



REDWOOD WRITERS MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

Redwood Writers Branch of the California Writers Club is an association of professional writers. Redwood Writers Policy and Procedures state that the membership must maintain a minimum of 51% published authors. This is to create a mentorship and fulfill the mission of CWC: "**Educating writers of all levels of expertise in the craft of writing and the marketing of their work,**" and RW motto: "**Writers Helping Writers.**"

There are five main categories of membership: **Active, Associate, Supporting, Student, and Joint.**

ACTIVE Memberships are for writers who produce fiction, nonfiction, poetry, plays or other creative writing of quality and meet the following minimum production requirements:

1. A fiction writer, nonfiction writer, poetry writer, and/or a photojournalist shall have had a book published by a publisher of standing within the past ten (10) years, or a book currently under contract, or publications or acceptance within the past three (3) years of not less than three stories, articles, or columns in a periodical(s) of general circulation.

2. A writer of plays for stage, screen, radio, television, or videos shall have had at least one publication, performance, production, or production in development within the past ten (10) years.

3. The Redwood Branch may consider a self-publisher or writer who publishes his material under his own imprint eligible for membership, and has been published within the last (10) years. The Branch Membership Chair and/or Accreditation Committee shall use the following criteria to judge the submitted material:

- a. Professional presentation of writing style.
- b. Professional presentation as to style.
- c. Plans for distributing published materials.
- d. Awards, contests won, and/or reviews on post-self-publication.
- e. In addition, the Branch Membership Chair and/or Accreditation Committee shall reserve the right

to determine if the quality of the publication meets the high standards of professional writing. This evaluation deals only with the standard of writing and not with the genre or content.

4. The Redwood Branch may consider a self-publisher or writer who publishes his material electronically for membership. The Branch Membership Chair and/or Accreditation Committee shall use the following criteria to judge the submitted material:

- a. Professional presentation of writing style.
- b. Professional presentation as to graphics.
- c. Awards, contests won, and/or reviews on post-publication.
- d. In addition, the Branch Membership Chair and/or Accreditation Committee shall reserve the right

to determine if the quality of the publication meets the high standards of professional writing. This evaluation deals only with the standard of writing and not with the genre or content.

The RW recognizes that the publishing world is changing. It is more difficult than ever to be published by a "publisher of standing" and the quality of self-published books runs the gamut from extremely good to extremely poor. Works published by self-publishing houses will need to be reviewed by the Branch Membership Chair and/or Accreditation Committee and/or submit reviews of the work.

5. A writer with a manuscript chosen and published by the joint venture of Redwood Branch of CWC and Unlimited Publishing.

6. A combination of at least three (3) publication credits from sources which have a screening/editing process and a general circulation:

- a. Articles, essays, short stories or poems in traditional print media such as the *Santa Rosa Press*

Democrat or other news outlets.

b. Short stories, poems, essays published in an online anthology, 'zine or established blog (such as the Huffington Post) or website (such as salon.com).

c. Winning a juried contest for a novel, short story, poem, or essay after review by the RW Membership Chair and/or Accreditation Committee.

7. Two publications in the Redwood Writer Anthology *Vintage Voices* **AND** at least one other publication described in D.6.

Active Members are allowed to vote upon joining, but shall not hold office or represent the RW to the Central Board until six months after joining.

ASSOCIATE Memberships are for those persons who qualify by submission of writing material that is approved by the Membership Chair and/or RW Accreditation Committee as clear evidence of acceptable writing quality.

1. An exception to this policy exists for non-writing literary professionals. If no demonstrated conflict of interest exists, the Redwood Branch may accord Associate Membership to career professionals in areas related to writing. These adjunct memberships may include editors, librarians, agents, booksellers, publishers, producers, directors, and book illustrators. The Branch Membership Chair and/or Accreditation Committee have the discretion to grant these memberships.

2. An Associate may become an Active Member when qualifications for an Active Member are met and are approved by the RW Membership Chair and/or Accreditation Committee.

3. An Associate may be allowed to vote upon joining, but shall not hold office or represent the RW to the Central Board until six months after joining.

SUPPORTING Memberships are created by the RW Board in those cases where the ratio of Associate to Active Members does not allow additional Associates on the roster, or for people who want to support a branch, but are not interested in a writing career.

1. Supporting Members are entitled to the same privileges and benefits as Active and Associate Members, except they may not vote, hold office, nor represent the Redwood Branch to the Central Board.

2. Supporting Members shall pay the same dues and fees as Active and Associate Members.

3. Supporting Members may become Associate Members by submitting a request and a writing sample to the Membership Chair; and may become Active Members when the qualifications to be an Active Member are met and approved by the Membership Chair and/or RW Accreditation Committee.

STUDENT Memberships are offered to writers from the ages of eight through twenty-two (8-22), or to any writers who are verified full-time students at an accredited school. No writing submission shall be required. Student Members will not be eligible to vote or hold office. (Exceptions may be made by the Redwood Branch Board.)

JOINT Memberships are for any existing member of another CWC branch who wishes to join the Redwood Branch. Joint Members shall pay \$20.00 to the Redwood Branch. They will not have to re-qualify for their membership level. A Joint Member will have only one vote in statewide issues.

LIFETIME Memberships are only for Active Members who pay membership dues in one lump sum. Life Members shall be exempt from any further payment of dues but otherwise shall have all the duties and privileges of Active Membership.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIR AT membership@redwoodwriters.org and VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.redwoodwriters.org.