



2015 Annual Report

*“Fostering Appreciation
of the Written Word...”*



Presentations during the concluding lunch of the 2015 David R. Collins Writers' Conference



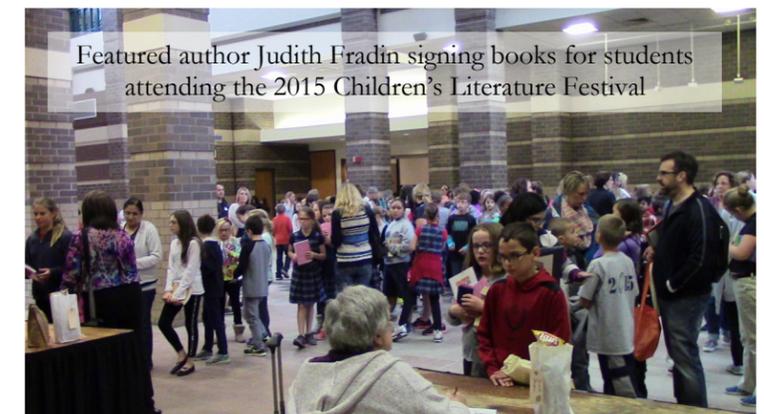
Emily Kingery working with students during the 2015 YEW Middle School Summer Camp

*...Supporting and
Educating its Creators.”*



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Davenport, IA 52801
563-324-1410
mwc@midwestwritingcenter.org
www.mwcqc.org

By remembering the MWC in your estate plans or will, you help us to continue our mission of supporting and educating future generations of writers.



Featured author Judith Fradin signing books for students attending the 2015 Children's Literature Festival

2015 Annual Report

presented at the Annual Meeting
of the Board of Directors

on

Thursday, May 26, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Bucktown Center for the Arts
225 E. 2nd St.
Davenport, Iowa

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

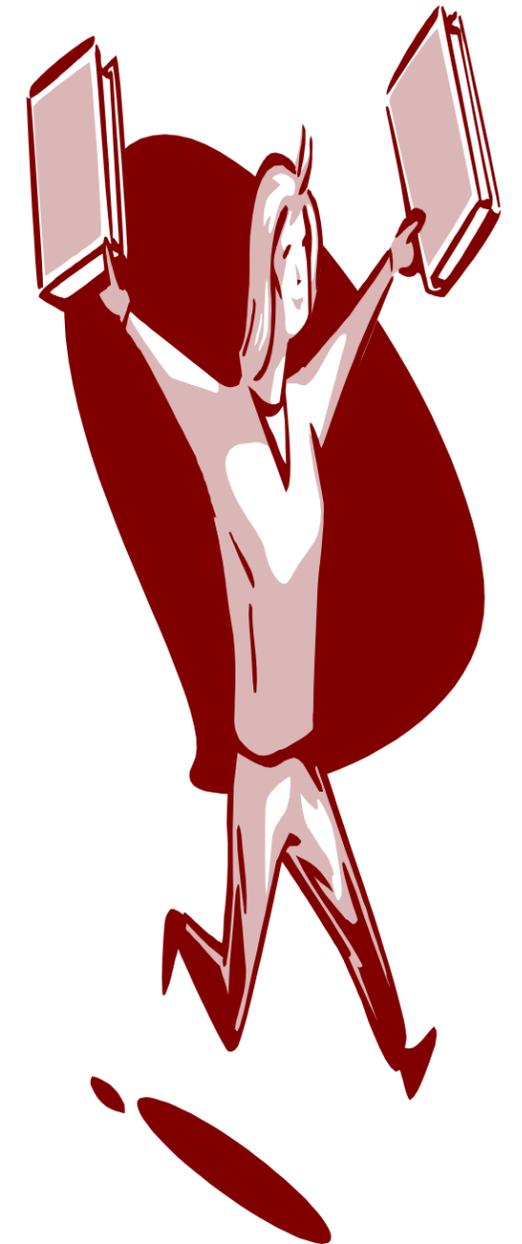
Lynn Barteck
Dave Cahoon
Susan Collins
Dr. Emily Kingery
Mary Foster
Dr. Trisha Georgiou
Dr. Nancy Hayes
Richard Miller
Max Molleston
Rochelle Murray
Dee Runnels

EXECUTIVE BOARD 2014-2015

Jodie Toohey
President
Angela Campbell
Vice-President
Teresa LaBella
Secretary
Mark Petersen
Treasurer
Roger Strandlund
Attorney
Ryan Collins
Executive Director

2015 Midwest Writing Center Volunteers

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Margaret Alexander | Teresa LaBella | Elizabeth Tanaka |
| Lynn Barteck | Steven Lackey | Dr. Robin Throne |
| Mike Bayles | Michelle Ladwig | Jodie Toohey |
| Vivian Becker | Salvatore Marici | Lindsey Wheeler |
| Angela Campbell | Richard & Georgia Miller | |
| Janet Clark | Tom Miller | |
| Ryan Collins | Rochelle Murray | |
| Susan Collins | Michelle Opsahl | |
| Pat Crozier | Rick Pa | |
| Mark Davidsaver | Lori Perkins | |
| Mary Davidsaver | Mark Petersen | |
| Drake DeVore | Lexie Reiling | |
| Victoria Drews | Catherine Roe | |
| Jean Duncan | Rita Rosauer | |
| Dorie Fox | Julie Ross | |
| Dr. Trish Georgiou | Pam Ross | |
| Dr. Nancy Hayes | LaWanda Roudebush | |
| Connie & Dave Huber | Dee Runnels | |
| Gloria Hummel | Marilyn Schnell | |
| Cindy Johnson | Lilly Setterdahl | |
| Suzanne Johnson | The Shammass Family | |
| Sandy Keller | Candace Skiles | |
| Kathy Koch | Roger Strandlund | |
| Sheila Kraemer | Emma Stough | |



Thank you so much for your dedicated service to the Midwest Writing Center!

Personnel & Volunteer Committee

The Midwest Writing Center maintained another entire year of employing Ryan Collins as a full time Executive Director. In addition to that, MWC also employed two interns over the summer of 2015: Zane Nelson, who for the second consecutive summer worked on a variety of programs and initiatives on a youth employment grant MWC received from the Illinois Arts Council Agency; from June to August; and Victoria Drews worked on a variety of aspects of the Children's Literature Festival. Our terrific volunteers logged 1,613 hours, valued at \$41,780.96 over the course of 2015.



All of our employees and volunteers made valuable contributions to the Center throughout 2015, and helped to ensure another successful year. Many thanks Victoria, Ryan, and Zane for the work in furthering MWC's mission.

Angela Campbell, Personnel Committee Chair

Nominating Committee

In 2015 the Nominating Committee welcomed Lynn Barteck, Emily Kingery, Teresa Labella, and Dee Runnels to our board. With deepest regret, the nominating committee also accepted the resignations of Lindsey Wheeler and Lori Perkins.

As Midwest Writing Center's policies state, our board has voted on fifteen available positions. We closed 2015 with all positions filled.

The following individuals have agreed to renew their terms and or board positions:

Midwest Writing Center Board of Directors and Terms:

| | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 2016—David Cahoon | 2017—Susan Collins | 2018—Lynn Barteck | 2018—Dee Runnels |
| 2016—Angela Campbell | 2017—Mary Foster | 2018—Dr. Trisha Georgiou | 2018—Jodie Toohey |
| 2016—Rochelle Murray | 2017—Dr. Nancy Hayes | 2018—Dr. Emily Kingery | |
| 2016—Mark Petersen | 2017—Max Molleston | 2018—Teresa LaBella | |

Dr. Trisha Georgiou, Nominating Committee Chair

Facilities Committee



While 2015 might be the last full year MWC spends in the Bucktown Center for the Arts, it's been an active year, filled with a variety of programs and events. As the year closed, MWC and other Bucktown owners are in the process of finalizing sales of their properties to the new owners, who purchased the majority of the building from Midcoast Fine Arts in 2015.

As we have worked through the sale process, we continued with our regular program/event schedule here at the Center throughout 2015, and we will continue to have events at Bucktown until we relocate. The search committee has visited many possible locations on both sides of the river. As of year's end, no final decision had yet been made about the next home for the Center, but we are confident that our next home will allow us to continue offering high quality literary arts programming to our community.

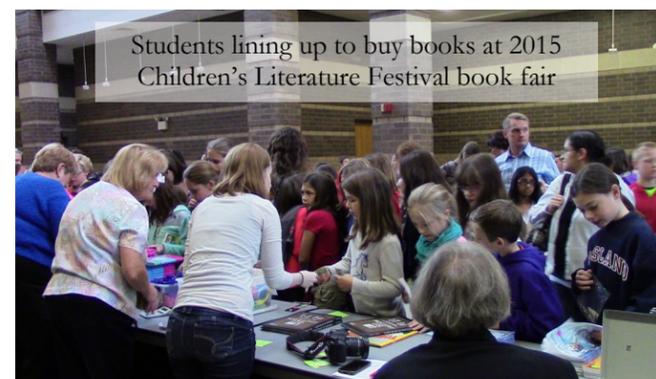
The facilities committee would like to thank all those who decorate and set up for special occasions and events, and those who help clean the office and conference room. We are grateful for all the volunteers who help make our events warm and welcoming.

Ryan Collins for Rich Miller, Facilities Committee Chair

2014 Annual Meeting Minutes May 28, 2015

President Rich Miller opened the Annual Meeting at 6:00 p.m. at the Deere-Wiman House. He then turned the meeting over to Vice President Jodie Toohey.

Minutes of the 2013 Annual Meeting were approved with a motion by Susan Collins and a second by Trisha Nelson.



Secretary Lindsey Wheeler could not attend the meeting, so Rochelle Murray substituted. No correspondence was reported at the time of the meeting.

Mark Petersen gave the Treasurer's Report which was outlined on the page opposite the agenda. Mark reported MWC brought in more than it spent in 2014. He also reported about the recent mini audit, conducted for a second consecutive year by students at Augustana College, which was generally good with some improvements suggested to make slight adjustments to the internal controls already in place. A

filing extension for MWC's 990 had also been submitted. Rich Miller moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and Susan Collins seconded. Motion passed.

Jodie Toohey gave the Vice-President's report, stating MWC had a successful year in 2014. She indicated that the MWC Board recently completed its strategic planning process, and was waiting to finalize the three-year plan. Then Jodie told her personal story or her time with MWC, from going to encourage her daughter to participate in the YEW Middle School Camp and her beginning to get involved, to becoming the Vice-President of the MWC Board of Directors. She encouraged everyone to get more involved with MWC programs and operations. She then introduced the Board of Directors, indicating the board members who had agreed to renew their terms. Jodie then made a motion to set the board limit at 15; Dave Cahoon seconded. Motion passed. Jodie then indicated we have three empty board seats, after the resignations of Steve Flatt and Lori Perkins, but there were no motions to nominate anyone at the meeting. Jodie then asked for a motion to retain the current board members; Angela Campbell made a motion and Susan Collins seconded. Motion was carried.

Ryan Collins gave the Executive Director's report. Jodie Toohey gave the Marketing/Publicity Committee Report. Rich Miller asked Ryan Collins to give the Facilities Report; he stated that the last he had heard, Midcoast Fine Arts was close to selling their stake in Bucktown. The relocation search committee is actively seeking and visiting possible locations. Trish Nelson gave the Personnel Committee report, thanking Ryan for his service after a full year of being a full-time employee. Trisha Georgiou gave the Birdies for Charity report on behalf of the Advancement Committee; Rochelle Murray presented the report for the Advancement Committee's remaining activities. Sue Collins gave the Program Committee report.

Trisha and Sue recognized the volunteers and Board members who served the previous year, mentioning over 1,900 volunteer hours were recorded. Certificates of Appreciation were given to volunteers in attendance.

Mike Bayles won the conference tuition door prize, and then additional door prizes were drawn.

Announcements and dates to remember followed along with closing comments and thank yous. Rich Miller moved to adjourn the meeting and Trisha Georgiou seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m. for refreshments and social time in the dining room.



AGENDA

Midwest Writing Center 2015 Annual Meeting
May 26, 2016

6:00 p.m. Bucktown Center for the Arts, 3rd Floor Conference Room, Davenport, IA

- I. Call to order, welcome, roll call, and remarks by President Jodie Toohey
- II. Approval of the minutes of the 2015 annual meeting held May 28, 2015
- III. Correspondence
- IV. Treasurer's Report—Mark Petersen
- V. Unfinished Business
- VI. President's Report and Introduction of the Board Members—Jodie Toohey
- VII. New Business
 - A. Number of members of the board of directors
Recommended motion: The Midwest Writing Center Board of Directors will not exceed fifteen in number
 - B. Election of Midwest Writing Center Board of Directors
 1. Nominating committee's recommendation—Dr. Trish Nelson
 2. Nominations from the floor
- VIII. Executive Director Report—Ryan Collins
- IX. Committee Reports
 - A. Publicity
 - B. Facilities
 - C. Personnel
 - D. Advancement—Birdies for Charity & Legacy Society Presentation
 - E. Program—Conference
 - F. Finance—Youth Endowment
 - G. Special Committees
- X. Recognition of volunteers
- XI. Drawing for door prizes including a full registration to David R. Collins Writers' Conference for those attending the annual meeting.
- XII. Announcements and dates to remember
 - A. Please consider Birdies for Charity Pledge for the Midwest Writing Center
 - B. Books and broadsides for Sale
 - C. June 2, 1-3 p.m., USA VETS Writers Studio at MWC
 - D. June 15, Great River Writers Retreat Submission Close
 - E. June 23-25, David R. Collins Writers' Conference at St. Ambrose
- XIII. Adjournment to refreshments and social time

Program Committee (continued)

with many local poets. We offered a variety of workshops in 2015, including: Writing with the Elements, Basics for Beginners, Blogging for Writers, Researching Historical Fiction, and Memoir Writing. Our monthly Out Loud open mic program struggled with locations and participation, except when paired with SPECTRA events in the fall. A Veterans Writers Studio, led by Jodie Toohey, met on a monthly basis. Writers Studio continued to meet at MWC twice monthly. We tried a Teen Writing Workshop this year on a monthly basis. We were once again able to offer a fall workshop series; this year's topic was the novel led by author Larry Baker. We also offered a fall book marketing series which was very successful. Much of this programming was made possible thanks to a grant from the Riverboat Development Authority.

Contests and Competitive Opportunities: We again held our successful 24-hour Iron Pen Writing Contest. We held the Great River Writers Retreat sponsored by Dr. Nick Shammass. This year's winner was Keith Lesmeister of Decorah, IA. The winner of the 2015 Susan K. Collins Poetry Chapbook Contest was Cherise A. Pollard, for her manuscript *Outsiders*, which will be published in 2016. The 2015 Collins' Poetry Residency was expanded to include events throughout the fall. The Collins Poet-in-Residence, Holly Norton, curated a community poetry blog, led a workshop, and participated in several readings and events, including hosting a community poetry reading.

Annual Programs: We continued our successful programming with the 10th David R. Collins Writers' Conference in June. This opportunity was made possible by founding sponsor Modern Woodmen of America, the St. Ambrose University English Department, and the Illinois Arts Council Agency. The 10th Young Emerging Writers Summer Internship Program for high school age writers had another successful year; they published *The Atlas* and had a successful launch in August. We held the Young Emerging Writers Day Camp in July. These programs continue to get better each year. The youth programs were supported by Quad City Arts' Arts Dollar\$ and local foundations and trusts. The 32nd David R. Collins Children's Literature Festival was held in October. Nearly 800 local youth and chaperones participated. This event is made possible because of our partners the Davenport Public Library and Bi-State Literacy Council and a wonderful volunteer committee. We had exceptional local, regional, and national authors participate. The Riverboat Development Authority and CD Wiman Trust were major supporters of the 2015 Children's Literature Festival.

Special Programs: We were once again represented at the AWP conference and the Mission Creek Festival. We had a special presentation on the "Self-made Writer" by Alaskan writer and Davenport native Deb Vanasse. We also had a spring luncheon with Harry and Bess Truman. There was a book release party for Ryan Collins at Rozz-Tox. SPECTRA also hosted the Bad Idea Book Tour at the Village Theatre in Davenport in October. We also held two local author book fairs at SouthPark Mall and the Moline Public Library.

MWC Press: For the first time ever, MWC Press heard book pitches from prospective authors. A great variety of manuscripts were pitched for possible publication. The committee recommended to the MWC Board that we publish Mary Davidsaver's local mystery manuscript, *Clouds Over Bishop Hill*. Watch for it in 2016.

Thanks so much to the members of the program committee in 2015—Rochelle Murray, Jodie Toohey, Mike Bayles, Sal Marici, Richard Miller, Lynn Barteck, Lori Perkins, Emily Kingery, and Cindy Johnson. They are a great, hard working group.

Susan Collins, Program Committee Chair

Marketing and Publicity Committee

The marketing and publicity committee works directly with the programming and advancement committees promote MWC's numerous mission-driven and fundraising programs and events. Most program feedback shows that the main ways people hear about our happenings is through MWC's website and monthly digest-style electronic newsletter. We have continued to develop our new website and started using graphic widgets to draw attention to our most immediate events. We released our third annual e-magazine in December, 2015.

We've continued to use social media, mainly Facebook and Twitter (@MWC_Write), though we do have a Pinterest account. Our Facebook likes have continued to grow to 789 with increasing engagement. We also continue to use online community calendars, press releases, flyers/signs, print ads, and other free or inexpensive marketing outlets. And, of course, we continue to enjoy word-of-mouth promotion thanks to all of our satisfied program attendees and volunteers.

Thanks in part to our offer to receive the Creative Writer Primer PDF in exchange for an e-newsletter subscription, our e-newsletter distribution list has grown to over 1,020 subscribers, and each e-newsletter enjoys an approximate 25-30% open rate. We hope that with the changes coming to MWC in the coming year, we can use it to refresh interest in MWC's events and programs and attract new individuals to whom we can foster appreciation of the written word.

Jodie Toohey, Marketing and Publicity Committee Chair

Advancement Committee

Many of our accomplishments could not have been without the support of grantors and sponsors to help with programming and general operational costs. The total amount was in excess of \$48,500.00. Please visit the Midwest Writing Center's website for a list of donors, sponsors, and grantors.

The Endowment Fund for Operating Expenses totaled \$74,000 and Midwest Writing Center's newest Endowment for Youth Writing Programs totaled over \$15,000. Also, memorial contributions contributed to the endowment funds and were recognized on the Midwest Writing Center's website. Both of these endowments need to continue to grow if we are to maintain our existence.

One of our major events continues to be the David R. Collins Writers' Conference, which was sponsored by Modern Woodmen of America and St. Ambrose University. Any remaining funds after expenses went to operational costs and programming.

We participated in Birdies for Charity and received \$4,689. Again this year as an incentive, anyone who pledged \$50 or more, the person received a one year membership to MWC or had their membership extended for twelve months.

A fundraiser was held in April at the Radisson. Over 50 people lunched with two published authors from Missouri. They made history come alive when they portrayed highlights in the lives of Harry and Bess Truman. Midwest Writing Center made approximately \$550 from this event.

Dr. Nicolas Shammass sponsored the Great River Retreat. Dr. Robin Throne and 918studio sponsored the Collins Poetry Residency.

C.D. Wiman (\$1,000), Quad-City Arts-Art Dollars (\$5,000), Mel McKay Charitable Trust (\$2,500) and the Riverboat Development Authority helped fund Young Emerging Writers Summer Internship Program and the YEW Middle School Camp. Exotic Imports continued to sell MWC Press publications.

C.D. Wiman, SAAB, Bi-State Literacy Council, and the Riverboat Development Authority helped fund the 32nd annual Children's Literature Festival. Davenport Public Library and Bi-State Literacy Council partnered with us. The Blackhawk Division Retired Teachers Foundation gave us \$100 for books. Any remaining funds from this event after expenses will help to go with the planning of the 2016 event.

Earlier CFGRB gave us \$2,000.00 in order for us to enlist Teresa LaBella to facilitate the strategic planning process with the MWC Board. It helped the Board to plan for the future as well as planning goals and objectives for now.

The Riverboat Development Authority gave another generous grant of \$10,450.00 to be used for a variety of programming.

Our end of the year appeal, MWC held a special "Giving Tuesday" campaign, beginning December 1 through the end of December. The final amount totaled nearly \$5,000, which was matched dollar for dollar with a endowment contribution by a private donor.

Memberships and dues total \$8,858.80. Approximately over 200 members are in good standing, but we need to grow in memberships to continue to support operations and programs at MWC. MWC is establishing a Legacy Society. In November, a Legacy Society Information Night was offered. Several of our Board Members are now original donors. More exciting news about this project will be coming in 2016.

Many thanks to the members of this committee: Susan Collins, Lynn Barteck, Jodie Toohey, Nancy Hayes, Max Molleston, Richard Miller, Teresa LaBella and Dee Runnels.

Rochelle Murray, Advancement Committee Chair

Program Committee

I am pleased to report that MWC's programming continues to be of very high quality and accessible. We provided over 300 hours of quality programming in 2015. Most of these programming hours were at no cost to the participants. We also recorded well over 3,200 instances of service in 2015.

Partnerships: We continued Read Local, our partnership with the Bettendorf Library featuring a local author six times per year. Our partnerships for book sales and readings continued at Exotic Imports, The Book Rack, Rozz-Tox, the Rock Island Public Library, the Figge Art Museum, The Village Theatre, and the Moline Public Library. We also continued to partner with WQPT on their annual PBS Kids Writing Contest.

Regular Programming: Our very popular SPECTRA Reading Series continued and grew its audience with six events in 2015. Up and coming poets from across the country bring their talents to Rock Island while reading

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Steve Semken giving a presentation at MWC during the 2015 Conference

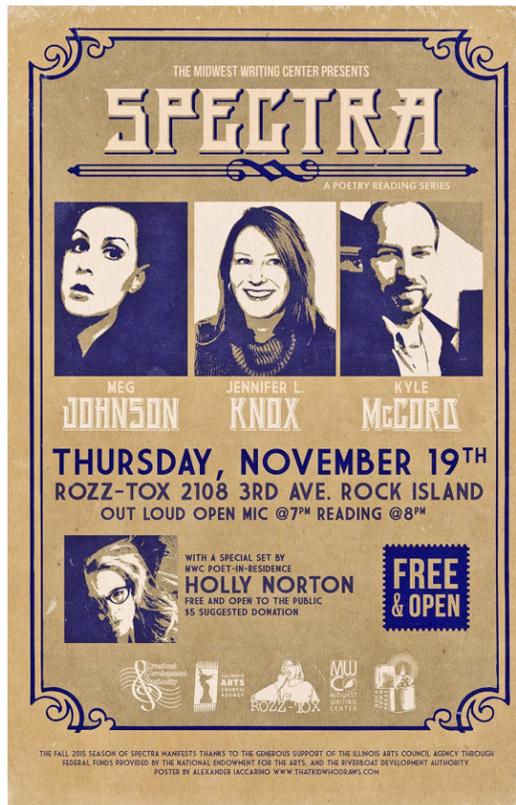
The Midwest Writing Center Summary Financial Report For The Year Ended December 31, 2015

Treasurer's Report

| | Receipts | Disbursements | Net | Beginning Cash | Ending Cash |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| General Operating Fund: | | | | | |
| Contributions: | | | | | |
| Dues & Memberships | \$8,858.80 | | \$8,858.80 | | |
| Birdies for Charity-Net After Memberships | \$640.61 | | \$640.61 | | |
| Other Contributions | \$3,243.58 | | \$3,243.58 | | |
| General In-Kind Service Contributions | \$41,780.96 | \$41,780.96 | \$0.00 | | |
| Noncash Contributions | \$416.00 | \$416.00 | \$0.00 | | |
| Grants & Sponsorships-General | \$3,139.00 | | \$3,139.00 | | |
| Overhead Allocation | \$5,802.80 | | \$5,802.80 | | |
| Other General Operating Income | \$258.36 | | \$258.36 | | |
| Transfer from Endowment Fund | \$3,000.00 | | \$3,000.00 | | |
| Payroll Related Expenses | | \$28,136.45 | (\$28,136.45) | | |
| Facility Expenses | | \$5,114.46 | (\$5,114.46) | | |
| Other General Operating Expenses | | \$4,633.20 | (\$4,633.20) | | |
| Interfund Transfers | \$10,032.41 | \$1,451.14 | \$8,581.27 | | |
| Total General Operating Fund | \$77,172.52 | \$81,532.21 | (\$4,359.69) | \$24,227.81 | \$19,868.12 |
| Specific Purpose Operating Funds: | | | | | |
| Mississippi Valley Poetry Contest | \$300.00 | \$300.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Writing Workshops | \$9,522.00 | \$8,022.00 | \$1,500.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,500.00 |
| Childrens Literary Festival | \$10,998.52 | \$9,140.33 | \$1,858.19 | \$4,921.17 | \$6,779.36 |
| Young Emerging Writers | \$9,250.00 | \$9,258.03 | (\$8.03) | \$1,497.24 | \$1,489.21 |
| Collins Writing Conference | \$18,033.95 | \$18,033.95 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Pen In Hand Conference | \$235.00 | \$485.00 | (\$250.00) | \$250.00 | \$0.00 |
| Spectra Fund | \$3,998.99 | \$4,240.41 | (\$241.42) | \$241.42 | \$0.00 |
| Mississippi Valley Chapbook Contest | \$732.50 | \$732.50 | \$0.00 | \$200.00 | \$200.00 |
| Collins Poetry Residency | \$125.00 | \$462.50 | (\$337.50) | \$1,046.17 | \$708.67 |
| Iron Pen Contest | \$700.00 | \$700.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Great River Writer's Retreat | \$1,045.00 | \$544.34 | \$500.66 | \$0.00 | \$500.66 |
| YEW Camp | \$2,950.00 | \$2,380.34 | \$569.66 | \$2,318.98 | \$2,888.64 |
| MWC Press Fund | \$1,588.10 | \$1,588.10 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Total Specific Purpose Operating Funds | \$59,479.06 | \$55,887.50 | \$3,591.56 | \$10,474.98 | \$14,066.54 |
| Total Operating Funds | \$136,651.58 | \$137,419.71 | (\$768.13) | \$34,702.79 | \$33,934.66 |
| Reserve Fund | \$32.55 | \$0.00 | \$32.55 | \$46,861.63 | \$46,894.18 |
| Endowment Fund For Operating Expenses: | | | | | |
| Contributions Received | \$550.00 | | \$550.00 | | |
| Investment Income and Market Value Loss (Net) | (\$4,617.66) | | (\$4,617.66) | | |
| Endowment Fund Transfer to GO | | \$3,000.00 | (\$3,000.00) | | |
| Total Endowment Fund | (\$4,067.66) | \$3,000.00 | (\$7,067.66) | \$81,930.40 | \$74,862.74 |
| Endowment Fund for Youth Writing Programs: | | | | | |
| Contributions Received | \$6,672.98 | | \$6,672.98 | | |
| Investment Income and Market Value Loss (Net) | (\$580.13) | | (\$580.13) | | |
| Endowment Fund Transfer to YEW | | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | | |
| Total Endowment Fund | \$6,092.85 | \$0.00 | \$6,092.85 | \$9,307.34 | \$15,400.19 |
| Total All Funds | \$138,709.32 | \$140,419.71 | (\$1,710.39) | \$172,802.16 | \$171,091.77 |
| Cash Represented By: | | | | | |
| First Midwest Bank | | | | \$50,559.19 | \$49,806.12 |
| Robert W. Baird & Co. | | | | \$31,005.23 | \$31,022.72 |
| @ Community Foundation: | | | | | |
| Endowment Fund For Operating Expenses | | | | \$81,930.40 | \$74,862.74 |
| Endowment Fund for Youth Writing Programs | | | | \$9,307.34 | \$15,400.19 |
| Total | | | | \$172,802.16 | \$171,091.77 |

President's Report 2015

Dear Members,



I'm happy to report another successful year for MWC during 2015 and so far in 2016. We've faced and continue to face some uncertainty with grace, have noted impressive milestones, and have started to implement our recent strategic plan, all while focusing clearly on our mission.

I continue to enjoy the privilege of service MWC and all it stands for, and the opportunities MWC has provided me go way beyond those of leadership by chairing committees and serving as a board officer. MWC has given me an opportunity to write; to hone my craft. And to share what I've learned with others by leading several workshops, a Veterans writing group, and a 6-part book marketing workshop series. MWC has given me community. I've always felt at home with MWC; I somehow connect with other board members, event participants, other MWC volunteers, and everyone I meet because of MWC. I think it's the shared passion for the written word that binds us together, whether as writers or readers (or both). Since I attended my first MWC workshop, my introversion weighing on me and my confidence in the toilet, I have grown so much. I can't even put into words how much (and I'm supposed to be a writer). I'm continue to be proud to be a part of this community that David Collins started with a vision and a few volunteers and which has grown to over nearly 200 members, over 1,000 e-newsletters subscribers, and numerous volunteers and supporters. So whether you've volunteered, donated, started or renewed a membership, attended any MWC event, or helped spread the word by telling at least one person about our organization, please accept my personal, sincere THANK YOU! Without you, we wouldn't be here.

Most of MWC's accomplishments would not have been possible without the support of generous grantors and sponsors including: Modern Woodmen of America, St. Ambrose University English Department, Illinois Art Council Agency, Mel McKay Charitable Trust, CD Wiman Memorial Trust, Blackhawk Division Retired Teachers Foundation, Community Foundation of Great River Bend, Riverboat Development Authority, Bi-State Literacy Council, Total Printing Systems, Quad City Arts Art\$ Dollars, SSAB, Hubbell-Waterman Foundation, Birdies for Charity, Dr. Nicolas Shammas, Dr. Robin Throne and 918.studio, and Exotic Imports.

It is the dedicated work from our supportive and actively hardworking Board of Directors, loyal members, and dedicated volunteers that made this list of highlights happen:

- *Reported over 1,600 volunteer hours
- *Grants and sponsorships received in excess of \$48,500
- *We continued to grow our regular and youth endowment
- *We raised over \$4,939 from 71 donors during our #GivingTuesday end-of-year fundraising campaign
- *Maintained a full-time employee for the entirety of 2015
- *Hosted two summer interns
- *Continued the nationally-recognized SPECTRA Poetry Reading Series
- *Held our tenth national David R. Collins Writers' Conference at St. Ambrose University
- *Held the Young Emerging Writers internship program for a tenth consecutive year, employing 14 interns and publishing *The Atlas*, Volume 10
- *Held YEW Middle School Writing Camp for the fifth consecutive summer
- *Held the 32nd annual David R. Collins Children's Literature Festival, which was attended by nearly 800 students



Adam Fell leads the poetry workshop at the 2014 Collins Writers Conference

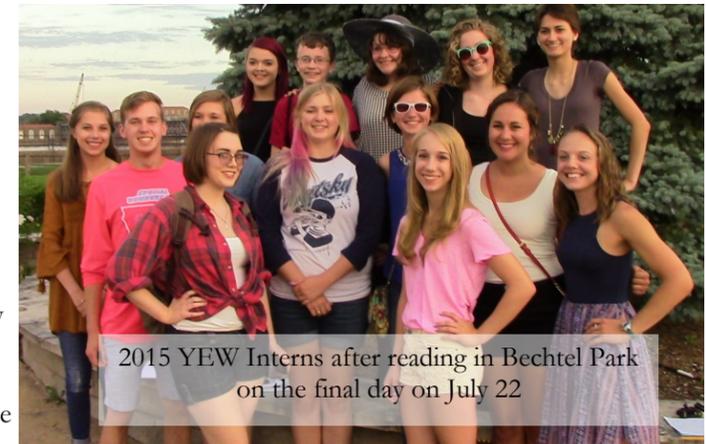
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President's Report (continued)

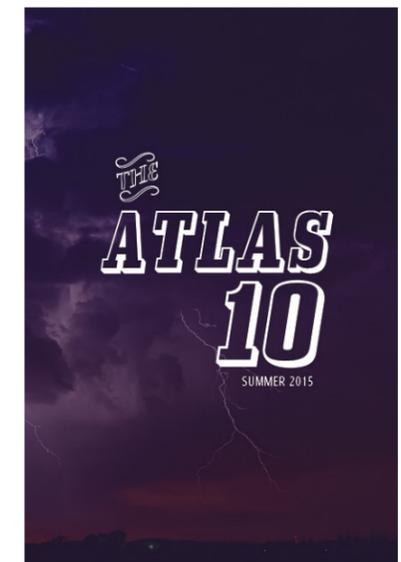
- *Published two new titles through MWC Press, and acquired another manuscript to be published 2016-17
- *Offered 8th annual Iron Pen contest and held awards ceremony
- * Hosted two local author book fairs at the Moline Public Library and SouthPark Mall
- *Hosted Writer's Studio twice each month
- *Participated in the Mission Creek Book Festival, the Iowa City Book Festival, and the first-ever Clinton Book Festival
- *Continued Partnership with Exotic Imports and The Book Rack to promote and offer MWC Press books in a highly visible retail setting
- * Organized many public poetry readings throughout the Quad Cities
- *Partnered with Figge Art Museum, St. Ambrose University, Bettendorf Public Library, Davenport Public Library, WQPT, WVIK, New Ground Theatre, and Rozz-Tox
- * Published the third annual Writer's Block E-Magazine with content contributed from MWC friends, patrons, and members.

Looking ahead, there is a great change in store for MWC. The move we've been talking about for several years now is now imminent with the impending sale of our Bucktown space, so please keep in touch via our website and newsletters to learn about updates.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jodie Toohy
Vice-President
May 25 2016



MWC Press 2015 Publications



In 2015, MWC Press published two new titles: *Meditations is a Helicopter About to Explode Over a Guy Covered in Chum, Surfing Off of Shark Bay Beach* by Jason Bredle (Susan K. Collins/Mississippi Valley Poetry Chapbook Contest Winner); and *The Atlas, Vol. 10*. Many thanks to all of our authors, contributors, editors, page and cover designers, and everyone who helped make these publications a reality!