



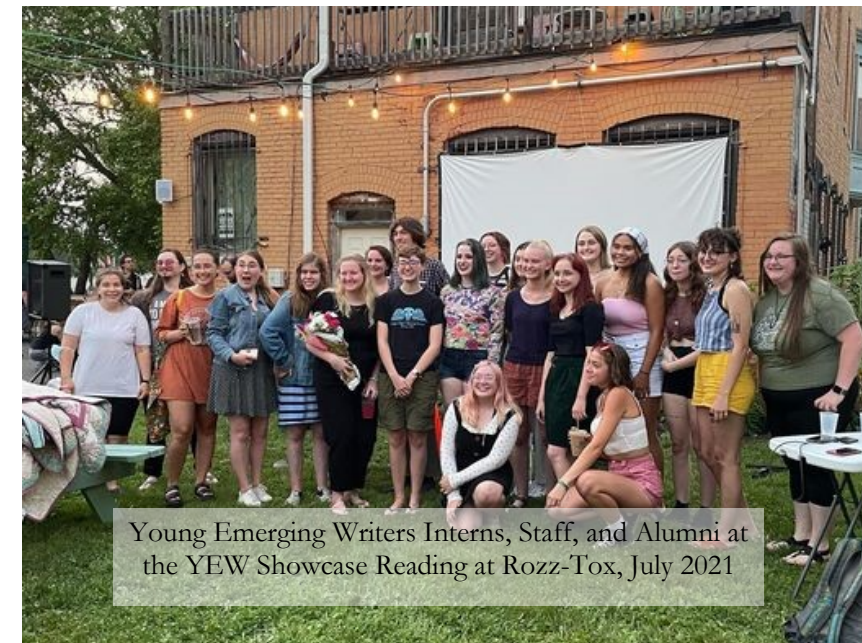
2021 Annual Report

Fostering Appreciation

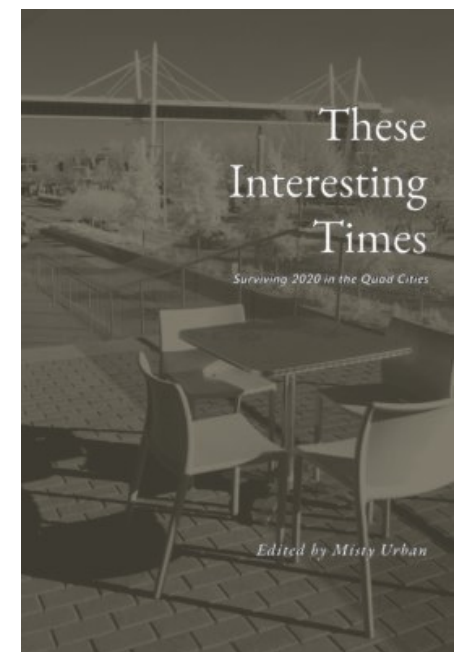


MWC Press author Shellie Moore Guy
with students from Madison Elementary
in Davenport, May 2021

of the Written Word...



Young Emerging Writers Interns, Staff, and Alumni at
the YEW Showcase Reading at Rozz-Tox, July 2021



...Supporting & Educating its Creators



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.

2021 Annual Report

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

Wednesday, May 25, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020-2021

Susan Collins
Tara Foltz
Lisa Powell-Williams
Misty Urban
Xixuan Collins
Emily Kingery
Jonathan Turner

EXECUTIVE BOARD 2020-2021

Jodie Toohey
President
Angela Campbell
Vice-President
Philip Goldfarb Styrt
Secretary
Jay Posateri
Treasurer
Roger Strandlund
Attorney

MWC STAFF 2020-2021

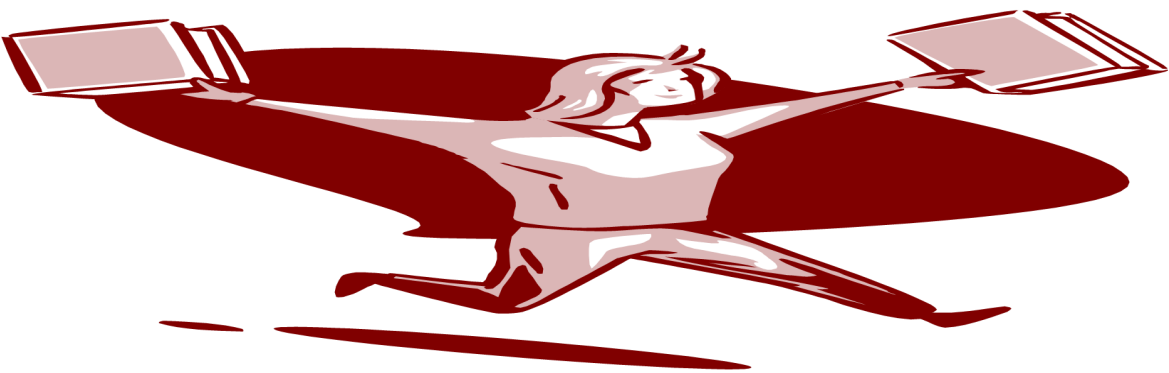
Ryan Collins
Executive Director
Sarah Elgatian
Program & Marketing Specialist
Melissa Conway
Design & Administrative Specialist



MWC Staff and YEW Assistant Director Sarah Elgatian and YEW Interns Katherine Shewell and Tayler Gilmore on the set of WHBF's *Living Local*, August 2021

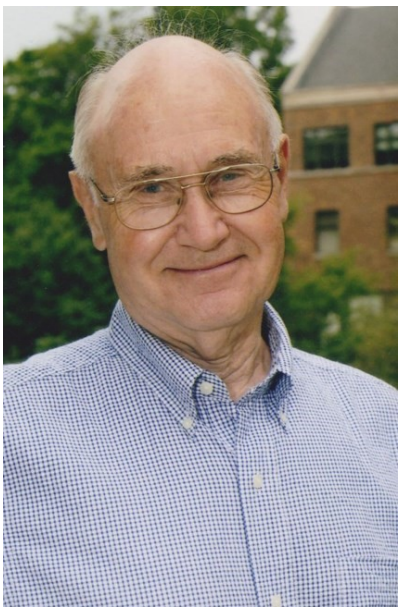
Midwest Writing Center Volunteers | 2021

Mike Bayles	Samantha DeFilippo	Jay Posateri
Angela Campbell	Sarah Elgatian	Philip Goldfarb Styrt
Ryan Collins	Tara Foltz	Jodie Toohey
Susan Collins	Emily Kingery	Misty Urban
Xixuan Collins	Sal Marici	Louis Young
Mary Davidsaver	Rochelle Murray	
Laura Davis	Rick Pa	



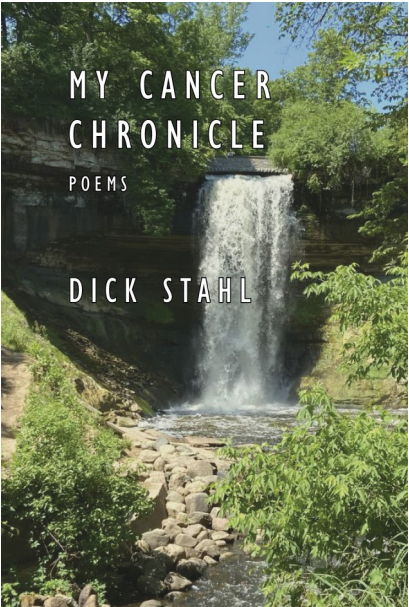
Thank you so much for your dedicated service to the Midwest Writing Center!

Looking Ahead: *My Cancer Chronicle* by Dick Stahl



In our last Annual Report, we mourned the loss of our friend Richard “Dick” Stahl, who passed away in 2020. Dick was a terrific friend, a wonderful poet, a former MWC Board Member, a long-time Davenport Central High School teacher, and the inaugural Poet Laureate of the Quad Cities (2001-2003).

We have been working with Helen Stahl and the Stahl family throughout the past year-plus, and while we celebrate the successes of 2021, we are also thrilled and honored to share that MWC Press will be publishing Dick Stahl’s final collection of poems, *My Cancer Chronicle*, in June 2022. Pre-orders are available now, and we will be hosting events to celebrate Dick’s life and work. Stay tuned!



Personnel & Volunteer Committee

The Midwest Writing Center had another amazing year during imperfect times. Once again, Ryan was met with rave reviews during his annual evaluation. The Board couldn't be more pleased with his performance, and was grateful for his ability to maintain programming initiatives throughout the pandemic.

Program and marketing specialist, Sarah Elgatian, also shined. It was not uncommon to see her doing Facebook Live events and running the Zoom meetings. MWC is lucky to have such a talented writer and presenter to assist during meetings and programs.

Although MWC was sad to say goodbye to Melissa Conway, Charly Heber-Spates was hired to take over some administrative duties, which has been extremely helpful.

Overall, the Personnel Committee has an easy job because of the high caliber employees and volunteers that keep MWC afloat. Great work, team!

Angela Campbell, Personnel & Volunteer Chair

Nominating Committee

In 2021, we welcomed Xixuan Collins to the board. As Midwest Writing Center's policies state, our Board has voted on eleven available positions. We closed 2021 with all positions filled.

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

2024 – Emily Kingery	2024 – Jodie Toohey	2025 – Jay Posateri	2026 – Misty Urban
2026 – Angela Campbell	2026 – Tara Foltz	2026 – Philip Goldfarb Styrt	2027 – Susan Collins
2027 – Jonathan Turner	2027 – Lisa Powell-Williams	2027 – Xixuan Collins	



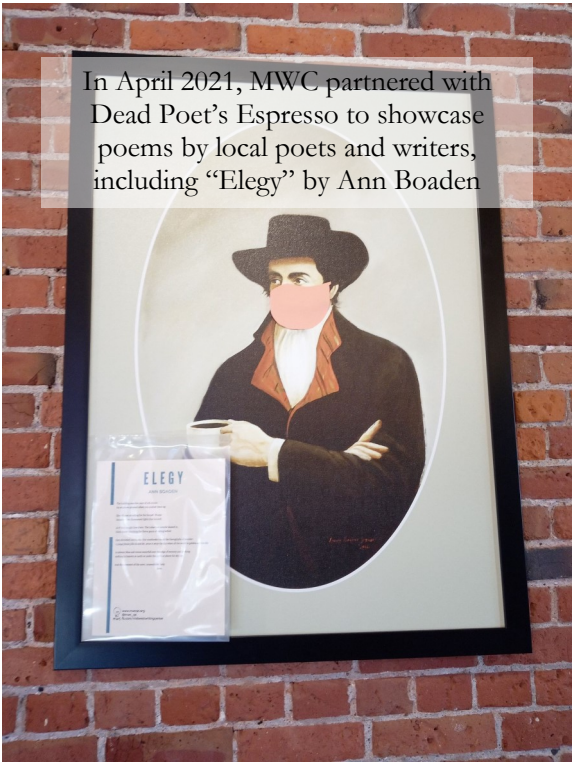
MWC Press author Shellie Moore Guy signing books during the MLK Center's Family Fun Day in Rock Island, September 2021

The Nomination Committee also recommends the following officers to the Executive Board:

President – Emily Kingery
Vice-President – Jodie Toohey
Secretary – Philip Goldfarb Styrt
Treasurer – Jay Posateri

We thank all members of the Board of Directors and Board Members Emeriti for their continued and dedicated service to the Midwest Writing Center.

Jodie Toohey, Nominating Committee Chair



In April 2021, MWC partnered with Dead Poet's Espresso to showcase poems by local poets and writers, including "Elegy" by Ann Boaden

2020 Annual Meeting Minutes

May 26, 2021 — 6:00p.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: Rochelle Murray leaves regular Board service and becomes Board Member Emerita, and made some brief comments. Members of the Legacy Society were acknowledged, as were sponsors and grantors from FY2020.
- III. Board Member Introductions: Jodie Toohey introduced all Board members in attendance.
- IV. Unfinished Business: N/A
- 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: Jodie moves that Board should not exceed 11 members in total. Misty seconds. Motion carries.
 - B. Election of Midwest Writing Center Board of Directors
 - 1. Nominating committee's recommendation—Jodie Toohey: Jodie nominates the slate of nominees, including Jonathan Turner and Lisa Powell Williams. Angela seconds. Motion carries. Welcome to our new Board members.
 - 2. Nominations from the floor: none made at this time.
 - 3. Nomination of Philip G.S. to Secretary of the Board. Jodie moves. Angela seconds. Motion carries.
- VI. 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.
- VII. Recognition of Volunteers: Jodie read the names of volunteers who supported MWC in 2020.
- VIII. Readings from the forthcoming MWC Press 2020 anthology These Interesting Times (will be released in fall 2021): Reading featuring five contributors to the anthology – Lo Whittington / Frank Mullen / Dylan Parker / Genevieve Trainor. Misty Urban introduced the anthology, and Sarah Elgatian introduced the readers.
- IX. Drawing for virtual "door" prizes, including a full registration to David R. Collins Writers' Conference for those attending the annual meeting. – Lo Whittington is the winner, and will be donating prize as a scholarship, or for MWC to award as they see fit.
- 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



MWC Staff Melissa Conway prepares for a YEW Pop-Up event at the Figge Art Museum, July 2021



Poet Allison Joseph during her keynote address for the Collins Writers' Conference, June 2021

XII. Adjournment

AGENDA

Midwest Writing Center 2020 Annual Meeting

May 25, 2022, 6:00 p.m., Rock Island Public Library Public Library (and via Zoom),
401 19th 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
 1. 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 2020 Annual Meeting Held on May 26, 2021
 - B. Treasurer's Report
 - C. Committee Reports
 - D. Executive Director's Report
- VII. Recognition of Volunteers
- VIII. Open Mic Readings from Annual Meeting Attendees
- IX. New Website Preview
- X. Drawing for virtual “door” prizes, including a full registration to David R. Collins Writers' Conference for those attending the Annual Meeting.
- XI. Announcements and dates to remember
 - A. Please consider supporting Midwest Writing Center through Birdies for Charity this summer
 - B. June 23-25, David R. Collins Writers' Conference — Hybrid Edition: Rock Island Public Library and Online via Zoom
 - C. Follow us on social media:
 1. Facebook: www.facebook.com/MidwestWritingCenter
 2. Twitter: @MWC_QC
 3. Instagram: @mwc_qc
 4. LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/midwest-writing-center/
 5. YouTube: www.youtube.com/midwestwritingcenter
- XII. Adjournment



Program & Promotion Committee (continued)

Contests and Competitive Opportunities: We again held our 24-hour Iron Pen Writing Contest, with over 100 contestants, and the winners were featured in MWC's *Writer's Block* e-magazine. Chicago-based fiction writer Jeffrey Wolf won the 2021 Great River Writers Retreat; due to the pandemic, Wolf will be taking the residency in 2022, along with the 2022 winner. Thanks to Nicholas Shammass' continued sponsorship of the Retreat.

Annual Programs: We continued our successful programming with the David R. Collins Writers' Conference in June, held virtually and featuring award-winning poet Allison Joseph as our keynote speaker. We welcomed a mostly new faculty to the 2021 Conference, including Joe Meno, Gale Maries Thompson, and Tariq Shah; Conference favorite Lyz Lenz rounded out this year's faculty. Despite a second year of virtual meetings, we still had a well-attended Conference that attracted participants from 7 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 17 participants. The internship was also held virtually, though we were able to host in-person events that we also live-streamed—one in July after the program ended, and another for the release of *The Atlas 17*. We also did some teaching artist training with some of the YEW interns and staff throughout the summer, and held several pop-up events around the Quad Cities, offering writing games and activities to kids of all ages, thanks to a special program grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency. 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 again not able to be held; however, MWC worked with Shellie Moore Guy, the United Way's African American Leadership Society, and a private donor to distribute several hundred copies of her book to students at Madison Elementary and several other local schools and youth service organizations. Shellie also worked with Logan Elementary in Moline, IL on a school-wide book project, which utilized the video we created with her and illustrator Marshall Pass. We are grateful that we were able to do some community outreach with this important book around the community until we can get back to having a full Festival.

New Programs: As a result of the ongoing pandemic, there were several new programs MWC began to offer as well as some not-so-new ones that were offered a bit differently. We are particularly proud of the growth our seasonal weekly *Write More Light* sessions, hosted by our Programming and Marketing Specialist, Sarah Elgatian. These videos featured interviews with local writers, helpful tips, and writing prompts, and were viewed over 7,000 times. This also helped fuel the increase in subscriptions to our YouTube page, where in addition to WML, you can find recordings of many of our recent events. We participated in a National Poetry Month showcase with Dead Poet's Espresso in Moline and hosted a reading featuring participating poets in April 2021. We also started a Bespoke Poems program, where people could contract with local poets to have tailor-made poems written for loved ones and special occasions.

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 continued to focus 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 Sarah Elgatian and Melissa Conway 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 2021—thank you all so much for hard work and dedication!

Misty Urban, Program & Promotion Committee Chair

Advancement Committee

A heartfelt thank you to all our members, donors, and sponsors, for their support this past year. Their financial generosity makes all the difference to the MWC community and allows for our continued success as an organization.

For 2021, MWC was awarded \$7,000 in operational grant funds from the Illinois Arts Council Agency. We also received an \$8,000 Quad City Community Foundation Coordinated Fields Grant, and a \$5,000 grant was received from Illinois Humanities for programs and operations.

MWC also received a \$10,000 grant from the Poetry Foundation for general operating and poetry-related programming as part of the COVID Emergency grant funding. Please see the MWC website for complete list of our grantors, donors, and sponsors.

The Young Emerging Writers Summer Internship Program was supported by a special project grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency, Regional Development Authority, Modern Woodmen of America, the CD Wiman Memorial Trust, and the Youth Education Endowment MWC has at the QC Community Foundation.

MWC participated in Birdies for Charity again this year and received a total of \$12,496.60 net after memberships/renewals, which included a \$5,000 grant from Hubbell-Waterman. The #GivingTuesday/year-end fundraising campaign raised \$2,790.

Memberships and dues totaled \$3,860, with 230 members in good standing at the end of 2021.

MWC has two endowments with the Quad Cities Community Foundation. The General Endowment Fund for Operating Expenses totaled \$94,662 at year's end, and the Tim Curry Fund for Youth Writing Programs totaled \$27,111. The spendable balance allocated from both endowments in 2021 (used for operating expenses and youth programming) was \$4,400. Contributions are encouraged, which will help ensure a successful future for MWC.

The Legacy Society remains at six members. There are a number of ways to pledge financial support, visit MWC’s website for further information on how to join the society and make a difference.

Thanks to all the committee members who helped make this year a success: Laura Davis, Susan Collins, Jodie Toohey, Ryan Collins, and Sarah Elgatian.

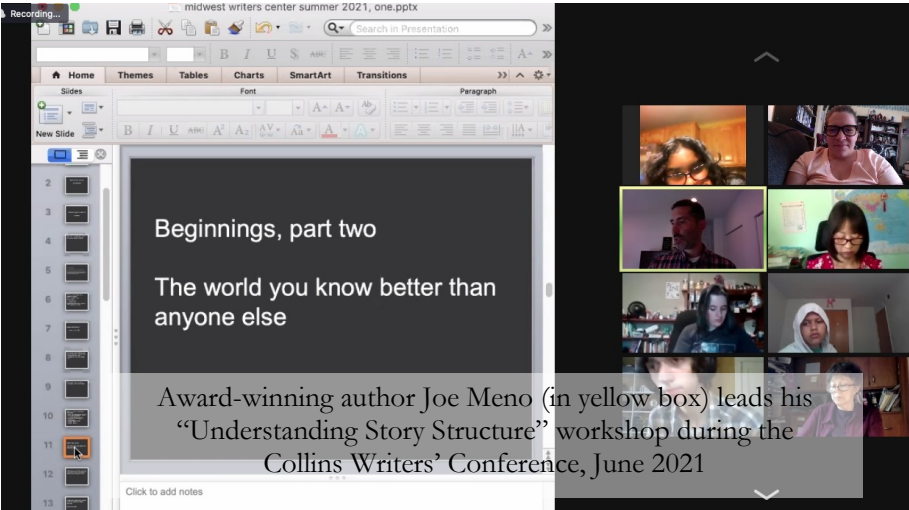
Tara Foltz, Advancement Committee Chair

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 400 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. Moving forward, we look forward to offering more hybrid programs to maximize accessibility.

Partnerships: MWC was able to continue its partnerships for book sales, readings, workshops and other events with The Artsy Bookworm , 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, the United Way’s African American Leadership Society, and the St. Ambrose English Department. We were also fortunate to work with new friends, such as NAMI on a journaling for mental health workshop; Dead Poet’s Espresso, who we partnered with on a National Poetry Month project in April 2021; and Iowa City Poetry on the Mic Check Poetry Fest held in Iowa City in November 2021.

Regular Programming: MWC continued to offer primarily virtual events during the ongoing pandemic, but we were excited to get back to a few more in-person events as well. We facilitated multiple workshops on various aspects of writing, including a book binding workshop and a memoir series. We continued to host Writer’s Studio in a virtual format, and the group grew steadily throughout 2021. We also continued hosting monthly meetings for our friends in Quint City Poets.



Treasurer’s Report

The Midwest Writing Center									
Annual Financial Report									
For The Year Ended December 31, 2021									
			25%						
			Overhead	Interfund			Beginning	Ending	
		Receipts	Allocation	Transfers	Disbursements	Net	Cash	Cash	
General Operating Fund:									
Contributions:									
		Dues & Memberships	6,413.21			6,413.21			
		Birdies for Charity-Net After Memberships	-			-			
		Other Contributions	17,521.02			17,521.02			
		Grants & Sponsorships-General	17,000.00			17,000.00			
		Interest Income	-			-			
		Overhead Allocation		11,065.23		11,065.23			
		Other General Operating Income	4,905.00			4,905.00			
		Transfer From Endowment Fund	3,600.00			3,600.00			
		Transfer From (To) Reserve Fund	-			-			
		Payroll Related Expenses			41,764.13	(41,764.13)			
		Facility Expenses			9,010.07	(9,010.07)			
		Other General Operating Expenses			18,882.53	(18,882.53)			
		Interfund Transfers		5,462.83		5,462.83			
		Total General Operating Fund	\$49,439.23	\$11,065.23	\$5,462.83	\$69,656.73	(\$3,689.44)	\$49,895.59	\$46,206.15
Specific Purpose Operating Funds:									
		Writing Workshops	1,345.32	(336.33)	(618.22)	390.77	-	300.00	300.00
		Collins Writing Conference	10,245.70	(2,561.43)	(4,034.27)	3,650.00	-	-	-
		Young Emerging Writers	19,503.60	(4,875.90)		17,263.36	(2,635.66)	5,205.40	2,569.74
		Mississippi Valley Chapbook Contest	1,758.81	(439.70)	(1,025.11)	494.00	(200.00)	200.00	-
		Iron Pen Contest	1,255.59	(313.90)	(941.69)	-	(0.00)	-	-
		Great River Writer's Retreat	571.85	(142.96)	(375.14)	98.75	(45.00)	45.00	-
		Childrens Literary Festival	-	-	-	-	-	9,715.69	9,715.69
		Collins Poetry Residency		-	-	-	-	1,108.67	1,108.67
		YEW Camp		-	-	-	-	-	-
		MWC Press Fund	8,580.04	(2,145.01)	1,531.60	7,966.63	-	-	-
		Spectra Fund	1,000.00	(250.00)	-	812.12	(62.12)	94.00	31.88
		Total Specific Purpose Operating Funds	44,260.91	(11,065.23)	(5,462.83)	30,675.63	(2,942.78)	16,668.76	13,725.98
		Total Operating Funds	93,700.14	-	-	100,332.36	(6,632.22)	66,564.35	59,932.13
Robert W. Baird Reserve Fund									
		Investment Income and Market Value Loss(Net)	24,705.11				24,705.11		
		Contributions Received					-		
		Grant Expense					-		
		Transfers From (To) GO Fund					-		
		Total Reserve Fund	24,705.11	-	-	-	24,705.11	171,326.04	196,031.15
Quad City Community Foundation Endowment Fund For Operating Expenses:									
		Contributions Received					-		
		Investment Income and Market Value Loss(Net)	10,514.15				10,514.15		
		Grant Expense					-		
		Endowment Fund Transfer to GO	(3,600.00)				(3,600.00)		
		Total Endowment Fund	6,914.15	-	-	-	6,914.15	87,748.26	94,662.41
Quad City Community Foundation Endowment Fund for Youth Writing Programs:									
		Contributions Received	151.76				151.76		
		Investment Income and Market Value Loss(Net)	2,993.66				2,993.66		
		Grant Expenses					-		
		Endowment Fund Transfer to YEW/YEW Camp	(800.00)				(800.00)		
		Total Endowment Fund	2,345.42	-	-	-	2,345.42	24,765.76	27,111.18
		Total All Funds	127,664.82	-	-	100,332.36	27,332.46	350,404.41	377,736.87
Cash Represented By:									
		First Midwest Bank					66,564.35	59,932.13	
		Robert W. Baird & Co.					171,326.04	196,031.15	
		@ Community Foundation:							
		Endowment Fund For Operating Expenses					87,748.26	94,662.41	
		Endowment Fund for Youth Writing Programs					24,765.76	27,111.18	
		Total					350,404.41	377,736.87	
Reported In-Kind & Noncash Contributions:									
		General In-Kind Service Contributions	\$38,249.14						
		Noncash Contributions							
		Total	\$38,249.14						

President's Report 2021

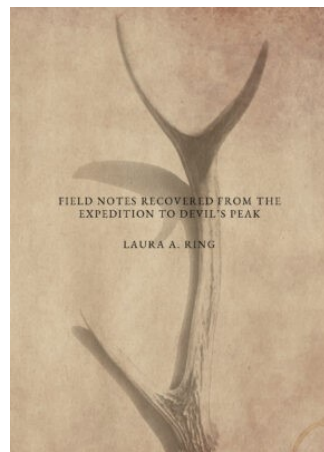
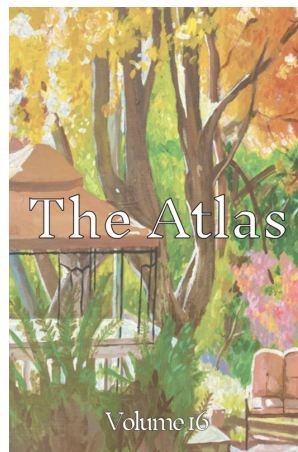
Dear Members,

“The Year 2021” could have been aptly called “The Year 2020 – The Sequel.” It had added plot twists like staffing and supply chain shortages and an economy with historical inflation rates. Everybody earns the same or only slightly more than they used to, but we’re paying up to 40% or more for our goods and services. So, in my opinion, like with a lot of sequels, I’d have preferred just sticking to the original and moving on.

Thankfully, our steadfast and continuing hard-working, creative, and innovative employees brought us through 2021 in what I would venture to say has been our furthest reaching, highest quality, productive year yet in achieving our mission of “fostering appreciation of the written word, supporting and educating its creators.” Executive Director Ryan Collins has continued to be the face of as well as the brain, arms, legs, fingers, toes, and stomach for MWC, ensuring that programs continue to be delivered as our patrons have come to expect, MWC’s visibility in our service area continues to increase, all of our ducks continue to be in orderly rows, and the others we employee have what they need to continue to excel in their positions. Our Programing and Marketing Specialist, Sarah Elgatian, has continued to be a most valuable asset to MWC as she continues and improves upon some programs, such as Write More Light, as well as develops new offerings and ways to expand our visibility and reach. We are also very grateful for our part-time administrative staff, Melissa Conway, who was with us through December, 2021, and Charly Heber-Spates, who began working in March, 2022. It is because of these dedicated, engaged, and empowered employees that MWC’s Board of Directors can continue to maintain its work as more of a governing entity, therefore, making board and officer service more attractive and accommodating to today’s volunteers.

It is thanks to these new board members that I feel confident in stepping down from my role as President to allow someone else to take over this position. To help the transition, I have agreed to serve as Vice-President for the time being; I am confident our new President will learn and excel in the role quickly and soon, a new Vice-President can be welcomed as well. I firmly believe that relatively frequent turnover in the officer positions will lead to MWC’s sustainability and longevity so that numerous future generations will appreciate the written word and have the resources available to educate them in and support their literary endeavors.

MWC Press 2021 Publications



In 2021 MWC Press published four new titles: *These Interesting Times: Surviving 2020 in the Quad Cities*, anthology; *The Atlas, Vol. 16*; and the debut titles from the Foster-Stahl Chapbook Series — *Field Notes Recovered from the Expedition to Devil's Peak* by Laura A Ring (Series Selection), and *Choir* by Aubrey Ryan (Editors' Selection)

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

President's Report 2021 (continued)

At this time, MWC has nearly 230 members, over 1,700 e-newsletters subscribers, and numerous volunteers and supporters. In 2021, we provided over 5,000 instances of service, and nearly 10,000 views of our online events, readings, and workshops. Most of these would not have been possible without the support of generous grantors and sponsors including, Scout County Regional Authority, Modern Woodmen of America, Illinois Art Council Agency, Mel McKay Charitable Trust, CD Wiman Charitable Trust, Mary Iva Gittens Knouse Charitable Trust, Quad City Community Foundation, Regional Development Authority, Bi-State Literacy Council, Hubbell-Waterman Foundation, Birdies for Charity, Total Printing Systems, Illinois Humanities, the Poetry Foundation, Dr. Nicolas Shammas, and Legacy Book Press LLC.

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

- *Reported nearly 750 volunteer hours
- *Grants and sponsorships received in excess of \$49,000
- *Grew our general operating and youth endowments at the Quad City Community Foundation
- *Over \$2,700 from 37 donors during our 2020 Year-End Giving Campaign
- *A full-time employee and at least one part-time employee for the entirety of 2021
- *Held our sixteenth annual David R. Collins Writers' Conference virtually
- *Held the Young Emerging Writers internship program for the sixteenth consecutive year, publishing *The Atlas 16* and hosting two public virtual events, in addition to hosting several YEW Pop-Up Camps in the summer and fall
- *Offered Iron Pen contest and held virtual awards ceremony
- *Continued our video series, *Write More Light*, and continued to grow our YouTube Subscriber base to the point where we earned a custom URL: www.youtube.com/midwestwritingcenter
- *Hosted Writer's Studio twice each month and Quint City Poets every month, both online
- *In addition to *The Atlas 17*, MWC Press published *These Interesting Times: Surviving 2020 in the Quad Cities*, an anthology of works addressing the many challenges people in our community faced that year (a portion of the anthology proceeds will go to the Quad City Community Foundation Disaster Fund), and the first two chapbooks in the Foster-Stahl Chapbook Series: *Field Notes Recovered from the Expedition to Devil's Peak* by Laura A. Ring (Series Selection), and *Choir* by Aubrey Ryan (Editors' Choice Selection)
- *Organized public poetry readings, workshops, and book release parties with community partners, many offered at no cost to participants
- *Partnered with The Artsy Bookworm, The Book Rack, Rozz-Tox, the Rock Island Public Library, the Moline Public Library, St. Ambrose University English Department, the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI), Iowa City Poetry, the Figge Art Museum, Living Proof Exhibit, WVIK, and the United Way's African American Leadership Society 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 2022 and beyond.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jodie Toohey
President
May 25, 2022