



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

No. 25 April 26, 2018

Im not obsessed.
i'm an editor!

A June Debut for Our Lit Review

If there's one question I get asked more than any other here at CWC World Headquarters, it's this: When is the *Literary Review* coming out? And its corollary: when will we know whether our work has been accepted or not? I always start my answer with the reminder that we're all volunteers with good intentions, doing the best we can with the time and resources available to us. That certainly goes for the *Literary Review* team. After consultation with Managing Editors Elisabeth Tuck and Scott Evans, and Graphic Designer Rusty LaGrange, I can say with reasonable confidence

that the magazine will be in our members' mailboxes by end of June, as well as all contributors being notified as to the status of their submissions.

We've got an entire new team working on the *Literary Review* this year, and I want to acknowledge the countless hours of work that Elisabeth and Scott have already contributed to this project. A huge shout-out goes to Rusty LaGrange for stepping in take on the graphic design and layout. She's already done more than her share in editing *The Bulletin* and I am very grateful that she was willing to add this to her already full plate.

In the next few weeks, the editorial team will be assembling a mailing list for the printer. The data they use comes from MRMS, so it's vital that your branch records be brought up-to-date—especially when it comes to adding those new members who may have joined after the annual renewal period ended last October. If they're not in MRMS, or their address is wrong, they won't receive the one tangible perk we offer our members.

Membership Chair: Two Thank-You's, One Farewell

One of the loyal stalwarts of CWC-land is leaving our family. Sharon Svitak is moving to Texas to be closer to her family, and is thus giving up her position as state membership chair. Sharon has been a long-time volunteer, having served for several years as state treasurer. Most of us know how hard it is to find a competent and enthusiastic treasurer at the branch level, so you can well imagine the contribution Sharon made to the overall good of the parent organization.



Lucky for us, former CWC President Dave George has stepped in and agreed to take on the membership role on an interim basis—emphasis on interim. We absolutely *must* find someone willing to do this on a permanent basis on or before the July 22 Central Board meeting. In the meantime, if you have new members to report or other membership issues, or you'd like to explore becoming membership chair—it's not that difficult, really!—direct your communications to Dave, davegeorge7@comcast.net.

I'm sure you'll join me in wishing Sharon all the best in her new home, and extend a heartfelt thank-you for her many years of service to CWC. And of course, here's to Dave for once again raising his hand when help is needed. Where would CWC be without his support?

Caution: Do Not Let This Happen to Your Branch!



We all think this could never happen to us—but it can and it did. One of our branches recently lost \$1800 to email fraud. As I understand it, a former officer's email account was hacked. The bad guys used that former officer's account to send a request to the branch treasurer for a transfer of funds to a BofA account. The request looked legit, for official club business, so the treasurer complied. But no. It was bogus, fake, a fraud.

The point of this message is not to point fingers or play the blame game. I applaud the leadership of this branch for bringing the situation to my attention and for their sincere desire to issue a helpful warning to their fellow branches.

Not so very long ago, fiscal safeguards were relatively straightforward. Require a written request for reimbursement, signed by the president. A policy of two signatures on every check. But now that we're doing so much business via PayPal or EFT, how do you protect your branch's funds? State Treasurer Bill Baldwin suggests contacting the person making the request by telephone to verify the legitimacy of said request before initiating payment. That, to me, seems like a reasonable place to start. There are numerous resources online with information on how to protect yourself from phishing and spoofing scams. Likewise steps to take if you think you're the one whose email has been hacked. We live in rapidly changing times, and there are a lot of bad hats out there. As Thomas Jefferson warned us, "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."