

Steve Kistulentz

Campaign Statement

I am seeking the opportunity to serve as Vice Chair for the South Region of AWP. I view this opportunity as a chance for service to the profession (and the professional organization) that has served me well, as well as in the hopes that I can serve as an advocate for the needs of a broader coalition of creative writing students.

Low residency programs like the one I formerly directed draw a much larger proportion of nontraditional students; our student population includes retirees, former and current soldiers, working schoolteachers, and other professionals from various fields, all of whom face the distinct challenge of balancing another career with their writing avocation. Like our Southeast Regional representative, I've identified ways in which AWP and its member programs can better serve these constituent groups.

If I am chosen to serve, I bring a variety of administrative and professional experience from both my academic career as well as my previous seventeen years of experience working for various nonprofit political advocacy groups as a public affairs consultant. Those skills, particularly in the area of promotion and marketing, would be valuable support to the many aspects of AWP's mission.

Finally, I would add a personal note. I was fortunate as a very young apprentice writer to be mentored by the late George Garrett, who was instrumental in the early days of AWP. It was George who instilled in me the idea that with this career comes a responsibility to serve as a mentor and role model, and it is his example that I try to emulate daily in my classroom and in my administrative work. It would be a great honor to live up to his example in service of AWP's members.

Biographical Note

Steve Kistulentz is the author of two collections of poetry, *Little Black Daydream* (2012) and *The Luckless Age* (2010). His narrative nonfiction—mostly on the subject of popular culture—has appeared widely in journals. His honors include the Benjamin Saltman Award for *The Luckless Age*, as well as fellowship support from Writers at Work, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and an individual award from the Mississippi Arts Commission. He has taught at the Johns Hopkins University; the University of Iowa where he was the Joseph and Ursil Callan Scholar; the Florida State University, where he was an Edward and Marie C. Kingsbury Fellow for Excellence in Thought; and Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi. He earned a BA in English from the College of William and Mary, an MA from the Johns Hopkins University, an MFA from the Iowa Writer's Workshop, and a PhD from the Florida State University.