



## REDWOOD WRITERS MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS



1. Membership categories are active, emeritus, life, patron, honorary, courtesy, student, and associate or associate Literary Professionals
2. The branch shall send the central board its share of initiation fees and annual dues with each application.
3. It shall be the policy of the CWC to not void or delete any member information from the central electronic membership record system for a period of not less than seven years.

### Levels of Membership

- A. **Active members** are writers who produce works of fiction, nonfiction, memoir, poetry, plays or other forms of creative writing.
  - i. On submission of an application, the branch membership chair will review the applicant's experience as a writer. It is the expectation of the CWC that branches endeavor to maintain a strong presence of professional, published, and experienced writers representing the widest possible range of genres and disciplines, ranging from book, magazine, and newspaper, to playwriting, screen- and TV-writing, in traditional and non-traditional print and electronic formats.
  - ii. Branches will encourage mentorship that reflects the changes in today's evolving publishing world and fosters a level of growth and achievement in the branch and fosters a welcoming and supportive inclusion of writers just starting out.
  - iii. A writer who publishes his/her material under his/her own imprint will be considered a published author. A writer who publishes his/her material electronically will be considered a published author.
- B. **Emeritus.** A branch may accord emeritus membership to active members who have made significant contributions in the field. Emeritus members may vote and hold office. (Refer to Article V Dues and Fees.)
- C. **Life.** Branches shall accord life membership only to active members. Life members shall be exempt from any further payment of dues but otherwise shall have all the duties and privileges of active membership.
- D. **Patron.** A branch may accord patron membership to persons or organizations that contribute to the branch in either outright gift, substantial yearly contribution or significant service. Patron members shall have no vote nor hold office unless they

are active members. The branch pays central board's share of such member's annual dues to the central treasury.

- E. **Honorary.** The central board may accord, with the consent of the honoree, honorary membership to persons who are of such eminence that the CWC in honoring them honors itself.
  - i. Honorary members shall not pay dues, hold office, or vote. Unless subsequently revoked, honorary membership remains in effect and do not expire.
  - ii. A branch shall petition the central board to grant honorary memberships.
  
- F. **Courtesy.** A branch may accord courtesy membership of one year to unpaid speakers as an acknowledgment of such services.
  - i. Courtesy members shall not hold office, or vote.
  - ii. The branch pays central board's share of such member's annual dues to the central treasury. (Refer to Dues and Fees.)
  - iii. When a courtesy membership expires, he or she may be designated as a member upon payment of renewal dues.
  
- G. **Associate or Associate Literary Professionals.** Branches may accord associate literary professional 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 has the discretion to grant these memberships.
  - i. Associate or Associate Literary Professional members are entitled to the same privileges and benefits as active members except they may not vote, hold office, nor represent their branch to the central board and may choose their designation as either Active, Associate, or Associate Literary Professional.
  - ii. Associate and Associate Literary Professional members shall pay the same dues and fees, local and central board, as active members.
  
- H. **Student.** Student memberships are offered to writers from the ages of eight through 22, or any writers who are a verified full-time student at an accredited school. No experience as a writer shall be required. Student members will not be eligible to vote or hold office. (Exceptions may be made by the central board.)
  
- I. **Dual.** If any existing member of a CWC branch wishes to join one or more additional branches, they shall pay branch dues (\$25, not prorated) to each branch they join, and they will not have to re-qualify for their membership level at any additional branches they join. Regardless of how many branches to which a member belongs, the member will have only one vote in statewide issues.
  
- J. **Hardship.** Branches may offer hardship memberships on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the branch board of directors. Hardship memberships shall not constitute more than five percent of the branch's membership.

K. **Guest.** When inviting members to CWC branch meetings, “member” means a member in good standing of any CWC branch statewide. “Guest” or “non-member” shall refer to those who do not belong to any CWC branch. Thus, any CWC member may attend a regular branch meeting of any other CWC branch for the same price as the sponsoring club members. This policy applies only to regular meetings but not to contests, anthologies, events, conferences, seminars, submissions to a club’s newsletter, or any other activity a CWC branch may organize unless stated otherwise by the sponsoring branch.

## VII DUES AND FEES

1. All dues and fees are paid to the member’s branch. The branch shall then remit the appropriate funds to the central board. Active and supporting CWC members shall pay annual dues of \$45 to a branch. The membership year is July 1 through June 30. The branch shall remit \$20 to the central board with the member’s renewal to the membership chair by October 20 or be reported as delinquent to the CWC board. The membership chair must submit funds and forms to the treasurer and updated membership records to CWC board by November 5.
2. Members in good standing have until September 30 to renew their membership at the local branch. On October 1, CWC shall drop all delinquent members from the rolls. If dropped, a member must re-qualify his or her status and pay the new member enrollment fees.
3. Non-renewal of membership. Branches will deny a member’s application for renewal if that member has exhibited behavior that the central board deems to be detrimental, libelous, or slanderous to CWC’s good name or its members. Documentation of accusations followed by a 2/3 vote from the current central board will be required to deny renewal of membership. The central board reserves the right to define the parameters of detrimental, libelous, or slanderous behavior.
4. In addition to the membership dues, new members shall pay an enrollment fee of \$20. The branch remits one-half the amount of the enrolment fee to the central board with each new member application.
5. Starting January 1, a branch may enroll new members for \$22.50 plus \$20 enrollment fee.
6. Active members may purchase life membership for \$675 and are then exempt from further dues. The branch shall remit \$275 of the life membership fee to the central board treasury.
7. Branches shall pay annual dues (\$25) to the central treasury for each patron or courtesy membership they bestow.

8. Emeritus members shall not pay a renewal fee. The branch shall remit \$15 to the central board treasury.
9. The student fee is \$15.00. The branch shall pay \$10 per member to the Central treasury to cover the costs of insurance and accounting.
10. For hardship memberships, a branch shall remit \$10 to the state CWC treasury.
11. Upon passage of this policy, the Policies and Procedures shall be revised to correct references to “Associate” members or other references no longer consistent with this policy.

**For further information contact: [membership@redwoodwriters.org](mailto:membership@redwoodwriters.org)  
and visit our website: [www.redwoodwriters.org](http://www.redwoodwriters.org).**