

Saskatoon Writers' Collective Fourteenth Annual General Meeting

Tuesday March 22, 2016 at 7pm
Held at: McNally Robinson Book Store, 3130 8th Street East, Saskatoon, SK

President's Report

The Saskatoon Writers' Collective has 108 active members.

2015 was a big year for our writers' group!

ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES:

We did a lot of work behind the scene this year.

1. we changed our name from the Coop to the Saskatoon Writers' Collective
 - a. for easier outreach (see website "About" page for more details)
 - b. we did all the administrative duties involved (bank and government)
 - c. we had new membership cards made
 - d. we made a new banner
 - e. we held a contest for our new logo (won by A.E. Matheson)
 - f. we held a contest to name the Collective's newsletter (formerly the "Coop Scoop") The winning entry was "Collective Connections", sent in by Dawn Torvik-Wabha
2. we subscribed to an online membership management system (Wild Apricot)
 - a. allows website to be run by multiple administrators
 - b. does automatic membership renewals and renewal notices
 - c. helps create and send newsletters (auto-updates the email list)
 - d. does event advertising and registrations
 - e. helps with financial reports
3. To pay for that system, we had to open a PayPal account
4. We also organized the email system under 4 email addresses hosted at Hover.com writers@saskatoonwriterscollective.ca , newsletter@saskatoonwriterscollective.ca , openmic@saskatoonwriterscollective.ca , programming@saskatoonwriterscollective.ca

EVENTS:

In addition to all this, we held a respectable number of events and workshops.

1. We participated at Word on the Street in September, where we proudly unfurled our new banner.
2. We established a yearly working schedule so that there was no longer any guesswork about what event to hold next. The new schedule is based on a system devised under the guidance of past President, Karen Millard, called "*Produce, Polish, Publish and Promote*".
3. We held two formal classes this year.

- a. The “Writing Habits, Rituals and Disciplines” workshop in October
- b. And the “Editing Before the Editor” workshop in November
- 4. In December, we had a fun, well-attended social event, the “Writers’ Winter Wassail” with about 30 people attending.
- 5. We expanded the format of the Open Mics this year, by adding two new items:
 - a. One is the Open Mike workshop. The first workshop was at the September Open Mic, and was about “How to Read Your Writing Aloud”. It was facilitated by ex-board members, Adele Spilchen and Tressa Dent.
 - b. The second way we expanded the Open Mics was the establishment of the Special Open Mics which are hosted by local writers’ groups. The first one this March was hosted by A.E. Matheson’s group who focus on writing for children.
- 6. We started the regular “Drop In to Write” in conjunction with our monthly board meetings. It’s a place for all members to just drop in and participate in informal writing exercises, get to know each other, and then optionally sit in on the board meeting if they want (or not).
- 7. Although we didn’t get to offer our full roster of events this year, especially spring workshops, we are sure that next year will be much easier to coordinate as:
 - a. the extra administrative duties have been completed
 - b. the system is now streamlined to make everything easier

I would like to thank our board members for their work this year. Our Treasurer, and Open Mic Coordinator, Sue Carr, our Newsletter and Membership Coordinator, Leanne Boyce, our Programming Coordinator, Cindy Clarke, our Secretary and Outreach Coordinator, Belinda Betker, and Heather Patterson who helped immensely with the December social event. I would also like to thank Karla Paragg for recently stepping up to help run the website.

I would also like to encourage everyone attending the AGM to consider putting your name forward to become a board member of the Saskatoon Writers’ Collective. It is a rewarding experience to meet other writers, learn new things about writing, and generally to feel a part of the wonderful Saskatoon writing community.

I have worked on the board for the last four years in the capacity of Secretary and President, and I enjoyed it immensely. Although I am stepping down from the board to concentrate on other things, I will be around to help the transition to the new board. I plan on staying plugged in to the activities of the Saskatoon Writers’ Collective, and I’ll probably see you at the next upcoming event!

Jane Elizabeth Edgett
 President, Saskatoon Writers’ Collective