



# 2020 Annual Report



*Fostering Appreciation*

*of the Written Word...*



  
**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.

*...Supporting & Educating its Creators*

# 2020 Annual Report

presented at the Annual Meeting  
of the Board of Directors & Membership

on

**Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**

Online | Rock Island Public Library  
401 19th Street  
Rock Island, IL 61201

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019-2020

Dave Cahoon	Emily Kingery
Susan Collins	Rochelle Murray
Laura Davis	Beth Roberts
Tara Foltz	Philip Goldfarb Styr
	Misty Urban

## EXECUTIVE BOARD 2019-2020

**Jodie Toohey**  
President

**Angela Campbell**  
Vice-President

**Mary Davidsaver**  
Secretary

**Jay Posateri**  
Treasurer

**Roger Strandlund**  
Attorney

**Ryan Collins**  
Executive Director

## MWC STAFF 2019-2020

**Skylar Alexander**  
Design & Development Specialist

**Sarah Elgatian**  
Program & Marketing Specialist



# Midwest Writing Center Volunteers | 2020

Mike Bayles	Sarah Elgatian	Rochelle Murray	Jodie Toohey
Dave Cahoon	Tara Foltz	Michelle Opsahl	Misty Urban
Angela Campbell	Dr. Emily Kingery	Rick Pa	Theresa Giglio Voss
Ryan Collins	Steven Lackey	Jay Posateri	Morgan Webb
Susan Collins	Michelle Ladwig	Beth Roberts	
Mary Davidsaver	J.T. Lloyd	Philip Goldfarb Styr	
Laura Davis	Salvatore Marici	M. Cathy Taylor	



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

## Remembering Richard “Dick” Stahl 1939—2020

MWC Board, staff, and volunteers were deeply saddened by the passing of Richard “Dick” Stahl, poet, former MWC Board Member, long-time Davenport Central High School teacher, and the inaugural Poet Laureate of the Quad Cities (2001-2003).

Dick was supremely devoted to poetry, to his craft, and sharing his love of writing with as many people as possible. He was deeply curious and ferociously kind. He was a master educator—in classrooms as well as in poems—and his commitment to developing his writing never stopped. His work was always growing, changing, adapting, incorporating new elements while remaining true to his voice, a singular one in the rich literary history of Quad Cities.

Dick will be deeply missed, and we are all grateful for his writing and for his friendship.



## Personnel & Volunteer Committee

Despite a raging pandemic, staff of the Midwest Writing Center flourished this past year under the leadership of Executive Director, Ryan Collins.

This year was particularly challenging, as it was more difficult to have the kind of regular volunteer assistance for our programs and operations that we are fortunate to have in a normal year. Thankfully, our Program and Marketing Specialist Sarah Elgatian really stepped up, took on more responsibilities, and as a result the Center was able to offer numerous Facebook Live programs, a virtual Banned Books reading, and promotions that spanned multiple online platforms. The Center's contracted Design and Development Specialist, Skylar Alexander, was able to continue working on the visuals that help solidify the Midwest Writing Center's brand - Write More Light Into Your Life. The trio of workers currently employed at the Center should be commended for their amazing community impact and outreach.

As the chair of the Personnel Committee, it is my honor to work along with the individuals that make the Midwest Writing Center the premier place in the Quad Cities that fosters the appreciation of the written word, supporting and educating its creators.

Angela Campbell, Personnel & Volunteer Chair

## Remembering Dr. Roald Tweet 1933—2020



Dr. Roald Tweet (right) with Don Wooten (left) and author Ben Miller (center) during Miller's visit to the QC for the 2019 David R. Collins Writers' Conference

The MWC Board of Directors and staff joined many people in our community in grieving the loss of the great Dr. Roald Tweet, Augustana College professor emeritus, celebrated radio personality, and champion of the written word.

Dr. Tweet served on the MWC Board of Directors for several years, and was a long-time supporter of writing & literacy in the Quad Cities. He was a singular figure in our community, who educated & encouraged so many people to be more thoughtful, more kind, and more open to the world. We will be forever grateful for his dedication, his friendship, and his example, which will continue one in the lives of all the people touched by his light

"Tweet" will be deeply missed, and we are grateful for his friendship and service.

## Nominating Committee

In 2020, with regrets, we accepted the resignation of Laura Davis and Beth Roberts. We welcome Dr. Philip Goldfarb Styrt to the Board of Directors.

As Midwest Writing Center's policies state, our board has voted on thirteen available positions. We closed 2020 with eleven positions filled.

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

2021 – Dr. Emily Kingery	2021 – Jodie Toohey
2022 – Jay Posateri	2023 – Misty Urban
2023 – Angela Campbell	2023 – Tara Foltz
2023 – Philip Goldfarb Styrt	2024 – Susan Collins

At the 2020 annual meeting, we will vote to admit Jonathan Turner and Lisa Williams to the Board of Directors.

We thank retiring members, Dave Cahoon, Mary Davidsaver, and Rochelle Murray (who will become a Board Member Emerita), for their dedicated service.

Jodie Toohey, Nominating Committee Chair

## 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes

May 27, 2020 — 5:30p.m., Meeting Held Online via Zoom

- 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. Board Member Introductions
- IV. Mission Moment Open to Floor: How MWC made a difference to someone or someone you know: several Board members and attendees shared stories about how MWC made an impact in the community over the past year.
- V. Strategic Discussion: MWC will participate in strategic planning next year to extend and revise the current strategic plan, which runs through 2021.
- VI. Unfinished Business: N/A
- VII. New Business
  - A. Number of members of the board of directors
    1. Recommended motion: The MWC Board of Directors will not exceed 13 in number. Motion made by Jodie Toohey, Angela Campbell seconds. Motion carried.
    - B. Election of Midwest Writing Center Board of Directors
      1. Nominating committee's recommendation— Jodie Toohey moves to accept the slate of nominees as presented, Emily Kingery seconds. Motion carried.
      2. Nominations from the floor: none made at the time.
- VIII. Consent Agenda
  - A. Minutes from 2019 Annual Meeting Held on May 27, 2020: Jodie Toohey moved to approve, Susan Collins seconded. Motion carried, minutes approved.
  - B. Treasurer's Report: MWC has maintained good financial health throughout the past year.
  - C. Committee Reports: Please see reports included in Annual Report.
  - D. Executive Directors Report: MWC Executive Director Ryan Collins reported on the successful 2019 programs and events, provided updates about moving programs to virtual spaces during the pandemic, and encouraged participation in upcoming events.
- IX. Recognition of volunteers: Jodie Toohey read the names of MWC volunteers throughout 2019, acknowledging their service and thanking them for their support of MWC and its mission.



X. Drawing for virtual "door" prizes including a full registration to David R. Collins Writers' Conference for those attending the annual meeting: Lilly Setterdahl was the winner of the drawing for the Conference Registration.

- XI. Announcements and dates to remember
  - A. Please consider supporting MWC through Birdies for Charity this summer
  - B. Books and broadsides for sale via the MWC Press online bookstore
  - C. June 25-27, David R. Collins Writers' Conference — Virtual Edition

XII. Adjournment

# AGENDA

## Midwest Writing Center 2020 Annual Meeting

May 26, 2021, 6:00 p.m., Rock Island Public Library Public Library (and via Zoom),  
401 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Rock Island

- 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. Board Member Introductions
- IV. Unfinished Business
- V. New Business
  - A. Number of members of the board of directors  
Recommended motion: The MWC Board of Directors will not exceed 11 in number
  - B. Election of Midwest Writing Center Board of Directors
    1. Nominating committee's recommendation—Jodie Toohey
    2. Nominations from the floor
- VI. Consent Agenda (See Written Annual Report)
  - A. Minutes from 2019 Annual Meeting Held on May 27, 2020
  - B. Treasurer's Report
  - C. Committee Reports
  - D. Executive Director's Report
- VII. Recognition of Volunteers
- VIII. Readings from the forthcoming MWC Press 2020 anthology  
*These Interesting Times* (will be released in fall 2021)
- IX. Drawing for virtual “door” prizes, including a full registration to David R. Collins Writers' Conference for those attending the annual meeting.
- X. Announcements and dates to remember
  - A. Please consider supporting Midwest Writing Center through Birdies for Charity this summer
  - B. June 24-26, David R. Collins Writers' Conference — Virtual Edition
  - C. Follow us on social media:
    - i. Facebook: [www.facebook.com/MidwestWritingCenter](http://www.facebook.com/MidwestWritingCenter)
    - ii. Twitter: @MWC\_QC
    - iii. Instagram: @mwc\_qc
    - iv. LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/company/midwest-writing-center/](http://www.linkedin.com/company/midwest-writing-center/)
    - v. YouTube: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCeGKgdK6hnCfKGatuiX7ujw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeGKgdK6hnCfKGatuiX7ujw)



XI. Adjournment

## Program & Promotion Committee (continued)

We also started hosting meeting for our friends in Quint City Poets so they can continue their monthly meetings until they can meet again in person.

**Contests and Competitive Opportunities:** We again held our 24-hour Iron Pen Writing Contest, with over 80 contestants, and the winners were featured in MWC's *Writer's Block* e-magazine. Due to the pandemic, we were not able to hold the Great River Writers Retreat, though applicants will be rolled over into the 2021 contest. Thanks to Nicholas Shammass' continued sponsorship, we are hopeful that we can award the Retreat as planned in 2021.

**Annual Programs:** We continued our successful programming with the David R. Collins Writers' Conference in June, held virtually and featuring nationally known writer Lyz Lenz as our keynote speaker. As it was the Conference's 15th anniversary, we brought back some participant favorites from past years, including Felicia Schneiderhan, Rebecca Wee, and Kali Van Baale, who led a workshop with first-time Conference instructor Misty Urban in addition to their individual workshops. While the move to a virtual space came late in the spring, we still had a well-attended Conference that attracted participants from 8 different states. The Conference was supported by Modern Woodmen of America again for the 15th straight year, as well as by the Regional Development Authority.

The Young Emerging Writers program for students ages 15-19 had another successful year with 16 participants. The internship was also held virtually, though publication of *The Atlas* as a physical book was still a delight. The launch party was also held virtually, albeit later than usual in October, due to delays in printing. The event still attracting a good crowd; in fact, both YEW readings were among our most-viewed events of 2021. YEW was supported by the Regional Development Authority; Scott County Regional Authority; Illinois Humanities; Modern Woodmen of America; the Melvin McKay Charitable Trust; the CD Wiman Memorial; the Rausch Family Foundation I; the Moline Foundation; the Figge Art Museum; Rozz-Tox; and the Illinois Arts Council Agency. In September, we again partnered with Rock Island Public Library for our annual Banned Books reading, which was held virtually. Thanks to the virtual format, the Iowa City Library was also able to partner and had several readers participate.

Due to physical distancing requirements, the Children's Literature Festival was not able to be held; however, MWC worked with Shellie Moore Guy to create a video of her reading her MWC Press book, *How Little Billy Learned to Play*, including a discussion with her and illustrator Marshall Pass. This video has been shared with over a dozen area schools and libraries, and seen by thousands of students, parents, and educators. We have also partnered with Shellie and the United Way's African American Leadership Society to distribute hundreds of copies of her book to students in Davenport and Rock Island in 2021, so we will still be able to do some outreach for CLF before we get back to having a full Festival.

**New Programs:** As a result of the pandemic, there were several new programs MWC began to offer as well as some not-so-new ones that were offered a bit differently. For example, book launch parties featured conversations between the author and another individual, which sparked engagement with more questions and answers. We are particularly proud of the weekly *Write More Light* sessions, founded and hosted by our Programming and Marketing Specialist, Sarah Elgatain. These sessions are held live on Facebook on most Tuesday and/or Thursdays and feature interviews and discussion on a variety of writing subjects, including interviews, demonstrations, and writing prompts. Pitches were again offered at the David R. Collins Writers' Conference. Though MWC Press chose not to publish a title this year, Legacy Book Press LLC, who also took pitches at the Conference, published *My Walk With Grief* by Bettendorf author Elaine Olson.

To get the word out about all of these wonderful programs and events, MWC continued to conduct the bulk of its marketing efforts through several methods. We focused more on web-based options this year, including MWC's website and periodic digest-style electronic newsletter, from which most attendees still find their way to our events. We also increased our presence on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, sent regular press releases, created flyers and graphics, and took advantage of other free or inexpensive marketing opportunities. And, of course, we continue to enjoy word-of-mouth promotion thanks to all of our satisfied program attendees and volunteers. We especially thank Skylar Moore and Sarah Elgatain for all of their work on our graphic assets and social media efforts, among other marketing activities.

MWC continues to embody its new tagline, “Write More Light Into Your Life with MWC.” The website renovation will be completed soon. We are also working on videos to be aired online and on television as well as promotional items to offer for sale. Our goal is for more people throughout our six-county service area, and for more people in our community to learn more about who we are and what we do.

Of course, none of this would be possible without our dedicated committee members during 2020—thank you all so much!

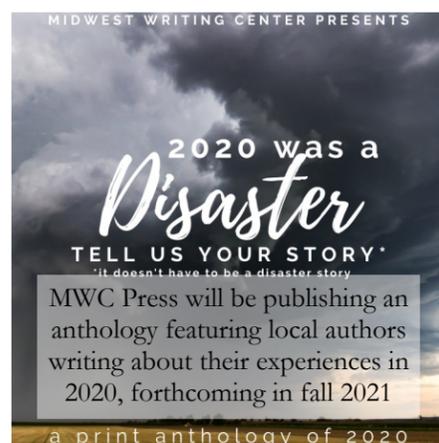
Jodie Toohey, Program & Promotion Committee Chair

## Advancement Committee

The majority of our accomplishments would not have been made possible without the support of our generous grantors, sponsors and donors. Their financial support played a great impact on our successes. A complete list of grantors, donors, and sponsors can be found on the MWC website.

The Illinois Arts Council Agency awarded MWC a \$7,000 grant funding for operational support, and supported all MWC programs and operations in 2020. We also received an \$8,000 grant for general operating funds from the Quad City Community Foundation, and \$5,000 from the Hubbell-Waterman Foundation.

MWC also received an emergency grant from Illinois Humanities for \$2,500 for program and operating support related to the pandemic. These funds were used to cover the expense of increased hours for Sarah Elgatian, Marketing and Program Specialist, who ran many of the virtual events and programs we offered throughout 2020.



The Legacy Society remains at six members. This is a good way to ensure the Center's success for years to come; a generous gift from the estate of Mary Foster, one of the Legacy Society's founding members, supported many of our programs with critical funding this year, as many grants were not available. Visit MWC's website for ways to become a member of the Legacy Society by committing to support MWC in your Estate Planning or Financial Plan.

The Young Emerging Writers Summer Internship Program was supported by the Scott County Regional Authority; the Melvin McKay Charitable Trust; the CD Wiman Memorial; the Rausch Family Foundation 1; the Moline Foundation; and Modern Woodmen of America, who also continued to be the primary sponsor for the David R. Collins Writers' Conference. The Regional Development Authority also supported the

Conference in 2021.

Memberships and dues totaled \$3,701.00, with 218 members in good standing at the end of 2019.

We participated in Birdies for Charity again this year and received \$6,785 in net donations after memberships. The #GivingTuesday/year-end fundraising campaign raised \$2,041.

MWC maintains two endowments at the Quad Cities Community Foundation. The General Endowment Fund for Operating Expenses totaled \$87,748.26 at year's end, and the Tim Curry Fund for Youth Writing Programs totaled \$24,765.76. The spendable balance available from both endowments in 2019 (used for operating expenses and youth programming) was \$4,300. These endowment funds help ensure MWC's continued success in the future, and patrons are encouraged to contribute to these funds.

Thanks to everyone on the committee who helped make this difficult year a success: Laura Davis, Susan Collins, Tara Foltz, Jodie Toohey, and Ryan Collins.

**Rochelle Murray, Advancement Committee Chair**

## Program & Promotion Committee

MWC continues to work on planning and marketing through its efficient combined Programming and Promotions Committee. On the programming side, MWC provided over 300 hours of quality programming and over 5,000 instances of service in 2020. Despite all of the challenges we experienced this year, we managed to have a very successful year in terms of programming, and we are proud that we were among the first organizations in the Quad Cities area to move our programs to a virtual space, which allowed us to maintain nearly all of our programs throughout the year, as well as to create some new programs and form new partnerships.

**Partnerships:** Despite the world pandemic, MWC was able to continue its partnerships for book sales, readings, workshops and other events with Exotic Imports, The Book Rack, Rozz-Tox, the Rock Island Public Library, the Moline Public Library, the Iowa City Public Library, Bi-State Literacy Council, the Figge Art Museum, Living Proof Exhibit, Camp Genesis, Family Resources, and the St. Ambrose English Department. We were also fortunate to work with new friends, such as the Indigenous Peoples Art Gallery and Café in Iowa City, who we partnered with to help them hold a series of readings during the lockdowns.

**Regular Programming:** MWC barely missed a beat as things began to lock down in response to the pandemic, transitioning quickly to virtual events, including monthly open critique groups with Writer's Studio and generative workshops throughout the year for adults and youth. We facilitated multiple workshops on various aspects of writing, including a "Writing as Activism" workshop and a six-week poetry workshops series. We continued to provide free beginning writing workshops.

## Treasurer's Report

The Midwest Writing Center							
Annual Financial Report							
For The Year Ended December 31, 2020							
		25%					
	Receipts	Overhead Allocation	Interfund Transfers	Disbursements	Net	Beginning Cash	Ending Cash
<b>General Operating Fund:</b>							
Contributions:							
Dues & Memberships	3,180.00				3,180.00		
Birdies for Charity-Net After Memberships	5,000.00				5,000.00		
Other Contributions	41,432.00				41,432.00		
Grants & Sponsorships-General	18,030.00				18,030.00		
Interest Income					-		
Overhead Allocation		9,196.25			9,196.25		
Other General Operating Income					-		
Transfer From Endowment Fund	3,600.00				3,600.00		
Transfer From (To) Reserve Fund					-		
Payroll Related Expenses				33,880.00	(33,880.00)		
Facility Expenses				8,955.00	(8,955.00)		
Other General Operating Expenses				26,169.50	(26,169.50)		
Interfund Transfers			9,927.75		9,927.75		
<b>Total General Operating Fund</b>	<b>\$71,242.00</b>	<b>\$9,196.25</b>	<b>\$9,927.75</b>	<b>\$69,004.50</b>	<b>\$21,361.50</b>	<b>\$27,726.09</b>	<b>\$49,087.59</b>
<b>Specific Purpose Operating Funds:</b>							
Writing Workshops	1,785.00	(446.25)	(1,338.75)	-	-	300.00	300.00
Collins Writing Conference	13,945.00	(3,486.25)	(7,758.75)	5,050.00	(2,350.00)	2,350.00	-
Young Emerging Writers	18,300.00	(3,325.00)		13,463.00	1,512.00	3,693.40	5,205.40
Mississippi Valley Chapbook Contest	-	-	-	-	-	200.00	200.00
Iron Pen Contest	876.00	(219.00)	(547.00)	110.00	-	-	-
Great River Writer's Retreat	45.00	-	-	-	45.00	-	45.00
Childrens Literary Festival	500.00	-	-	-	500.00	9,215.69	9,715.69
Collins Poetry Residency	-	-	-	-	-	1,108.67	1,108.67
YEW Camp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MWC Press Fund	6,879.00	(1,719.75)	(283.25)	4,876.00	-	-	-
Spectra Fund	-	-	-	750.00	(750.00)	844.00	94.00
<b>Total Specific Purpose Operating Funds</b>	<b>42,330.00</b>	<b>(9,196.25)</b>	<b>(9,927.75)</b>	<b>24,249.00</b>	<b>(1,043.00)</b>	<b>17,711.76</b>	<b>16,668.76</b>
<b>Total Operating Funds</b>	<b>113,572.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>93,253.50</b>	<b>20,318.50</b>	<b>45,437.85</b>	<b>65,756.35</b>
<b>Reserve Fund</b>							
Investment Income and Market Value Loss(Net)	7,133.70				7,133.70		
Contributions Received	203.52				203.52		
Grant Expense					-		
Transfers From (To) GO Fund				3,600.00	(3,600.00)		
<b>Total Reserve Fund</b>	<b>7,337.22</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,600.00</b>	<b>3,737.22</b>	<b>83,582.68</b>	<b>87,319.90</b>
<b>Endowment Fund For Operating Expenses:</b>							
Contributions Received	-				-		
Investment Income and Market Value Loss(Net)	341.27				341.27		
Grant Expense	(100.00)				(100.00)		
Endowment Fund Transfer to GO					-		
<b>Total Endowment Fund</b>	<b>241.27</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>241.27</b>	<b>4,528.39</b>	<b>4,769.66</b>
<b>Endowment Fund for Youth Writing Programs:</b>							
Contributions Received	100.00				100.00		
Investment Income and Market Value Loss(Net)	1,637.06				1,637.06		
Grant Expenses					-		
Endowment Fund Transfer to YEW/YEW Camp				700.00	(700.00)		
<b>Total Endowment Fund</b>	<b>1,737.06</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>700.00</b>	<b>1,037.06</b>	<b>18,959.04</b>	<b>19,996.10</b>
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>122,887.55</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>97,553.50</b>	<b>25,334.05</b>	<b>152,507.96</b>	<b>177,842.01</b>
<b>Cash Represented By:</b>							
First Midwest Bank						50,112.85	65,756.35
Robert W. Baird & Co.						138,707.87	171,326.04
@ Community Foundation:							
Endowment Fund For Operating Expenses						82,628.07	87,319.90
Endowment Fund for Youth Writing Programs						21,273.33	19,996.10
<b>Total</b>						<b>292,722.12</b>	<b>344,398.39</b>
<b>Reported In-Kind &amp; Noncash Contributions:</b>							
General In-Kind Service Contributions	\$36,516.96						
Noncash Contributions	\$0.00						
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$36,516.96</b>						

## President's Report 2020

Dear Members,

The year 2020 proved challenging for everyone, and Midwest Writing Center was not an exception. However, I'm proud to say that we fared better than some and were able to pivot quickly and continue our mission of "fostering appreciation of the written word, supporting and educating its creators." Thanks to our hard-working, creative, and innovative employees, Executive Director Ryan Collins and Programing and Marketing Specialist Sarah Elgatian, MWC was able to offer programing online, which in some ways expanded our reach and capabilities. As a result, there were very few events we had to cancel completely. Like other organizations, MWC plans to use what it has learned during these unusual times to continue the momentum, taking advantage of more online options even as we are able to be together in person.

The MWC Board of Directors continues to adapt to our changing times by furthering our transition into more of a governing entity, relying more and more on paid help from our Executive Director, assistants, graphic specialists, marketing assistants, and interns. During its recent strategic planning process, the board voted to eliminate the requirements that board members serve as chairs of our committees and that they must volunteer an average of five hours per month. More restructuring and reevaluating will be completed in the coming months as the board prepares to transition in a new president after the annual meeting next year.

Speaking of change, it is with a touch of bittersweetness that Rochelle Murray says goodbye to active board service to assume the role of Board Member Emerita. I think it is safe to say that Rochelle has been an integral part of MWC, and it may not be here today without her dedication and passion to the written word. Rochelle served as the Children's Librarian for the Davenport Public Library for 45 years. She is one of the original members of the MWC Board of Directors, having joined in 1980. Over the years, she has led and/or spearheaded many programs and fundraising events, including the Children's Literature Festival, Birdies for Charity, Legacy Society, and serving on many committees, serving as long-time chair of the Advancement Committee. Rochelle will be missed as a "regular" Board Member, but we are so thankful she'll be able to keep involved and to keep advising us as a Board Member Emerita and that we can still call on her when we need someone talked into reducing a price or donating some items.

We must also take a moment to acknowledge another long-time member of our Board of Directors, Max Molleston, who passed away on October 8, 2020. Max was an active member of the board until 2016 when he assumed Board Member Emeritus status. During this time, he served on several committees and as Vice President and President for several years. He also directed the Mississippi Valley Poetry Contest for decades. Max was generous with his words, almost always with one of his poems to share verbally and in paper. He will be dearly missed.

### Remembering Max Molleston 1935—2020



Max Molleston hosting the banquet at the 2008 David R. Collins Writers' Conference

MWC Board, staff, and volunteers were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of our good friend & long-time QC radio personality Max Molleston.

Max served on the MWC Board of Directors for many years, including as President, and directed the Mississippi Valley Poetry Contest for decades. He was always such a champion of poetry and writing, so generous with his time, his effort, and his own writing. His personality was always effervescent & positive, and his energy would lift any room. It is sure to say that MWC would not be where it is today without the contributions Max made, and we will always be grateful for the lasting contributions he made to writing in our community.

Max will be deeply missed, and we are all grateful for his friendship and service.

## President's Report 2020 (continued)

At this time, MWC has nearly 300 members, over 1,700 e-newsletters subscribers, and numerous volunteers and supporters. In 2020, despite the pandemic, we provided over 5,000 instances of service, including views of our livestream and recorded content. Most of these would not have been possible without the support of generous grantors and sponsors including, Scott County Regional Authority, Modern Woodmen of America, Quad City Community Foundation, Illinois Art Council Agency, Mel McKay Charitable Trust, Illinois Humanities, Mary Iva Gittens Knouse Charitable Trust, Community Foundation of Great River Bend, Regional Development Authority, Bi-State Literacy Council, Rauch Family Foundation I, the Moline Foundation, Birdies for Charity, Dr. Nicolas Shammas, and the St. Ambrose University English Department.

It is the dedicated work from our supportive and actively hardworking Board of Directors, loyal members, and dedicated volunteers that made the below list of highlights happen. If you review annual reports from previous years, you will find that not much changed from before the pandemic:

- \*Reported nearly 800 volunteer hours
- \*Grants and sponsorships received in excess of \$38,000
- \*Growing regular and youth endowments at the Quad City Community Foundation
- \*Over \$2,000 from 40 donors during our 2020 Year-End Giving Campaign
- \*A full-time employee and at least one part-time employee for the entirety of 2020
- \*Held our fifteenth David R. Collins Writers' Conference virtually
- \*Held the Young Emerging Writers internship program for the fifteenth consecutive year, publishing *The Atlas 15* and hosting two public virtual events
- \*Offered Iron Pen contest and held awards ceremony
- \*Created a new video series, Write More Light, and created a video with MWC Press author Shellie Moore Guy that was seen by over a dozen schools and libraries in the community
- \*Hosted Writer's Studio twice each month
- \*In addition to *The Atlas 15* and *Writer's Block* e-magazine, MWC Press published *Flowing Water, Falling Flowers* by debut author Xixuan Collins, who pitched the manuscript to MWC Press at the 2019 Writers' Conference
- \*Organized public poetry readings and workshops with community partners, many offered at no cost
- \*Partnered with Exotic Imports, The Book Rack, Rozz-Tox, the Rock Island Public Library, the Moline Public Library, the Iowa City Public Library, Bi-State Literacy Council, the Figge Art Museum, Living Proof Exhibit, Camp Genesis, Family Resources, the St. Ambrose English Department, and the Indigenous Peoples Art Gallery and Café on programs and events throughout the year.

We look forward to continuing our efforts as the only organization of its kind in the area into 2021 and beyond.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Jodie Toohey**  
President  
May 26, 2021

In 2020, MWC Press published three new titles: *Flowing Water, Falling Flowers*, the debut novel from X.H. Collins; *The Atlas, Vol. 15*, and the *Writer's Block*, the annual e-magazine for MWC members.

Many thanks to all of our authors, contributors, editors, page and cover designers, and everyone who helped make these publications a reality!

### MWC Press 2020 Publications

