY NEW NORCAL REPS WHO WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US, PLEASE NOTIFY ME. carolebumpus@gmail.com**

- **FOR THE FIFTH YEAR IN A ROW, WE ARE IN THE FINISHING STAGES OF THE UPCOMING SAN FRANCISCO WRITERS CONFERENCE (FEBRUARY 17TH-19TH) OF WHICH WE REPRESENT THE ENTIRE STATEWIDE CWC THROUGH OUR VOLUNTEERS. IF ANY FROM YOUR BRANCH WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER, PLEASE ALSO LET ME KNOW. carolebumpus@gmail.com**

WE ARE ALSO COLLECTING NEW CWC BRANCH BROCHURES TO BE GIVEN OUT TO ANY AND ALL NEW OR INTERESTED ATTENDEES. PLEASE GIVE YOUR BROCHURES TO MY SF PENINSULA BRANCH SUBSTITUTE, BILL BAYNES. THANK YOU!

- **WE HAVE SET OUR NEXT BOOK/AUTHOR EVENT AT THE BAY AREA BOOK FEST IN BERKELEY, JUNE 3RD AND 4TH OF THIS YEAR. CWC VOLUNTEERS WILL BE ABLE REPRESENT THE STATE AND ALSO SELL THEIR OWN BOOKS – SO IT IS A REAL WIN-WIN!!**

- **WE ARE ALSO FORMULATING A PLAN TO HELP GIVE ASSISTANCE TO CWC NORCAL BRANCHES WHICH CALL OUT THEIR NEEDS. THIS IS IN RESPONSE TO DISCUSSIONS AT THE 2016 NORCAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE: TO HELP FACILITATE BRANCHES WHEN IN NEED.**

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:
CAROLE BUMPUS, CWC NORCAL CHAIR,
STATE BOARD REP AND SF PENINSULA BRANCH PRESIDENT**

CWC NORCAL GROUP REPORT
ON
BUILDING BETTER BRANCHES 2016 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The CWC NorCal Group hosted the *2016 Building Better Branches Leadership Conference* this year at DeVry University in Fremont, CA. Of the twelve NorCal branches, we had members from ten of the branches, and one member from Inland Empire in Southern California; a total of 68 in all.

The goals set for this conference were to help CWC members (especially board members) fulfill their individual branch roles as well as find new ways to improve their branch and/or to help 'grow' the branch in a better, more positive way.

Our keynote speaker, Sandy Baker from Redwood Writers, a branch of over three hundred members in Santa Rosa, gave an inspiring talk called '*Secrets for Attracting and Nurturing Members*'. For many of us branch board members this was a true highlight, as she was able to share positive examples of how to educate CWC members at all levels of writing expertise as well as in publishing and marketing of their work. We also learned the benefits of offering 'member-only' programs to encourage not only new writers to join but to celebrate the accomplishments of our member authors.

Our Peer-to-Peer Group sessions were varied, as there were many separate roles of which to cover. The greatest overall interest, though, was in how to bring more volunteers into the fold and include more into our board meetings.

The afternoon track sessions continued our discourse and were led by (1) Karma Bennett of Berkeley Branch on *Generation Text – Attracting Younger Members*; (2) Kim Edwards of the Sacramento Branch on *Motivating Volunteers and Keeping Them Committed*; and (3) Jordan Bernal from Tri-Valley Branch who spoke on the '*Five Dysfunctions of a Team and How to Overcome Them*'. All gave us ways to provide leadership and to help direct the creative types within our branches.

Very positive feedback was received from all with the majority requesting the leadership conference be put on at least every other year, if not every year. One of the favorite experiences members shared was the ability to collaborate as a peer group, meeting other CWC members and having the opportunity to network. It truly was a worthwhile event!

Faithfully submitted,

Carole Bumpus, NorCal Chair and Leadership Conference Chair – 2016
President – CWC San Francisco Peninsula Branch

Report from
CWC South (southern region, CWC)
Presented at January 29, 2017, CB meeting
Holiday Inn Express, Oakland, CA

- We will have a booth at the Riverside Dickens Festival, two days, February 25-26, 2017, where we will distribute CWC literature, handouts about activities of individual CWC South branches, and educational material about California Writers contemporary with Charles Dickens. At the invitation of festival organizers, we will conduct an essay-writing workshop on both days. This will be promoted by Dickens organizers to high schools through their area and in large-circulation newspapers. For the first time, we will also donate two raffle baskets to their event fundraiser.
- Our next meeting, February 12, held at Vroman's Bookstore in Pasadena, will present a version of the northern region's Building Better Branches, conducted by Judy Kohlen (Inland Empire Branch) who attended the NorCal program.
- We continue our socialwritersshowcase.com website with monthly updates in nine categories (short fiction, nonfiction/essay, memoir, poetry, interviews, writers' life, craft, news, and conferences) and increasing participation from the branches.
- In past years, we have conferred mini-grants on southern branches for community projects, drawing on unspent funds in our annual regional allocation. As we get closer to June, we will look at doing it again this fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted by
Donna McCrohan Rosenthal,
Chair, CWC South
1/29/17

The Dorothy C. Blakely Memoir Project Report for January 29, 2017

Due to scheduling difficulties with the Academy for Academic Excellence, and meeting problems caused by the Bluecut Fire, the DCB Memoir Project has been postponed until August of 2017.

A presentation was made by the HDCWC to the Association of Retired Teachers in the High Desert on January 5, 2017.

Bob Isbill



www.calwrwriters.org

Friends of Joaquin Miller Park

January 29, 2017 CWC-Central Board
Meeting
by Linda Brown, CWC Berkeley
Branch

Friends of



www.fojmp.org

What's Brand New

1) Oakland developing a "Conceptual" Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the Parks

In November, a consultant to Oakland's Public Works Department (OPD) and OPD staff presented their work plan for developing a CIP to the FoJMP and asked for feedback and input.

The Friends' verbal feedback that day centered on: 1) restrooms-repair, clean and/or rebuild all four, 2) American with Disabilities Act (ADA) access to the Park, 3) Cascade/Woodminster restoration, and 4) traffic calming on Joaquin Miller Road.

Since then, I have sent specific recommendations in support of these priorities as well as:

1) vehicle access to the Fire Circle from Joaquin Miller's Abbey with off-Joaquin Miller Road parking near the ADA restroom above the Fire Circle and behind the Tot Lot, and

2) short-term removal of the abandoned trailer* below the Ranger Station and longer-term conversion of that site to a covered picnic area, addition of an ADA restroom, and improvement to or fundraising for a new Ranger Station, which has leaks.

The Budget approval deadline is June 30.

* I approached three entities including the Cypress/Mandela Pre-Apprenticeship Construction Training Program to demolish the trailer as a training opportunity and at no cost for the City except disposal.

2) Oakland Volunteer Park Patrol (OVPP)

Stan Dodson, the FoJMP's webmaster and a former board member spearheaded this pilot program. The Friends provided some seed money and I volunteered on some outreach planning. The 2016 (and first) report showed:

-241 hours Trail work

-306 Promotion hours, e.g., hiking tours, 41 screenings of the Trailhead documentary

-1,476 Volunteer Hours: hiking, hiking with a dog, biking, administration, training, trail work, and

-1,388 Contacts with Park users (about 1 contact per volunteer hour)

Learn about OVPP at www.OaklandTrails.org/Park-Patrol

3) Urban Forestry Request for Funding Support

The Friends supported an Urban Forestry letter to the City for more funds to protect urban forests.

4) OPD' & Oakland Parks and Recreation (OPR) Directors Updates

OPD's Director retires March 3. Nicholas Williams, the new OPR director, who joined the City on June 6, declined an invitation to visit the Friends. Instead, he said he would welcome (only) two representatives to meet with him.

5) The Friends funded new trail markers (\$700).

6) Annual CWC Dues (\$50) Requested

Go To Meeting Report

The first year of CWC's experience and utilization of GoToMeeting online live video-conferencing is over. Although there has not been an abundance of activity, this platform has served diverse groups.

July 5 and 7: CWC Finance Committee, host Joyce Krieg, attendees 5 on July 5 and 4 on July 7.

August 23: CWC Committee Meeting, host Judith Marshall, attendees 4

September 1: Barnes and Noble Book Fair discussion, host Bob Isbill, attendees 7

September 27: planning session for the NorCal Leadership Conference, host-Joyce Krieg, attendees 2.

December 20 and 22: Juror Training for Scholastic Art and Writing Awards contest, host-Marlene Dotterer, attendees 8 on December 20, and 2 on December 22.

Prior to and after July 5 there were a number of meetings to allow attendees to test their ability to sign on and learn the features of this application.

Feedback has been generally positive and even confirmed Luddites have been wooed to acceptance. I think it behooves CWC to re-subscribe to this valuable service and develop more ways to exploit the platform. Inter-branch projects, Central Board, NorCal, and CWC South Committee Meetings are all appropriate reasons for a meeting. Special topics such as scholarships, program planning, fundraising, membership, and the roles of various officers can also benefit from this platform. Educational and training has yet to be explored. This medium would allow PowerPoint presentations and real-time instruction of navigating the potential of MRMS. Questions or to schedule a meeting contact: Doug Brozell.

cwgotomeeting@gmail.com.

Doug Brozell

Addendum: Annual cost is \$174. Our current contract will expire in April 2017.

***Background information for this
Motion for the Distribution of CWC Scholarship Funds***

I've been a member of Napa Valley Writers for a couple years now. Our club is a little over four years old. After a stint as publicity chair, I was asked this past summer to become president.

I'm fully aware that there has been more than one contentious battle waged to free up the scholarship money in CWC's coffers. I've talked with a few branch reps that have shared tales with me. That said, it seems inappropriate to me for CWC to hold onto scholarship funds for an ongoing length of time.

Several years ago NVW applied to the CWC state board for a scholarship grant and received \$250, which we then provided as support for our local Napa Valley Writers Conference. In many ways, that initiated and cemented our relationship with the Conference and Napa Valley College, which supports the Conference. NVW Branch members have talked of a scholarship program for a while now. When I became president, the Board added a scholarship line item in the 2016-'17 budget. We didn't know then what we would do with it. We felt a strong responsibility as a community non-profit organization to give to the community and we have the cash to do so.

We've recently awarded \$1,000 to the Napa Valley Writers Conference for distribution to local writers who have been accepted into the conference and are requesting financial assistance. We discussed many options, including scholarships to students at high school, junior college, or to fund our own members to attend their chosen conferences and workshops. In the end, it came down to one thing.

Even though we have a healthy membership of 81 members, we don't have a lot of volunteer helpers. We were at 60 members spring of '16. At that time, we called for submissions to our first anthology. One of the requirements was that submissions could come only from NVW members. We'll see how the memberships hold come June.

Because we don't have a lot of helpers, we knew we couldn't take on a big project. By providing the money directly to the Conference, the Conference people will do the judging with all the background work involved. We will share marketing and publicity of the scholarship. It is one more way we are making inroads into the writing community here at home. We don't want to be accused of favoritism with one member or another who wins the scholarship and one who doesn't. We want the experts to do so. We also know the Conference has been looking for ways to increase the number of locals attending each summer. In the big picture, this will help.

NVW will soon be submitting grant applications community and other funders to help back-fill our funds, using our good work in the community to do so.

This brings me to the next step with CWC.

MOTION FOR DISTRIBUTION OF CWC SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Whereas the California Writers Club has a named scholarship fund of approximately \$20,000;

And whereas, there has been considerable discussion over the years with no conclusive decision to make use of these funds;

And whereas, it is our fiduciary and moral duty to contribute to our communities as a State of California non-profit organization;

And whereas, one of our defining purposes is to foster professionalism in writing, promote networking of writers with the writing community, mentor new writers, and provide literary support for writers and the writing community through education and leadership;

And whereas, this monetary support could positively assist each Branch of CWC to support its community of writers in writer related events and services;

And whereas, scholarship and educational awards given by twenty-one branches will provide positive awareness and publicity of the local Branch and of CWC in general;

Therefore, be it resolved that beginning April 1, 2017, each Branch will receive \$500 from the CWC scholarship fund to be used as a scholarship or educational award program in their local community;

Further be it resolved that this \$500 allotment will be automatically sent to each Branch unless the Branch opts to the CWC President by close of day, March 15, 2017;

Further be it resolved, that for every Branch with more than 100 members, their allotment will increase an added \$100 with each additional block of members up to 99. For instance, Central Coast with 138 members will receive \$600. Napa Valley Writers with 81 members receives \$500, and Redwood Writers with a membership of 325 will receive \$700. (Actual numbers may be different; loosely based on 2016 – 2017 figures);

Further be it resolved, that each Branch is responsible for using the scholarship money for specific branch activities or programs that carry out CWC's mission of educating writers, including registration fees for writers conferences, prison outreach programs, award money for student writing contests, traditional college scholarships, and other uses as the Branch determines;

Further be it resolved, as each Branch commits to how they will use their scholarship money, they will report to the Central Board so that information can be shared with other Branches;

Further be it resolved, that CWC Scholarship fund allotments may not be used for the day-to-day operation of the branch;

Further be it resolved, if the Branch hasn't used the scholarship allotment within 12 months of receiving the award, it reverts back to the CWC scholarship fund;

Further be it resolved, neighboring Branches that wish to pool their scholarship allotment for a larger scholarship award in their geographic area have the option to do so;

Further be it resolved, each Branch will be responsible for publicizing CWC in their scholarship awards. Copies of such publicity will be forwarded to CWC. Each Branch also will submit a Scholarship Fund Update to the Central Board at each January CB meeting;

Further be it resolved, if the scholarships continue to be given to the Branches on an annual basis, the same procedures will be in place or can be amended by a committee appointed by the Central Board before September 2017;

Further be it resolved, as the CWC scholarship fund declines, CWC and its Branches may consider means to supplement the scholarship fund, reduce allocations, or allow the fund to diminish in its entirety;

Be it resolved, on this 29th day of January, the Central Board of California Writers Club hereby approves this motion.

Submitted by Kathleen Thomas, Central Board Member, NVW President

Bylaws Update – Joyce Krieg

At the July 24, 2016 meeting, the Central Board voted to convene a meeting of the Bylaws Committee to bring our bylaws into compliance with the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*. Mary Freeman of the San Fernando Valley branch agreed to be the co-chair of this committee.

I have attempted to contact Mary via email to inquire as to progress of this committee but have gotten no response. It is my belief that no meeting has been held.

Independent of the committee, I have been exploring legal requirements for bylaws for nonprofits in the state of California. Sources I have consulted include the California Attorney General's website, the Nolo Press book on California nonprofits, and *Robert's Rules of Order, Revised 11th Edition*. Thus far, I haven't found bylaws that I believe are suitable for a small organization with no employees and no property such as CWC, but I will keep looking.

Of immediate concern is that our current bylaws require a vote of the entire membership via snail mail to make amendments. I would like to propose that the Central Board move forward with an amendment that will allow either:

1. Amendments to be made by electronic voting by the entire membership, or
2. Amendments to be made by vote of just the Central Board members, either electronically or in-person.

As president, I cannot make a motion, so I am hoping a representative will step forward and be willing to do this.

Assuming the CB decides to move forward with one of these proposed amendments, or a variation thereof, I would also like to propose that this last snail mail vote of the entire membership be done by placing a ballot as an insert in the *Literary Review* in order to save the cost of a separate mailing, and would request a motion to direct the editor of the *Literary Review* to carry out this decision.

###

AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION AND/OR BYLAWS

MOTION

That, in accordance with present Bylaws, the Secretary or an appointee shall immediately arrange for the mailing of ballots — along with arguments pro and con — to the entire membership requesting a vote on the following amendment.

MOTION TO BE DECIDED:

That the California Writers Club Bylaws be amended to read:

ARTICLE V: AMENDMENTS

Section 1:

(A) Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws proposed by the Central Board shall be ratified by simple majority of all active members (status to be determined at the time ballots are issued), providing a majority of those members cast ballots voting ‘Aye’. ‘Nay’ or ‘Abstain’.

That the voting period (time from issuing of ballots to final count) be two (2) calendar months or sixty (60) days, whichever is greater, and not extend into the months of July or August.

(B) That voting be by one of two methods:

1) U.S Mail

Ballots will be mailed to all eligible members either as a separate mailing, or as an enclosure of a regular printed publication intended for all members.

Completed ballots will require signature of member.

Ballots will be collected by the Secretary of each branch. When the voting period closes, ballots will be tallied by the Secretary and at least one other Officer of the branch. The tally will be signed by both officers and placed in a sealed envelope. The ballots and envelope will be bundled and mailed to the Secretary of the Central Board. The Secretary of the Central Board and at least one other Officer of the board will verify the tally. Any discrepancy will disqualify all ballots from that branch, and these ballots will not be included in the prerequisite total for validity. Otherwise, the tally will be recorded and added to the general tally.

2) Electronic Voting

Voting will be by any electronic means deemed by a simple majority of the Central Board to satisfy the following requirements:

- Current members (and only these members) should be able to cast a vote.
- No Member should be able to cast more than one vote.
- Contents of member’s ballot must be confidential.
- Voting periods should not overlap. (One ‘election’ must ‘close’ before another can ‘open’.)
- Provision should be present to prevent the altering of text after a ballot has been published.

- Ballots should be easily constructed by authorized personnel. (It should not require a web programmer to construct a ballot.)
- The system should provide flexible reporting of recorded vote tallies.
- The system should provide means for audit and verification of results.

(C) If voting is to be by mail, Pros and cons of ballot measures shall be sent with the ballots when necessary. If voting is to be electronic, Pros and Cons shall be linked to the electronic ballot form.

(D) Upon a vote of the Central Board proposing an amendment or by action of a majority of branches, the Secretary or an appointee shall immediately arrange for the mailing of ballots, or establishment of an electronic ballot with the option to vote for individual or all amendments, to the entire membership.

CWC Annual Picnic at Joaquin Miller Park – Joyce Krieg

Background: CWC has been hosting an annual picnic at Joaquin Miller Park in the Oakland hills since our centennial in 2009. This park is on the grounds of poet Joaquin Miller's home, considered the birthplace of CWC, as the club grew out of the literary gatherings that he frequently hosted. CWC has a long connection with Joaquin Miller Park, including spearheading the construction of The Cascades and Woodminster Amphitheater as WPA projects back in the 1930s, and the planting of trees in honor of California writers well into the 1980s. Our annual picnic is designed to honor our past by recreating those legendary outdoor literary salons.

As a history geek, I have a lot of fondness for this event. But as president, I have to question whether it is worth continuing. Factors to consider:

Cost: This event costs around \$500, when you take into account the various fees and permits charged by the City of Oakland to rent the group picnic area, plus food (hamburgers), paper plates, etc., and the prizes for the LitCake contest.

Attendance: Participation usually hovers around 45 to 50. In 2016, I counted 48 picnickers from 14 branches. As one might expect, the bulk came from branches closest to Oakland: Berkeley, Mount Diablo, Fremont and San Francisco Peninsula, plus a scattering of "onesies," the CB reps from outlying areas who had arrived early for the meeting the following day. Bottom line: \$500 seems to be a lot to be spending on an event that only attracts around 50 members from a club of some 1800.

Accessibility: The Fire Circle, where we traditionally hold our picnics, is difficult to get to for our members with mobility issues, requiring a walk of roughly one-quarter mile over uneven ground. Even with the city opening a gate to allowing us to drop off people at the Fire Circle, there's still the issue of a long hike to the restrooms. Last year, I explored all the group picnic areas at Joaquin Miller Park, and all have similar accessibility issues. The one group picnic area that offered a short, easy walk from a parking lot had zero shade—obviously not a good choice for an event in July.

The Human Factor: This event requires a considerable expenditure of human time and energy: dealing with the City of Oakland over regulations and permits, getting the word out to our members, arranging for food, providing transportation for the Southern California reps arriving by air, coordinating the readings from members' works, and judging the LitCake contest. Again, for an event that draws only 50 of our 1800 members, is this the best use of our time and energy?

Bottom Line: If the decision from the Central Board on January 29 is to continue with this event and hold a picnic in 2017, someone whose name is not Joyce Krieg needs to step

forward and agree to be the chair ... preferably a volunteer from one of the branches close to Joaquin Miller Park.

If the Central Board decides *not* to continue with this event—or if no chair steps forward—do we want to consider another summer event for the day before the July CB meeting? Something less costly, more attractive to a greater number of members and easier to execute, perhaps?

###

Creative Writing Opportunities (CRWROPPS)

A path to publication can be by entering contests. Many university presses and small independent publishers, especially those who do literary fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry, hold contests in which they will publish winners. This can be a huge honor and a stepping stone to greater things in your career, or it may turn out to be much ado about not very much, a handful of copies that no one but you will ever see.

CRWROPPS at Yahoo is a list serve that will email information about writing opportunities that authors may not have heard of. Authors have to start somewhere to get published and aiming for Random House on a first try is unrealistic. CRWROPPS offers information about possible ways to publish and therefore build a resume.

You can find contests in many books and websites. Here are a few: **Funds for Writers**, Moira Allen's **Writing to Win: Colossal Guide to Writing Contests**, **Poets & Writers**, **Writers Digest**, **Freelancewriting.com**.

Before entering contests, authors need to answer some questions (copied from <http://writewithauthority.blogspot.com/2015/09/using-funds-for-writers-or-crwropps.html>)

Who are these people?

Who else have they published? Do you like the books they put out? Would your book fit in? Go to their website, take a look at their books and see if it feels right. Then study the guidelines. Do you and your book fit their qualifications? Many contests look for authors who have not published books before or at least not in that genre. Some have requirements for age, ethnicity or place of residence. Others only want to see books that have already been published.

What do they require for entries?

Usually they're looking for a finished manuscript. Will yours be ready by the deadline? Will it be the right length? Do they want hard copies sent by mail, email entries, or entries fit into a form? Do they want your contact information on the manuscript, or does it need to be anonymous with a cover sheet explaining who you are? You can lose a contest by not following directions.

Is this contest worth it to you? Nearly all contests have entry fees, often ranging from \$20 up. If you enter several contests, the fees add up. What will you get if you win? Is there a cash prize? Do they guarantee publication? How many copies will they publish? What rights will they take? Will they pay an advance or royalties? Will they help with marketing and distribution? Are there secondary prizes for runners-up and honorable mentions? Do they offer critiques for non-winners?

If you're thinking entering book contests sounds like a lot of work, you're right. It is. But if you win the right contest with the right book, it can be the best thing that ever happened to your career.

Below is how to join CRWROPPS, a list serve that alerts authors to contests, and attached are samples of emails CRWROPPS might send:

To join Creative Writing Opportunities (CRWROPPS) featuring postings in fiction, nonfiction, poetry and art

To join the list-serve to have writing opportunities emailed to you:

-Send a blank email to: crwropps-b-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

-Wait for a return email with further sign-up instructions. They will reply asking you to either go to their Yahoo Group (they give the address that can be clicked on or copied and pasted into your browser) OR simply reply to the email they send.

The result is that your email address is added to their list and you are notified of writing opportunities as they come up.

SAMPLES FROM CRWROPPS LIST SERVE

Posted by: CRWROPPS LIST <crwropps@aol.com>

Subject: \$500 OddContest deadline extended to January 31

\$500 Speculative Flash/Prose Poem Contest

The annual OddContest: <http://odysseycon.org/contest/contest.html>

Sponsored by OdysseyCon, a science-fiction convention in Madison, Wisconsin, USA, April 28-30, 2017

Send 500 words max: speculative (science-fiction, fantasy, or horror) fiction or prose poem.
Deadline: January 15, 2017

Youth: under 18 as of Jan. 1, 2016, NO ENTRY FEE, but send only ONE entry. Prize: \$50 to first place

Adult: \$10 per entry (via PayPal on website or to treasurerAToddconDOTcom); multiple entries allowed. Prizes: \$500 to first place.

OddCon membership and books to top 3 places in both divisions

The 2016 judge will be Mary Soon Lee, poet and science-fiction writer;
see marysoonlee.com

Winning poems/stories will be read at OddCon, published in the program, and posted on the OddCon site.

E-mail your work (maximum length 500 words, excluding title), attached as .doc or .rtf, to contestATodysseyconDOTorg. Put CONTEST: (Youth or Adult), last name and first initial in the subject line. Be sure to include your name, e-mail under which payment was made, date of birth (Youth only), and a mailing address (so we can send you books if you win).
NO POSTAL SUBMISSIONS.

Contest results posted by March 15. Questions? E-mail contestATodysseyconDOTorg or call 608-566-9087.

Submission Deadline Fast Approaching!

Raynes Poetry Prize - \$1000 First Prize

Deadline: January 15, 2017

Entry Fee: \$18

Website: <http://www.jewishcurrents.org/fifth-poetry-competition>

E-mail address: raynespoetryAToutlookDOTcom

A prize of \$1,000 and publication in Jewish Currents is given annually for a poem on a theme. This year's theme is "Borders and Boundaries."

The winning poem will also appear in an anthology published by Blue Thread Press in Spring 2017.

Irena Klepfisz will judge.

Submit up to three poems of no more than three pages each with an \$18 entry fee, which includes a subscription to Jewish Currents, by January 15. All entries are considered for publication. Send an SASE or visit the website for complete guidelines.

Jewish Currents, Raynes Poetry Prize, P.O. Box 111, Accord, NY 12404. Lawrence Bush, Editor.

SAMPLES FROM CRWROPPS LIST SERVE

Posted by: CRWROPPS LIST <crwropps@aol.com>

Note: Poets of all ages, backgrounds, religions/non-religions, and orientation are encouraged to submit.

SAMPLES FROM CRWROPPS LIST SERVE

Posted by: CRWROPPS LIST <crwropps@aol.com>

Subject: call for review copies: Plume

The editors of *Plume* (plumepoetry.com), a monthly online poetry journal, are eager to receive more diverse titles for possible review in 2017, especially from poets of color and university presses. We are also eager to receive books from LGBTQ poets, international poets, poets with first books, and independent publishers.

All reviews are written by members of our staff, so no freelance queries, please.

We invite presses and authors to submit complimentary copies of poetry collections, chapbooks, verse translations, and studies on poetics—published within the past twelve months—for possible review. Books will not be returned and receipt of materials in no way indicates an intent or obligation to review. Works that fail to pique our interest will be donated to local schools and charities.

We strongly discourage the submission of self-published collections, e-books, or advance queries via email.

Review copies may be sent to the postal address below. Magazine submissions and extraneous correspondence will be deleted unread.

Reviews Editor

Plume

P.O. Box 80

Quantico, MD 21856

At Length is currently looking for music essays of *at least* 5,000 words. Personal stories are welcome, as are diverse voices, lyric/cross-genre essays, and writing about music not often covered in the music press. No reviews, please. Send work to music editor Danny Caine: [music \[at\] atlengthmag.com](mailto:music[at]atlengthmag.com). We're open for submissions until January 31, and our response time is typically around 2 months.

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Music, Writing, Art and Photography: atlengthmag.com

Podcast: <http://allupinyouears.com>

SAMPLES FROM CRWROPPS LIST SERVE

Posted by: CRWROPPS LIST <crwropps@aol.com>

Subject: call for submissions: Lime Hawk

Lime Hawk, a quarterly independent online journal of culture, environment, and sustainability, seeks new, unpublished submissions of short fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, and visual art for its first issue of 2017.

Read past issues at www.limehawk.org/journal then send us your fresh new work!

No deadline to submit. No reading fees.

Submit via <https://limehawk.submittable.com/submit>.

We look forward to reviewing your work!
