

South Carolina Writers Association

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

April 1, 2020

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2019 was an exciting year to be President of South Carolina Writers Association. Through the efforts of a dedicated Board and committed members, we accomplished a great deal for the organization. In addition to significantly increasing membership, we supported members and chapters through workshops, a successful retreat, and new partnerships. For the first time ever, we established a physical office location in downtown Columbia.

Perhaps most rewarding was the significant change we made to our publications. In the last six months, our new online literary journal, [The Petigru Review](#), has been read by over 3,500 people, with 13,000 individual views. And later this month, *Catfish Stew*, a member anthology, will be published. These signature publications are the pride of SCWA and represent the talented writing of our members.

It was a team effort with strong participation and assistance by our membership throughout the state. I'm grateful that members took such an active interest in improving the organization. A special thanks goes out to four board members who have departed after making exceptional contributions: Davis Enloe, Steve Gordy, Ann Williams and Adrienne Mathues. I stepped aside from the President's role for 2020. However, I'm excited to continue serving SCWA as a board member. It was a fantastic year!

Best,

Amber Wheeler Bacon

SCWA OPERATIONS:

Membership:

Membership grew by almost 20% from 275 to 325 active members. The membership fee categories were revised eliminating some categories and retaining only regular and student memberships. SCWA implemented a common anniversary renewal date of April 1 together with a modified fee schedule for partial-year membership.

The Membership Chair attended many Chapter meetings during the year to exchange information and to listen to members' views on how the board can better serve them. This process will be re-established in 2020. During 2019 there were 14 chapters operating across the state. Support was provided to members in the Charleston area on establishing a new chapter for that area, a development which we hope to see materialize in 2020.

Publications:

SCWA re-engineered its publications in 2019 and went digital. The Petigru Review, SCWA's well respected annual anthology, was transformed into an online journal and was published November 1. Approximately 400 submissions were received in the genres of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, novel 1st chapter and artwork. The Editorial Team maintained a focus on diversity. Of the 23 pieces accepted for publication, 3 were African American, 1 Chinese American, 1 Pakistani American and 1 Spanish American. After the release over 3,500 people read the journal with 13,000 individual views.

SCWA also re-introduced its original anthology, Catfish Stew, as a print publication. The submissions closed during the 4th quarter with over 50 submissions received in categories similar to the TPR. The anthology is scheduled to be released in the spring of 2020.

SCWA continued its tradition of sponsoring an annual writing competition in honor of Carrie McCray. The process was changed in 2019 by partnering with the South Carolina Academy of Authors. Under these new arrangements SCWA provides funding to jointly sponsor the Carrie McCray Nikens fellowship, an award administered by the SCAA.

Events & Education:

SCWA provided a series of educational programs during 2019. Skill development workshops were provided in cooperation with local chapters in Greenville, Charleston and Columbia. Additional workshops were conducted in conjunction with The Pat Conroy Literary Center in Aiken and Summerville. A state-wide retreat was provided in Beaufort in which members and non-members were instructed by subject experts in different genres. Dedicated writing time allowed participants to practice their skills and have their work critiqued. The retreat was organized in concert with the Pat Conroy Literary Festival and offered integrated programs and schedules.

Facilities:

SCWA established its first physical office location when it moved into shared facilities provided by One Columbia for Arts and Culture at 1219 Taylor Street, Columbia, 29201. The use of this

office space enables SCWA to use a permanent fixed mailing address and a meeting place for board activities.

Partnerships:

SCWA entered into partnerships with The Pat Conroy Literary Center for shared programming; One Columbia for Arts and Culture for the use of facilities and the South Carolina Academy of Authors for shared sponsorship of awards. Further partnerships will be examined to support SCWA's mission.

Grants:

Two grants were received during 2019.

The South Carolina Arts Commission awarded a grant of \$1077 toward our publication of The Petigru Review.

The South Carolina Humanities awarded a grant of \$1500 toward the SCWA 2019 Beaufort Conference.

The two grants, which totalled \$2577, represented 9% of SCWA total Revenue for 2019. The generous support provided by the SC Arts Commission and SC Humanities enabled SCWA to deliver key programs which enhance member services and the value of SCWA membership. New grant applications were processed to support 2020 operating programs.

Communications:

SCWA kept members informed on a variety of topics through our Newsletter – The Quill; our Facebook page; and updates on our website – myscwa.org.

The Quill provided members with information on Chapter updates and activities, submission opportunities, writing events across South Carolina, member publications and activities.

SCWA's Facebook page provided timely updates on member activities, publication news and links to connect members across the writing community. Live Facetime events were held to give members an insight to events that were held and to promote workshops and the conference.

Myscwa.org helped members stay informed on key developments and news from the Board of Directors such as who we are, what we're doing and other items such as new policies and procedures, progress against Board priorities and individual essays on perspectives on writing. Mostly the website served as an important tool to connect with members and would-be members. Some enhancements were made to the website. The board worked with a USC MBA student class to survey members and develop a website redesign project. Implementation was deferred until funding could be secured. This will be a priority for 2020.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

During 2019 SCWA improved its financial position while delivering against its objectives in all aspects of operations, publications and program delivery. Annual membership fees were maintained at \$52 while cash reserves grew from \$14k to \$21k at year-end.

Category	Revenue	Expenses	Net
Publications	\$17.25	(\$260.15)	\$277.40
Events & Education	13,575.94	14,675.52	(1,099.58)
Operations	12,583.74	6,526.20	6,057.54
Grants	2,577.00	0	2,577.00
Total	\$28,753.93	\$20,941.57	\$7,812.36

All areas of program delivery were net positive when program specific grants were applied against the accounts.

During 2019 new financial management procedures were implemented and documented in a financial management manual.

Board Membership and Development

Board membership consisted of the following:

Executive Board:

President	Amber Wheeler Bacon
Vice President/Secretary	Mike Lee
Treasurer	Steve Gordy*
Board Development	Roger Jones
Past President	Carol-Ann Rudy

Directors:

Mary Sturgill
Adrienne Mathues*
Sue Cryer
Dr. Kasie Whitener
Jayne Bowers
Ann Williams*
Davis Enloe*
Dana Ridenour
Ann Chaney

* Indicates that board membership concluded in 2019

Advisors:

Dr. Patrick McMullan
Sean Scapellato

The Board of Directors held 12 regular board meetings during the year. Additional meetings were conducted by the Executive Board and committees, such as the Events & Education Committee which planned and executed the workshops and Beaufort Retreat. A board nomination process was conducted in November with eight new Directors added for 2020. Board development focused on establishing and managing to objectives, the implementation of a new Orientation program for new board members and the revision of SCWA Policies and Procedures which were used as training guides. The board conducted a planning session to establish 2020 priorities and financial plans.