

**Michigan Writing Centers Association (MiWCA) Board Meeting**  
**October 21, 2017**  
**Oakland University, Rochester MI**

**Present:**

Jacob Blumner (UMD), Leah Bublitz (MCC), Vicky Dawson(UMD), Pat Johnson (GVSU), Dan Lawson (Central), Kate Lutes (MCC), Darryl Mangles(LCC), Sherry Wynn Perdue (OU), Ann Porter (Alma), Jill Reglin (LCC), Lori Rogers (Central)

S.W. Perdue called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm.

S. W. Perdue shared a little information about this year's conference:

- 113 attendees
- food partially donated from Applebee's
- Bedford donated \$100
- McDonald's donated apple pies
- Local farmers donated pumpkins

S.W. Perdue commented that the conference still ended up spending money, but gave props to Ashley, as it's hard to get people to give things away. She hasn't yet run the budget, but we have money.

Discussion of a possible 2-3 day summer institute for Two-Year College Writing Center directors and professionals

- J. Reglin introduced the idea of an institute similar to the IWCA institute.
- She remarks that needs are different in Two-Year Colleges.
- She has sent out the proposal to IWCA, ECWCA, and MiWCA. IWCA didn't have the money but expressed that the money they give should support everyone in the organization
- S.W. Perdue expressed that ECWCA is interested in the Institute
- Perhaps because MiWCA saved money on food, part of that money can go to the summer institute
- J. Reglin will put to the board to see if there will be funding and suggested hosting at LCC
- J. Reglin expressed that there is a lot of strong leadership in Michigan and reminded everyone that the Praxis December issue will be all community college articles.

S.W. Perdue described some issues with the conference this year:

- there were problems with the portal, only 56 people registered Monday which doubled by Thursday

At this point, meeting attendees belatedly all introduced themselves.

The 2016 minutes were approved, though this substitute secretary seems to have not written down who made the motion and who approved it, distracted as she was by the hot pink paper.

- S.W. Perdue suggested transitioning MiWCA materials to Wix (\$13/mo) from Google Docs
- S.W. Perdue expressed that A. Cerku is willing to help maintain the website
- P. Johnson was fine with this and suggested that it can be turned over to UM Flint when they need it so they can customize it. The only thing UM Flint would need to control is how to get the money

- It was expressed that it is easier to keep an archive if our conference page is a part of the website.
- It was agreed that it takes time to change a culture. We've been a just conference in the past, but people want more.
- S.W. Perdue offered A. Cerku's assistance with the website. P. Johnson made a motion to nominate A. Cerku Web Manager, seconded by J. Blumner. All were in favor.

S.W. Perdue gave fiscal report

- MiWCA currently has about \$3500, but was proud to give 2 \$300 scholarships to students who came from MiWCA, did more research, then went to ECWCA.
- MiWCA is now an official 501C3, as IWCA requires
- S.W. Perdue will email everybody once she has the final figures what the conference earned and what we have

The absence of K. Ballard and L. Noakes were remarked upon and lamented.

### 2018 Officers

J.Blumner / V. Dawson -- Co-Presidents  
 S.W. Perdue- Past President/Treasurer  
 C. Giroux -- Secretary  
 A. Cerku -- Web Manager (In Absentia)

S.W. Perdue suggested a special day or pre-conference for directors/new directors to talk about needs as directors and share resources A. Porter mentioned that the conference is affordable to bring lots of consultants because it's not two days. D. Lawson reminded the group of the Zoom discussions that ECWCA was doing, suggesting something like that ahead of MiWCA with a meeting during the conference. S.W. Perdue suggested Zoom discussions for writing center directors with different topics and hosts each time. This could also be a good opportunity to mentor people for High School writing centers. P. Johnson agreed with concept of making more community but brought up the trouble of logistics, suggesting a "director's day out," when directors might be in the area of another writing center director. D. Lawson recommended adding this as part of the Zoom sessions to see who will be where when. A. Porter wondered if an invitation to board meetings is useful for new admins. She suggested we provide coffee, which which this substitute secretary agreed.

J. Blumner gave the date of October 20th for MiWCA 2018 and asked if this is a good time for the meeting, at the end of the day. All agreed that it is. S.W. Perdue asked if the long lunch was good. Conversation naturally turned to the issue of chaos vs. order in the universe.

J. Blumner brought the group back to the treasury. He expressed that they have money and need to spend it, but will do their best to be revenue neutral. Conversation turned to possible scholarships for MiWCA 2018. K. Lutes suggested we continue to do scholarships or gas money for distance drivers to encourage more and more people to participate.

J. Blumner thought it may be too late to do scholarship for ECWCA, but recommends a two-year commitment for 4 \$150 scholarships for a total of \$1200. J. Blumner made a motion to commit \$1200 for next two years (600 each year) for ECWCA to send presenters from this conference to ECWCA. D. Lawsons seconded, and all were in favor.

K. Lutes suggested that CMU can be benchmark for travel grant amount. J. Blumner proposed \$200 for travel grants, P. Johnson countered with \$600 for travel grants, K. Lutes seconded, and all were in favor.

D. Lawson, as a native UPer, wants to lure them down here and asked if we could earmark money for UPers. P. Johnson suggested a travel grant, as many conferences offer. D. Lawson notes that we could email directors and lean on them to encourage them to come down here. J. Blumner wondered if it's worth coordinating an event for them specifically. S.W. Perdue suggested linked-up tech sessions together for those who may not be able to come. A. Porter proposes combining schools in UP to do teleconference.

S.W. Perdue mentioned that we missed out on funds from 26LLC, and recommended asking early. J. Blumner plans to ask by July.

P. Johnson proposes an MiWCA directors' facebook group, which is agreed to be A. Cerku's next project.

S.W. Perdue handed out more conference trackers which were supposed to be twice the size and encouraged everybody to take bananas and cereal bars, especially if they have a long drive.

J. Blumner brings up the need for a host for 2019. D. Lawson mentions that Central may be interested even though he's doing a sabbatical.

Meeting was adjourned.