

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

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Calif. Writers Week Is Right Around the Corner

Just a quick reminder that the third week in October is California Writers Week by declaration of the state legislature. This year, the dates are October 14-20. I realize that if your branch hasn't already made plans to celebrate California Writers Week in some way, this reminder comes far too late. But if your branch meeting happens to fall in the third week of the month, it would be super if you could at least make an announcement at the meeting.

The California Writers Week designation is the result of the tireless efforts of one CWC member: Anthony Folcarelli of the Sacramento branch. In 2003, Anthony worked with his local state assembly member to obtain the official declaration. After many "whereases," the resolution concludes by encouraging "the people of the State of California to reflect upon the contributions that California writers have made to humankind." Due to Anthony's efforts, CWC presented the Ina Coolbrith Award for outstanding volunteer services to him in 2017.

The full text of the resolution, a downloadable poster, pictures of the original 2003 presentation at the State Capitol, and a list of "California Authors of Note" are available on the CWC website, calwriters.org. Just click on the "History" tab and choose "California Writers Week" from the drop-down menu.



Once Again I Ask: Should We Have a January CB Meeting?



Just about this time last year, I was posing the question: should I schedule a Central Board meeting for January? Now I find myself asking the same question this year: do we want or need a CB meeting in January of 2019?

I've already run it by the Executive Committee, and their verdict is that they believe our resources could be better put to use by scheduling another long-range planning meeting involving officers and committee chairs like we did last year. But before I make a final decision, I need to hear from you, the CB reps and branch presidents: do you know of any pressing, urgent, or just plain important business that would warrant all 23 of us gathering in January in Oakland? If so, speak up now! Let me know your thoughts at president@calwriters.org.

The Call Is Out for Your Best Writing!

The search is on for the very best writing from our members for publication in the 2019 edition of the CWC *Literary Review*. If you've not already gotten the word out to your branch members, please do so via your newsletter, meeting announcements, email blasts, notices on your branch website and Facebook pages, or any other means you employ to communicate with your members. Smoke signals, anyone? This is a great way to showcase your members' best writing in a print publication that reaches some 2,000 fellow writers, let's make sure everyone is aware of this benefit of CWC membership.

The submission deadline is November 30, so now's the time to make a major push for submissions. The categories are fiction, poetry, essay and memoir. Though we call this a "literary" magazine, genre fiction is welcome, as is humor and light themes and topics. The important thing is the quality of the work: polished, proofread, and if possible, workshopped before submission.

Complete guidelines are posted on calwriters.org. Just click the link on the Home page.

