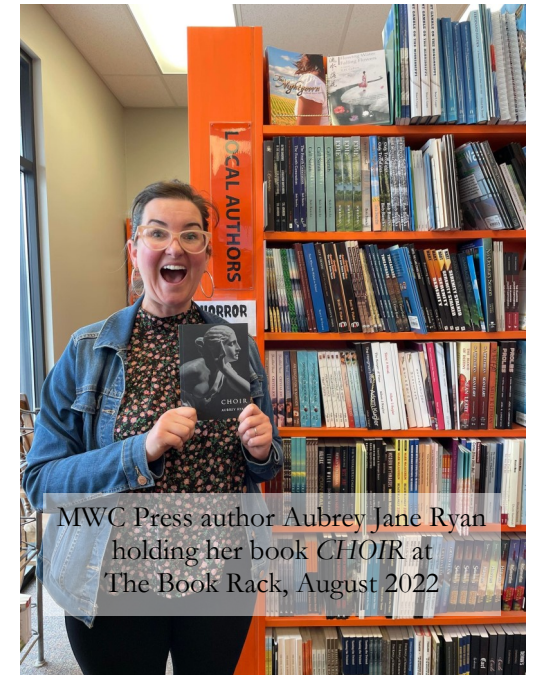




# 2022 Annual Report

*Fostering Appreciation*



MWC Press author Aubrey Jane Ryan holding her book *CHOIR* at The Book Rack, August 2022

*of the Written Word...*

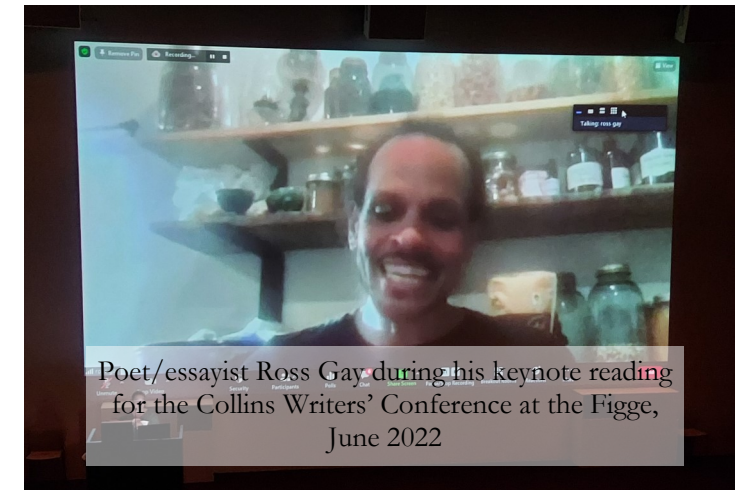


c/o RIPL  
401 19th St.  
Rock Island, IL 61201  
309-732-7330  
mwc@mwcqc.org  
www.mwcqc.org

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.



YEW Intern Alyjah Carter, practicing before a public reading, July 2021



Poet/essayist Ross Gay during his keynote reading for the Collins Writers' Conference at the Figge, June 2022

*Supporting & Educating*

*its Creators*

# 2022 Annual Report

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

**Thursday, June 1, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.**

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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021-2022

Angela Campbell      Susan Collins  
Xixuan Collins      Tara Foltz  
Lisa Powell-Williams      Jonathan Turner  
Misty Urban

## EXECUTIVE BOARD 2021-2022

Emily Kingery  
President  
Jodie Toohey  
Vice-President  
Philip Goldfarb Styrt  
Secretary  
Jay Posateri  
Treasurer  
Roger Strandlund  
Attorney

## MWC STAFF 2021-2022

Ryan Collins  
Executive Director  
Sarah Elgatian  
Program & Marketing Specialist  
Charly Heber-Spates  
Administrative Specialist



# Midwest Writing Center Volunteers | 2022

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



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

## In Memory: Rochelle Murray 1936 - 2022



We were heartbroken by the passing of our dear friend, Board Emeritus member, and lifelong champion of children's literacy Rochelle Murray on Sunday, July 31, 2022.

Rochelle served the community her entire life: as a children's librarian at the Davenport Public Library for 45 years (its children's library now known as the Rochelle A. Murray Children's Center), as a radio host, and as a founder and director of the Children's Literature Festival with her close friend David R. Collins. Moving forward, the Board of Directors voted to rename the Festival for Rochelle, to acknowledge her enduring legacy and generosity.

Rochelle was on the founding Board of Directors of the Midwest Writing Center, and throughout our 40-plus years in operation, no one has done more to contribute to the development, growth, and success of MWC. She volunteered countless hours for the many organizations and causes she supported, and touched hundreds of thousands of lives with her kindness, generosity, enthusiasm, and love for the written word.

She was truly one of a kind, and she will be deeply missed. We look forward to carrying on her dedication to the written word and to young readers in our community and beyond for many years to come.





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. Program and marketing specialist, Sarah Elgatian, also shined. We celebrate and are thankful for the ten years Ryan has been with MWC; we all know that MWC would not be what it is, indeed may not even be, if it weren't for his dedication, skills, and leadership.

We also celebrate and are thankful for Sarah's excellent and extremely helpful five years with MWC. And of course, though not yet at a milestone, we are extremely grateful for and thank Charly Heber-Spates for her help with MWC's administrative functions. Several years ago, MWC's board voted in the strategic plan to retain more employees to reduce relying so much on volunteers, and we are very proud to have achieved that goal.

The MWC board is committed to retaining our excellent employees and strives to provide competitive and livable wages; we have approved what we hope are generous wage increases, accounting for statutory requirements and achievement as well as the high increase in the cost of living. We hope that Ryan, Sarah, and Charly will be with MWC for a long, long time.

Jodie Toohey, Personnel & Volunteer Chair

Nominating Committee

As Midwest Writing Center's policies state, our Board has voted on eleven available positions. We closed 2021 with ten positions filled. With regrets, a resignation was accepted for Lisa Powell-Williams in August 2022, and Misty Urban is leaving the Board after the annual meeting. I am resigning from the board effective as of the date of this annual meeting as well, and am very thankful to Xixuan Collins for agreeing to fill the role of Vice President. I will be creating a how-to guide for the role and will provide all the assistance I can if she needs it, but I am confident that I'm leaving the role in extremely capable hands. As of the close of the annual meeting, there will be three open board positions.

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

2024 – Emily Kingery	2025 – Jay Posateri	2026 – Angela Campbell
2026 – Tara Foltz	2026 – Philip Goldfarb Styrt	2027 – Susan Collins
2027 – Jonathan Turner		

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

- President – Emily Kingery
- Vice-President – Xixuan Collins
- 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



2021 Annual Meeting Minutes

May 25, 2022 — 6:00p.m., Meeting Held Online via Zoom

- I. Call to order, welcome, roll call, and remarks by President Jodie Toohey: Called to order at 6:02 pm
  - A. Combination roll call/board member introduction, with brief greetings (Roger, Lisa, and Jonathan were not present), followed by introduction of staff (Charly was not present)
- II. Recognition of Legacy Society members, Emeritus/Emerita Board members, and sponsors:
  - A. Susan Collins (legacy) was present; all others named and recognized.
- III. Board Member Introductions: See above
- IV. Unfinished Business: None
- 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
    - Moved by Jodie, seconded by Angela, passed unanimously.
  - B. Election of Midwest Writing Center Board of Directors
    - 1. Nominating committee's recommendation—Jodie Toohey
    - 2. Nominations from the floor
    - No nominations from the floor. Sue moved to accept the slate, Xixuan seconded, passed unanimously
- 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

The committee chairs provided brief summaries of their reports as submitted in the Annual Report, with Jodie assisting with the Personnel Committee report. Jodie also supplemented her remarks by reflecting on her goal of transitioning the board from a volunteering board to a governing board, and the organization's success with that, with a look forward towards continuing to build. Ryan highlighted the 2020 anthology as a particular success, including ongoing events and the upcoming WVIK podcast series, and looking forward to our 2022 grant successes. Jodie moved to accept the consent agenda and report; Angela seconded; passed unanimously.

- VII. Recognition of Volunteers
  - A. Jodie noted that this pool has shrunk during the pandemic, though so have our needs due to online activities and the cancellation of the children's literature festival. The volunteers (names included in the annual report) were recognized.
- VIII. Open Mic Readings from Annual Meeting Attendees
  - A. Ryan recruited two readers for this event. A returning YEW intern, Kryssi Franks, read "I want to go to Greece." Our incoming president, Emily Kingery, read "Parental Advisory" and "Snapdragon."

- IX. New Website Preview
  - A. The website is taking a little longer than hoped but should be up and running in July after the Conference and Birdies, so as to avoid any disruption to those. Ryan and Sarah shared example pages. We are switching to Squarespace, and it will all stem from a central page, and have spaces for publishing work and for members-only material. Misty noted the need to make it accessible, and Sarah indicated that that is the plan.

- X. Drawing for virtual "door" prizes, including a full registration to David R. Collins Writers' Conference for those attending the Annual Meeting.
  - A. By random online draw run by Ryan, Jersey Rivers won the prize. Ryan will connect to make sure that gets conveyed properly.

- XI. Announcements and dates to remember
  - A. Please consider supporting Midwest Writing Center through Birdies for Charity this summer. The hardcopy forms should be out next week for those who need a reminder
  - B. June 23-25, David R. Collins Writers' Conference, Hybrid Edition: Rock Island Public Library and Online via Zoom

- XII. Adjournment: Adjourned at 6:38pm





# AGENDA

## Midwest Writing Center 2022 Annual Meeting

June 1, 2023, 4:30 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 Emily Kingery

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

III. Board Member Introductions

IV. Unfinished Business

V. New Business

VI. Consent Agenda (See Written Annual Report)

- A. Minutes from 2021 Annual Meeting Held on May 25, 2022
- B. Treasurer's Report
- C. Committee Reports
- D. Executive Director's Report

VII. Recognition of Volunteers

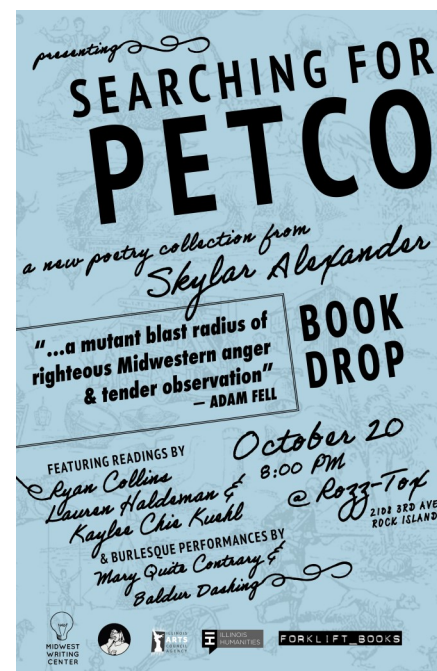
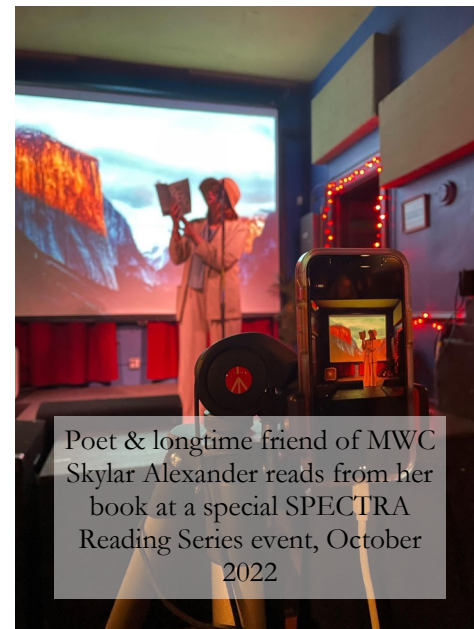
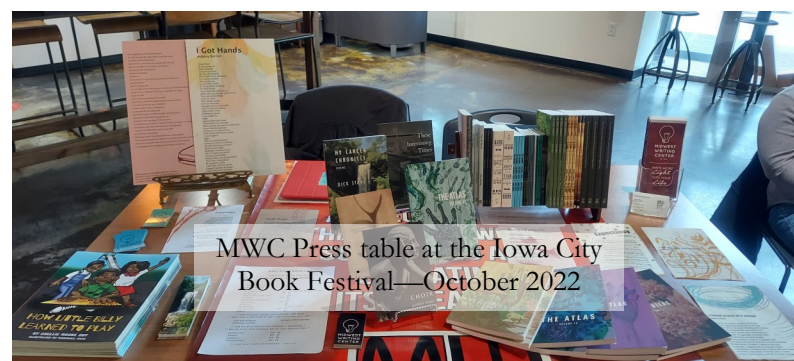
VIII. Open Mic Readings from Annual Meeting Attendees

IX. Drawing for 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 22-24, David R. Collins Writers' Conference at Augustana College
- C. Follow us on social media:
  - 1. Facebook: [www.facebook.com/MidwestWritingCenter](http://www.facebook.com/MidwestWritingCenter)
  - 2. Twitter: @MWC\_QC
  - 3. Instagram: @mwc\_qc
  - 4. LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/company/midwest-writing-center/](http://www.linkedin.com/company/midwest-writing-center/)
  - 5. YouTube: [www.youtube.com/midwestwritingcenter](http://www.youtube.com/midwestwritingcenter)

XI. Adjournment



## Program & Promotion Committee (continued)

**Contests and Competitive Opportunities:** We again held our 24-hour Iron Pen Writing Contest, and more individuals registered than ever before: 103 contestants paid 132 registrations, and the winners were featured at a virtual reading in March. We were excited to welcome two writers for the Great River Writer's Retreat: Chicago-based fiction writer Jeffrey Wolf, who won in 2021, and the 2022 winner Jo Ivy Young spent a week at the Benet Retreat House and gave a reading at the Library in September. 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 in a hybrid format and featuring award-winning poet and essayist Ross Gay as our keynote speaker. We welcomed many new instructors to the 2022 Conference, including Chuy Renteria, LaTanya McQueen, and Gina Franco; Conference favorite Jennifer Colville rounded out this year's faculty. Despite some technical challenges with the format between different locations, we still had a well-attended Conference that attracted participants from six different states. The Conference was supported by Modern Woodmen of America again as a Founding Sponsor, 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 and an increased staff. YEW was also run in a hybrid format, though most of the group was able to meet in the Community Room of the Rock Island Public Library, and 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 held several pop-up events around the Quad Cities, offering writing games and activities to kids of all ages. YEW was supported by Illinois Arts Council Agency, the Scott County Regional Authority, the Regional Development Authority, Modern Woodmen of America, Illinois Humanities, the CD Wiman Memorial Trust, the Melvin McKay Charitable Trust, the Moline Foundation, the Rock Island Public Library, and Rozz-Tox. In September, we again collaborated with Rock Island Public Library for our annual Banned Books reading, which returned to be in-person. We also had several SPECTRA Reading Series events, including a National Poetry Month reading in April, an International Writing Program reading in October, and a special one-of-a-kind book release event for longtime MWC friend Skylar Alexander, which featured burlesque performers and multi-media performance from poet and artist Lauren Haldeman.

We were still not able to hold the Children's Literature Festival; we were able, however, to work with Shellie Moore Guy on sharing her book *How Little Billy Learned to Play* with the community, this time through Project Now/East Moline Head Start, who distributed 100 copies as part of their summer reading program. We are grateful for Shellie and all the support her book has received and we look forward to getting back to having a full Festival, which moving forward will be named after Rochelle Murray.

**Other/New Programs:** We continued to grow 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 continued to expand our subscriber base on YouTube, where you can find recordings of last year's events. We participated in a National Poetry Month showcase with the Moline Public Library, and we were thrilled to welcome back fellows from the International Writing Program for a special reading at Rozz-Tox after a three-year hiatus. We also continued a Bespoke Poems program, where people could contract with local poets to have tailor-made poems written for loved ones and special occasions.

**Marketing and Promotion:** 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 Charly Heber-Spates for all of their work on our graphic assets and social media efforts, among other marketing activities.

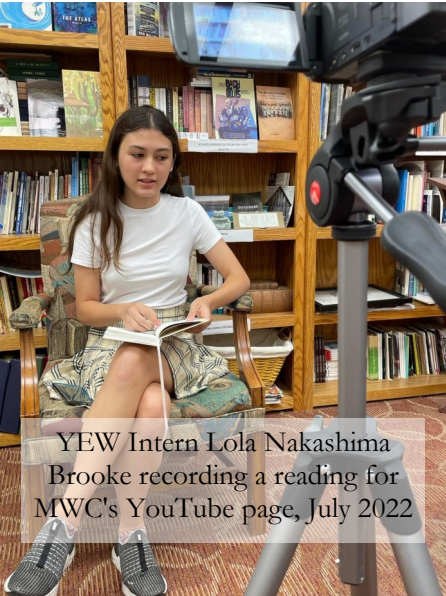
Of course, none of this would be possible without our dedicated committee members during 2022—thank you all so much for hard work and dedication!

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 develop programs, partnership, and promotional efforts through the Programming and Promotions Committee. While things might not have been entirely back to normal in 2022, we had a very successful year of programming. Throughout the year, we expanded our virtual and livestreamed workshops and events, while also offering some of our major programs in a hybrid format and enjoying more in-person programs than we have in the two years prior. On the programming side, MWC provided over 400 hours of quality programming and over 6,000 instances of service in 2022.

**Partnerships:** MWC collaborated with many organizations for readings, workshops and other events in 2022, including The Artsy Bookworm, The Book Rack, Rozz-Tox, the Rock Island Public Library, the Moline Public Library, the Iowa City Public Library, the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa, the German American Heritage Center, Gilda's Club, the Figge Art Museum, Living Proof Exhibit, and the St. Ambrose English Department. We were also fortunate to work with new friends, such as the QC Rock Academy, who hosted the first-ever Youth Arts Expo in October, which featured readings from several YEW interns. We were especially grateful to partner with local NPR-affiliate WVIK, who featured many of the contributors to the MWC Press anthology These Interesting Times in a podcast series that remains available on their website.

**Regular Programming:** MWC continued to offer virtual programs, and 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 flash fiction workshop and a free publishing workshop. We continued to host Writer's Studio in a virtual format, and the group grew steadily throughout 2022. We also continued hosting monthly meetings for our friends in Quint City Poets throughout most of the year.

Treasurer's Report

The Midwest Writing Center		
Statement of Support, Revenue, Expense, and Change in Net Assets - Cash Basis		
For the Three Months ended December 31, 2022		
and Twelve Months then ended		
	Three Months Ended December 31, 2022	Twelve Months Ended December 31, 2022
<b>Total of All Operating Funds Summary:</b>		
<b>Support and Revenue</b>		
Contributions	\$ 275,188.63	\$ 277,192.92
Memorial Contributions	1,048.51	2,036.43
Birdies for Charity	0.00	784.24
Other Cash Contributions	55,717.72	56,658.12
Other Income	1.00	20.74
Dues and Memberships	11,883.77	15,215.36
Grants and Sponsorships	18,700.00	46,747.52
Grants - Program	0.00	(24.50)
Registration Fees	219.04	6,548.20
Sales - Books	462.01	4,874.60
Transfers in	0.00	4,600.00
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 363,220.68</b>	<b>\$ 414,653.63</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Annual Filing Fees, etc.	\$ 21.00	\$ 34.00
Awards	0.00	24.33
Bank Fees & CC Fees	84.65	207.73
Computer and Software Expenses	0.00	39.99
Contracted Services	1,350.00	2,890.00
Contracted Services & Honoraria	750.00	850.00
Contracted Services - Instructor	0.00	12,075.00
Contracted Services - Students	590.00	2,680.00
Instructor Travel	0.00	300.00
Dues and Subscriptions	706.23	1,740.32
Facility Expenses	50.00	50.00
Facility Expenses: Computer Expenses	374.21	793.69
Facility Expenses: Insurance	454.00	1,552.00
Facility Expenses: Rent	1,230.00	6,060.00
Banquet Expense	719.40	719.40
Lodging Expense	0.00	397.87
Merchandise Purchases (Books, etc.)	100.92	414.29
Office Supplies, Postage, etc.	774.82	2,823.86
Payroll Related Expenses: Contracted Services	305.00	1,316.25
Payroll Related Expenses: Gross Wages	10,255.09	41,425.90
Payroll Related Expenses: Payroll Taxes	784.51	3,169.08
Printing & Publishing Costs	0.00	3,715.80
Professional Fees	0.00	2,650.00
Promotion & Advertising	1,034.12	4,745.68
Royalties Paid to Authors	0.00	135.78
Sales Tax	0.00	602.00
Snacks & Food Purchases	0.00	41.75
Travel Allowances	0.00	799.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 19,583.95</b>	<b>\$ 92,253.72</b>
<b>Revenue Over (Under) Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 343,636.73</b>	<b>\$ 322,399.91</b>
<b>Beginning Cash Balance - Current Month</b>	<b>(292,867.69)</b>	
<b>Ending Cash Balance - Current Month</b>	<b>\$ 50,769.04</b>	
<b>Investment Income (Loss)</b>		<b>(37,778.29)</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>		<b>\$ 284,621.62</b>
<b>Net Assets - Beginning Balance</b>		<b>377,736.87</b>
<b>Net Assets - Ending Balance</b>		<b>\$ 662,358.49</b>



## President's Report

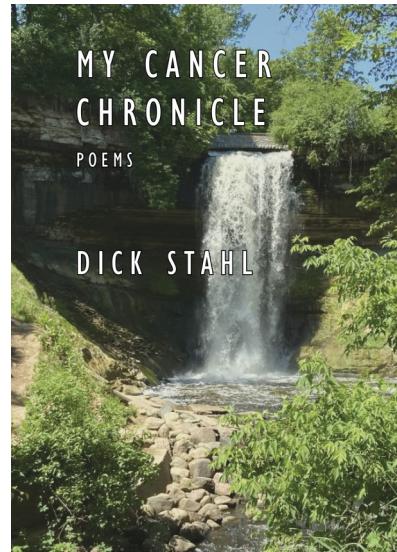
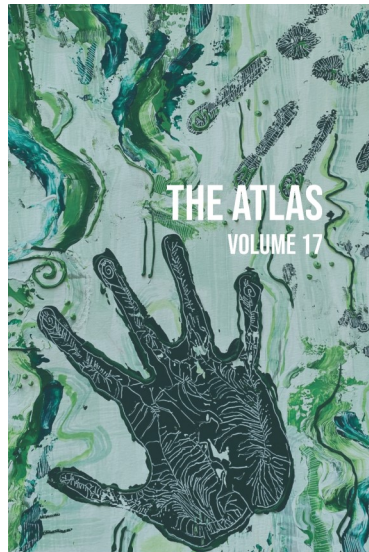
Dear Members,

Thanks to the creativity and hard work of our employees and volunteers, 2022 has been a year to be proud of for the Midwest Writing Center. We continue to fulfill our mission of “fostering appreciation of the written word, supporting and educating its creators” through our wide-ranging programming and in our fundraising efforts.

The MWC's Board of Directors continues to maintain its work as a governing entity, allowing board and officer service to be more attractive and accommodating to today's volunteers, while our stellar team of employees continues to do the heavy lifting. There is no better advocate for our mission than Executive Director Ryan Collins, whose enthusiasm and dedication to the MWC are unmatched. Our Programming and Marketing Specialist, Sarah Elgatian, is also an incredible asset to the MWC: the Write More Light series, which Sarah coordinates, is a jewel in our crown and just one example of the work Sarah does to enhance our visibility and reach. We are also very grateful for Charly Heber-Spates, who began working in March 2022 and always brings a beautiful energy and friendly face to MWC events. Our volunteer committee chairs, too, have been the lifeblood of what we have accomplished this year, and they deserve our heartfelt thanks for maintaining our organization's solid foundation, dreaming up new opportunities for our members, and inspiring writers in the QC and the Midwest region.

This summer marks one year of my service as President of the MWC Board, though I have been involved with the MWC as a volunteer or board member for nearly a decade. During this time, I have seen a great deal of change to our organization as our members have cycled on and off committees, as we have weathered the impact of the pandemic, and as we have learned new ways to support the talented writers in our community. No matter the changes we have faced, the MWC has remained not only a valuable community resource but a constant source of joy. It's because of you— our members, volunteers, employees, and all who have taken part in what we do— that we have had so much to be proud of in 2022, and so much to look forward to in the year ahead of us.

### MWC Press 2022 Publications



In 2020 MWC Press published two new titles: *The Atlas, Vol. 17*, and *My Cancer Chronicle*, the final poetry collection from former Quad City Poet Laureate and long-time friend of MWC, Richard “Dick” Stahl (1939-2020).

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 (continued)

At this time, MWC has over 240 members, over 1,700 e-newsletters subscribers, and numerous volunteers and supporters. In 2021, we provided over 6,000 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, Illinois Humanities, the Poetry Foundation, Rozz-Tox, Dr. Nicolas Shammass, 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 over 600 volunteer hours
- \*Grants and sponsorships received in excess of \$46,700
- \*Grew our general operating and youth endowments at the Quad City Community Foundation
- \*Raised over \$11,00 from 47 donors during our strongest-ever Year-End Giving Campaign
- \*A full-time employee and at least two part-time employee for the entirety of 2022
- \*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 17* and hosting two public in-person events that were also livestreamed, in addition to hosting several YEW events 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: [www.youtube.com/midwestwritingcenter](http://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 *My Cancer Chronicle*, Dick Stahl's final poetry collection, and we distributed copies to local and regional cancer centers and organizations that do outreach to patients and caregivers
- \*Organized public poetry readings, workshops, and book release parties with community partners, many offered at no cost to participants

\*Partnered with WVIK, The Artsy Bookworm, The Book Rack, Rozz-Tox, the Rock Island Public Library, QC Rock Academy, the Moline Public Library, the Iowa City Public Library, the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa, the German American Heritage Center, Gilda's Club, the Figge Art Museum, Living Proof Exhibit, and the St. Ambrose English Department 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,

**Emily Kingery**  
President  
June 1, 2023

