

**Sent to 346 AWAC members on December 9, 2019**

Dear AWAC Member,

As the Association for Writing Across the Curriculum is nearing its first anniversary as a member-supported organization, it is a good time to reflect on our accomplishments and next steps.

During the first year, AWAC's Executive Board and Committees have been busy! Here is a list of some of our activities and next steps:

### **Developing the Organization**

- **AWAC has grown to 345 members**, including 20 [institutional members](#), 250 full-time professional members, 25 part-time/adjunct/retired members, and 49 graduate student members. For a list of these Founding Members, [click here](#).
- Spearheaded by Past Chair Jeff Galin, **AWAC became certified as a 501(c)(3)** in late November, and is retroactive to October, 2018, when we were incorporated as a FL non-profit corporation. This certification means that AWAC is exempt from federal income taxes and is able to receive tax-deductible donations. For more details on this certification, [click here](#). To make a financial contribution to AWAC, [click here](#).
- AWAC held its **first annual business meeting** at the 2019 CCCC in Pittsburgh. During this meeting, the Executive Committee provided an annual report and committees held small group discussions. To view the annual report, [click here](#).
- AWAC's **ten committees** have defined goals, drawn up proposals and budgets that were vetted by the Executive Board, and have worked toward achieving their goals. These committees each have a chair (or co-chairs) that sits on the Executive Board, and eight of the committees are open, meaning they may be joined by any AWAC member at any time. Their meeting minutes may be accessed by AWAC members through their [committee pages](#) on the AWAC website. At this point, 88 AWAC members participate on AWAC committees.
- Rather than start a new **WAC listserv**, we reached out to Paul Prior to ask if AWAC may point members to WAC-L, a listserv hosted by the University of Illinois Center for Writing Centers that has been an important forum for all things WAC since 1991. Paul warmly invites AWAC members to join WAC-L. For more information and to subscribe, [click here](#).
- Rather than attempt to replicate the vast treasure trove of WAC scholarship and materials available on the **WAC Clearinghouse**, a storehouse and publisher of open-access WAC resources since 1997, AWAC has coordinated with WAC Clearinghouse Founding Editor Michael Palmquist (who is also an AWAC Executive Board Member-at-Large) to link the AWAC website to the Clearinghouse and collaborate on promoting WAC research and access to materials. A link to the WAC Clearinghouse may be found in the Resources menu of the AWAC website and [here](#).

### **Key Committee Accomplishments**

- Led by the WAC Summer Institute Committee, AWAC held its first **Summer Institute** in June 2019. This three-day professional development event provided mentorship on developing impactful and sustainable WAC programs. By all accounts, it was a great success! The [2020 Summer Institute](#) will be held at Colorado State University from May 31-June 3. [Registration](#) opens on December 16 at 1:00 pm EST.
- Led by the WACSI Committee, a follow-up workshop to the WAC Summer Institute is being organized. This workshop will bring together past and current WACSI participants for

conversations about WAC assessment and research. This year's WACSI workshop will be held at IWAC on Thursday, June 4th at 9:00 am. Invitations will be sent after the WACSI 2020 registration closes. Registration details will soon be available on the [IWAC website](#).

- Led by the AWAC Mentoring Committee, **AWAC held two Virtual Workshops**, one geared toward WAC pedagogy and the other toward WAC program administration. Recordings of these webinars are available to members through the website. Two more Virtual Workshops are being planned for the spring.
- Led by the AWAC Mentoring Committee, **AWAC is assembling a Board of Consultants**. Consultant applications were collected and vetted in November, and the consultant list will soon be added to the AWAC website.
- Led by the Research and Publications Committee, AWAC is working on a set of **research grants**. A call for applications will go out in early spring and grant recipients will be announced at the 2020 International Writing Across the Curriculum conference (IWAC).
- Led by the WAC Graduate Organization (WAC-GO) Committee and Diversity & Inclusion Committee, AWAC is sponsoring **travel grants** to WAC-related events. AWAC offers IWAC 2020 registration waivers to graduate student members of AWAC and AWAC members from underrepresented groups. Further, AWAC offers a WACSI registration waiver to a graduate student member of AWAC. Calls for applications will go out in early spring.
- The Communications Committee has been working with a visual designer to create a new **logo**, is planning a **redesign of the AWAC website**, and is developing calls for the positions of **Website Manager** and **Social Media Coordinator**. Be on the watch for these position announcements!

### Outreach and Research

- In collaboration with the WAC Clearinghouse, AWAC is sponsoring a set of **awards that recognize contributions to WAC**. The Awards Subcommittee, led by AWAC Executive Board Member-at-Large William McCauley, Jr., and comprised of WAC Clearinghouse Board members and AWAC members, and will be seeking nominations soon.
- In collaboration with the WAC Clearinghouse, **AWAC members receive a 25% discount on print copies of books** co-published by the WAC Clearinghouse and the Colorado State University Open Press. [Click here for the catalogue](#). For the discount code, [click here](#).
- AWAC Executive Board members Chris Anson, Laurie Britt-Smith, Michelle Cox, Heather Falconer, Al Harahap, and Brian Hendrickson presented on the development of AWAC at the **2019 Critical Thinking and Writing Conference at Quinnipiac University**. [Click here](#) to view their slides.
- AWAC Working Group members Christopher Basgier, Michelle Cox, Heather Falconer, Jeff Galin, Al Harahap, Brian Hendrickson, Dan Melzer, Mike Palmquist, and Stacey Sheriff **co-authored a chapter on the formation of AWAC**, "The Formation of a Professional Organization for Writing Across the Curriculum," which is forthcoming in a collection on WAC co-edited by Lesley Bartlett, Sandra Tarabochia, Andrea Olinger, and Margaret Marshall.
- The **International Writing Across the Curriculum Conference (IWAC)** preceded AWAC by some 25 years, but 2020 marks the first year it is being held under the auspices of AWAC. We hope you can join us for [IWAC 2020](#) at Colorado State University from June 3-6. [Conference registration](#) is open and AWAC members receive a \$30 discount.

I would like to take a moment to thank members of the Executive Board and members of AWAC's ten committees for all of their work to develop this organization over the past year. Much of the labor is invisible--meetings with a CPA to file our taxes, meetings with a lawyer to prepare the 501(c)(3) application, committee meetings, website design, the creation of policies, processes, documentation--but critical to moving the organization forward. Together, they have created a strong foundation and promising future for AWAC.

Further, I would like to thank you: all of the institutions and individual members who together founded AWAC. It is brave to join an organization during its first year, as there is no proven track record, no indication that the investment will pay off, only hope and trust. Your hope and trust has kept the Executive Board and committee members motivated and energized. **We thank you.**

Finally, I would like to announce that we will be holding an election for the position of **Incoming Chair** at the end of January. This is a three-year commitment, as this person would cycle into the Chair and Past Chair positions. We are currently seeking nominations (including self-nominations). For information about nominations, [click here](#).

Thank you for a great first year of AWAC. I'm looking forward to an even better second year!

Sincerely, Michelle Cox, AWAC Chair

On behalf of the AWAC Executive Committee:

Jeff Galin, Past Chair

Stacey Sheriff, Incoming Chair

Justin Rademaekers, Secretary

Laurie Britt-Smith, Treasurer