

Membership Qualifications

California Writers Club, and so Redwood Writers, is an association of professional writers. CWC Policies and Procedures state that the membership of each branch must maintain a minimum of 51% published authors. This is to create a mentorship and fulfill the mission of the club: **“Educating writers of all levels of expertise in the craft of writing and the marketing of their work.”**

There are four categories of membership: **Active, Associate, Student and Supporting.**

Active Members are those whose works have been submitted to an editorial selection process at some point in their publication. This holds true for all written works, whether produced in print as a book, or electronically as an e-book or an online publication. The key for Active Member qualification is professional level work, screened and reviewed by other professionals. Most often this status is achieved by publication with a royalty publisher, writers’ work having been selected by editors and eligible for royalties.

Associate Members are those writers who submit writing samples of quality and who are currently seeking publication as professional writers.

Student Members are writers from the ages of eight to twenty-two, or anyone who is a full-time student at an accredited educational institution. Student members are not eligible to vote or hold office at the branch or state level.

Supporting Members are those who want to support the branch, but are not interested in a writing career. These members are entitled to the same privileges and benefits of Active and Associate members, except that they may not vote or hold office at the branch or state level. These memberships are limited to three consecutive years.

Lifetime membership. Active members in good standing may qualify for Life Membership by paying membership dues in a lump sum. See Redwood Writers home page for the Centennial life Membership discount.

California Writers Club Policies and Procedures

Active members are writers who produce fiction, nonfiction, poetry, plays or other creative writing of quality and meet the following minimum production requirements:

1. A fiction writer, nonfiction writer, poetry writer, and/or a photojournalist shall have had a book published by a [royalty] publisher within the past ten years, or a book currently under contract, or publications or acceptance within the three years of **not less than three stories, articles, or columns in a periodical or periodicals of general circulation.**
2. A writer of stage plays, screenplays, radio plays, television plays, or videos, shall have had a publication, performance, production, or production in development within the past ten years.
3. A branch **may consider** a self-publisher or writer who publishes his materials under his own imprint eligible for membership. **The branch accreditation committee shall use the following criteria to judge the submitted material:**
 - a. Professional presentation of writing style
 - b. Professional presentation as to style
 - c. Plans for distributing published materials
 - d. In addition, the branch accreditation committee **shall reserve the right to determine if the quality of the publication meets the high standards of professional writing.** This evaluation deals only with the standard of writing and not with the genre or content.

4. A branch **may consider** a self-publisher or writer who publishes his material electronically for membership. The branch accreditation committee shall use the following criteria to judge submitted material:
 - a. Professional presentation of writing style
 - b. Professional presentation as to graphics
 - c. In addition, the branch accreditation committee shall reserve the right to determine if the quality of the publication meets the high standards of professional writing. This evaluation deals only with the standard of writing and not with the genre or content.

The Central Board of the CWC recognizes that the publishing world is changing. It is more difficult than ever to be published by a “publisher of standing” and the quality of self-published books runs the gamut from extremely good to extremely poor.

First, Redwood Writers will establish an accreditation committee, consisting of three Active club members whose job it is to review requests/applications and published material submitted by new members who wish to qualify for Active membership and by those members wishing to move from Associate to Active status. Two out of three committee members must agree that the work is a) sufficient in quantity and b) of professional quality before said member may be classified as Active.

Criteria:

A member may gain Active status:

1. By publishing a book with a royalty publisher within the last ten years.
OR
2. By presenting a self-published book to the committee and having two committee members agree that the work meets professional standards, or by presenting self-published books that have received awards or won contests post-publication within the last ten years.
OR
3. By having a manuscript chosen and published by the joint venture of Redwood Writers and Unlimited Publishing.
OR
4. By having at least one stage play, screenplay, radio play, television play or video published, performed, produced or in production development within the last ten years.
OR
5. By presenting a combination of at least three publication credits from sources which have a screening/editing process and a general circulation:
 - A. articles, essays, short stories or poems in traditional print media such as the *Santa Rosa Press Democrat* or other news outlets
 - B. short stories, poems, essays published in an online anthology, ‘zine or established blog (such as the Huffington Post) or website (such as salon.com)
 - C. Winning a juried contest for a novel, short story, poem, or essay after review by the Accreditation Committee
6. Publication in the Redwood Writers anthology *Vintage Voices* **AND** two other publication credits as described in #5.