



**California Writers Club
Central Board Meeting
March 22, 2026
1:00 – 4:00 pm**

MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 1:04 p.m. by President Roger Lubeck, who welcomed those attending and issued ground rules for the meeting.

Opening remarks

- We can call another meeting if we don't get through all the decisions that need to be made today.
- Concerned about several branches that are struggling through holes in leadership

Minutes Crissi Langwell

See the Draft Minutes of the Sept. 21, 2025 meeting sent by Crissi Langwell (secretary, Redwood) for approval.

Changes:

- None

The minutes were approved as reported

ROLL CALL

Branch	Name of Rep Attending
President	Roger Lubeck
Berkeley	Karma Bennett
Central Coast	Joyce Krieg
Coastal Dunes	
East Sierra	Andrew Sound (sub)

Fremont	Evelyn LaTorre
High Desert	Mike Apodaca
Inland Empire	Sam Nichols
Marin	Jean Gordon Kocienda
Mendocino	
Mt Diablo	AnneMarie Mazotti Gouveia
Napa	
North State	David Bruhn
Orange County	Mary Vensel White
Redwood Writers	Crissi Langwell
Sacramento	Bernard Wozny
San Fernando Valley	Karen Gorbach
San Joaquin Valley	Charity Romstad (sub)
San Francisco Peninsula	David Harris (sub)
South Bay Writers	Bill Baldwin
Tri Valley	Jordan Bernal
Writers of Kern	

Guests

- Nor Cal Rep - Kim Edwards

1:15 Reports

Membership - Sandy Moffett

2091 Members Total

See Attached Membership Report

Report approved

Financial report Bernard Wozny

Gross income: \$51,821.26

Gross Spending: \$38,553.21

Net Income: \$13,268.06

Profit Margin: 29.36%

Total: \$161,117.90

See attached treasurer's report

Website / MRMS Roger Lubeck / Jordan Bernal

Jordan and Roger working with Inn8ly for new website.

Jordan shared a mockup of what the Calwriters.org website will look like

Features:

- Bookshelf (not sure yet if it's searchable)

Still a work in progress

At this point there are just a few people working with Inn8ly to get the site up, but more input will be asked for as the site is further along.

Discussion:

- Karen Gorbach urged the website to show more diversity
- Bernard Wozny: Please send link to this site (Roger promises to send once site is further along)
- David Harris: Launch date? (Roger - by June)
- David Bruin: Members book shelf, is it for every branch member? (Jordan - yes)
- Evelyn LaTorre - Members will be responsible for adding books.
- Crissi Langwell - Member books should be approved manually by webmaster
- Karma Bennett - Recommends that team creates custom post type with custom tag
 - Karma will email examples to Jordan
- David Harris - When new member registers on site, how will they be welcomed by each branch
 - Roger assures that it will go through branch, and alerts will go to branches, allowing them to still welcome members the way they usually do

John Barry is stepping down, looking for a new webmaster

Crissi Langwell is willing to take over the website for a small stipend, after vote

Bulletin Editor - status

Roger Lubeck

Susán Owen (Sacramento) has volunteered to take on the Bulletin Editor-in-Chief

Someone from Mt Diablo will take over as Poetry Editor

Literary Review - status

Roger Lubeck

Still don't have anyone as editor of the Lit Review. Roger has talked with 6 people so far with no success. Would love to see a branch take this on.

What this would entail

- Callout to membership

- 3 month deadline to submit fiction, memoir, essay (maybe), and poetry
- 100 submissions usually
- 3 judges who use rubric
- Sold on Amazon
- Not sent to members freely (cost \$16,000 when we used to do this)
- Editor is in charge of theme, cover
- There is a budget

Discussion:

- If something is published in the Bulletin, it cannot be in the Lit Review (which gets first rights of publication)
- The Lit Review does not make a profit
- Intended to be best writing
- A past survey stated board wanted the Lit Review, but if anyone feels different, they can make a proposal to drop it.
- Past experience with Lit Review has been that it's so big, it's overwhelming. Mike Apodaca mentioned past processes where branches submitted their "Best of the Best" submissions that would be automatically accepted.
 - Bernard Wozny agrees with Mike, mentioning it could simplify the process if branches served as branch editor
- **Charity Romstad said she would be willing to help out**
- Evelyn: Mentions offering a better stipend to encourage editors and changing how often we publish this (currently is every two years)

Leadership Conference (Nor Cal) Kim Edwards

Conference is on April 26, 8-3 at Zio Fraedo's

Expect 55 attendees

Wrap up is "Mining for Gold"

Lunch - Peer Networking to help discuss challenges at branch and problem solve

Discussion

- This may be audio recorded, but will not be video recorded. Presenters will have a 1-page overview brief that will be handed out. Bernard mentioned it may be able to be recorded through Zoom.
- Goal for future meetings should be to make CWC events accessible to all branches by having it near airports, etc.
- Kimberly mentioned her group would be happy to train anyone in SoCal if they would like to hold something in SoCal. Also said that all topics of conference should be summarized in The Bulletin

CWC-South - Andrew Sound

- Still managing SoCalWritersShowcase.com
- Doing three \$300 mini grants
- App deadline is April 22

- Would like to do an in-person meeting in Pasadena, but have been unable to so far due to wildfire and Rose Parade

CWC Logo Woodcut - Ted Witt / Bernard Wozny

Suggesting we make prints from original woodcarving to distribute.
There are many variations and corruptions, this could bring it back to the original.
No-cost project for club, but could make a profit moving forward.

“Sail On” is a direct quote from Joaquin Miller’s poem “Columbus”
Artist is Perham W. Nahl, a UC Berkeley professor

Step one (suggestion):

- Hire professional printmaker to make 100 numbered copies
- Have original print digitally scanned hi-res to make available to branches/club for digital use

Step two (suggestion):

- Sell prints to branches/members
- Offer a print to library museum
- Consider making permanent loan of original carving to a museum or library

Discussion:

- This is just a suggestion. To vote on anything, it must be submitted as a formal proposal
- Joyce Krieg has a print from the original
- Branch reps should see the difference
- Concerns from the Berkeley branch who are against it being in celebration of Christopher Columbus. Wonders if there can be a contest to re-write poem.

Next steps: Bernard Wozny will write a formal proposal for vote

2:00 New Business

CWC Statewide Member Crissi Langwell

Motion: To add the option of joining the CWC as a statewide member. A CWC member with no affiliation to a specific branch. The CWC member would have full access to the benefits given to branch members (Bulletin, Literary Review, Contests, Workshops, etc.) The board overseeing these members would be the EC (this could change). The dues would be divided, as with an active branch member; however the branch portion of the dues would go into a budget line (fund) for the branches.

Motion by Crissi Langwell, Karen Gorback second

Discussion

- AnneMarie: Mt Diablo is against this, believes the connection from a formal branch is important

- Bernard: Sacramento would like this explained in better detail, and defer any decision on this until better understood.
- Karen Gorback: Sent a link to Womens National Book Association that is a Network Membership. Thinks this is a good idea because California is large. Some might rather be a part of a virtual group rather than a regional group.
 - If this is approved, we have to develop guidelines for how this is done.
 - San Diego, San Francisco is completely unrepresented, for example
- Mike Apocada: What is the advantage?
 - Advantage is connecting to a community
 - Will distance to a branch play into decision? Would this keep members from connecting to regional branch?
- David Harris: SF Peninsula not ready to discuss.
- Bill Baldwin: In favor of a committee developing guidelines before CWC votes.
- Jordan Bernal: Will need to decide on this before the new MRMS system
 - Tri-Valley Branch will be closing at the end of June because there is no board. So these members need a branch, and a virtual branch would be benefit members like this.

This motion is tabled until this is better researched and explained.

Nominating Committee

Roger Lubeck/ Mike Apodaca

Mike Apocada presented the 2026-2027 Slate:

- President - Jordan Bernal
- Vice President - Crissi Langwell
- Secretary - Evelyn LaTorre
- Treasurer - Bernard Wozny

Elected positions are open to anyone that is qualified. To qualify, must have served on this board or their branch board.

Slate is now open for anyone who wants to apply/run for a position.

**Vote will take place at the end of the July meeting.
Offices take action after the July meeting**

CWC Membership Dues (New and Renew) Mazotti Gouveia

Jordan Bernal / AnneMarie

Proposal: Two options

1. Flat fee for all members
2. Tiered system for members and new members, with \$10 increase

Jordan made motion, Evelyn second

Amend Add third option

- Use a flat fee as its described, but make it \$45 we charge annually, and no half year

Motion: Annemarie, David Bruhn second

Discussion to amendment:

- Bernard: Does not believe Option 3 is a viable option
- Karma: Is not in favor of getting rid of the half year fee
 - This amendment is charging the half year fee all year long.
- David Bruhn: North State Writers membership has reduced significantly, and believes raising fees will make them lose more people.
- Karen Gorback: Club has not discussed this, but is in favor of this option
- AnneMarie: Concerned about her branch's elderly members on a fixed income, and raising fees would harm them.
- Bernard Wozny: In favor of Option 3, but thinks this needs to be brought back to branch.

VOTE FOR AMENDMENT

15 yay

2 nay

Amendment passes

Proposal Options

1. Dues to join or renew is a flat \$65 with no half year (\$25 CWC, \$40 branch)
2. Dues to join is \$75, to renew \$60
 - a. 75: \$30 CWC, \$45 branch
 - b. \$60: \$25 CWC, \$35 branch
3. Dues to join is \$45, no half year (\$25 CWC, \$20 branch)

Discussion:

- David Harris: Anyone who joins in January will have to pay again in July
- Karen (SFV) in favor of Option 1, mentions hardship scholarships San Fernando Valley offers
- Jean (Marin) in favor of Option 1, have not raised fees in many years and is a value for what the club offers
 - AnneMarie in favor of Option 3 - we have other ways to generate money toward club, and thinks membership should be at the lowest price so that more people can be involved. Would like to defer the vote so that her board can discuss
 - Bernard - Sacramento was in favor of Option 1, but now would like time to discuss since Option 3 was raised.
 - Joyce - Central Coast is against any move to increase dues. Concern about inflation everywhere else and this could be a hardship for many seniors in her branch.
 - Karma - Berkeley is not in favor of raising funds, and branch wonders what they get from the CWC. Was an annual fee not discussed? Is in favor of a rolling membership where 12 months starts upon registration, regardless of time of year.
 - Jordan - Term year is being continued because treasurers are volunteers, and creating a budget when members are coming in all year long is very difficult.
 - Mike Apodaca - Mentions hardship for couple in his branch, where increase would be \$40 for both of them.
 - Charity Romstad - This would not work well for San Joaquin Valley
 - Bernard - Suggest we do this before July membership
 - The plan is to discuss this and vote in less than a month before new MRMS is in place
 - David Harris - Can you include language that if you renew in first three months of year, you may pay more for the year.

- Karma Bennett - Would like it be spelled out how the branch can use these funds
- Roger - there is no restriction how it can be used.
- AnneMarie - if it costs less, more people will join

Jordan agrees to table this agenda item. Jordan and Roger will re-send this to board members within week for members to discuss with their boards. We will reconvene within a month to decide on the options.

CWC P&P Proposed Changes

Jordan Bernal

Please see attached proposal for complete description of changes

Biggest change is that members do not need to submit work for membership.
Another change is in the new branch development, making it easier for a new branch to develop

Jordan moves, Jean seconds

Discussion

- Bernard Wozny - Sacramento did not read through these details.
- Karen - would like to get rid of shall
 - “Shall” is a legal word meaning must
- Karen - what is policy for pronouns?
 - Currently, there is none.
 - Would like to get rid of gendered language and change it to “they/them/their”
- Jordan - would like to go through whole P&Ps to remove gendered language
- Mike - Branch development committee - do we have this?
 - We do not have a standing committee. We have an ad-hoc committee
- Andrew - has an amendment from Donna - would like a provision that branches cannot form too close to already formed branches.
- Joyce - Believes any distance should be by travel time, not by mileage.
- Bernard - Conflict of interest needs to be clearly defined. Mentioned travel rate, but will need to create a new proposal for the next board meeting.

Motion: To approve Jordan’s changes to P&Ps with a provision that it will include non-gender language. Karma seconds.

VOTE

15 YAY

1 NAY

Motion passes

Financial support for branches

Bernard Wozny

One branch would like financial support for marketing to attract new members. Bernard would like to adjust this request to open discussion on how to help ailing branches. Suggests giving branches ideas on how to spread the word or how to effectively use social media. Funding alone isn't enough, and suggests pairing education for struggling branches, and also offering more support for branches.

Discussion:

- Karen - problem with recruiting new board/leadership members. Suggests a break for board members
 - May not be possible due to non-profit status.
 - But could comp their fees - **This will be added to next agenda**
- Karma - board members are stretched so thin, it's hard to ask them to do more.
- Roger - perhaps develop a statewide tri-fold that would help branches on how to promote themselves

Please send ideas to Jordan and Roger on ideas about how to offer support to struggling branches (financial, leadership, membership, etc).

Jordan moved to adjourn, bernard second

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

**California Writers Club
Central Board Meeting
March 22, 2026**



1:00 – 4:00 pm

AGENDA

- 12:45 Zoom Opens
- 1:00 Welcome—introductions CWC Reps and Visitors
Opening remarks - meeting process - rules Roger Lubeck
Minutes Crissi Langwell
- 1:15 Reports
Membership Sandy Moffett
Financial report Bernard Wozny
Website / MRMS Roger Lubeck / Jordan Bernal
Leadership Conference (Nor Cal) Kim Edwards
CWC-South Andrew Sound
Bulletin Editor - status Roger Lubeck
Literary Review - status Roger Lubeck
Nominating Committee Roger Lubeck/ Mike Apodaca
- 2:00 New Business
CWC Statewide Member Crissi Langwell
CWC Membership Dues (New and Renew) Jordan Bernal / AnneMarie Mazotti
- Gouveia
CWC P&P Proposed Changes Jordan Bernal
CWC Logo Woodcut Bernard Wozny
Financial support for branches Bernard Wozny
Branch issues (if there is time) Group
- 4:00 Adjourn (earlier if possible) Roger Lubeck

MEMBERSHIP

	Branch	Members	Amount
	Berkeley Branch	69	\$1675.00
	CWC	2	\$0.00
	Central Coast Branch	162	\$3310.00
	Coastal Dunes	53	\$1130.00
	East Sierra Branch	36	\$648.00
	Fremont Branch	50	\$870.00
	High Desert Branch	98	\$1990.00
	Inland Empire Branch	36	\$728.00
	Marin Branch	104	\$2200.00
	Mendocino Branch	90	\$1806.00
	Mt. Diablo Branch	155	\$3150.00
	Napa Valley Writers	82	\$1750.00
	North State Writers	21	\$430.00
	Orange County Branch	181	\$4028.00
	Redwood Branch	114	\$2082.00

	Redwood Writers	120	\$24 30.0 0
	SF-Peninsula Branch	171	\$33 91.0 0
	Sacramento Branch	194	\$41 58.0 0
	San Fernando Valley Branch	65	\$12 90.0 0
	San Joaquin Valley Writers	39	\$80 0.00
	South Bay Writers	103	\$23 40.0 0
	Tri-Valley Branch	70	\$14 30.0 0
	Writers Of Kern	57	\$14 75.0 0
	STATE TOTAL	2072	\$43 111. 0

California Writers Club
Central Board Treasury
Financial Report March 2026

Private and confidential to the CWC Central Board.

This document summarizes the club's finances from July 2025 to end of February 2026*

Gross Income: \$51,821.26

Gross Spending: \$38,553.21

Net Income: \$13,268.05

Profit Margin: 29.36%

Summary as of 3/12/2026

Wells Fargo Checking balance, July 01, 2025:\$121,360.42

Wells Fargo Checking balance, March 12, 2026: \$135,382.43

Wells Fargo CD \$25,000.00

Pay Pal \$247.91

Stripe \$487.35

Total \$161,117.69

Notes:

1. Not all dues are itemized according to branches.
2. Some PayPal and Stripe income may be missing, especially for March.

Recommendations:

A healthy income and reserves are available. It may be prudent to invest in the smaller branches to support their membership.

A detailed (itemized) - Budget and P & L through March 31 will be provided when available.

The 2024 taxes were filed in January. A copy of the taxes will be placed on the Website and copies of the balance sheet and P & L for the year will be sent to each branch representative and branch president.

WEBSITE / MRMS UPDATE (Report)

CWC has signed a contract with In8ly. Jordan and Roger have been working with Sarah Freeman and Eli Hanna on the directory and Brittney Dryfhout on the website. The directory team has the specifications we provided to James Hipkin, and they have full access to the current MRMS as “global members.”

We installed a dashboard with Google Analytics to track hits and clicks on the current website. The data showed that the homepage was the most frequent hit. We also reviewed all the branch websites and identified which examples we liked best. Based on input from Roger and others, Jordan provided a detailed draft of which pages should be kept. Jordan and Roger provided text for most pages based on what already existed. They also correct several errors found on the current pages.

As part of the process, we created a new Stripe account to manage payments to CWC. Also, John Barry has advised he will step down as Website Manager once the new site is running.

Next Steps: When a working example of the new site is ready we will review it with a select group who have expressed an interest in the website and directory.

Bulletin (Report)

Susan Marquez Owen from the Sacramento branch has agreed to serve as the Editor-in-Chief of the CWC Bulletin. The next issue of the Bulletin will be released early in May.



Susan Marquez Owen is the former newsletter editor for the Sacramento branch of the California Writer’s Club. A granddaughter of Mexican migrant farmworkers and great-granddaughter of Welsh coal miners, education was key to her life trajectory. After graduating from high school with highest honors, she won a full scholarship to Stanford University. There she earned a bachelor’s degree in International Relations and a master’s degree in English and American Literature with an emphasis on poetry. Susan worked as a developmental editor for Addison-Wesley Publishing Company. She also worked as an award-winning news reporter and foreign service correspondent for The Los Angeles Times, The San Francisco Chronicle, and The Oakland Tribune. Now retired, she writes poetry and short stories and is beginning her first novel.

Literary Review (Report)

We are still looking for an Editor or Branch to manage the next issue of the Literary Review. If you know a member with the necessary experience and who is willing to serve as Editor, following the traditional process for producing the Literary Review, please contact Roger or Jordan. As an alternative we would like to see a branch manage the next Literary Review.

STATE MEMEBERSHIP

Proposal

I, Crissi Langwell (Redwood) move that the following changes be considered:

To add the option of joining the CWC as a statewide member. A CWC member with no affiliation to a specific branch. The CWC member would have full access to the benefits given to branch members (Bulletin, Literary Review, Contests, Workshops, etc.) The board overseeing these members would be the EC (this could change). The dues would be divided, as with an active branch member; however the branch portion of the dues would go into a budget line (fund) for the branches.

If this proposal is approved, and committee should be created to develop guidelines and process material.

Respectfully,

Crissi Langwell

MEMBERSHIP DUES

A number of questions have been put to Roger and Jordan regarding a proposal to change the current membership dues structure. Here is a summary of those questions and some of the reasoning that went behind the proposal.

Rolling Renewal: A rolling renewal means a member is asked to renew on the anniversary of their joining. That process was discussed in September as an option. Rather, for now, we plan to stay with a fixed period for renewals. We understand some would like to adopt the other payment period (i.e., the date you joined) however it is much harder to plan a budget (especially with all-volunteer boards).

Grace Period: Currently we have a three-month grace period which can extend the membership year to fifteen months. The proposal is that we go from a 3-month (July, Aug, Sept) grace period to 2 months (July & August). This would allow a branch to begin renewals in June.

Proposed Dues Increase: In September, we presented three options related to future dues: 1) adopt a single dues \$65.00, 2) raise the new member and renewal dues, or 3) do nothing. At the meeting, we asked the representatives to go back to the branches and discuss this issue. However, we recognize they may have needed more details and a reminder.

To summarize what is being proposed:

Option 1—We aren't increasing our fees, just dropping the discount at renewal. This is simpler to manage (for the new membership system) and in a discussion among the EC, we felt the extra \$20.00 a year was not excessive. Also, it gives more resources to the branches.

Option 2—Increases the initial (new member) dues by \$10.00, which is a 15% increase. We could have increased the renewal by \$10, going from \$45 to \$55 (and that could be an amendment) however we felt \$60 was a better option.

Reasoning: CWC hasn't had a change in dues in 25 years (it could be longer). The cost of living has grown by 95% in that same period. In the past five years, CWC's tax and accounting fees and insurance fees have gone up each year, as did the Literary Review, whereas our dues have not. The proposed increase would provide for adequate coverage of the operating costs for the CWC (parent) and allow CWC to spend more on branches and members. Right now, we spend very little on the majority of members, and we had to drop the Literary Review going out free to members because we could not justify the expense. The cost of mailing the Literary Review had grown to 30% of our budget. In place of mailing a free book to members, we offer the LR on Amazon for those who actually want it. In addition, we have added CWC-wide contests, two new publications, and workshops.

Another large expense is software. This year we have added the expense of developing a new website and MRMS. With this new system, CWC is getting two things it desperately needs: 1) the Member Records Management System that is a one-location join/renew system and money management that automatically disperses the correct breakdown to the branch and CWC; 2) an updated fresh-looking website with the potential for a "Member Bookshelf" that will directly benefit the published members (having a book cover with a purchasing link).

The new system (records management and website) has an upfront design cost of about \$2,500 and a monthly fee of about \$200 that CWC is paying. Ongoing updates can either be done through Inn8ly (on a fee structure based on time) or by one (or a group) of CWC website volunteers.

CWC was lucky to have Ray Malus, who designed the initial MRMS, do so and sell it to CWC for \$1. However, that system has been obsolete and non-updatable for a long time now. So, we must get the new system in place as soon as possible. It seemed reasonable to go into the new system with new membership dues in place; hence the request for branch reps to come prepared to discuss and vote.

In our experience, a healthy non-profit educational charity like CWC is expected to maintain a 10% profit margin along with an adequate asset base (money in the bank). It is important to retain members and to add new ones. The old adage is grow or die. In our case, growth means new members not dollars to the bottom line. Therefore, the primary issue is helping the branches remain viable and grow members. Right now, there are several branches that are failing. One has requested financial support from the CWC to recruit new members. Unfortunately, Long Beach closed before we could save it. We recognize that money is not the only answer, but it might establish a source of funds for some branches as we explore new ways and reasons to attract and retain members.

We recognize this is an important decision that may require additional time to decide. Because these options were discussed at the meeting in September and summarized here, it is our hope that the CWC Board Representatives will be prepared with their board's response. If necessary, we can schedule another meeting to vote.

PROPOSAL

I, Deborah “Jordan” Bernal (Tri-Valley) move that the following changes be considered:

1. The renewal period for members to be changed from **July-September** to **July and August**.
2. The membership dues for new full and half-year and renewing active and associate members would be changed:

From Full new \$65.00, New half year \$42.50, and Renewing \$45.00
to one of two options:

- a. Option 1. The dues to join or renew is a flat **\$65.00 with no half year** The split would be \$25 CWC - \$40 Branch.
- b. Option 2. The dues to join for the **full year are \$75**. The dues to **renew are \$60**. The dues for a **half-year new member are \$60** (Jan-June).
 - i. \$75 - Split \$30 CWC - \$45 Branch
 - ii. \$60–Split \$25 CWC - \$35 Branch

	Due s	N e w	R e n e w	H a l f Y e a r	C W C	Br an ch	Tot al
O p t i o n 1	65	3 0 0	1 7 0 0		50 ,0 00 .0 0	80 ,0 00 .0 0	130 ,00 0.0 0
O p t i o n 2	75/6 0	2 0 0	1 7 0 0	1 0 0	51 ,0 00 .0 0	73 ,0 00 .0 0	124 ,00 0.0 0
C u r r e n t	65/4 5/42 .50	2 0 0	1 7 0 0	1 0 0	42 ,0 00 .0 0	51 ,7 50 .0 0	93, 750 .00

Respectfully,
Deborah 'Jordan' Bernal

MEMBERSHIP DUES—Option 3 Added

I, AnneMarie Mazotti Gouveia (Mt. Diablo) move that a third option be considered in conjunction with Deborah “Jordan” Bernal’s (Tri-Valley) motion.

1. The renewal period for members to be changed from **July-September** to **July and August**.
2. The membership dues for new full and half-year and renewing active and associate members would be changed:

From Full new \$65.00, New half year \$42.50, and Renewing \$45.00
to one of three options:

- a. Option 1. The dues to join or renew is a flat \$65.00 with **no half year** The split would be \$25 CWC - \$40 Branch.
- b. Option 2. The dues to join for the full year are \$75. The dues to renew are \$60. **The dues—
for a half-year new member are \$60 (Jan-June).**
 - i. \$75 - Split \$30 CWC - \$45 Branch
 - ii. \$60—Split \$25 CWC - \$35 Branch
- c. Option 3. The dues to join or renew for the full year are \$45 with no half year.
 - i. \$45 – Split \$20 CWC - \$25 Branch

CWC P&P Proposed Changes Motion

I, Deborah 'Jordan' Bernal move that the following changes be considered:

- 1) Section V, L). Delete comma and “and they will not have to re-qualify for their membership level at any additional branches they join.” after: each branch they join. . . to be consistent with CWC P&P changes dated 2025.

Previous Wording: 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.

New wording: 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. Regardless of how many branches to which a member belongs, the member will have only one vote in statewide issues.

- 2) Section VI, B) Delete “re-qualify his or her status and” after: If dropped, a member must
Previous wording: 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.

New wording: 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 pay the new member enrollment fees.

- 3) Section VII, B) 2) b&c. Change/Add Vice President duties

Previous wording: May cosign all drafts, checks, and contracts approved by the central board.

New wording: b) May cosign all drafts, checks, and contracts approved by the central board.
c) Serve as the chair on the New Branch Development committee.

- 4) Section VIII, D): Delete “and on the calwriters.com website discussion forum” after: face-to-face meetings

Previous wording: With presidential permission, non-directors having pertinent information that may constructively impinge on non-legislative discussion may participate in face-to-face meetings and on the calwriters.com website discussion forum.

New wording: With presidential permission, non-directors having pertinent information that may constructively impinge on non-legislative discussion may participate in face-to-face meetings.

- 5) Section X, F, 5): Add “/Conflict Resolution” to title. Change: “The president shall appoint a Branch Development Chair.” to: The president shall appoint the vice president as Branch Development Chair.

1. Previous wording: Branch Development

The president shall appoint a Branch Development Chair. The vice president shall be a member of the committee. The committee shall investigate and contribute to:

2. New wording: Branch Development/Conflict Resolution

The president shall appoint the vice president as Branch Development Chair. The committee shall investigate and contribute to:

- 6) Section XIII New Branch Development: Delete this complete section and replace with a streamlined version

Previous wording:

XIII. NEW BRANCH DEVELOPMENT

- A. When a group of writers expresses interest in creating a new branch, CWC shall quickly and earnestly respond in writing.
- B. The Branch Development Committee shall be responsible for guiding and assisting in the development of new branches. In case of conflict of interest concerning a candidate branch, a committee member will recuse himself and central board will approve another committee member. The committee may delegate the authority specified in item 4 to another member of the central board from an existing branch closer to the prospective group.
- C. The minimum requirements for branch formation are:
1. The group must have a minimum of 30 primary members. Of these, more than half must qualify for active membership, and the others as associates. Supporting members do not count for this purpose.
 2. The group must meet the criteria of balance, which states that the number of associate members shall not exceed the number of active members. For active members, the candidate branch must provide documentation of published work to the committee. Once a branch is approved for charter, accreditation of active members is handled locally by the branch.
 3. The group shall have been meeting regularly for six months and recording minutes.
 4. A delegation from the group shall meet at least once with a member of the central board designated by the committee to discuss CWC's bylaws and policies and procedures.
 - a) Prior to or after this meeting, the candidate branch will submit to the committee a letter of intent, to include 1) two contact names in full, along with address, phone number and e-mail address; 2) proposed branch name; and 3) geographic area of expected membership recruitment (e.g. city or cities and/or county).
 - b) The committee will acknowledge receipt of letter of intent and indicate to candidate branch whether information received is sufficient for continuing the process toward charter.
 5. The group shall then submit an application for charter, to include: 1) local branch bylaws, which shall conform to the bylaws and policies and procedures of the central board; 2) final proposed name of branch; 3) geographic area of member outreach; 4) list of 30 or more proposed members, more than half of which must be active members per definition in current CWC policies and procedures as shown in supporting documentation; 5) minutes of six months of regular meetings; 6) intended meeting place.
 - a) Upon recommendation by the committee, the Executive Committee shall invite one representative of the candidate branch to the next central board meeting in their region.
 - b) The committee chair shall introduce the candidate branch with a recommendation for charter and request approval from the central board.

6. With the central board's approval and payment of dues and enrollment fees, the group shall become a branch of the corporation.
 7. The new branch shall accept responsibility for active participation on the central board and in certain joint activities of CWC, such as conferences, workshops, and recognition of California Writers Week. In return, the branch will be issued a certificate of charter and entitled to all benefits of CWC membership.
- D. Any group of local writers, which already exists as an organization, with bylaws, an established membership protocol, and wishes to petition for a charter as a branch of CWC, shall be considered on an ad-hoc basis by the central board.

The president shall appoint a Branch Development Chair. The vice president shall be a member of the committee. The committee shall investigate and contribute to:

New wording:

XIV. NEW BRANCH DEVELOPMENT

- A. When a group of writers expresses interest in creating a new branch, CWC shall respond in writing within 30 days with the name and contact information of the current CWC vice president who will assist in shepherding the proposal of a new branch through the process of application and approval.
- B. The CWC vice president will chair the Branch Development Committee and recruit other CWC members to assist as the VP deems necessary. This includes providing information or documents including: CWC ByLaws, P&Ps, and other centralized systems (such as membership and treasury).
- C. The minimum requirements for branch formation are:
 1. The group must have a minimum of 25 primary members. The group must endeavor to have a minimum of two times its operating expenses as operating capital by the end of the second year.
 2. The group shall meet for a minimum of three months.
 3. The prospective new branch shall submit an application/letter of intent for charter to include:
 - a) local branch bylaws, which shall conform to the bylaws and policies and procedures of the central board;
 - b) final proposed name of branch;
 - c) list of 25 or more proposed members;
 - d) list of names and contact information of those who would be candidates to fill out a board of directors;
 - e) location of intended meeting place.
 4. Upon receipt of the application packet listed above, the committee chair shall recommend the candidate branch for charter and request approval from the central board. With the central board's approval and payment of dues and enrollment fees, the group shall become a branch of the corporation.
 5. The new branch shall accept responsibility for active participation on the central board and in certain joint activities of CWC, such as conferences, workshops, and recognition of California Writers Week. In return, the branch will be issued a certificate of charter and entitled to all benefits of CWC membership.

D. Already existing writing groups that meet the criteria listed above are encouraged to consider becoming a branch of the CWC.

Respectfully,
Deborah 'Jordan' Bernal

XV. NEW BRANCH DEVELOPMENT

- A. When a group of writers expresses interest in creating a new branch, CWC shall respond in writing within 30 days with the name and contact information of the current CWC vice president who will assist in shepherding the proposal of a new branch through the process of application and approval.

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 - 4. Upon receipt of the application packet listed above, the committee chair shall recommend the candidate branch for charter and request approval from the central board. With the central board's approval and payment of dues and enrollment fees, the group shall become a branch of the corporation.
 - 5. The new branch shall accept responsibility for active participation on the central board and in certain joint activities of CWC, such as conferences, workshops, and recognition of California Writers Week. In return, the branch will be issued a certificate of charter and entitled to all benefits of CWC membership.

- D. Already existing writing groups that meet the criteria listed above are encouraged to consider becoming a branch of the CWC.