

MISSOURI WRITERS' GUILD: A BRIEF HISTORY

“One Hundred Years of Service to Missouri Writers”

MWG Historian, Paul William Bass
April, 2015



Some of the charter members from May, 1915

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Author's Notes

Every aspect of writing is influenced by history. It is our own personal history we bring to the printed page. It is the history of topics that provides the subjects of which we write. It is even the history of the particular words we choose to use. The relevance and significance of our writing will be influenced by history.

It is then vitally important for an organized group of writers to understand and appreciate the history of its existence—especially if it is a history of one hundred years.

Such a history cannot be understood without the collection and organization of records and materials collected by its members for that one hundred year time period. Thankfully, these materials are being donated, collected, organized, and stored with the Missouri Historical Society in Columbia, Missouri. For the researcher and writer, having these materials available in one place is invaluable. As other members discover related organizational materials in their possession, it is desired that they will consider donating them to the Missouri Historical Society to provide a more complete record of the organization's history.

- Paul William Bass, Winter, 2014-2015

Introduction

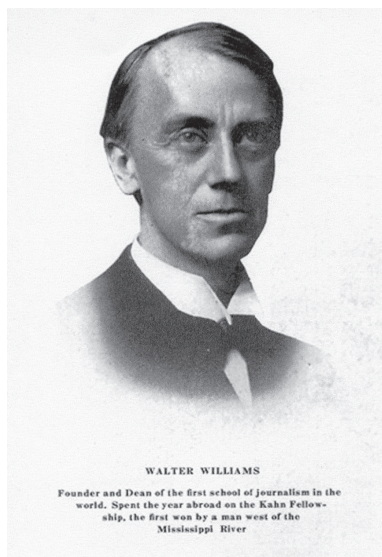
International and National Scenes

In 1915, print media was king, long before the term print media was ever used. Newspapers and magazines were the primary means of communication to and from the public. Books were rare items found only in the wealthier homes. There was no competition for time and attention from television, radio, or computers. In that year, there was much to discuss on international and national levels. Unrest and class warfare was erupting in Europe into what would become a growing world war. Women's suffrage had yet to be achieved. The Republicans, split with the defecting Bull Moose Party of former President Theodore Roosevelt, were destined to keep Woodrow Wilson in power. President Woodrow Wilson was running on a popular platform of keeping us out of war.

In the past decade, the nation had been greatly affected by the research and writing of the group known as the Muckrackers. Under the guidance of publisher S. S. McClure, a unique team of writers was assembled to write for the influential *Collier's Magazine*. The team was comprised of Ida Tarbell, Ray Stannard Baker, Lincoln Steffens and William Allen White. They had great influence on the American public and eventually on Congress to pass reform measures. But in 1915 the tide of public opinion was turning against them, which caused some to consider their patriotism suspect.

Missouri and Journalism

In Missouri, great innovation in the training of future journalists was already underway. In 1908, the University of Missouri was founded the first School of Journalism. Under the originator and watchful eye of internationally-respected Walter Williams, the journalism school grew in number and influence, gaining national and international respect. The state had already been recognized for producing outstanding writers and publishers. Among these were Mark Twain, poet Sara Teasdale, and noted American novelist Winston Churchill (not the one of later British acclaim). Teasdale and Churchill were residents of St. Louis in 1915. Fannie Hurst was also a resident of St. Louis, and a nationally-respected author and playwright. The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* was widely respected for its reporting under the founding of nationally-noted publisher Joseph Pulitzer.



Organization (1915)

May 4, 1915

Early in 1915, Walter Williams, Dean of the School of Journalism at Missouri University met with W. H. Hamby, a short-story writer from Chillicothe, with regard to the possible organization of a state society of Missouri authors. In Columbia, Missouri, Dean Walter Williams, on the first day of the university's Journalism Week, called for a meeting of persons interested in organizing what was called the Missouri Writers' Guild. That evening a subscription banquet was held at the Harris Café. Fifty-eight persons attended the banquet and listened to discussions regarding the organization's plans and constitution. The constitution defined eligibility as follows:

Any Missourian who has had a book published by a reputable publisher on a royalty basis, or has sold three stories to magazines or general circulation, or has written a play that has been produced, is entitled to active membership; any Missourian who is ambitious to write is not only admitted, but warmly hailed to associate membership; any Missourian famous beyond State borders as an artist or musical composer may become an associate member.

The constitution also requires that an annual meeting be held in Columbia in conjunction with Journalism Week, and another meeting in the fall of a purely informal and "outing" nature, at some picturesque spot in Missouri chosen by the president. Twenty-four active and nine associate members signed their names to the adopted constitution.

Officers and Members

W.H. Hamby from Chillicothe was elected as the first president of the Missouri Writers' Guild; J. Breckenridge Ellis from Plattsburg was elected as first vice-president; Mrs. Emily Newell Blair from Carthage was elected second vice-president, and Floyd C. Shoemaker from Columbia was elected as secretary-treasurer. Signing as active charter members:

Emily Newell Blair	Carthage
Robertus Love	St. Louis
Lee Shippey	Higginsville
William H. Hamby	Chillicothe
J. Breckenridge Ellis	Plattsburg
Grace M. Sisson	Laclede
Edgar White	Macon
Alice Mary Kimball Godfrey	Kansas City
Mary Woodson Shippey	Higginsville
Mrs. William H. Hamby	Chillicothe
Elizabeth Waddell	Ash Grove
Homer Croy	Maryville
Catha Wells	Chillicothe
Zoe Akins	St. Louis
Lily Winner	St. Louis
E. P. Haworth	Kansas City
Mrs. Cora Ellis Steele	Kansas City
Augusta E. Rusk	Brookfield
Mrs. O. J. Martin	Springfield
Florence Leaver Pendelton	Kansas City
Walter Williams	Columbia
Floyd Shoemaker	Columbia
Charles Ross	Columbia
J. B. Powell	Columbia

Signing as associate members were the following:

Helen Sara McDonna	Kansas City
Marguerite McGowan	Kansas City
Julia B. Collins	St. Louis
Sadie Wise	Columbia
Anne Shannon Evans	Columbia
Laura Schmitz	Chillicothe
Mabel J. Dotter	Sullivan
Maizie D. Meyer	St. Charles
Charles E. Kane	Maryville

Honorary Members:

Fanny Hurst	St. Louis
Sara Teasdale	St. Louis
Winston Churchill	St. Louis



FIFTY YEARS AGO

The above picture, titled "Some Members of the Missouri Writers' Guild," accompanied a news story of the organization of the Guild in the University Missourian of May 5, 1915. Names of those pictured do not correspond exactly to the accompanying list of charter members.

Front row, left to right: Miss Marie Rose, Mexico; Miss Carrie Sproul, Mexico; Miss Lily Winner, St. Louis; J. Brenckenridge Ellis, Plattsburg.

Second row, left to right: Mrs. R. T. Algeo, Columbia; Miss Sadie Wise, Columbia; Miss Johanne Werth, Columbia; Miss Marguerite McGowan, Kansas City; Mrs. W. H. Hamby, Chillicothe; Miss Catha Wells, Chillicothe; Miss Laura Schmitz, Chillicothe; Lee Shippey, Higginsville.

Third row, left to right: Miss Waddell, Columbia; Floyd C. Shoemaker, Columbia; Dean Walter Williams, Columbia; W. H. Hamby, Chillicothe.

Fourth row: E. P. Haworth, Kansas City.

Early Years (1916-1921)

First Five Years

1915-1916

Following the organizational meeting, adoption of the constitution, approval of membership and the election of officers, the first guild outing took place in the fall of 1915 at Powersite on Lake Taneycomo. In addition to sightseeing and entertainment, extensive critiques were made of all manuscripts submitted.

1916-1917

The meeting in Columbia was moved to a Monday (May 5) and would be the pattern for many years to come. The guild would now meet on Mondays and remain throughout the scheduled Journalism Week activities. Lee Shippey was elected president. At the Friday night banquet, guests were listening intently to a special wire from Kansas City to hear the evangelist, Billy Sunday, speak.

In July 1916 the first volume of the Missouri Writers' Guild News was published. On September 22, members gathered at Union Station in Kansas City to take their special train car to the annual outing at Powersite. There was a day-float down the White River. On October 22-27 guild members were invited to a house party by Mrs. E. P. Milbank at her home in Chillicothe. Guests were entertained with "automobile rides," receptions and provided special dinners.

1917-1918

At the banquet, J. Breckenridge Ellis was elected president "without audible opposition." The fall outing took place

September 21-28 at Elk Springs. An elaborate banquet was given the guild by the Ad Club of Neosho, who sent automobiles for the transportation.

1918-1919

The first official banquet was held at the Daniel Boone Tavern. Male participants were “pathetically reduced in number because of the war-call.” The Friday night banquet, a War Banquet, was held in the Rothwell Gymnasium. Arthur F. Killick (“Fatty Lewis”) was elected president.

The fall outing took place August 24-31 on the Salt River, close to Florida, Missouri, Mark Twain’s birthplace. Guild members took their own bedding, food, etc. as they picnicked, boated and swam.

1919-1920

The Journalism Week emphasis was on writing for magazines. At the banquet J. Breckenridge Ellis was again elected as president. July was the last issue of the Missouri Writers’ Guild News. *The Twilight Hours* became the official guild publication. The fall outing returned to Powersite on Lake Taneycomo. One year later the *MIDWEST BOOKMAN* became the official guild publication.

A list of honorary members that year included Winston Churchill, George Creel, Homer Croy, Rupert Hughes, Fannie Hurst, Edna Kenton, Sara Teasdale, Augustus Thomas, and Maude Radford Warren.

Publications

Official guild publications have changed over the century with different secretaries (editors). Among these publications were the following:

<i>The Missouri Writers' Guild News</i>	1916 -1920
<i>The Twilight Hours</i>	1920 -1921
<i>MIDWEST BOOKMAN</i>	1921 -1927
<i>The Guild News</i>	1927 -1961
<i>The Missouri Writers' Guild News</i>	1962 - present

Incorporation

The Missouri Writers' Guild was officially incorporated by the State of Missouri on February 3, 1925. At that time, the guild membership had grown to 142.

Transitions

Special notes of interest during the first fifty years were the following:

In the March, 1921, *MIDWEST BOOKMAN*, it was recorded that:

- “The Missouri Writers' Guild loses one of its enthusiastic members in the death of Champ Clark, and as a token of their respect are sending flowers.”

Attendance and participation was limited in the 1930s and 1940s because of the Great Depression and World War II. In the 1950s and 1960s, participation flourished with a prosperous economy and the growing popularity and use of the automobile.

It was also recorded

A major change occurred in 1960 with a new dean of the School of Journalism. The dean ended the Guild's affiliation, and the annual Journalism Week activities became exclusive offerings to J-School students and their guests. It was later noted that "the members felt the goals of the Guild no longer warranted participation." The guild did continue some association with the Journalism Week until 1980. ("Brief History of the Missouri Writers' Guild," Dr. Elwyn Cady, Jr. and Edith McCall, October 2000).

Golden Anniversary (1965)

Organization

Letha Moss Fly was the guild president and Frances Jacobi O'Meara was historian. A treasurer's report from 1964-1965 indicated receipts of \$663.63, and disbursements of \$439.82.

Celebration

A tea and social hour was held Sunday evening, May 2, at Hathman House in Columbia, with dinner following. A Monday morning program was held in Neff Auditorium, with a lunch following at the Memorial Student Union. The Monday afternoon meeting consisted of plaques and other awards for the best books entered in the guild contests and for outstanding writing by a student in the School of Journalism. Ten dollar awards were presented in four categories: poetry, article, juvenile fiction, and adult fiction.

Homer Croy and Floyd Shoemaker were two charter

members asked to speak at the celebratory meeting.

Transitions

The mid-1980s saw the creation of the home computer. Innovations over the next thirty years allowed for more affordable personal and portable computers. Use of personal desktop publishing programs brought creative approaches to publishing. The internet, email, and social media greatly expanded the personal reach for research, publishing information, and personal connectivity.

It was also reported that:

“By 1980, no longer were there two annual meetings. Only a Spring Annual Meeting survived.... Meeting sites were rotated around the various Missouri sites.”

Centennial (2015)

Organization:

2014-2015 Missouri Writers' Guild Board

President	Lisa Miller
Vice President/ Leadership	
Conference Chair	Steve Wiegenstein
Secretary	Kristina Blank Makansi
Treasurer	Donna Essner
Publicity Chair	Dawn Leslie Lenz / Robin Tidwell
Historian	Paul William Bass
Membership	
Newsletter editor	Janet L. Cannon

Celebration

After considerable discussion and with thoughts of what the next one hundred years would hold for the Missouri Writers' Guild and its membership, the board turned their focus to celebrating the 100-year anniversary with a leadership conference. The emphasis will be on a celebratory banquet of the centennial of the Missouri Writers' Guild. The guild historian was challenged to create a written history of the guild for presentation at the annual spring meeting.

April 11 - 13, 2015 was set for the centennial meeting to be held, appropriately, in Columbia, Missouri, the birthplace of the guild. Conference plans included a Friday night fellowship, Saturday conference sessions, Saturday evening awards banquet, and Sunday special conference sessions designed to discuss how each of the priorities discussed on Saturday could be planned and successfully implemented. A special emphasis was placed on participation and involvement by chapter leadership within the state.

Affiliated Chapters: (current as of April 2015)

1. Boonville Creative Writers
2. Columbia Chapter of the Missouri Writers' Guild
3. Four Rivers Writers' Guild (Union, MO)
4. Joplin Writers' Guild
5. Kansas City Writers' Group
6. Lake of the Ozarks Chapter
7. Marshall Writers' Guild
8. Maryville Writers' Guild
9. Midwest Children's Authors Guild (Kansas City)
10. Saturday Writers (St. Peters)
11. St. Joseph Writers' Guild

12. St. Louis Writers' Guild
13. Southeast Missouri Writers' Guild (Cape Girardeau)
14. Springfield Writers' Guild
15. Twin Lakes Writers (Mountain Home)
16. Wee Writers in St. Charles
17. Writers' Society of Jefferson City

Future (2016+)

Changes and Technology

A “guild” is an “association of individuals with kindred pursuits and common interests or aims.” The concept dates back to the medieval times. The term “writers” has evolved dramatically from a century earlier. With the introduction of computers and the internet, the number of people who can write and publish for the world to see has become unlimited. The type and quality of writing has also found no limits. Typewriters, carbon copies, and white-out liquid are relics of a bygone era. Communication between writer and publisher is no longer limited to the United States Postal Service. Now, immediate communications via the internet is today's standard.

Finances and Meetings

Few writers are striking it rich from their labors. Some are just happy to break even after expenses. Many write in the hope of future rewards. Because many Missouri writers are not financially independent, great care must be given to the planning and expenses of statewide meetings for all Missouri writers. Much responsibility lies with the volunteer Missouri

Writers' Guild board as they plan guild activities. As the guild depends on its members to take leadership roles and volunteer their time and talent to ensure the future success of the organization, it is critical that individuals step forward to volunteer as board members. The importance of all members to participate and to assist the board in carrying out its duties is essential. More emphasis may need to be directed to the affiliated area chapters for local or regional meetings, and it may be necessary to rely more heavily on internet contact for desired educational and professional opportunities. Fortunately, because communication is possible via cell phones, conference calls, and email, volunteers are able to participate from the comfort of their own homes.

A century earlier, as noted, was the golden age of print media. Today, it is the golden age of publishing possibilities. Whether through traditional publishing or self-publishing options, the need for serious writers to organize for educational and professional purposes was important for the first 100 years and will continue to be important in the future. How that organization meets and accomplishes its purposes will continue to evolve in the next decade.

Chapters and Meetings

In keeping with this vision, it is evident the organization will need to reach out and establish closer relationships with its affiliated chapters throughout the state. By the same token, chapter leadership should keep the MWG board apprised of local chapter needs, as well as ideas and opportunities that could benefit all members. The annual spring meeting needs to be a quality educational and inspirational program that will attract the interest and participation of more chapter members.

The local chapters must also be more supportive of the

Missouri Writers' Guild. While the local chapters offer good programs, contacts and fellowship, a state-wide gathering should increase the quality and variety of such education and training. State-wide contests are more challenging and perhaps garner greater notoriety.

It is the responsibility of the Missouri Writers' Guild and local chapter leadership to ensure the continued relationship and communication to help each organization to grow in its purpose and influence.

Conclusion

For one hundred years the Missouri Writers' Guild has served the needs of Missouri writers. Just as it began with nationally-recognized and respected writers and publishers, the organization continued to see development of its members into accomplished writers. The early association with the University of Missouri School of Journalism has dissolved in the past quarter-century. That relationship needs to be revisited to discover any mutual value for a renewed association.

An important relationship continues with the Missouri Library Association. Libraries are always interested in supporting good Missouri authors. An exhibit booth at the annual conference is an excellent way to meet and educate the library workers about Missouri authors and their works. Many libraries host local writer programs. The Missouri Writers' Guild and local chapters are providing assistance with these groups through speakers and program aids. This is a good area for continued focus and cooperation.

As existing and new publishing avenues expand in our technological age, new relationships can be developed to make the presence of the Missouri Writers' Guild known to them.

Invitations to publishers as speakers and program participants can help in this relationship.

Finally, the traditional organization of the Missouri Writers' Guild may need to be reexamined in the light of the board responsibilities. It may be necessary for the board to have representatives to travel around the state for personal contacts with affiliated chapters and previously mentioned organizations for promotion and assistance.

Appendix

Missouri Writers' Guild Presidents:

- 1915- William H. Hamby, Kansas City
- 1916- Lee Shippey, Higginsville
- 1917- John Breckinridge Ellis, Plattsburg
- 1918- Arthur Killick, Kansas City
- 1919- John Breckinridge Ellis, Plattsburg
- 1920- Hugh Fox Grinstead, Columbia
- 1921- Hugh Fox Grinstead, Columbia
- 1922- Lois Dodge, St. Louis
- 1923- John Breckinridge Ellis, Plattsburg
- 1924- Calvin Johnston, Kansas City
- 1925- Mrs. Mary Blacke Woodson, Kansas City
- 1926- John Breckinridge Ellis, Plattsburg
- 1927- Mrs. Maebell B. McClament, Kansas City
- 1928- Mrs. Myrtle Jamison Trachsel, St. Joseph
- 1929- Raymond W. Wettle, Slater
- 1930- Mrs. Velma West Sykes, Kansas City
- 1931- Jeremiah B. Reeves, Fulton
- 1932- Miss Ella I. Heining, St. Joseph
- 1933- Will S. Denham, Kansas City
- 1934- Mrs. Frances Jacobi O'Mearna, Martinsburg
- 1935- Mrs. Frances Jacobi O'Mearna, Martinsburg
- 1936- Clifford H. Nowlin, Kansas City
- 1937- Orland K. Armstrong, Springfield
- 1938- Orland K. Armstrong, Springfield
- 1939- Mrs. May S. Hillburn, Jefferson City
- 1940- Wayne Lindsey, Kansas City
- 1941- Mrs. Maude Orita Wallace, Mexico
- 1942- Mrs. Ruth E. Shaw, Kansas City
- 1943- Earl A. Collins, Cape Girardeau

- 1944- Mrs. Estelle Finnegan, St. Louis
- 1945- Mrs. Lucille Morris Upton, Springfield
- 1946- A. F. Elsen, Jefferson City
- 1947- Mrs. Helen S. Neal, Columbia
- 1948- Fred DeArmond, Springfield
- 1949- Mrs. Eleanor Owen Penick, Boonville
- 1950- Forrest E. Wolverton, Jefferson City
- 1951- Lames A. Worsham, Long Beach, Calif.
- 1952- Mrs. Adelaide H. Jones, Springfield
- 1953- Elston J. Melton, Boonville
- 1954- Robert Hereford, Ferguson
- 1955- Mrs. Jean Bell Mosley, Cape Girardeau
- 1956- Mrs. Matilda Mahaffey Elsea, Moberly
- 1957- Clarence D. Mitchell, Columbia
- 1958- Mrs. Odessa B. Talbert, Springfield
- 1959- Mrs. Nadine Mills Coleman, Columbia
- 1960- Mrs. Bessie Megee, St. Louis
- 1961- Mrs. Peggy Phillips, Columbia
- 1962- W. Clark Ellzey, Columbia
- 1963- Mrs. Marjorie Moore Armstrong, Springfield
- 1964- Mrs. Letha Moss Fly, Joplin
- 1965- Mrs. Dorothy Caldwell, Columbia
- 1966- Harris Dark, Springfield
- 1967- Elwyn Cady, Independence
- 1968- Mrs. Cleo Stephens, Jefferson City
- 1969- Richard Lynch, Webster Groves
- 1970- Mrs. Vivian Hansbrough, Columbia
- 1971- Mrs. Edith McCall, Hollister
- 1972- Joseph Callahan, Independence
- 1973- Charles Guenther, St. Louis
- 1974- Lawrence Maisak, St. Charles
- 1975- Mrs. Patti Easterla, Maryville
- 1976- Mrs. Vivian Hansbrough, Columbia

- 1977- Leland May, Maryville
- 1978- Wayne E. Warner, Springfield
- 1979- William Faherty
- 1980- Leland May, Maryville
- 1981- Sue McDonald
- 1982-
- 1983-
- 1984-
- 1985-
- 1986-
- 1987-
- 1988- Linda May, Maryville
- 1989-
- 1990-
- 1991-
- 1992- Kathleen Van Buskirk, Hollister
- 1993- Kathleen Van Buskirk, Hollister
- 1994- Edward J. Steinhardt
- 1995- Loren Gruber
- 1996- Jim Millikin, Springfield
- 1997- Amy Houts
- 1998- Jim Barrett
- 1999- Marian Fleischman
- 2000- Jane Simmons
- 2001- Veda Boyd Jones, Joplin
- 2002- Veda Boyd Jones, Joplin
- 2003- Vicki Cox, Lebanon
- 2004- Jane Hale, Buffalo
- 2005- Donna Volkenannt, St. Peters
- 2006- Christine Taylor Butler, Kansas City
- 2007- Margo Dill-Balinski, Illinois
- 2008- Patsy Bell Hobson, Cape Girardeau
- 2009- Emily Hendricks, Cape Girardeau

- 2010- Claire Applewhite, St. Louis
- 2011- Deborah Marshall, Florissant
- 2012- Steve Wiegenstein, Columbia
- 2013- Steve Wiegenstein, Columbia
- 2014- Lisa Miller, St. Louis
- 2015-

Missouri Writers' Guild Group Photo
May, 1915, Columbia, Missouri



"A group of the Missouri Writers Guild taken last May at Columbia and arranged in five convenient layers. We introduce them beginning with the substratum. On the left is that serious philosopher Tom P. Morgan of 'Grumpus Ridge' and Rogers, Ark., and on the right, our humorist, Floyd C. Shoemaker. Elizabeth Bruce is laughing at Mr. Morgan's philosophy and Catha Wells is just about to get Mr. Shoemaker's joke of which Barton W. Currie apparently does not approve. Laura Schmitz stands holding the notes from which she made the Modest Bow on Page One. Row 2: Robert Herrick on the left; on the right, the Kansas City poet Warren E. Comstock who has left a wide gap between himself and Mary Woodson Shippey, so you can see all around him. That's Faye Stewart wishing she could write as good a serial as Mrs. Shippey's 'Topeka's Little Lady,' and on her right, Mabelle McCalment. Row 3 from the left: Harris Rossin, who can get wetter at a Guild outing than anybody except Mrs. Rosebrough—Miss Noalin, feature writer for the Kansas City Journal—Pres. Jesse—Louis Dodge—Mrs. Rosebrough—Mrs. Milbank. Row 4: Cordie Fort—Mr. Haworth—Cora Scheuttle—Ralph Gravely—Mabel Hillyer Eastman, Ruby Westlake Freudenberger. Topmost row: Augusta E. Rusk, Mr. Casey, the prominent editor—Frank Banner—Lucille Lacy (she of the beautiful face and golden hair, killed in an automobile accident the week after the Guild meeting)—Jay B. Iden and Ray G. Hubbard, Mr. Casey, in his Iowa paper, ran as a serial a novel (patent-plated) written by the middle gentleman down front. Mr. Casey said it was one of his most successful serials. The only one in this group who has just sold a poem to Harper's Magazine in Mabel Hillyer Eastman—see her turn her head away!"

Missouri Writers' Guild Constitution and By-Laws

MISSOURI WRITERS' GUILD, INC. A Missouri Not-For-Profit Corporation ID# 43-1337226 ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT

of The Missouri Writers' Guild under which it incorporated February 3, 1925, with modifications adopted for renewal of Corporate Status, April 28, 1975, and subsequently certified May 29, 1986, May 9, 1990, December 1, 2001, April 11, 2008, April 4, 2009 and April 8, 2011.

1. The name of this association shall be "The Missouri Writers' Guild."

2. The Corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes within the meaning of section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

3. The specific purposes for which this association is formed are: a) to bring into closer relationship the writers of the State of Missouri, to the

end that by such relationship the members hereof may receive mutual inspiration, information and amusement; that distinguished writers and editors and those engaged in our profession may from time to time be entertained by the association; that the writers of the State of Missouri may, through this association, speak as a body politic on matters relating to the welfare of their calling, to the end that those high principles which have been established by its individual members may in the future be maintained and perpetuated. b) to do each and every thing necessary in or out of the State of Missouri suitable or proper for the accomplishment of any one of said purposes; or the attainment of any one or more of the objectives set forth or conducive to, or expedient for, the

interest or benefit of the association, including the acquiring and holding of real estate and other property and the erecting and equipping of buildings needed to promote the purposes and principles herein set forth, all without pecuniary consideration to the association, except that, if necessary the Treasurer may be compensated for work done.

4. This association shall continue indefinitely from and after the date hereof.

5. Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the Board of Trustees shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all the liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all the assets of the corporation exclusively for the purposes of the corporation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of Trustees shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

6a) The business affairs of The Missouri Writers' Guild shall be governed and managed by a Board of Directors, which shall consist of ten

members, namely: the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer; the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of the preceding year; the Historian and the Publicity Director. In the event that one or more of the retiring officers continue in office, the incoming President shall fill the

vacancy or vacancies by appointment. The Board of Directors shall hold office for one year, or until the election or selection of their successors.

b) The regular annual business meeting of the members of The Missouri Writers' Guild shall be held at such time and place as may be designated by the Board of Directors, notice of the time and place of such meeting to be mailed to each member at least thirty days before the date of such meeting.

c) All property belonging to this association shall be held in the corporate name of The Missouri Writers' Guild, and all conveyances shall be made pursuant to a vote taken at the annual business meeting, and shall be executed by the President and attested by the Treasurer.

d) The names and addresses of those who served as officers and directors for the first year of renewal incorporation were:

Lawrence Maisak, President, 2616 S. River Road, St. Charles 63301 Patricia Easterla (Mrs. David A.), First Vice President, 1420 N. Dewey, Route 2, Maryville 64468 65738 Antonio L. Betancourt, Second Vice-President, 4026 Flora Place, St. Louis 63110 Elaine Derendinger (Mrs. George), Secretary-Treasurer, Route 1, Franklin 65250 Marjorie Armstrong (Mrs. O.K.), Publicity Director, Route 2, Box 75A, Republic Bessie Megee, Historian, 410 Cloisters Walk, Kirkwood 63122 Directors Dean Roy M. Fisher, University of Missouri, Neff Hall, Columbia 65201 Charles J. Guenther, 2935 Russell Blvd., St. Louis 63104 Marcella Thum, 16715 Smiley Avenue, St. Louis 63139 Joseph F. Callahan, 1016 W. Truman, Independence 64050 Jo Burford, Mammoth Yellow Rock Road, Desoto 63020

7. This association shall have power to make and adopt bylaws for the purpose of conducting and regulating its affairs. Said bylaws shall provide for at least one business meeting and at least one professional meeting each year at such time and

place as the Board of Directors shall designate.

The Board of Directors shall, in addition thereto, have power to call other meetings at such time and place as they may deem necessary to promote the interest and purposes of this association. Written notice of the time and place of all such meetings shall be mailed to each member of the association at least thirty days prior to the date of such meeting.

8. Any writer who has met at least one of the following requirements shall be eligible to apply for regular membership in this association: (1) authorship or co-authorship of a published book, whether on substantive royalty or fee basis; (2) sale of three substantive articles, stories, briefs, poems, or comparable materials in one or more newspapers, magazines or trade publications; (3) sale of one serial or novelette to a periodical; (4) sale of one play to a producer, whether on royalty or fee basis; (5) sale of one motion picture screenplay, radio or television script, or script for an educational recording, filmstrip, or motion picture; (6) editor or publisher of commercial books, magazines, newspapers or literary publication, which does not accept fees from its authors. The membership committee to act upon applications shall consist of three persons: the President, the Treasurer, and a member of the Board of Directors selected by the President. The membership committee shall evaluate each application on the basis of guidelines developed by the committee, according to established publishing standards. Meeting the minimum criteria set forth above does not guarantee acceptance into the Missouri Writers Guild, and the decision of the membership committee shall be final. Other persons not eligible under the provisions set forth above may be admitted to membership by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors, if these persons would aid in the promotion of the purposes of this association.

9. The official emblem of The Missouri Writers' Guild shall

consist of a quill-like pen and shall be under the control of the Board of Directors. Its custodian shall be the Treasurer.

(Modified 1990, through inclusion of Article 2 (purpose) and Article 6 (dissolution clause), to be in accord with Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.)

BYLAWS of THE MISSOURI WRITERS' GUILD

ID# 43-1337226 As Revised April 8, 2011

ARTICLE I

These bylaws which supersede all previous bylaws of the Guild are adopted to govern the activities of The Missouri Writers' Guild under the provisions of the Articles of Agreement under which the Guild is incorporated.

ARTICLE II: OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Section 1.

The officers of The Missouri Writers' Guild shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity Director, and Historian. These officers serve for a term of one year, such year of service to begin immediately following the close of business at the annual spring meeting. The officers above named and the immediate past President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer are automatically members of the Board of Directors, as described in Section 6 of the Articles of Agreement.

Section 2. There shall be two standing committees: a) the Membership Committee comprised of the President, the Treasurer and a member of the Board of Directors appointed by the President, as provided for in Section 6 of the Articles of Agreement, to serve as judges of eligibility of applicants for active membership in The Missouri Writers' Guild as described in Section 8, and to function in other matters

relating to membership and membership recruitment.

b) the Meetings Committee, comprised of the Vice President serving as chairman, the President as ex-officio member, and three or four members named by the Vice President and President jointly. The duties of this committee shall be to assist the President in every way with the arrangements for the spring meeting.

ARTICLE III: DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The President shall preside at all business meetings of the Guild and serve as the chairman of the Board of Directors. The President shall determine, in cooperation with the Board of Directors, the date and location of the spring meeting and any special meetings of the full membership. The President shall have the powers and duties usually incumbent upon such an officer and may fill by appointment vacancies in any office, such appointees to hold office until the next business meeting of the Guild. The President is automatically chairman of the Membership Committee. The President, in cooperation with the Board of Directors, will conduct the awards and contests. The outgoing President shall authorize the annual auditing of all funds at the end of the fiscal year, which runs from the end of the spring meeting to the end of the next spring meeting.

Section 2. The Vice President shall take the place of the President in the absence of the President and shall succeed to the office of President in the case of a vacancy in that office. The Vice President shall serve as chairman of the Meetings Committee as heretofore described under Article II, Section 2, with the duties therein assigned.

Section 3. The Secretary shall take the place of the President in the absence of both the President and the Vice President

and shall succeed to the office of President if there is no Vice President to succeed to the office. The Secretary shall also record the minutes of the Board of Directors' meetings, the annual Missouri Writers' Guild spring meeting, and the proceedings and results of the annual awards banquet and ceremony. The Secretary shall also assist the President and Treasurer by issuing correspondence that either of these officers deems necessary.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall act in accordance with the duties usually incumbent upon such an officer and shall make expenditures only for the purposes authorized by a majority vote of Guild members present and voting at any business meeting or by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Bills for expenditures must be approved by the President. The Treasurer shall take the place of the President in the absence of the President, Vice President, and Secretary.

Section 5. The Publicity Director shall be responsible for all Guild

publications and publicity, serving as Editor-in-Chief of the official publication, The Missouri Writers' Guild News, and may appoint assistants in this work with the approval of the President.

Section 6. The Historian shall act in accordance with the duties usually incumbent upon such an officer, serving as custodian of past records and adding to them appropriate materials during his term of office.

Section 7. The Board of Directors shall consist of ten members as provided in Articles of Agreement, Section 6. The Board shall be the executive body of the Guild and shall have power to transact the necessary business of the Guild that cannot be deferred until the next business meeting of the Guild. However, three members of the Board may by written statement to the President and Secretary call a Guild

vote by mail on anything which the Board is about to pass on, whereupon the Secretary shall take such a vote. When impractical to hold a meeting of the Board of Directors, the President may order a mail vote on any matter requiring action by it.

ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS

Section 1. The Guild shall hold at least one meeting each year for the full membership of the Guild, at which time there shall be a called business meeting and sessions for professional growth. This meeting, otherwise referred to as the Spring Meeting or Annual Conference, will be held in the month of April or May on dates and at a place designated at least six weeks in advance by the President and Vice President. Any other meetings of the full membership as are deemed necessary or desirable may be called at such time and place as the Board of Directors may determine by a three-fourths vote of those voting. All members shall be notified of any and all meetings at least thirty days in advance.

Section 2. Regional meetings are those conducted by chapters of The Missouri Writers' Guild. Such meetings are open to members and friends anywhere in the state but are intended for the convenience of those

resident in the geographical area for which the chapter may serve as a hub. Regional meetings are intended to enlarge the scope of The Missouri Writers' Guild activities and to facilitate progress toward the goals of the Guild as described in Section 3, Articles of Agreement; for that reason participation in the meetings by those interested in the profession of writing but not yet involved in Guild membership should be encouraged.

ARTIVLE V: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. There shall be four classes of members in the

Guild: full, associate, student and honorary (lifetime).

Full member:

An MWG member at this level receives all benefits (such as quarterly newsletter, eligible to serve as any position on the board of directors, all voting rights, access to members only section on Web site, savings on conference fees, eligible to enter annual contest, eligible to post bio on Web site or listing on speakers' bureau, and eligible to participate in marketing events such as the Missouri Library Conference or Kansas City Literature Festival).

Membership requirements for this level are: Anyone who has met at least one of the following requirements is eligible to apply for full membership in the Guild (all membership applications are reviewed and decided upon by a membership committee): (1) authorship or co-authorship of a published book for which the author received a substantial advance, royalty or fee from the publisher (2) sale of three substantive articles, stories, briefs, poems, or comparable materials in one or more newspapers, magazines, or trade publications; (3) sale of one serial or novelette to a periodical; (4) sale of one play to a producer, whether on royalty or fee basis; (5) sale of one motion picture screen play, radio or television script for an educational recording, filmstrip or motion picture. (6) editor or publisher of commercial books, magazines, newspapers or literary publication, which does not accept fees from its authors.

[First time Full Members pay \$40, Renewal \$30]

Associate member:

An MWG associate member receives all benefits listed above except associate members cannot vote on MWG business issues and may not serve as one of the titled board positions such as President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, or Publicity Chair. Associate members

may serve as members-at-large on the board of directors.

Membership requirements for this level are one publication in a newsletter, pamphlet, magazine, newspaper, anthology or on a Web site, paid in either cash or copies. Self-published authors also fit the associate member category.

[First time Associate Members pay \$45, Renewal \$30]
Student member:

An MWG student member receives all benefits listed above except student members may not vote on MWG business issues and may not serve as any position on the board of directors.

Membership requirements for this level are full-time or part-time college students who have an interest in the writing profession.

[First time Student Members pay \$25, Renewal \$20]

Honorary (Lifetime) member: An MWG honorary (lifetime) member is an MWG member who has been honored by the board of directors as a person who has donated time and talent to the MWG for many years. They have the same benefits as full time members. There are no dues for honorary or lifetime members, and the status does not expire.

Section 2. Active members are those qualifying and accepted for membership under the stipulation of Article 8 of Articles of Agreement. Membership in the Guild shall continue as long as the regular dues are paid, unless the Board of Directors asks a member to resign for cause. Former members who have discontinued membership but wish to rejoin and become an active member may do so by paying the annual dues for the year they rejoin. No back-dues are required.

Section 3. Honorary membership is open to such persons as would qualify for membership under Articles of Agreement, Section 8, and who have been deemed worthy of this recognition by the Guild. Names of such persons may

be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval by the Membership Committee to whom such nominations are sent. Recommendation for honorary membership may be made by the

President, following such consideration after the Board of Directors' approval by a majority vote of members at the regular annual business meeting. Honorary membership is conferred by a two-thirds vote of Guild members present and voting. The Secretary will then prepare a certificate of Honorary Membership and forward it to the person honored.

ARTICLE VI: VOTING

Section 1. Voting shall be subject to the ordinary regulations of parliamentary practice as set forth in the latest revision of Roberts Rules of Order.

Section 2. A quorum at any business meeting of the Guild shall be one regularly elected officer and fifteen active members.

Section 3. Only active members whose dues are paid are entitled to vote at any business meeting. Nominations for election of officers for the Guild shall be made by a nominating committee of three members appointed by the President. Other nominations for the offices may be made from the floor. Elections where any contest is involved shall be by written ballot.

Section 4. The Guild may take whatever action is authorized by a mail vote conducted by the Secretary, with the assistance of the Publicity Director, when urgent business requires such action. The vote may be ordered by the President, the Board of Directors, or by a written statement of three members of the Board of Directors, as provided in Article III, Section 7 of these bylaws, asking for a referendum vote upon a previous action of the Board of Directors, which action shall be held

up pending the outcome of the referendum. The official ballot will provide an explanation of the vote to be taken, and will be sent to all active members via the Internet, or alternatively, via U.S. Mail. A member shall indicate a vote and respond to the Secretary within the time limit set by the President. A majority of those voting shall be sufficient to carry such action, provided at least eight votes by members entitled to vote are returned to the Secretary within the allotted time limit.

ARTICLE VII: DUES

Section 1. Annual dues shall be set by the membership at the business session of the spring meeting. Such dues become due at the beginning of the fiscal year which ends with the close of the spring meeting. Dues are payable throughout the fiscal year, but must be paid by August 31 to be included in the annual directory. Writers who have not paid their dues by August 31 will be dropped from the newsletter mailing list until membership is renewed.

Section 2. New members accepted between the beginning of a fiscal year and the last day of that calendar year will be assessed the full year's dues. New members accepted between January 1 and the end of the spring meeting shall pay a half year's dues and the full year at the time such annual payment is due.

Section 3. Two or more members who maintain the same mailing address may deduct one dollar (\$1.00) off their individual membership dues with the expectation of sharing one copy of each issue of *The Missouri Writers' Guild News*.

ARTICLE VIII: PUBLICATIONS

The Board of Directors is empowered to publish a periodical of whatever nature it deems advisable and possible. This publication shall be under the editorship of the Publicity

Director, subject to approval of the Board of Directors. In addition, the Publicity Director shall be empowered to maintain a website for the sole purpose of Guild business.

ARTICLE IX: ELECTIONS

The election of officers and the Board of Directors shall take place at the annual spring business meeting at a time of day to be determined by the Board of Directors so that adequate time may be used in holding the election in keeping with the responsibility involved. Nominations are under regulations described in Article VI, Section 3, of these Bylaws.

ARTICLE X: AWARDS

Section 1. Empowerment The Board of Directors is empowered to hold contests among members of The Missouri Writers' Guild each year, and, as voted upon by members, to conduct other competitions open to amateur writers under regulations set forth by a Writing Contest Committee. Such contests for amateurs may but are not required to include an award given to students in Missouri state and private universities or colleges, enrolled in journalism or creative writing courses. Such contests are to be supervised by the President in cooperation with the Writing Contest Committee. Awards and contests, with regulations, categories and prizes are to be announced in the Guild News. Presentations of all Guild awards are made at the Annual Conference.

Section 2. Contest Categories The Missouri Writers' Guild is empowered to present plaques and/or cash prizes and certificates for two major prizes plus lesser awards in a variety of categories. There is to be (1) a Walter Williams Award, so named in honor of the founder of The Missouri Writers' Guild. This should be a major work whether in book form or in some

other form of publication, a work considered to be worthy of special recognition because of the research or high literary quality involved in its creation. There are also to be (2) a book award for a work of fiction, poetry or nonfiction in published book form and (3) awards for published materials in categories determined from year to year by the Contest Committee with the approval of the Board and set forth in detail by the Contest Committee working with the President. In all cases, the work must have been published in the calendar year preceding the Annual Conference at which awards are made and submitted during the month of January. The contests are open to any active member whose membership is paid before the January submission period.

Section 3. Judges The President shall select as many judges as seem needed for fair evaluation of the published works submitted, choosing people competent to judge the quality of the writing. Judges should be allowed from the first of February to no later than the last of March to complete their evaluations. If there are less than six entries in any category other than the Walter Williams and Book Awards, no prizes will be given

in that category unless in the judges' opinion, the work submitted was of such quality as to merit recognition. Similarly, the Walter Williams or Book Award may be withheld if in the opinion of the judges no material of sufficient literary merit is submitted.

ARTICLE XI: CHAPTERS

Section 1. Where a community is large enough to warrant sufficient membership, a Chapter of The Missouri Writers' Guild may be formed for mutual inspiration, information, and encouragement to people striving toward publication of their work.

Section 2. A chapter may have active and associate classes of membership, but in the interest of contact with the state organization, at least one of the officers must be an active member of The Missouri Writers' Guild.

Any person qualifying for membership in The Missouri Writers' Guild would automatically be accepted as an active member of a Chapter, but a state member is not required to be a member of a Chapter. Associate membership is open to any person interested in becoming a published writer.

Section 3. Chapters should elect officers patterned after the state organization and cooperate with the state in hosting the annual conference when it is to be in that chapter's area. Chapters may also arrange for regional meetings if they so choose or plan and conduct workshops for people interested in developing writing skills.

Chapter officers are requested to send news of the Chapter's activities to the Board of Directors or the Publicity Director.

ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Except as provided in Section 2 of this Article of the Bylaws, the provisions and regulations of these Bylaws cannot be amended except upon a two-thirds vote of those present and voting at the regular annual spring business meeting, and then only when each member has been mailed a written statement of the proposed amendment or amendments at

least three weeks prior to the business meeting.

Section 2. These Bylaws cannot be amended by mail vote unless a majority of the Board of Directors approve, and then only upon a two-thirds vote of those voting by mail within the time limit set by the President which shall, on matters relating to these Bylaws, be at least two weeks.

Section 3. Any amendments to these Bylaws adopted in the

future shall be furnished to each member or published in the Guild News.

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Missouri Historical Society Repository

Records and materials related to the Missouri Writers' Guild are located in the Missouri Historical Society in the Ellis Library on the University of Missouri campus. Among the growing collection are eighteen (18) boxes containing financial records, correspondence and publications.

Any guild member, current or former, who may have materials of a historical nature regarding the Missouri Writers' Guild, are strongly encouraged to send or take them to the Missouri Historical Society. This will allow for the preservation of an official historical record.

