

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

No. 20 Sept. 29, 2017



January Central Board Meeting: Yes or No?



So the other day my mind is starting to kick around the January Central Board meeting, and a wild-ass idea pops up—do we even need to have a January CB meeting? I mean, I know of no issue facing the club so vital that it would warrant dragging all 23 of us to Oakland on a Sunday in January, so again I ask myself—do we even need to have a meeting?

Next step, I floated the idea with the Executive Committee and got general agreement that it's an idea worth pursuing. So now, I put the question in your laps—do you think we can skip the January CB meeting? I could be missing something here. Perhaps there is, indeed, a vital issue that I'm not aware of that you were planning to put on the agenda. Or maybe you really and truly love spending that Sunday in Oakland.

In case any of you are wondering, there is nothing in our governing documents that requires us to schedule a Central Board meeting in January. Our bylaws simply state that the Central Board must have an annual meeting. The Policies and Procedures says that we are to have "no more than two" meetings per year, and that one of those meetings must be the annual election of officers. So, seems to me we are not breaking any Official Rules by skipping the January 2018 meeting. We'd just be deviating from recent tradition.

I do have something up my sleeve—another one of my wild-ass ideas—in lieu of the January CB meeting. I'm thinking of bringing together the members of the Executive Committee and our committee and regional chairs for a long-range planning summit sometime in first quarter 2018. While we have no immediate major decisions to make, there are a number of key, long-term issues facing our club: identifying and training future leadership, devising a plan to sustain an organization of some 2,000 members and 22 branches with an all-volunteer staff, just to name a few.

If you are a Central Board representative, I am requesting that you respond in all due haste with your thoughts, and specific directions on canceling the January CB meeting, yes or no, to president@calwriters.org. If you are a branch president, I urge you to discuss this with your board and your CB rep, and send me your thoughts. Your input is vital! Thank you.

CWC Forum: Technical Difficulties



Something has gone seriously awry—no one's fault—with the CWC Forum. If you've tried to log on the past couple of days, you've probably been greeted with an error message. Webmaster John Byrne Barry is on the case and reports that it has something to do with our host, GoDaddy, moving to a new server. With any luck, by the time you read this, the issue will have been resolved.

Meanwhile, the voting period on the motion to give the Ina Coolbrith Award to Anthony Folcarelli was due to close Thursday evening. Obviously, that deadline will be extended for however many days the CWC Forum ends up being offline.

Appreciate everyone's patience, and kudos to Webmaster John for responding to the issue so promptly.

Do Renew and Pay Your Dues

Two important deadlines are right around the corner when it comes to the CWC membership renewal process. **Saturday, September 30** is the final day to update records in MRMS for your members who have renewed their memberships. And, **October 15** is the deadline to turn in your portion of the renewal dues (\$20 X # of renewals) to CWC World Headquarters.

I know all of you are diligent and well-meaning and have probably already taken care of this. But just in case, you might want to check with your Membership Chair and Treasurer to make sure all is in order. As always, if you have any membership questions or issues, contact Membership Chair Sharon Svitak, membership@calwriters.org.

