



Message From Laura Border, BWA President



Happy 2023 to members of the Boulder Writers Alliance!

2022 marched through time displaying incredible extremes at every level. We hope for smooth sailing in 2023 so we can continue to develop BWA and support our membership. Thus far, we have resumed some in-person meetings, while maintaining others online, and have integrated hybrid meetings for others because our purchase of the OWL has allowed us to do so.

Successful BWA activities for 2022 include:

- Introducing the BWA online newsletter. Kudos to Ryal Woods for her work on the newsletter.
- Our Off-the-Shelf Book Club for technical writers is up and running thanks to the efforts of Kit Brown-Hoekstra.
- Writers Who Read has grown and prospered due to the genius of Gary Alan McBride.
- The BWA Poetry Circle has connected poets not only from the Boulder area but across the state and from coast to coast. Our poets show so much talent that we are considering the possibility of publishing an anthology of poetry.
- Our Critique Groups have prospered under the spirited mentorship of Caitlin Berve.
- Our Happy Hours have brought in more members and generated interest in exploring local watering holes thanks to social expertise of the always cheerful Eben Johnson.
- We have appreciated the service of Phil Tobias on the BWA Steering Committee, and are grateful to Phil for continuing to moderate email and post job opportunities for writers.

End-of-year elections resulted in the re-election of Laura Border as president, the re-election of Jara Raphaelson as treasurer, and the election of Eben Johnson as vice president.

It is clear from participation in BWA that the Boulder area has a vibrant community of writers. Our "unpaid members" on Meet Up number more than 650 individuals. We use the Meet Up platform to advertise BWA activities and register participants in our online and in-person sessions. Please be sure to sign up on Meet Up before attending an online or in-person BWA workshop or social event.

The paid members of BWA consist of serious professional and amateur writers who understand the benefits of belonging to a professional organization. For a regular membership fee of only \$60 per year, members have access to the internal BWA website, the opportunity to list their profiles and job interests, and access to online workshops. Writers who are students or retired pay a reduced fee of \$20.

Given the evident interest in Boulder Writers Alliance activities, I would like to encourage more participation in the leadership of the organization. Currently, we are in need of a Membership Chair and a Technology Chair. Members of the leadership team attend one-hour online meetings once a month, and perform the necessary duties of their role throughout the year. We will also be needing a new president beginning in 2024, as I prefer to make 2023 my last year of service.

If you would like to build your leadership skills, contribute to the organization, develop a network of talented individuals, and grow your own professional skills, contact Laura Border at president@bwa.org.

Laura L. B. Border, BWA President