

President's Report Saskatoon Writers' Coop AGM 2006

It has been my honour and privilege to serve as president of the Saskatoon Writers' Coop for the past year. The Writers' Coop is still young – now in its fifth year – but it has fast become a welcome and useful organization in our community. The goal of the Writers' Coop is to provide social and intellectual stimulation for writers in Saskatoon and surrounding area, and the past year has continued to build those strengths.

The range of events over the past term has been nothing short of dazzling. From one-day workshops to an 8-week course, from evening lectures to Open Mikes. We held a workshop on handmade books in conjunction with the Canadian Bookbinders and Book Artists Guild, and we hosted a Poetry Slam in co-sponsorship with 25th Street Theatre's Her-icane Festival. It was rewarding to be asked to participate with these organizations. It signals that the Writers' Coop is recognized and respected within this community.

These collaborations also indicate our growing desire to work with other groups which include the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild, the public library, the Craft Council, various arts institutions like the Mendel Art Gallery and even merchants – particularly those merchants who sell books and magazines, and assist in promoting our events to the community at large. I would also like to thank all our members who help make these events successful and fun, and thank the established writers and others who give their time to mentor and instruct.

I'd like to acknowledge the unwavering commitment of the members of our board. In no particular order, Jim Weseen, our meticulous Secretary and Web Editor. Karen Millard, Editor of our newsletter The Coop Scoop. Karen recently took over the job of Publicity Coordinator from Alma Wagner Roberts. Treasurer Janice Schmidt and Membership Coordinator Lorelie Sarauer. The Programming Committee was chaired by Sandy Easterbrook, and members of the committee included Adrienne Gruber, Belinda Betker and Joanne Blythe. Finally, the important task of registration was managed by Jeannette Lavigne, even when she was out of the country!

We are saying good-bye and thank you to four of those board members whose terms are ending tonight. They are Sandy, Alma, Jeannette and Belinda. We are also welcoming new board members, who you will meet as they are nominated later in the evening.

Our membership, as reported to me by Membership Coordinator Lorelie Sarauer, stands at 105. Membership forms are now being sent out with renewal letters, and are available on the Coop website as well.

We have one piece of business to take care of tonight, which is a small name change. When the Saskatoon Writers' Coop was formed, the word Saskatoon was left off the official documents with the province and the Credit Union. We are taking steps to fix that tonight. Our treasurer, Janice Schmidt, will explain that in her report.

I want to thank all of the volunteers who have helped with Coop events and activities during the past year. A special thanks goes to Beth Matheson, who in addition to helping out in many other ways also copies and mails every Coop Scoop to members who do not receive it by email.

Last but not least, I would like to thank, you, the members, and seek your input and suggestions to keep the Writers' Coop stimulating, fun and active in your life. What are you working on? What instruction or event could help you move forward? Would you like to link your website with ours? Would you like to sit on a committee or join the board? I know that writers are busy people as we struggle to find the personal time for writing amid all our other commitments, and sometimes a course deadline or a stimulating conversation can go a long way. I hope to see you all in print one day!

Amy Jo Ehman, President