



2010 Annual Report

*“Fostering Appreciation
of the Written Word...”*



David R. Collins Children's Literature Festival



Local Author Book Signing

...Supporting...

*...and Educating
its Creators.”*



David R. Collins Writers' Conference



225 East Second Street, Suite 303
Davenport, IA 52801
563-324-1410
www.midwestwritingcenter.org

By remembering the MWC in your estate plans or will, you help us to continue our mission of supporting and educating future generations of writers.

2010 Midwest Writing Center Volunteers

2010 Annual Report

presented at the Annual Meeting of the
Board of Directors

on

Thursday, May 12, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

Deere-Wiman House
817 11th Avenue
Moline, Illinois

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ryan Collins
Shea Doyle
Sarah Gardner
Dr. Nancy Hayes
Robert Holliday
Julie McDonald
Rebecca McKanna
Georgia Miller
Max Molleston
Dr. Trish Nelson
Dr. Robin Throne

EXECUTIVE BOARD 2010-2011

Susan Collins
President
Mary Foster
Vice-President
Rochelle Murray
Secretary
Mark Petersen
Treasurer
Roger Strandlund
Attorney
Lindsey Wheeler
Executive Director

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Kristin Abraham | Sarah Gardner | Christina Mazza | Wayne Sapp |
| Kristina Arbisi | Diana Garman | Julie Jensen McDonald | Marilyn Schnell |
| Mike Bayles | Adrianna Gonzales | Rebecca McKanna | Stephanie Schulte |
| Ellyn Babermeyer | Sue Grove | Georgia Miller | Katie Scully |
| Margaret Blackburn | Joyce Grubbs | Tom Miller | Lilly Setterdahl |
| Brenda Brown | Nancy Hayes | Richard Miller | Gail Shammass |
| Rodney Brown | Maralyn Hepner | Max Molleston | Dr. Nicolas Shammass |
| Emma Burns | Dr. Jenna Hobbins | Amy Moon | Amber Soike |
| Renee Busha | Bob Holliday | Hannah Morrell | Dick Stahl |
| Dan Bynum | Kimberly Howard | Rochelle Murray | Kellie Stenger |
| Ryan Collins | Connie Huber | Elsa Nelson | Roger Strandlund |
| Susan Collins | Molly Humes | Finley Nelson | Robin Throne |
| Drew Croegaert | Kara Jelinek | Zane Nelson | Jodie Toohey |
| Pat Crozier | W.K. Juncker | Rachel Merad | Christina Valle |
| Katlyn Deal | Rebecca Kamp | Stephanie Olson | Jane VanVooren Rogers |
| Beth Doedhar | Alicia Koepke | Rick Pa | Carol Wagner |
| Margy Dobbelaere | Paulette Kuehl | Patricia Crozier | Bonnie Weglarz |
| Kelly Dorman | Teresa LaBella | Mark Petersen | Sara Wheeler |
| David Dorris | Jackie Lambert | Angela Pisani | Connie Wilson |
| Shea Doyle | Melissa Lehpamer | Shirley Plumb | William Wisser |
| Rebecca Dulle | Margaret Mackin | Mike Radwick | Teresa Zabloudil |
| Josh Fahs | Kaylyn Maher | Brittany Reece | Paul Ziebarth |
| Margaret Foley | Sal Marici | Jane Reinhardt-Martin | |
| Mary Foster | Krystal Marquez | Cathy Sapp | |
| Catt Foy | | | |
| Erin Gardner | | | |

Thank you so much for your dedicated service to the Midwest Writing Center!

Personnel & Volunteer Committee

The roles and responsibilities of volunteers, committees, interns and paid staff, are under the umbrella of the Personnel Committee. Were it not for our Executive Director, Lindsey Wheeler, and her ability to not only multi-task in a highly effective manner, but to communicate exceptionally well, and draw active participation from both interns and volunteers, we certainly would be at a disadvantage.

Since last September, the number of hours Lindsey works has increased from 104 to 117 per month. The influx of additional tasks, which previous employees did not perform, is professionally done in a timely manner. Some of the more important tasks include:

- Soliciting publication bids, instructors for workshops, sponsorships and in-kind donations
- Maintaining the web site, blog and Facebook pages
- Sending gift acknowledgements and membership cards
- Writing grants
- Seeking and training interns each semester



Please join me and the Board of Directors, in extending a “Well Done” to our Executive Director, Lindsey Wheeler. In 2010 the MWC was also fortunate to have two volunteers serve as Volunteer Coordinators. We thank Kat Bert and Jodie Toohey for their service and for sharing their talents with the MWC!

Bob Holliday, Personnel & Volunteer Committee Chair

Nominating Committee

The Midwest Writing Center Nominating Committee understands the importance of ensuring that a full complement of board members exists and as openings on the board occurs, a well defined process of seeking interested and qualified nominees is pursued. As an organization, we are truly fortunate to have a board whose background, talent, vision and commitment enhances the organizational mission so very well.

We thank those who have served on the board of directors and welcome those who have joined us over the past year. It is also the pleasure of the Nominating Committee to recommend a slate of officers for the ensuing year.

President: Susan Collins
Vice President: Dr. Trish Nelson
Secretary: Shea Doyle
Treasurer: Mark Petersen

Bob Holliday, Nominating Committee Chair

Facilities Committee

This year has been productive for Bucktown. Awnings have been installed over the entrances. That of course helps out when it's raining. Signage has also been installed on the building exterior. We're easier to find. The long elusive, buzzer system, was installed, and works. That is a big assist to Lindsey and anyone that has manned the doors at after hours events.

The condo owners have changed insurance companies. Better coverage, better price.

Last year about this time, mention was made about painting the office and, brick west wall, in the conference room. Painting has not been completed at the time of this report, however, on May 7th, that will occur. Permission was obtained from Bucktown condo owners to paint the brick west wall. Modern Woodmen has graciously volunteered to provide the time, talent and paint to complete the job.

Steps have been taken to eliminate the moisture that has caused water spots on our floor and supplies. As always, the Facilities Committee is committed to keeping a safe and accessible environment for our workers, volunteers, and event participants.

Rich Miller, Facilities Committee Chair

2009 Annual Meeting Minutes May 13, 2010

President Susan Collins opened the Annual Meeting at 6 p.m. at the Deere-Wiman House. There were no changes or corrections to the agenda for the evening.

Minutes of the 2009 Annual Meeting were approved as presented by Rochelle Murray and seconded by Ryan Collins. Motion passed.

Mark Petersen presented the Treasurer's Report. Max Molleston made a motion to approve the report. Ryan Collins seconded. Motion passed.

Susan Collins introduced the current board members and urged everyone to read the printed 2009 annual report.

New business followed with the recommendation that the MWC Board of Directors will not exceed 15 in number. Bob Holliday made a motion that we accept the recommendation, Rebecca McKanna seconded. Motion passed.



Workshop taught by Cecil Murphey

Bob Holliday said the Nominating Committee recommends that the current officers serve another year. Dr. Trish Nelson and Mark Petersen were also recommended to serve on the board of directors. He also asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Dave Cooney made a motion that we accept the Nominating Committee's recommendations. Georgia Miller seconded. Motion passed.

Volunteer Chairman Bob Holliday and Board Administrator Lindsey Wheeler recognized the volunteers and board members who served in the past year. Certificates of appreciation were given.

Former board member Leslie Anthony was recognized. It was recommended that Leslie be given the title “Honorary Member of the MWC.” Max Molleston made a motion to accept this recommendation, Rich Miller seconded. Motion passed.

The Out Loud Poem of the Year was announced. Both Dick Stahl and Sheri Grutz's poems received this honor.

Announcements and dates to remember followed.

The business meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. for refreshments and social time in the dining room.



Author Luncheon with Janet Martin



Ann Hudson at the Great River Writers' Retreat Reading Night

AGENDA
Midwest Writing Center 2010 Annual Meeting
May 12, 2011
6:00 p.m. Deere Wiman House, Moline, Illinois

Additions or changes to the agenda

Approval of the minutes of the 2009 annual meeting held May 13, 2010

Correspondence

Treasurer's Report—Mark Petersen

Unfinished Business

President's Report and Introduction of the Executive Director and Board Members - Susan Collins and Mary Foster

VII. New Business

A. Number of members of the board of directors

Recommended motion: The Midwest Writing Center Board of Directors will not exceed fifteen in number.

B. Election of Midwest Writing Center Board of Directors

1. Nominating committee's recommendation—Bob Holliday
2. Nominations from the floor

VIII. Executive Director's Report—Lindsey Wheeler

IX. Committee Reports

- A. Publicity
- B. Facilities
- C. Volunteers
- D. Advancement
- E. Program
- F. Finance
- G. Special Committees

X. Recognition of former board members

A. Dr. Robin Throne & Avalyn Sternberg

Recommended motion: These former board members be given the title "Honorary Midwest Writing Center Members" for sharing their time, talent, and treasure to advance the mission of the Midwest Writing Center.

Recognition of volunteers--Bob Holliday, Lindsey Wheeler, Jodie Toohey

Collins Poetry Residency - Sal Marici and Dr. Robin Throne

Announcement of the Out Loud Poem of the Year

Drawing for door prizes including a full registration to David R. Collins Writers' Conference for those who are published in the Out Loud Anthology.

XV. Announcements and dates to remember

Please consider a Birdies for Charity Pledge for the Midwest Writing Center.

XVI. Adjournment to refreshments and social time

Refreshments and social time in the dining room

Program Committee continued

events throughout the six-county Quad City area. For its inaugural year, poet Salvatore Marici of Port Byron, IL did outstanding work throughout the month of October, leading workshops, giving readings and collaborating with print-maker Joseph Lappie on a limited-edition broadside. Sal also curated a community-based online poetry journal which featured many excellent poets from the region, including our 2010 Great River Writers' Retreat participants Paul Brooke and Ann Hudson. The next Collins Poetry Residency will take place in April 2012, and we want to thank Salvatore Marici and Dr. Robin Throne, who developed the Residency, for setting the bar high for the next poet. For the first time in 2010, under the direction of Dr. Throne, the Midwest Writing Center offered its Basics for Beginners workshop online. A partnership has now been developed with Black Hawk College and Scott Community College to offer this course in their academic catalogues.

Other highlights this year included the second installment of our Iron Pen Contest, in which contestants have 24 hours to generate a poem, essay or short story in response to a prompt. The 2010 Mississippi Valley Poetry Contest winner was *The Sinks* by Ryan Walsh, selected by Jennifer Perrine and published by our own MWC Press. While not a new program to the area, the Center collaborated with the Davenport Public Library and for the first time hosted a Banned Books Reading in September. The MWC also offered a novel writing series of workshops led by Kim Ostrom and Susan Carroll. A total of 16 people participated in the six-week series.

Our annual Young Emerging Writers Summer Internship Program, the Children's Literature Festival and the David R. Collins Writers Conference all had strong years and continue into the future.

In addition to the programs I've already mentioned, the MWC offered two Pen in Hand mini-conferences in the spring and fall, 7 weekend workshops, 4 brown bag lunches in the summer months, 11 Out Loud and 8 Beat Poetry readings, and the list goes on. I want to thank all the members of the committee for all of their hard work over the past year: Sarah Gardner, Susan Collins, Sal Marici, Rochelle Murray, Dr. Robin Throne, Jodie Toohey, Brenda Brown, Kristin Abraham and Lindsey Wheeler. I also want to close by thanking all of our donors, sponsors and grantors who make our robust slate of programs possible.

Ryan Collins, Program Committee Chair

Publicity Committee

In the past year, the committee has taken on a variety of tasks to help strengthen the Midwest Writing Center's promotional and marketing needs. From creating a premise statement to implementing a media response policy, the committee has worked to improve the marketing functions of the Center.

Marketing plan

Working with consultant Teresa LaBella, the committee helped create marketing plans for the Center's events. The marketing plans offer a basic template of what marketing activities should be carried out for each event. The plans also dictate who should carry out the various tasks, removing confusion and redundancy from our marketing procedures.

Media response policy

The committee created a media response policy for the Center. The policy details who is able to speak to the media on behalf of the Midwest Writing Center. It also contains a crisis communications section, describing who would communicate to the media and the public in the event of a crisis. This policy is important to ensure a timely response to media inquiries in the event of a crisis.

Premise statement

Working with the board, the committee created the following premise statement for the center: *The Midwest Writing Center helps writers develop their craft, find audiences and establish a writing community where they can learn and grow in a supportive environment. Through public readings, workshops, critique groups, contests, publications and partnerships, the Center enriches the community with its emphasis on literary arts and education.*

The statement is a short elevator speech volunteers and members of the Center can use when describing the organization. It is also the key statement the Center should promote and circle back to when talking to the media.

In the next year, the committee hopes to carry out the marketing plans, improve the Midwest Writing Center's website, and continue to strengthen the Center's marketing activities.

Rebecca McKanna, Publicity Committee Chair

Advancement Committee

This year we received \$44,780.00 in grants and sponsorships. Interest generated from the endowment fund amounted to \$1,670.00 to aid with operational costs. Memorial contributions amounting to \$330.00 went to the endowment fund.

In March, we had the 30th anniversary celebration of the Midwest Writing Center's Literary Awards Banquet held at the Outing Club. Trinity Lutheran Church Endowment gave money for our keynote speaker, Cecil Murphey. A \$1,499.00 profit was made at the banquet and went to support the Young Emerging Writers program.

One of our major events continues to be the David R. Collins Writers' Conference sponsored by Modern Woodmen of America and the St. Ambrose University-English Department. Any remaining funds after expenses goes to operational costs and programming.

The Riverboat Development Authority funded the David R. Collins Children's Literature Festival. It drew well over 500 people to the RiverCenter in October. Also, the Davenport Public Library was a major partner. Any remaining funds after expenses will help with the planning of the 2011 event.

In August, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans helped sponsor a luncheon with Janet Martin, well-known author and speaker. She spoke to 100 people at a luncheon held at the Radisson. Any money left over after expenses went to Young Emerging Writers and YEW Camp.

The Davenport Scottish Rite gave \$1,000 for youth and other programming. Also, Quad-City Arts-Art Dollar\$ gave \$1,800 and the Mel McKay Trust gave \$1,500 to Young Emerging Writers.

We also received a \$2,750 grant from the Scott County Regional Authority that will enable us to reprint David Collins' biography of Bix Beiderbecke for middle school students.

We participated with Birdies for Charity and received \$3,614.00. Again this year, as an incentive, anyone who pledged \$50.00 or more the person received a one year individual MWC membership or had the membership extended by twelve months.

We continued to sell gently used and new books on Amazon.com. We partnered with Barnes and Noble for a holiday book signing with six authors. Proceeds went to purchase new books by local authors for MWC's collection.

Memberships have reached over 220. We are still looking for ways to attract younger people. A Bohemian Ball held in the fall introduced new people from all over the area to MWC. A small profit was made after expenses. We hope to have another Ball in 2011.

We were awarded money for operational support from the Illinois Arts Council which is necessary for us to offer outstanding programming. Also, we received a programming grant from the Riverboat Development Authority.

I want to thank members of the committee...Susan Collins, Shea Doyle, Nancy Hayes, Georgia Miller, Robin Throne and Lindsey Wheeler for their dedication to help make this year a success.

Rochelle Murray, Advancement Committee Chair

Program Committee

The Midwest Writing Center enjoyed another successful year of programming in 2010. I would like to extend our gratitude to the staff, volunteers, MWC board and program committee members who contributed to the success of our programs and the furthering of our mission. Thanks to their time, talents and efforts, I am thrilled to report that over 3,000 people participated in our programs in 2010.

One new addition this year deserves special mention: the Collins Poetry Residency, which supports community-based poetry by featuring a regional poet in a series of

Continued on next page.



Bohemian Ball



Young Emerging Writers 2010



Banned Books Reading

Treasurer's Report

Receipts and Disbursements For The Year Ended 12/31/10

| | Income | Expenses | Net |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| General Operating Fund: | | | |
| Contributions: | | | |
| Dues & Memberships | \$8,461.20 | | \$8,461.20 |
| Birdies for Charity-Net After Memberships | \$618.78 | | \$618.78 |
| Other Contributions | \$3,485.61 | | \$3,485.61 |
| General In-Kind Service Contributions | \$108,459.06 | \$108,459.06 | \$0.00 |
| Noncash Contributions | \$903.25 | \$903.25 | \$0.00 |
| Grants & Sponsorships-General | \$8,135.00 | | \$8,135.00 |
| Other General Operating Income | \$10,362.10 | | \$10,362.10 |
| Payroll Related Expenses | | \$21,895.61 | (\$21,895.61) |
| Facility Expenses | | \$6,651.41 | (\$6,651.41) |
| Other General Expenses | | \$5,806.42 | (\$5,806.42) |
| Total General Operating Fund | \$140,425.00 | \$143,715.75 | (\$3,290.75) |

Specific Purpose Operating Funds:

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Mississippi Valley Poetry Contest | \$3,031.00 | \$2,473.05 | \$557.95 |
| Writing Workshops | \$9,680.10 | \$4,571.47 | \$5,108.63 |
| Literary Award Banquet | \$10,834.46 | \$10,765.92 | \$68.54 |
| Children's Literary Festival | \$11,548.86 | \$8,772.39 | \$2,776.47 |
| Young Emerging Writers | \$5,790.00 | \$4,565.92 | \$1,224.08 |
| Collins Writing Conference | \$11,576.49 | \$8,680.78 | \$2,895.71 |
| Poetry Anthology Project | \$421.00 | \$372.83 | \$48.17 |
| Pen In Hand Conference | \$1,645.00 | \$694.35 | \$950.65 |
| Mississippi Valley Chapbook Contest | \$1,408.50 | \$797.01 | \$611.49 |
| Richard Collins Book Project | \$21.00 | \$10.50 | \$10.50 |
| RDA Marketing Grant | \$0.00 | \$1,648.81 | (\$1,648.81) |
| Collins Poetry Residency | \$1,207.12 | \$668.43 | \$538.69 |
| IA Culture Trust Grant | \$2,500.00 | \$2,484.00 | \$16.00 |
| Iron Pen Contest | \$650.00 | \$94.19 | \$555.81 |
| Great River Writer's Retreat | \$1,890.00 | \$1,061.70 | \$828.30 |
| QC Book Fair | \$3,550.00 | \$3,409.92 | \$140.08 |
| SCRA Bix Grant | \$0.00 | \$25.00 | (\$25.00) |
| Bohemian Ball | \$5,969.00 | \$6,548.56 | (\$579.56) |
| YEW Camp | \$2,000.00 | \$200.00 | \$1,800.00 |
| MWC Press | \$750.00 | \$75.00 | \$675.00 |
| Reserve Fund Investment Income | \$2,211.73 | | \$2,211.73 |

Endowment Fund:

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Endowment Fund Contributions Received | \$2,120.00 | | \$2,120.00 |
| Endowment Fund Investment Income | \$8,147.83 | | \$8,147.83 |
| Endowment Fund Transfer to GO | | \$1,670.00 | (\$1,670.00) |
| Total Endowment Fund | \$10,267.83 | \$1,670.00 | \$8,597.83 |

| | | | |
|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Total | \$227,377.09 | \$203,305.58 | \$24,071.51 |
|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--------------------|
| Cash Balance-Beginning | | | \$99,092.61 |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--------------------|

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--|--|---------------------|
| Cash Balance-Ending | | | \$123,164.12 |
|----------------------------|--|--|---------------------|

| | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|--------------------|
| First Midwest Bank | | | \$51,097.73 |
|---------------------------|--|--|--------------------|

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--|--------------------|
| Robert W. Baird & Co. | | | \$20,180.66 |
|----------------------------------|--|--|--------------------|

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--------------------|
| Endowment Fund @ Community Foundation | | | \$51,885.73 |
|--|--|--|--------------------|

| | | | |
|--------------|--|--|---------------------|
| Total | | | \$123,164.12 |
|--------------|--|--|---------------------|

President's Report 2010



YEW Writing Workshop

Dear Members:

It is a pleasure once again to report to you that 2010, our 30th anniversary, was both a successful and prosperous year for us. We continue to grow in members, programs, sponsors, and donors.

Each year as I prepare this report, I am amazed at what has been accomplished and very proud of those who have done this wonderful work. Thank you seems very inadequate.

Highlights of 2010 include:

- Hosted a successful Literary Awards Banquet with author, Cecil Murphey, as the featured speaker
- Increased the number entries to our national Mississippi Valley Poetry Chapbook contest
- Helped organize and support the first Quad City Book Fair for 40 authors from Illinois and Iowa at the River Music Experience
- Offered our first online workshops in creative writing. We also partnered with Black Hawk College and Scott Community College to make these available to our community.
- Held our fifth national David R. Collins Writers' Conference at St. Ambrose University
- Held the Young Emerging Writers' internship program for the fifth year producing the largest literary journal in the program's history. An award was established for the creator of the program, Tim Curry.
- Hosted author, Janet Martin, the co-creator of the Church Basement Ladies plays. She presented at the Radisson to a sold out audience of 100 people from all over Western Illinois and Eastern Iowa.
- Offered the first Collins Poetry Residency
- Held the second successful David R. Collins Children's Literature Festival at the River Center with 534 attending
- Increased our programming during Bucktown's Final Friday's to include Iron Pen Awards night, board member open reading night, banned books reading, and a horror writers book signing.
- Established an online freelance directory to showcase local freelance writers, illustrators, photographers, and graphic designers
- Published four publications—*The Atlas*, *Off Channel*, *Out Loud Anthology*, and the winning chapbook, *Broken Plums on the Sidewalk* by Meghan Brinson through MWC Press
- Held the first Bohemian Ball
- Received a literacy award from the Bi-State Literacy Council
- Increased Lindsey's number of paid working hours
- Partnered with Augustana to have a summer intern, Margaret Foley
- Partnered with River Music Experience, Scott County Reads Together, Venus Envy, St. Ambrose University, Bettendorf Library, Davenport Public Library, Barnes and Noble, and WQPT
- Participated and continue to assist with Experience Quad Cities
- Nominated Susan Collins for Quad City Caring Award and received \$1,000 from the Community Foundation of the Great River Bend
- Offered the Mississippi Valley Poetry Contest and Great River Writers' Retreat, Beat Poetry, Out Loud, Brown Bag lunches, monthly workshops, book signings and launches
- Offered a genre writing series of workshops led by Kim Ostrom and Susan Carroll
- Hosted Writers' Studio and a Christian Writers Critique Group
- Recorded over 3,000 instances of service
- Offered 271.5 hours of programming
- Received over \$44,000 in grants and sponsorships



Dr. Frech teaching at the Writers' Conference

President's Report continued

- Paid nearly \$11,000 to local and regional writers/artists/teachers to share their talents with our members and community
- Logged over 4,500 volunteer hours knowing many more hours went unrecorded

Most of these accomplishments would not have been possible without the support of wonderful grantors and sponsors like Modern Woodmen of America, St. Ambrose University's English department, Melvin McKay Trust, Fidler Doubleday, Quad City Arts- Arts Dollar\$, Community Foundation of the Great River Bend, Riverboat Development Authority, Dr. Nicolas Shammass & the Cardiovascular Medicine PC., Illinois Arts Council, Iowa Cultural Trust, Scott County Regional Authority, Davenport Scottish Rite, Thrivent Financial, Trinity Lutheran Church Foundation, and 918studio.



The Atlas Launch Party

Our website continues to be a major source of information about the organization and our programs. We receive several hundred hits per month. Our members and donors are listed on our website, and we continue to receive memorial contributions which are recognized on the website and contributed to our endowment fund. Our endowment fund provides annual operating support.

The following goals were set to be achieved in a two year period beginning January 1, 2010 and ending December 31, 2011.

To increase our endowment by 6%

To create a database of our resources online directory of fee-based vendor services completed

To have membership and donations fund at least 10% of all annual expenses

To have funding in place to support existing programs and ongoing operations

To have funding sources in place to hire a part-time development professional and retain a three quarter-time administrative/programming assistant

Funding and operational resources are identified and secured for new programs to attract younger and more diversified audiences

Due to the hard work of many, I am happy to report that we exceeded the goal of increasing our endowment by 3%. The database is finished. We raised over \$7,500 in membership donations. We ended our year with a cash balance. We have made progress in attracting more diversified audiences. We are working on completing the 6% increase in endowment and seeking funding for more staff time.

Sadly we lost one of our long time and faithful board members, Avalyn Sternberg. We welcomed Dr. Trish Nelson back to our board in 2010. We are grateful for the leadership and hard work our board members provide.

None of the growth and quality of our programming, or our fundraising would have been possible if we were not blessed with wonderful members, a supportive board, and very dedicated volunteers. Thank you all very much.

What about the future? We still have a goal to increase paid staff and volunteers to meet the needs of our members and community. If you are not a volunteer, please consider becoming one. The future is bright for the Midwest Writing Center with continued growth in programming, members, support, and visibility. Our mission *Fostering Appreciation of the Written Word, Supporting and Educating Its Creators* remains at the heart and of our thoughts and actions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Collins - President, Board of Directors



Pen in Hand Writing Conference



Sal Marici teaches a workshop during the Collins Poetry Residency