

# CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB

**Central Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Saturday, April 23, 2022**

Via Zoom

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order at 1 p.m. by President Roger Lubeck, who welcomed those attending and issued ground rules for the meeting.

# ROLL CALL

President - Roger Lubeck

Berkeley - absent

Central Coast - Joyce Krieg

Coastal Dunes - absent

East Sierra - Donna McCrohan Rosenthal, Vice President

Fremont - Terry Tosh

High Desert - Bob Isbill

Inland Empire - Ben Alirez for Sue Andrews

Long Beach - Kathryn Atkins

Marin - absent

Mendocino - Notty Bumbo

Mt. Diablo - Elisabeth Tuck, Secretary

Napa Valley Writers- Kymberlie Ingalls

North State - absent

Orange County - Jeanette Fratto, Member at Large

Redwood Writers- Shawn Langwell

Sacramento - Kim Edwards

San Fernando Valley - Bob Okowitz

San Joaquin Valley - June Gillam

San Francisco Peninsula Carole Bumpus, NorCal Chair

South Bay Writers - Bill Baldwin

Tri-Valley - Jordan Bernal for Connie Hanstedt, Treasurer

Writers of Kern - absent

The president declared a quorum, and business could legally be conducted.

Guests: Brian Gaps, Orange; Russ Thompson, Long Beach; Anita Holmes, High Desert.

President Roger Lubeck (Redwood) welcomed everyone.

**SECRETARY’S REPORT** – Elisabeth Tuck (Mt. Diablo)

**Minutes of the July 25, 2021 Central Board meeting were approved as revised.**

**There has been no e-business since** July 25, 2021.

**TREASURER’S REPORTS** – Jordan Bernal for Connie Hanstedt (Tri Valley)

See the reports: Attachment A - CWC Balance Sheet 3 QT

 Attachment B - CWC Budget JULY 1, 2021- JUNE 30, 2022

Roger has read that non-profits should keep 2 years of expenses in assets.

The Literary Review shows in the budget as one item for printing, another for postage.

Income under LR is what members pay to submit.

The LR cost is over 20% of the Club’s annual budget.

Bob Okowitz suggested we not mail paper copies to members who don’t want them.

# Standing Committee Reports:

**MEMBERSHIP** – Sandy Moffett (Writers of Kern) 1904 members which includes dual branch members, 1800+ if duals are removed

**LITERARY REVIEW** – Elisabeth Tuck (Mt. Diablo): CB reps need to work in their branches to encourage members to help with judging next time.

Anita Holmes (High Desert)Judging is going slowly because not enough poets have stepped up to judge.

**BULLETIN -** Joyce Krieg (Central Coast)

The Bulletin is posted on [www.CalWriters.org](http://www.CalWriters.org) and can be downloaded from there. It shows a 70% open rate. *The Bulletin* has good potential for advertising CWC.

**NORCAL GROUP** – Carole Bumpus (SF-Peninsula)

Go to [www.calwriters.org](http://www.calwriters.org) for statewide speaker info.

Norcal is planning a conference Oct. 1 at the Pleasant Hill senior center.

**CWC SOUTH** Sandy Moffett (Writers of Kern)

Riverside Dickins Festival was held. The Inland Empire branch has begun alternating meetings in Riverside. Jordan needs the addresses of both meetings.

CWC South maintains a website magazine with contributions from members.

Mini-grants can be given for local writing activities that branches are involved with.

**MRMS** – Roger Lubeck (Redwood) The team is close to describing the current system and future needs.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE** – Bob Isbill (High Desert)

President Roger Lubeck

VP open

Treasurer Connie Hanstedt

Secretary Elisabeth Tuck

The Member at Large is appointed by the president in July

Anyone who wants to stand for one of the positions, talk with Bob.

**EXECUTIVE REPORT -** Roger Lubeck (Redwood)

Members who drive for the Club must be insured. Bob Isbill is preparing a form which should be ready by July.

Active vs Associate: Donna and Carol worked on this issue.

Since 2017 CWC hasn’t paid our Joaquin Miller Park dues to participate on their board.

Quarterly presidents’ meetings, organized by Linda Hartman (Mt. Diablo,) are being held

**OLD REPORTS -** Roger Lubeck (Redwood)

We will print 200 copies of a corrected 2021 Lit Review which will go first to the authors published in it then some to branches.

**SEE REPORT E re Active vs Associate**

If we eliminate the word “associate” and just don’t use it, we are not in violation of the by-laws.

**Motion** by Donna McCrohan-Rosenthal seconded by Noddy Bumbo(Mendocino) to revise (substitute) the text on Membership and Fees

Donna McCrohan Rosenthal (Vice President) submits the following motion for Central Board consideration and vote: A comparison with the original text is provided in a separate document.

It is proposed that the California Writers Club discontinue using (drop) the membership fee category of Associate. The distinction between Active and Associate is misleading. The Club welcomes writers at every level. In the future Active status will mean paid in full for the current year.

Beginning in 2022-2023 New Members will be designated Active meaning they paid in full ($65.00) and have full privileges (i.e., vote, able to serve on the board). Existing Associate members will be designated Active meaning they paid in full ($45.00) when they renew and will have full privileges (i.e., vote, able to serve on the board).

PROPOSED REVISED TEXT P & P

MEMBERSHIP

A) Membership categories are active, emeritus, life, patron, honorary, courtesy, student, and supporting.

B) The branch shall send the central board its share of initiation fees and annual dues with each application.

C) Active members are writers who produce works of fiction, nonfiction, memoir, poetry, plays or other creative writing ~~of quality~~. On submission of an application, the branch membership chair will review the applicant’s experience as a writer. It is the expectation of the CWC that branches endeavor to maintain a strong presence of professional, published, and experienced writers representing the widest possible range of genres and disciplines, ranging from book, magazine, and newspaper, to playwriting, screen- and TV-writing, in traditional and non-traditional print and electronic formats. Branches will encourage mentorship that reflects the changes in today’s evolving publishing world and fosters a level of growth and achievement in the branch.

D) A writer who publishes his/her material under his/her own imprint will be considered a published author. A writer who publishes his/her material electronically will be considered a published author.

E) Emeritus. A branch may accord emeritus membership to active members who have made significant contributions in the field. Emeritus members may vote and hold office. (Refer to Article V Dues and Fees.)

F) Life. Branches shall accord life membership only to active members. Life members shall be exempt from any further payment of dues but otherwise shall have all the duties and privileges of active membership.

G) Patron. A branch may accord patron membership to persons or organizations that contribute to the branch in either outright gift, substantial yearly contribution or significant service. Patron members shall have no vote nor hold office unless they are active members. The branch pays central board’s share of such member’s annual dues to the central treasury.

H) Honorary. The central board may accord honorary membership to persons who are of such eminence that the CWC in honoring them honors itself.

 1) Honorary members shall not pay dues, hold office, or vote.

 2) A branch shall petition the central board to grant honorary memberships.

I) Courtesy. A branch may accord courtesy membership of one year to unpaid speakers as an acknowledgment of such services.

 1) Courtesy members shall not hold office, or vote.

 2) The branch pays central board’s share of such member’s annual dues to the central treasury. (Refer to Dues and Fees.)

 3) When a courtesy membership expires, he or she may be designated as a member upon payment of renewal dues.

J) Supporting. Branches may accord supporting membership to career professionals in areas related to writing. These adjunct memberships may include editors, librarians, agents, booksellers, publishers, producers, directors, and book illustrators. The branch membership chair has the discretion to grant these memberships.

 1) Supporting members are entitled to the same privileges and benefits as active members except they may not vote, hold office, nor represent their branch to the central board.

 2) Supporting members shall pay the same dues and fees, local and central board, as active members.

K) Student. Student memberships are offered to writers from the ages of eight through 22, or any writers who are a verified full-time student at an accredited school. No experience as a writer shall be required. Student members will not be eligible to vote or hold office. (Exceptions may be made by the central board.)

L) Dual. If any existing member of a CWC branch wishes to join one or more additional branches, they shall pay branch dues ($25, not prorated) to each branch they join, and they will not have to re-qualify for their membership level at any additional branches they join. Regardless of how many branches to which a member belongs, the member will have only one vote in statewide issues.

M) Hardship. Branches may offer hardship memberships on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the branch board of directors. Hardship memberships shall not constitute more than five percent of the branch’s membership.

N) Guest. When inviting members to CWC branch meetings, “member” means a member in good standing of any CWC branch statewide. “Guest” or “non-member” shall refer to those who do not belong to any CWC branch. Thus, any CWC member may attend a regular branch meeting of any other CWC branch for the same price as the sponsoring club members. This policy applies only to regular meetings but not to contests, anthologies, events, conferences, seminars, submissions to a club’s newsletter, or any other activity a CWC branch may organize unless stated otherwise by the sponsoring branch.

O) It shall be the policy of the CWC to not void or delete any member information from the central electronic membership record system for a period of not less than seven years.

VII DUES AND FEES

A) All dues and fees are paid to the member’s branch. The branch shall then remit the appropriate funds to the central board. Active and supporting CWC members shall pay annual dues of $45 to a branch. The membership year is July 1 through June 30. The branch shall remit $20 to the central board with the member’s renewal to the membership chair by October 20 or be reported as delinquent to the CWC board. The membership chair must submit funds and forms to the treasurer and updated membership records to CWC board by November 5.

B) Members in good standing have until September 30 to renew their membership at the local branch. On October 1, CWC shall drop all delinquent members from the rolls. If dropped, a member must re-qualify his or her status and pay the new member enrollment fees.

C) Non-renewal of membership. Branches will deny a member’s application for renewal if that member has exhibited behavior that the central board deems to be detrimental, libelous, or slanderous to CWC’s good name or its members. Documentation of accusations followed by a 2/3 vote from the current central board will be required to deny renewal of membership. The central board reserves the right to define the parameters of detrimental, libelous, or slanderous behavior.

D) In addition to the membership dues, new members shall pay an enrollment fee of $20. The branch remits one-half the amount of the enrolment fee to the central board with each new member application.

E) Starting January 1, a branch may enroll new members for $22.50 plus $20 enrollment fee.

F) Active members may purchase life membership for $675 and are then exempt from further dues. The branch shall remit $275 of the life membership fee to the central board treasury.

G) Branches shall pay annual dues ($25) to the central treasury for each patron or courtesy membership they bestow.

H) Emeritus members shall pay a renewal fee of $15. The branch shall remit $8 to the central board treasury.

I) The student fee is $15.00. The branch shall pay $10 per member to the Central treasury to cover the costs of insurance and accounting.

J) For hardship memberships, a branch shall remit $10 to the state CWC treasury.

**Motion** **to Amend** by Sean Langwell (Redwood):

Regarding the first sentence in MEMBERSHIP Item C: Remove the words “of quality” so that it reads: “Active members are writers who produce works of fiction, non-fiction, memoir, poetry, plays, or other creative writing.”

Seconded by Donna McCrohan-Rosenthal (East Sierra)

**Motion** to table the motions until the July meeting made by ?.

**Seconded** by Sean Langwell (Redwood)

Unanimous agreement

**See attachment F**

**Motion** by Carol Bumpus (SF Peninsula) and Sandy Moffit (Writers of Kern)

Seconded by Jeanette Fratto (Orange)

We, Carole Bumpus and Sandy Lynn Moffett (Chairs of the regional CWC associations) submit the following motion for Central Board consideration and vote:

**Whereas** The Central Board has formally recognized the regional associations by way of the promise they hold, the work that they do and the service to branches they have provided and plan to provide.

**Whereas** Regional associations are actively engaged in furthering the CWC mission of enhancing the environment and tools that contribute to CWC mission fulfilment as follows:

• In close and frequent proximity to branches, regional associations carry forward to branches the CWC message of instruction and help with policy and mission including:

1. Provides a CWC presence and member access to the Bay Area Book Festival and San Francisco Writers Conference.

2. Participates in the annual Dickens Festival.

3. Organizes and hosts writing retreats.

4. Developed and produced the Publishing Pathways Program including a training video, handbook, and website.

• Assists branches with organizational problems including:

1. Interprets policy and circulates best practices among branches.

2. Produces and hosts the Building Better Branches Leadership Conference.

3. Provides mini grants to resolve branch problems and support special events.

• The regional groups deliver a hands-on connection—branch to regional associations to Central Board and back—meeting regularly to discuss and relay policy, practices, and fresh ideas related to mission and growth.

**Whereas** The Central Board’s assets and income comes exclusively from dues from the members who benefit from the work done by the regional associations.

**Whereas** the regional associations require a modicum of funds to support administrative expenses, events and related reservations and publicity, mini grants, booth and admittance fees, etc., while donating personal travel expense and time.

**Be it resolved** that the Central Board gift an annual $4000 to be split evenly between the SoCal and NorCal groups for their use in pursuing goals consistent with the CWC mission; that those funds be made available at the start of each fiscal year; and should this motion be passed during an intermediate time that a pro rata share be gifted to support said activities through the remaining of that partial fiscal year. Rollover funds from one year to the next will remain on the books for no more than twelve months.

**Be it further resolved** that regional organizations maintain open financial records and report the included transactions upon requests from the Central Board.

Discussion confirms this is a resolution, not a motion. Strike the line: Rollover funds from one year to the next will remain on the books for no more than twelve months.

Voting in favor, unanimous.

**Next CB meeting scheduled for July 31, 2022 in person in Oakland with Zoom as possible.**

**Motion** to adjourn by Terry Tosh (Fremont)

Seconded by Bill Baldwin (South Bay)

Unanimous agreement.

Respectfully submitted,

Elisabeth Tuck Secretary, California Writers Club Central Board of Directors April 23, 2022