MIDWEST WRITING CENTER

2016 Annual Report

"Fostering Appreciation of the Written Word...

2016 YEW Interns at *The Atlas 11* Release Party

The 2016 YEW Middle School Summer Camp

...Supporting and Educating its Creators."

Featured author Bruce Hale signing books for students attending the 2016 Children's Literature Festival

MIDWEST WRITING CENTER

c/o RIPL
401 19th St.
Rock Island, IL 61201
309-732-7330
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.

2016 Annual Report

presented at the Annual Meeting
of the Board of Directors
on

Wednesday, May 24, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Butterworth Center
1105 8th St.
Moline, IL 61265

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

Lauren Wood

EXECUTIVE BOARD
2015-2016

Jodie Toohey
President

Angela Campbell
Vice-President

Teresa LaBella
Secretary

Mark Petersen
Treasurer

Roger Strandlund
Attorney

Ryan Collins
Executive Director

2016 Midwest Writing Center Volunteers

Lynn Barteck
Mike Bayles
Vivian Blinkinsop
Angela Campbell
Jason Carey
Janet Clark
Christina Conklin
Susan Collins
Diane Conners
Pat Crozier
Mark Davidsaver
Mary Davidsaver
Margy Dobbelaere
Jean Duncan
Monica Flathman
Teresa Freking
Dr. Trish Georgiou
Betsy Hall
Kathie Hesse
Edyth Hogan
Connie & Dave Huber
Cindy Johnson
Suzanne Johnson
Dr. Emily Kingery
Teresa LaBella
Steven Lackey
Margaret Mackin
Salvatore Marici
Mary McAndrews
Richard & Georgia Miller
Tom Miller
Rochelle Murray
Bailey Newberry
Linda Nicholson
Barbara Novak
Gabby Pa
Greigh Pa
Rick Pa
Lori Perkins
Mark Petersen
Joseph Pullella
Barb Rearden
Rita Rosauer
Julie Ross
Dee Runnels
Marilyn Schnell
Emma Stough
Elizabeth Tanaka
Dr. Robin Throne
Mary Timmerman
Jodie Toohey
Lauren Wood

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

Winners of the 2016 Literary Arts Awards

The Outstanding Literary Arts Citizen Award recognizes an individual who advocates and/or volunteers to promote writing, reading, and/or the literary arts in the community.
This year's winner is **Sean Whitney.**

The Outstanding Literary Arts Educator Award recognizes an educator of early learners/preschoolers through secondary school and beyond who excels at teaching writing in their professional capacity.
This year's winner is **Staci Mercado**.

The Outstanding Literary Artist Award recognizes someone who realized a literary arts achievement in 2016, whether publication, award-recipient, best-seller designation, or other achievement related to the literary arts. The winner is not required to be a writer, but can fill other roles such as performer, musician, or other related artist.
This year's winner is **Mary Davidsaver.**

Congratulations to the nominees and the winners for their outstanding contributions to the literary arts in our community!

Personnel & Volunteer Committee

Kathleen Rooney reads during the 2016 David R. Collins Writers' Conference

The Midwest Writing Center maintained another entire year of employing Ryan Collins as a full time Executive Director. In addition to the Executive Director, MWC employed Jodie Toohey to assist with marketing and promotion on a contract basis. MWC also retained Teresa LaBella for grant writing services. MWC also employed an intern in 2016: Emma Stough, a student at Augustana College, started as a volunteer intern and was hired to take over some of the marketing duties for Jodie Toohey. We also had tremendous help from all of our terrific volunteers. In all, our volunteers logged 2,185 hours, valued at $57,902.81 over the course of 2016.

All of our employees and volunteers made valuable contributions to the Center throughout 2016, and helped to ensure another successful year. Many thanks Emma, Jodie, Ryan, and Teresa for their work in furthering MWC's mission.

Angela Campbell, Personnel Committee Chair

Nominating Committee

In 2016, the Nominating Committee welcomed Lauren Wood to our board. With deepest regret, the board also accepted the resignations of Lynn Barteck and Trisha Georgiou. We accepted Board Emerita/Emeritus designations for Marty Foster, Nancy Hayes, and Max Molleston.

As MWC policy state, our Board has voted to keep fifteen available positions. We closed 2016 with eleven positions filled.

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

2017 – Susan Collins
2018 – Dr. Emily Kingery
2018 – Jodie Toohey
2018 – Richard Miller
2019 – Dave Cahoon
2019 – Angela Campbell
2019 – Rochelle Murray
2019 – Mark Petersen
2019 – Lauren Wood

Jodie Toohey, Nominating Committee Chair

Facilities Committee

Matt Hart performs at SPECTRA in October 2016

Maybe the most defining event for MWC in 2016 was our move from the Bucktown Center for the Arts to the Rock Island Public Library Main Branch. While this move was several years in developing, once the sale was finalized, everything came together rather quickly, and the transition between locations went as smoothly as we could have hoped for.

Thanks to the hard work of the Board and volunteers who helped out with the move, we were able to maintain a busy program schedule throughout the month of October, when much of the move took place, without any disruption. This was one of our busiest months of the year, so this was no small feat. While we did not have many events at the new space in 2016, we did host an open house in December, and by the end of the year, the new location is in excellent working order, including major computer and networking upgrades.

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 would especially like to thank Jodie Toohey and Susan Collins for all their work on the move, Two Guys and a Truck for donating their time and equipment, and to Rick Pa and his family for their work setting up our computers and network. We are grateful for all the volunteers who help make our events warm and welcoming.

Ryan Collins for Rich Miller, Facilities Committee Chair

2015 Annual Meeting Minutes

May 26, 2016 - 6:00 p.m., Bucktown Center for the Arts, 225 E. 2nd St. Davenport, IA

I. President Jodie Toohey called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. and welcomed all board and members attending.

II. Approval of the minutes from 2014 annual meeting May 28, 2015, moved by Dave, seconded by Mary, approved.

III. Correspondence – None.

Sarah Prineas taking questions at 2016 Children's Literature Festival

IV. Treasurer's Report – Attendees referred to review page opposite agenda in annual report.

V. Unfinished Business – None.

VII. President's Report and Introduction of Board Members – Jodie recapped her eight years experience with MWC and provided the following statistics: 200 current members, 1,000 email subscribers, increase in major supporters and donors. Jodie introduced current MWC board members.

VII. New Business –

A. Susan moved recommended motion: The Midwest Writing Center Board of Directors will not exceed fifteen in number, seconded by Rich, approved.

B. Dave moved to accept resignation of board member Dr. Trish Nelson, seconded by Lynn, approved.

C. Board member Mary Foster was recognized for her 26 years of service and nominated to be the first board member emerita. Motion to elect board members as nominated made by Rich, seconded by Dave, approved.

VIII. Executive Director Report – Ryan Collins thanked all for contributing and participating and congratulated Mary Foster. Ryan reported a successful year – highlights: over 3,200 instances of service, over 320 hours of programming, new partnerships in the community; looking ahead: relocation to new space at Rock Island Library, upcoming David R. Collins Writers' Conference, new MWC internships.

IX. Committee Reports

Publicity Committee – Chair Jodie Toohey reported an increase in social media, including 789 Facebook likes and over 1,020 subscribers to the online newsletter.

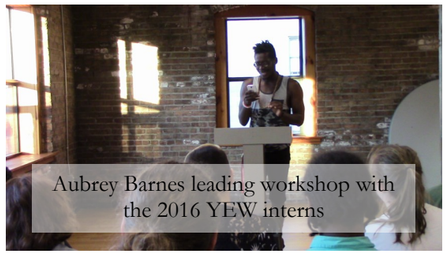
Facilities Committee – Chair Richard Miller reported negotiations are underway to lease space at the Rock Island Public Library September 1st with an agreement set to be finalized sometime in June. Closing on the Bucktown property set for November 1st. Volunteers are needed to help with downsizing and the move. Movers will be hired to transport large items.

Personnel Committee – Ryan reported for Chair Angela Campbell. Two interns for Children's Literature Festival; 1,613 volunteer hours valued at $41,780.96.

Advancement Committee – Chair Rochelle Murray promoted membership and participation in Birdies for Charity; $4,600 raised from Birdies donations and pledges in 2015. Jodie presented the Legacy Society power point. Rochelle gave a history of MWC and called for Legacy gifts.

Program Committee – Chair Susan Collins referred members to the annual report. MWC heard pitches from authors at the 2015 Writers' Conference. MWC Press chose to publish Mary Davidsaver's novel.

Finance Committee – referred to annual report.


Aubrey Barnes leading workshop with the 2016 YEW interns

X. Recognition of Volunteers – certificates distributed by roll call and event/program recognition.

XI. Drawing for door prizes – Mary Davidsaver won the grand prize full registration to 2016 Writers' Conference.

XII. Announcements and dates to remember.

XIII. Motion to adjourn made by Dave, seconded by Mary. 2015 annual meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

AGENDA

Midwest Writing Center 2016 Annual Meeting
May 24, 2017, 6:00 p.m., Butterworth Center, 1105 8th Street, Moline, Illinois

I. Call to order, welcome, roll call, and remarks by President Jodie Toohey

II. Recognition of Legacy Society members, Emeritus/Emerita Board members, and sponsors

III. Approval of the minutes of the 2016 annual meeting held May 26, 2016

IV. Correspondence – Rochelle Murray

V. Treasurer's Report—Mark Petersen

VI. Unfinished Business

VII. President's Report and Introduction of the Board Members—Jodie Toohey

VIII. New Business

A. Number of members of the board of directors
Recommended motion: The MWC Board of Directors will not exceed fifteen in number
B. Election of Midwest Writing Center Board of Directors
1. Nominating committee's recommendation—Jodie Toohey
2. Nominations from the floor

IX. Executive Director Report—Ryan Collins

X. Committee Reports
A. Publicity
B. Facilities
C. Personnel
D. Advancement
E. Program—Conference
F. Special Committees

XI. Recognition of volunteers

XII. Annual Meeting Awards presentation

XIII. Drawing for door prize: a full registration to David R. Collins Writers' Conference for those attending the annual meeting.

XIV. 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 15, Great River Writers Retreat Submission Close
D. June 22-24, David R. Collins Writers' Conference at St. Ambrose

XV. Adjournment to refreshments and social time

Program Committee (continued)

Regular Programming: Our very popular SPECTRA Reading Series celebrated its 20th event and its fifth year of events. Up and coming regional poets bring their talents to Rock Island while reading with many of our local poets. Our Out Loud program has been combined with the SPECTRA readings. Writers Studio continues to meet at MWC twice monthly. A twice monthly YEW Writer's Studio was also added to programming for our younger writers. A YEW Generative Workshop was also added this year. A USA Vets Writers' Studio continued for part of the year and then was discontinued. We still try to build a writing community with our monthly Writers Social. In March, we offered a publishing panel and book fair which was well received. A playwriting series was offered early in the year. There were workshops including poetry, Create Space, ghost writing, writing your college essay. We were once again able to offer a fall genre writing series. This year's topic was the novel led by Susan Carroll. A marketing series was postponed until spring 2017. Much of this programming was made possible because of a grant from the Riverboat Development Authority.

Contests and Competitive Opportunities: We again held our 24 hour Iron Pen Writing Contest. We held the Great River Writers' Retreat, sponsored by Dr. Nick Shammas. This year's winner was novelist, Mary Howard. The winner of the 2015 Susan K. Collins Poetry Chapbook Contest was Cherise A. Pollard.

Annual Programs: We continued our successful programming with the 11th David R. Collins Writers' Conference in June. This opportunity was made possible by Modern Woodmen of America and the St. Ambrose English Department. The 11th Young Emerging Writers for our high school age writers had another successful year with 14 participants. We published The Atlas and had a successful launch in August with 125 guests. We held the 7th Young Writers' Camp in July. This year was the largest participation with 14. We had 56 friends and family come for the final day reading. These programs continue to get better each year. The youth programs are supported by Arts Dollars and local foundations and trusts. In September, we partnered with RIPL for our annual banned books reading. There were around 50 people participating and listening.

The 34th David R. Collins Children's Literature Festival was held in October. Nearly 700 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 authors participating including local, regional, and national. The Riverboat Development Authority, Ascentra Credit Union Foundation, and Junior Board of Rock Island were major supporters.

Special Programs: In partnership with Augustana College, we welcomed Joshua Clover for a mini-residency.

Midwest Writing Center Press: In 2016 the MWC Press had three publications—*The Atlas 11*, *Clouds Over Bishop Hill* by Mary Davidsaver, and *Outsiders* (winner of the annual chapbook contest), by Cherise Pollard.

Thanks so much to the members of the program committee in 2016—Rochelle Murray, Jodie Toohey, Mike Bayles, Sal Marici, Richard Miller, Lynn Barteck, Cindy Johnson, Dr. Emily Kingery, Lauren Wood, Mary Davidsaver, Dr. Robin Throne, and Ryan Murphy. They are a great, hard working group.

Susan Collins, Program Committee Chair

Marketing and Publicity Committee

MWC continued to conduct the bulk of its marketing efforts through several methods, including MWC's website and monthly digest-style electronic newsletter, from where most attendees still find their way to our events, as well as the annual e-magazine, Facebook posts, Tweets, 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.

To adhere to our strategic plan goal of creating a new marketing plan, the Marketing and Publicity Committee has been meeting monthly to update the comprehensive marketing plan. We are determining what we market and categorizing events as needed, and then evaluating them through a SWOT (strength, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis; defining ideal clients; creating price, place/distribution, product, and promotion strategies; and determining how to evaluate whether the marketing was successful. We hope to, if not have the plan done by the close to 2017, to at least have it substantially completed.

Another new development this year has been with our new digital marketing volunteer, George Murray, who is working with our analytics for our website and social media, to develop recommendations to optimize these outlets. We are also exploring and planning new partnership opportunities for marketing, including with the Rock Island Public Library.

Jodie Toohey, Marketing and Publicity Committee Chair

Advancement Committee

It was a successful and active year. Many of our accomplishments could not have been realized without the generous support of grantors, donors and sponsors to aid with the general operational and programming costs. Please refer to the MWC website for a list of all of supporters in 2016.

The Endowment Fund for Operating Expenses totaled $77,462 and the Tim Curry Endowment Fund for Youth Writing Programs $16,366. Both endowments are managed through the Community Foundation of the Great River Bend. For our future existence, it is important for both endowments to continue to grow. Memorial contributions added to the endowments are also referenced on the website.

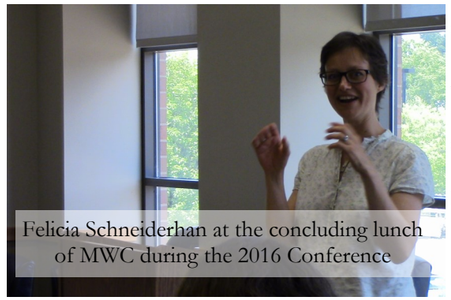
Birdies for Charity is an important source of operating income for MWC. People were encouraged to do their annual giving since we were guaranteed at least a 5% bump up in what we collected. This year we also had a matching grant for up to $2,000 in donations. At the end of the event, we received a check from Birdies for Charity for $7,952.

Other grant money was provided by the Regional Development Authority supporting a variety of programming. The Arsenal group awarded a $250 grant to fund tuition for veterans and military families to our programs. Other funding was provided by local trusts and foundations as well as the Regional Development Authority (RDA) for the Young Emerging Writers Summer Internship Program for high school students and YEW Middle School Day Camp.

Held in June, the David R. Collins Writer's Conference, sponsored by Modern Woodmen of America and the English Department of St. Ambrose, continues to be one of our major events. Any remaining funds after expenses goes to operating costs and programming.

The Children's Literature Festival has a strong working partnership with the Davenport Public Library, MWC, and the Bi-State Literacy Council (BSLC). Ascentra Credit Union Foundation was the Festival's major sponsor in 2016. Junior Board of Rock Island, RDA and BSLC were other helpful contributors. Nearly 700 upper elementary students and chaperones participated at the Festival. Any remaining funds for this project after expenses will go to assist funding for the 2017 event.

"Books and Brew"—a special one night fundraising event was held at the Great River Brewery. Ten percent of the proceeds were allocated to Midwest Writing Center. A one-day sale at Bucktown for the Arts was held before moving to Rock Island. Items that were no longer needed were sold and over $300 was raised. A much-needed server upgrade was realized with $2,000 received from CFGRB, assisting with the necessary funding.



Felicia Schneiderhan at the concluding lunch of MWC during the 2016 Conference

The Legacy Society recently formed has five charter members. It is important to increase the number of members for MWC's future existence. For a variety of ways to become a charter member, please visit the MWC's website.

Dr. Nicolas Shammas sponsored the Great River Writers Retreat, and Dr. Robin Throne will be sponsoring the 2017 Collins Poetry Residency.

The MWC Press Fund income totaled $2,541 from the sale of their books.

The Giving Tuesday Fundraising Campaign proved most successful. Fifty-six donors gave $2,670. A $2,000 match from a private donor brought the final event total to nearly $5,000.

Approximately 200 members are now in good standing.

Many thanks to the Advancement Committee in 2016 for their hard work and vision: Susan Collins, Dr. Robin Throne, Jodie Toohey, Teresa LaBella, Nancy Hayes, Lynn Barteck, Richard Miller, Dee Runnels, and Ryan Collins.

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 2016. Most of these programming hours were available at no cost to the participants. We also recorded well over 3,000 instances of service in 2016. This is remarkable in a year which also included a major location move.

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 Moline Public Library, the Davenport Public Library, Bi-State Literacy Council, the Figge Art Museum, River Action, Arrowhead Ranch, QC home schoolers, Augustana College, and the St. Ambrose English Department. We also partner with WQPT on their youth writing contest.

(Continued on next page)

Treasurer's Report

The Midwest Writing Center
Summary Financial Report
For The Period Ended December 31, 2016

	Receipts	Overhead Allocation	Interfund Transfers	Disbursements	Net	Beginning Cash	Ending Cash
General Operating Fund:							
Contributions:							
Dues & Memberships	$4,900.00				$4,900.00		
Birdies for Charity-Net After Memberships	$7,951.64				$7,951.64		
Other Contributions	$2,046.42				$2,046.42		
Interest Income	$14.62				$14.62		
Grants & Sponsorships-General	$2,400.00				$2,400.00		
Overhead Allocation		$5,703.03			$5,703.03		
Other General Operating Income	$360.46				$360.46		
Sale of Condo	$74,660.80				$74,660.80		
Transfer From Endowment Fund			$3,200.00		$3,200.00		
Transfer From (To) Reserve Fund					$0.00		
Payroll Related Expenses				$27,614.46	($27,614.46)		
Facility Expenses				$6,894.41	($6,894.41)		
Other General Operating Expenses				$6,637.85	($6,637.85)		
Interfund Transfers			($69,677.47)		($69,677.47)		
Total General Operating Fund	**$92,333.94**	**$5,703.03**	**($66,477.47)**	**$41,146.72**	**($9,587.22)**	**$19,868.12**	**$10,280.90**
Specific Purpose Operating Funds:							
Writing Workshops	$7,347.53	($734.75)	($3,714.58)	$2,898.20	$0.00	$1,500.00	$1,500.00
Collins Writing Conference	$22,255.49	($2,225.55)	($2,973.61)	$10,056.33	$7,000.00	$0.00	$7,000.00
Young Emerging Writers	$4,555.00	($455.50)	$4,274.61	$8,363.32	$10.79	$1,489.21	$1,500.00
Mississippi Valley Chapbook Contest	$920.00	($92.00)	($667.17)	$160.83	$0.00	$200.00	$200.00
Iron Pen Contest	$830.00	($83.00)	($547.00)	$200.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Great River Writer's Retreat	$195.00	($19.50)	$0.00	$437.94	($262.44)	$500.66	$238.22
Childrens Literary Festival	$10,794.50	($1,079.45)	$0.00	$9,550.06	$164.99	$6,779.36	$6,944.35
Collins Poetry Residency	$540.00	($54.00)	$0.00	$300.00	$186.00	$708.67	$894.67
YEW Camp	$2,650.00	($265.00)	($2,886.77)	$1,886.87	($2,388.64)	$2,888.64	$500.00
MWC Press Fund	$2,540.80	($254.08)	$894.84	$3,181.56	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Spectra Fund	$4,402.00	($440.20)	$297.15	$3,258.95	$1,000.00	$0.00	$1,000.00
Total Specific Purpose Operating Funds	**$57,030.32**	**($5,703.03)**	**($5,322.53)**	**$40,294.06**	**$5,710.70**	**$14,066.54**	**$19,777.24**
Total Operating Funds	**$149,364.26**	**$0.00**	**($71,800.00)**	**$81,440.78**	**($3,876.52)**	**$33,934.66**	**$30,058.14**
Reserve Fund							
Investment Income and Market Value Loss(Net)	$4,337.62			$0.00	$4,337.62		
Transfers From (To) GO Fund			$75,000.00	$0.00	$75,000.00		
Total Reserve Fund	**$4,337.62**	**$0.00**	**$75,000.00**	**$0.00**	**$79,337.62**	**$46,894.18**	**$126,231.80**
Endowment Fund For Operating Expenses:							
Contributions Received	$2,079.68				$2,079.68		
Investment Income and Market Value Loss(Net)	$4,587.83			$0.00	$4,587.83		
Endowment Fund Transfer to GO			($3,200.00)		($3,200.00)		
Total Endowment Fund	**$6,667.51**	**$0.00**	**($3,200.00)**	**$0.00**	**$3,467.51**	**$74,862.74**	**$78,330.25**
Endowment Fund for Youth Writing Programs:							
Contributions Received	$3,024.67				$3,024.67		
Investment Income and Market Value Loss(Net)	$927.52			$0.00	$927.52		
Endowment Fund Transfer to YEW			$0.00		$0.00		
Total Endowment Fund	**$3,952.19**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$3,952.19**	**$15,400.19**	**$19,352.38**
Total All Funds	**$164,321.58**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$81,440.78**	**$82,880.80**	**$171,091.77**	**$253,972.57**
Cash Represented By:							
First Midwest Bank						$49,806.12	$30,058.14
Robert W. Baird & Co.						$31,022.72	$126,231.80
@ Community Foundation:							
Endowment Fund For Operating Expenses						$74,862.74	$78,330.25
Endowment Fund for Youth Writing Programs						$15,400.19	$19,352.38
Total						$171,091.77	$253,972.57
Reported In-Kind & Noncash Contributions:							
General In-Kind Service Contributions	$57,902.81						
Noncash Contributions	$626.78						
Total	**$58,529.59**						

President's Report 2016

The 2016 season of SPECTRA manifests thanks to the generous support of Friends & Patrons of the Midwest Writing Center and the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

Dear Members,

You don't know how happy I am to report that MWC has finally settled into a new home after being subject to new plans for the use of the Bucktown Center for the Arts in Davenport. During the months of September and October, 2016, we moved our operations to the ground floor at Rock Island Public Library's downtown location (next to the children's section), and in November, we closed on the sale of the Bucktown space. All this occurred while maintaining a full event schedule. It all went smoothly thanks to our many volunteers and our Executive Director. Ryan was instrumental in keeping our normal operations running smoothly so we didn't have to close at any time during the move. A special thank you also goes to volunteer, Rick Pa, who saved us hundreds (maybe even thousands) by handing the move of all of our technology, including setting up our new server which was such a big job, it was just recently completed. Also, a big thank you goes to Two Men and a Truck who moved our belongings from Bucktown to the library at no charge, all in a friendly and extremely helpful manner.

Now that the big move is behind us, we can start implementing the other goals from the strategic plan completed a couple of years ago, all with the ultimate goal of efficiently and sustainably achieving our mission. On a personal level, MWC continues to provide me a way to lead, be involved in my community, and spend time with my people – writers and readers. I 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 200 members, over 1,100 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, Regional Development Authority, Ascentra Foundation, the Illinois Art Council Agency, Mel McKay Charitable Trust, Mary Iva Gittens Knouse Charitable Trust, Community Foundation of Great River Bend, Bi-State Literacy Council, Total Printing Systems, Hubbell-Waterman Foundation, Birdies for Charity, the St. Ambrose University English Department, Wal-Mart, Quad City Arts' Arts Dollar$, Dr. Nicolas Shammas, Dr. Robin Throne, Great River Brewery, Barnes and Noble Booksellers, and Exotic Imports.

Participants getting ready for C. Hope Clark's first workshop at the 2016 Collins Writers Conference

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 2,100 volunteer hours
*Grants and sponsorships received in excess of $34,000
*We continue to grow our regular and youth endowment
*We raised nearly $5,000 from 56 donors during our 2016 #GivingTuesday campaign
*Maintained a full-time employee for the entirety of 2016, as well as a part-time marketing assistant and grant writer for most of 2016
*Hosted an intern from Augustana College
*Continued the nationally-recognized SPECTRA Poetry Reading Series
*Held our eleventh national David R. Collins Writers' Conference at St. Ambrose University
*Held the Young Emerging Writers internship program for the eleventh consecutive year, publishing *The Atlas*, Volume 11

(Continued on next page)

President's Report *(continued)*

2016 YEW Interns after their final day on July 20

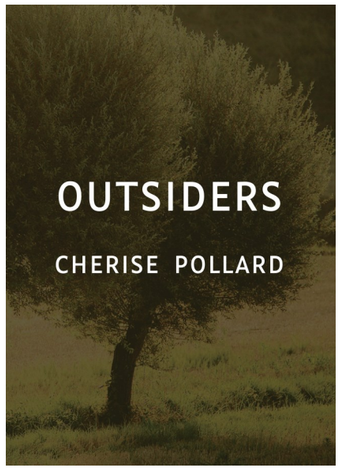
*Held YEW Middle School Writing Camp for the sixth consecutive summer
*Held the David R. Collins Children's Literature Festival attended by over 650 students
*Published three new titles through MWC Press
*Offered Iron Pen contest and held awards ceremony
* Hosted launch parties for several authors
*Hosted Writer's Studio twice each month
*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 Exotic Imports, The Book Rack, Rozz-Tox, the Rock Island Public Library, the Bettendorf Library, the Moline Public Library, the Davenport Public Library, Bi-State Literacy Council, the Figge Art Museum, River Action, Arrowhead Ranch, the Augustana College English Department, the St. Ambrose English Department, WQPT, and WVIK.
* Published the fourth annual Writer's Block E-Magazine with content contributed from MWC friends, patrons, and members.

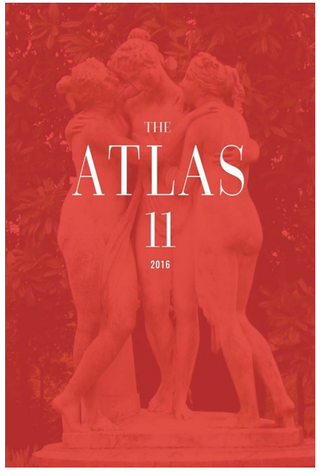
We look forward to continuing to settle into our new home, forming more mutually beneficial partnerships, and continued to serve the writers and readers in Quad Cities, Midwest, and beyond.

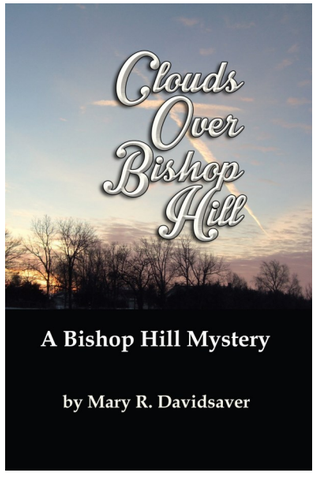
Respectfully Submitted,

Jodie Toohey, President
May 24 2017

MWC Press 2016 Publications







In 2016, MWC Press published three new titles: *Outsiders* by Cherise Pollard (Susan K. Collins/Mississippi Valley Poetry Chapbook Contest Winner); *The Atlas, Vol. 11*; and *Clouds Over Bishop Hill* by Mary Davidsaver. Many thanks to all of our authors, contributors, editors, page and cover designers, and everyone who helped make these publications a reality!