



Association of Writers
& Writing Programs

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: awppr@awpwriter.org

November 29, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP) Board of Directors Elects Officers and Sets Goals for Fiscal Year 2022

RIVERDALE PARK, MD – The Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP) held its Fall 2021 board meeting November 4–6 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in preparation for the 2022 AWP Conference & Bookfair. New members of the board were able to meet with the full board in person for the first time.

The board reviewed the report and projections provided by the finance & audit committee and approved the FY22 annual budget. The conference committee updated the board on the progress, changes, and COVID-19 precautions for the upcoming conference & bookfair. Board members and senior staff discussed prioritizing staffing and website needs and setting goals to better serve the membership and the writing community at large while maintaining a sustainable revenue stream.

In an executive session on Friday, November 5, 2021, the full board unanimously elected officers. Kathleen Driskell of Spalding University was reelected as board chair. January Gill O’Neil of Salem State University and Mimi Herman of Writeaways were retained as vice chairs, and attorney and policy analyst Bruce Saul was retained as treasurer. Kris Bigalk of Normandale Community College was elected secretary.

2021–2022 AWP Board of Directors

Kathleen Driskell

Term: 2018–2022

Office: Chair

Region: Mid-Atlantic Council Chair; kdriskell@spalding.edu

Affiliation: Spalding University

January Gill O'Neil

Term: 2015–2023

Office: Vice Chair

Affiliation: Salem State University & University of Mississippi

Mimi Herman

Term: 2019–2023

Office: Vice Chair

Region: WC&C Council Chair; mimiherman@gmail.com

Affiliation: Writeaways

Bruce H. Saul

Term: 2020–2024

Office: Treasurer

Affiliation: Attorney & Policy Analyst

Kris Bigalk

Term: 2017–2025

Office: Secretary

Affiliation: Normandale Community College

Regina Brooks

Term: 2019–2023

Affiliation: Serendipity Literary Agency

Sumita Chakraborty

Term: 2021–2025

Affiliation: University of Michigan

Jenny Yang Cropp

Term: 2021–2025

Region: Southwest Council Chair; jcropp@semo.edu

Affiliation: Southeast Missouri State University

James Tate Hill

Term: 2021–2025

Affiliation: Author & Editor

Jeff Kleinman

Term: 2019–2023

Affiliation: Folio Literary Management

Kenyatta Rogers

Term: 2020–2024

Affiliation: Chicago High School for the Arts

Stephanie Vanderslice

Term: 2019–2023

Region: Southern Council Chair; stephv@uca.edu

Affiliation: University of Central Arkansas

Dan Vera

Term: 2019–2023

Affiliation: Author & Poet

Judy Wilson

Term: 2021–2025

Region: Midwest Council Chair; judy.wilson@smsu.edu

Affiliation: Southwest Minnesota State University

Cheryl Woodruff

Term: 2020–2024

Affiliation: BookMavericks

The mission of the Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP) is to amplify the voices of writers and the academic programs and organizations that serve them while championing diversity and excellence in creative writing.