ADVOCACY

The Guild’s mission is to actively support working writers and protect authors’ rights. Following are the projects your Guild has engaged in to support its members.

Lobbying Activities

CASE Act for a Small Claims Copyright Court
This year, we continued to lobby for the Copyright Alternative in Small-Claims Enforcement Act. Currently, authors and other creators have no practical way to enforce their rights, even in cases of clear infringement, because bringing litigation in federal court is so expensive—over $250,000 for even simple infringement cases. The bill, which has wide support in the House Judiciary Committee, would enable copyright owners to inexpensively bring a claim for infringement for damages of up to $15,000 per work infringed (or $30,000 total)—without having to hire a lawyer or travel to the closest Federal court. This tribunal will be helpful with respect to the infringement of articles or books, including internet book piracy cases, where damages sought to compensate for lost sales are within the $15,000 or $30,000 limits—lawsuits that most authors don’t even consider bringing now.

The bill gained additional sponsor support after the House Judiciary Committee hearing on September 27, 2018, and members of the House Judiciary Committee have committed to reintroduce the bill in the current Congress. The Authors Guild will continue to advise on any needed revisions to the bill and to work on its Senate counterpart, which is expected to be sponsored by Senate Judiciary Committee member Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA). We will also reach out to members for grassroots support on this bill if and when it goes to the full House and Senate.

NEA/NEH/IMLS Funding
Guild staff members visited a number of Senators and members of the House to argue against the administration’s efforts to eliminate NEA, NEH, and IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services) funding from the past two annual Federal budgets, and funding for these organizations has in fact been increased. In the future, we intend to seek additional funding for the NEA and IMLS.

Register of Copyrights Selection and Accountability Act of 2017
In this day and age, with the copyright industries comprising nearly 7% of the entire U.S. economy, it makes no sense for the Copyright Office to be subordinate to the Library of Congress. And yet it is. That’s why we lobbied, with other creator groups, in favor of a bill that would make the Register of Copyrights a presidential appointee, (to be confirmed by the Senate) who serves a 10-year term with the possibility of renewal. This would effectively remove the Copyright Office from under the thumb of the Library of Congress, whose interests don’t always align with those of the copyright community. The proposed new selection process would give the Copyright Office necessary independence from the Library’s administrative oversight, which, among other things, has hampered the modernization critical to the Copyright Office’s ability to function in the twenty-first century. The bill also would clarify that the
Copyright Office has a direct line of communication with Congress to advise it on copyright matters. This advisory capacity, provided for by the Copyright Act, has also been hindered under the current regime.

The House voted in favor of the bill in the last Congress, but it was held up in the Senate Rules Committee. When the Senate Rules Chairman was replaced last fall, it looked as if the bill was going to move forward, until Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) placed a “hold” on it, preventing it from proceeding any further. Now that we are in a new Congress, the bill will have to be reintroduced in both houses. We will reach out to members for grassroots support if and when it goes to the full House and Senate, and may contact Oregon members before that if Senator Wyden continues to block the bill, to ask them to lobby on the local level.

**Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act**
The Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act (MTIA), was enacted into law on October 10, 2018. The Marrakesh Treaty creates minimum national standards for limitations and exceptions to copyright laws for the benefit of the visually impaired, which were already present in the U.S. copyright law. The MTIA codifies those aspects of the MTIA that were not expressly in our law, including allowing certain authorized entities to export and import works in accessible formats between the U.S. and other signers of the treaty. The Association of American Publishers led the efforts on the legislation on behalf of the rights holders, and actively consulted us on all major issues. A special shout out to Allan Adler, General Counsel of AAP, for all his work on the bill.

While we have been very active on the Hill in support of specific pieces of legislation, we have also met with members of Congress to make them aware of the plight of authors today.

In addition, we have been active in all relevant Copyright Office proceedings as well as the FTC’s inquiry on intellectual property and the internet; and we have spoken at the USPTO and other government agencies to educate them about issues authors currently face.

**State-Based Lobbying**
We also engage in lobbying on the state level as issues arise. After a California court limited who could be designated a freelancer in Dynamex Operations West Inc. v. Superior Court of Los Angeles, freelance writers and journalists started losing out on work opportunities in California. We have been communicating and working with 17 other national and California-based creator groups and drafted an open letter and reached out to local legislators to clarify the ruling so that legitimate freelance writers who wish to remain freelancers may can continue to do so, rather than being deemed employees.

In New York, we have been successful in removing books and journalism from recent drafts of a bill intended to expand the right of publicity. Authors writing about real people should not have to be concerned about getting sued for violating publicity rights. Since these laws are based on state law, not federal law, our advocacy on this issue must be done at the state level. The bill has not yet passed, but, text-based works are clearly exempted by the proposed bill.

**New Legislative Priorities**
Some of these issues (such as advocating for a public lending right and antitrust exemptions) are long-term advocacy goals for which we intend to start laying the groundwork; that way, when there is a more politically welcoming environment, our proposals will be ready and our supporters will be prepared to argue in favor of corresponding legislation.

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1 We have recently publicized our legislative priorities for 2019: https://www.authorsguild.org/where-we-stand/our-top-legislative-priorities-116th-congress/
**Internet Archive/Open Library**
The Internet Archive’s Open Library e-lending efforts have grown over the past year, and our efforts to combat them have expanded accordingly. They now claim that their practice of full-text scanning and e-lending of copyrighted books without authorization is permissible under a recently invented legal theory known as “Controlled Digital Lending”, as detailed in a white paper written by academics and anti-copyright activists. We have posted a brief rebuttal of this white paper and have been consulting with other copyright experts about issuing an academic paper in response to correct the false impressions created by this white paper (which does not even mention authors). We have advised our members about Open Library’s practices, and have instructed them on how to see if their books are available for e-lending on the site without their consent and, if so, how to send a takedown notice. We remain in close communication with the Association of American Publishers and national and international authors’ groups to discuss next steps on how best to deal with this ongoing infringement.

**DMCA Safe Harbors**
Ebook piracy has grown exponentially in the last year or two. One potential way to combat internet piracy is through clarification and enforcement of Section 512 of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA). This section limits the liability of internet service providers (ISPs) for copyright infringement under a specific set of circumstances. But the courts, in a series of misguided opinions, leaned over backwards to protect ISPs and took all the teeth out of the qualifications for the safe harbors, and creators and other rights holders have been paying the price since. We are now stuck with a law that requires authors to send takedown notice after takedown notice while pirated copies just keep getting put back up; and ISPs have been allowed to take only the most minimal action to ward against copyright infringement. The Guild has taken part in roundtables and joint filings to bring its concerns to Congress’ attention, most recently through its recent comments on a U.S. Copyright Office–proposed regulation on another matter. In addition, we have discussed with Google how we can best work together to have pirating websites removed or lowered in Google search results. Pursuit of a legislative solution for this issue is one of our 2019 Legislative Priorities.

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The Guild has engaged in regular, active discussions with Amazon for over a year now. We take member complaints directly to the top of the publishing division and often see positive results. We also discuss our broader concerns, such as with the large number of books sold as “new” by resellers on Amazon, and the prominence they are given and the growing amount of piracy and scammers on Amazon.

While we continue to advocate against Amazon’s monopoly power, we have developed a productive working relationship with Amazon, especially on the specific issues brought to us by members and other authors, such as when buy-boxes are improperly granted to non-royalty copies of an author’s work; reviews are taken down or improper ones posted; when an author’s book is not available on Amazon; unpaid royalties; incorrect listings of books as “temporarily unavailable” or “out of stock,” which discourages consumers; sale of book “summaries,” which can harm the market for the real book; deletion of book reviews, which can lower a book’s rating; sale of counterfeit books through Amazon’s marketplace; unclear guidelines about the types of issues that are unsuitable for a review (i.e., pricing); and Amazon's policy of removing books from the site without giving authors prior notice or the opportunity to protest.

David Naggar, Vice President of Kindle Content, recently came to the Guild offices to meet with the Guild's council and the Foundation's board on issues of concern. The conversation focused largely on the need to amend Amazon’s definition of “new” for books, allocation of buy-boxes, and the upsurge of book scammers on the Amazon platform, or “cesspool” as our president James Gleick called it.

Free Speech/Freedom of the Press

This has been a year in which free speech and freedom of the press have been under attack. Twice last year, President Trump’s counsel sent letters demanding that publishers cease publication of books criticizing his presidency, and we issued statements in protest.3,4

In addition, we joined with PEN America to call for an independent investigation of the murder of journalist Jamal Kashoggi.

We issued a statement about the crisis caused by recent layoffs of journalists from Buzzfeed and other newsrooms—namely the potential deterioration of journalistic quality at a time when the need for quality journalism is at its highest, as well as the impact these layoffs have on the ability of writers to make a living.

Most recently, we sent a letter to the LA Times objecting to its proposed new policy to acquire copyright of any books written by staff that relate to work for the newspaper.

**Collaborative Free Speech Efforts**

We continue to work with other organizations to push back on censorship wherever we see it. We have signed onto more than 12 statements and letters organized by the National Coalition Against Censorship taking on censorship of books in schools and libraries.

We supported Banned Books Week again this year as we have in the past. We announce all of our various efforts and post them on our website, as well as in the newsletter and our Bulletins.

We also signed onto an amicus brief with Media Coalition in Prison Legal News v. Jones, a case in which the Florida prison system banned the publication Prison Legal News, in violation of the newsletter’s First Amendment right to free speech and a free press.

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4 https://www.authorsguild.org/industry-advocacy/authors-guild-statement-on-trumps-letter-to-simon-schuster/
Publishing Contracts

Translators’ Income Survey and Model Contract
We completed a survey of U.S. literary translators, in collaboration with the American Literary Translators Association, the American Translators Association’s Literary Division, and the PEN America Translation Committee. This survey collected information from 205 translators on issues such as payment, royalties, copyright, and various other aspects of the literary translation profession.\(^5\)

Model Contract
Our model contract and detailed commentary is out for review and we have a plan to roll out an “Authors Guild Friendly Contract” seal as a carrot to comply with certain provisions. In this way, we hope to continue our advocacy work by encouraging publishers to willingly adopt provisions and language that benefit authors. For example, if we were able to convince publishers to agree to provide more specific royalty statements (some specific terms are suggested in the model contract), that would be of tremendous help not only to our members but to any author that publisher signs; an “AGFC” seal might also be of some marketing and reputational value to publishers.

Morality Clauses in Publishing Contracts
We recently issued a statement objecting to publishers’ new and increasing use of so-called “morality clauses.” These contract provisions allow publishers to terminate a book contract—and in many cases even require the author to repay portions of the advance already received—if the author is accused of immoral, illegal, or publicly condemned behavior.

Other Copyright-Related Initiatives

ALI Restatement
The American Law Institute has undertaken the creation of a restatement of copyright law in which the project drafters have a noted anti-copyright bias and appear to be trying to radically change copyright law, choosing to write only the cases and parts of the law they like best, while also making new doctrines up out of whole cloth. Executive Director Mary Rasenberger serves as one of the advisors, in an effort to protect the interest of our members and other creators. In October 2018, she submitted a letter to ALI containing an extensive list of comments on the proposed draft of Chapters 1 and 2 and a strong recommendation that the draft not be approved. In early March 2019, she attended the annual meeting to provide comments on drafts of new chapters.

New Group Registration for Short Literary Works
The Authors Guild organized a meeting with the Copyright Office and several other author groups to convince them to create a new group registration for short literary works published online, (an essential extension of an existing group registration regulation); the Guild also advised the Office on how to structure the new regulation and coordinated comments on the proposal with the other author groups. The proposed new regulation would allow freelance writers to register up to 50 or 100 text-based works, including blogs, stories, articles, poems, etc., that were published in a three-month period in one registration for one fee. Currently most works published online need to be registered individually, with separate fees, making it far too expensive and cumbersome for most freelance journalists to bother registering their work. Copyright registration within three months of publication provides certain benefits, (including statutory damages and attorneys’ fees) if rights in the work are infringed.

On February 19, 2019, we filed comments\(^6\) on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. Once the regulation is in place, we will start assisting authors with filing applications for these group registrations.

\(^5\) https://www.authorsguild.org/industry-advocacy/glimpse-world-u-s-translators/

\(^6\) https://www.authorsguild.org/industry-advocacy/authors-guild-champions-new-group-registration-for-online-pieces/
$9 Million Paid to Freelancers, Resolving Suit Filed by Guild in 2000

In April, checks amounting to nearly $9.5 million were mailed to 2,494 freelance authors, drawing to an end a lawsuit originally filed in 2000 by the Authors Guild along with the American Society of Journalists and Authors, the National Writers Union, and 21 freelance authors and journalists. The class action suit was filed on behalf of freelancers who had been paid only for one-time use of their articles and saw their work swept into electronic databases such as LexisNexis without further compensation.

After long negotiation, a settlement was reached in 2005. But challenges kept the case in the courts for another decade. One of those came from a group of authors whose claims were treated separately because they had not registered their copyrights. The Supreme Court ruled unanimously in 2010 that the settlement could proceed, and those freelancers too received checks.

Final approval of the long-negotiated and much-revised settlement came in June, 2014. The payout was further delayed when publishers filed 41,000 objections for specific claims, which had to be resolved through investigation and more negotiation.

A few writers received payouts in the hundreds of thousands of dollars; the amounts depended on the original fees for each article and also, because of the technicalities of copyright law, whether and when the individual works at issue were registered with the Copyright Office.

Amicus Briefs

The Authors Guild retained counsel to write and shepherd the involvement of 12 other organizations in submitting an amicus brief in Fourth Estate v. Wallstreet.com, in which the Supreme Court argued that an author should be able to bring a copyright infringement lawsuit. The copyright law requires that a registration for copyright must be “made” before a lawsuit can be brought. The question this case raises is whether a registration is “made” after a copyright application has been filed, or only after the Copyright Office has issued a registration certificate. It is a distinction with a huge difference: it can take the Copyright Office a year or two to issue a registration. As we go to print, the Supreme Court issued its decision that actual registration or rejection by the Copyright Office is required to bring a lawsuit, but recognized that Congress needs to provide the Office with better funding so that it can act more quickly on registrations. In the meantime, the Guild will lobby the Office for reduced fees (now over $800) for expedited registration in anticipation of litigation.

Cockygate: Trademark in Book Series Titles

While single book titles cannot be claimed as trademarks (or copyrighted), series titles can serve as a trademark in certain instances, where it is capable of identifying a specific brand. Last year, a romance writer managed to obtain a trademark registration for the word “cocky” in connection with a series of romance books, effectively giving herself a monopoly over a term that is common in the genre. In addition to threatening other romance authors with potential trademark infringement lawsuits, she requested Amazon take down pages for other authors’ books because they used “cocky” in their titles, and Amazon initially complied because of the trademark registration. We became involved in this issue when the Romance Writers Association brought the matter to our attention, and we jointly retained counsel to defend our mutual member.

The purpose of this case was to help clarify the law that no author or publisher can assert a series title to prevent publication of a single book with a similar title and that works that are commonly used as titles in a genre cannot be claimed by one user by registering series titles. After seeing that trademark applications had been filed for similarly generic genre terms, we had a conference call with the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office to discuss how they might be able to discourage such filings and instruct examiners on how to investigate the use of such terms in the publishing industry (for example, by searching on Amazon). When the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers Association reached out to us for assistance after an author attempted to register a trademark for the word “quantum,” we were able to connect them with counsel to help attack that registration (this situation was quickly christened Quantumgate).
One of the biggest projects we undertook last year was conducting and compiling the data from our latest Author Income Survey, which we issued publicly on January 7, 2019. In light of increased competition for readers and the continuing decline in income streams, such as royalties for academic use, book advances, and compensation for writing journalism articles and other short-form works, we decided to expand the reach and breadth of professional writers surveyed, soliciting the input of published authors from the Guild and 14 other writer organizations. Ultimately, 5,067 traditionally published, self-published, and hybrid-published authors completed the survey. Of those surveyed, 53% described writing as their primary occupation and 37% stated that they were full-time book authors, making this the most comprehensive and, we believe, the most accurate reflection of American working writers today.

Median Incomes Down 42% Since 2009, Literary Writers Strongly Affected
The survey results show a profession largely in crisis. The median writing-related incomes of respondents was a mere $6,080, down from $8,000 in 2014 and $10,500 in 2009, per the results of our 2015 member survey (not an identical group but the best and only measure we have)—meaning there has been a decline of approximately 42% in the past decade. Full-time published authors earned a median income from all writing-related sources of $20,300, with only $12,400 of that income derived from their books. When discussing median incomes, the survey looked at both full-time and part-time authors.

Other Significant Results:
- Literary writers experienced the biggest decline (down 15% since 2014) in the percent of their total incomes derived from books, followed by general nonfiction (down 8%), raising serious concerns about the future of our literary heritage—of books that teach, inspire, and make us think and empathize.
- Overall median royalty income is down by 11% compared to 2013 data. Figure A
- Roughly 25% of all authors surveyed and 18% of full-time authors reported $0 in book-related income in the 12 months before the survey was conducted. Self-publishing is on the rise with a quarter of respondents reporting that they exclusively self-publish and another quarter engaging in both self-publishing and traditional publishing.
- Self-published authors realized a 95% increase in book-related income since 2013, with romance and romantic suspense self-published writers significantly out-earning all other genres. However, self-published authors collectively still earned 58% less than traditionally published authors. Figure B
- Authors spent an average of 7.5 hours per week on marketing and promoting their books, an increase of 14% (genre writers went up 39%) over the past five years; yet only 8% of all published authors realized a significant increase in book-related income.
- Just 21% of all full-time authors realized 100% of their income solely from publishing books, while 57% of full-time authors derived 100% of their individual income from writing-related activities. Among the 18 different writing-related activities to which authors turn to supplement book earnings, the three most popular are: speaking engagements/lectures, freelance journalism, and the teaching of writing. Figure C
Median Author Income from Books 2013 vs. 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Level</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$3,900</td>
<td>$4,950</td>
<td>$4,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$3,750</td>
<td>$3,100</td>
<td>$3,360</td>
<td>$3,961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,951</td>
<td>$1,951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,250</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
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Figure A

-21%  -32%  +95%  -17%

Total 2013 and before  Traditionally published by a commercial or academic publisher  Self-published only  Published by both a traditional publisher and self-published
**Figure B**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Median Book Royalty Income 2017 vs. 2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$14,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>$10,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$7,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>$3,500</td>
</tr>
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<td>$0</td>
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</tbody>
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Combined Book Royalty = Publisher Royalties + Self-Publishing Royalties + eBook Subscription Service Royalties

**Figure C**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Median 2017 Author Income from all Writing-Related Sources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017 Total Author Related Median Income: Book Related + Writing Related $’s — All Authors First Published 2017 &amp; Earlier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-Time, Published Author</td>
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<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Base</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% with $0 Author Related Income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Published Authors Participating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authors with Any Author Income in Year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key Factors Contributing to Drop in Authors Incomes

Key factors contributing to the decline include increased competition, (in 2009, approximately 300,000 books were published in the U.S.—that number now exceeds one million annually); a blockbuster mentality among traditional publishers that leaves fewer resources for mid-list writers; a 25% ebook royalty rate that traditional publishers refuse to increase; and the outsized influence of Amazon that drives book prices down, and which limits the size of book advances traditional publishers can offer and shrinks the amount both traditionally published and self-published authors earn from royalties.

Survey Resulted in Major Stories in U.S. Media
We worked closely with The New York Times to ensure major coverage of the survey and its significance to both working writers and American culture as a whole. Several other news outlets also wrote stories or editorials, including Forbes, The Guardian, Electric Literature, Publishers Lunch, and Publishers Weekly, which not only ran a feature story, but devoted an entire podcast to the survey. Our press release announcing the results also got picked up by 195 online news outlets, including CBS Marketwatch, Associated Press, CNBC, Newsday, Yahoo Finance, and The Boston Herald.

Why the Data Matters
The Authors Guild is committed to protecting authors’ traditional income sources and advocating for new business models that ensure that writers, and not just intermediaries, profit from the authors’ work.

Survey data helps us and our participating organizations to better align our advocacy and author education efforts with reality. Until recently, writers who realized significant publishing success generally could afford to devote their days to writing more books. That’s no longer true for many full-time writers, especially literary ones. From a policy perspective, we should ask what impact this may have on the quality of books moving forward. We will use the data to help authors envision new ways to earn money from their books and to find other sources of income compatible with writing. An upcoming white paper will take a deeper look at the various datasets and analyze what the data means for the future of book writing.

To review full survey results and the list of participating writing organizations, please visit our website at authorsguild.org/2018incomesurvey.
MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH

Our work includes outreach to bring more members into your Guild, including campaigns, partnerships, and expanding our presence through regional chapters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>New Members Added</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>681</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>1,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>1,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>1,562</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our fiscal year 2017-2018 total membership was 9,799.

Total # new members: 1,562
# of members enrolled in auto-renewal: 1,598
# of members using web services: 2,333
Legal Help

• 1,294 total queries from 10/1/2017–9/30/2018
• 328 book contract reviews
• 59 agency contract reviews
• 50 reversion of rights inquiries
• 284 inquiries on copyright law, including infringement, registration, duration, and fair use
• 36 inquiries regarding securing permissions and privacy releases
• 537 other inquiries, including electronic rights, literary estates, contract disputes, contract questions, periodical and multimedia contracts, movie and television options, internet piracy, liability insurance, finding an agent and attorney, and referrals

Back in Print

After a test run last summer, we launched Back in Print in September 2018 with our new production and distribution partner, Independent Publishers Group. For the first time, the Authors Guild is offering full reprinting services for both ebook and print-on-demand to all members.

So far, we’ve enrolled about 250 books in Back in Print. Along with continuing to promote the program over the next year, we’ll be rolling out a series of webinars in partnership with IPG to educate members on subjects such as metadata best practices and tips for marketing and promotion.

Author Websites/Sitebuilder

The Guild’s web services mission is to make managing an online presence easy for members. From sitebuilding and website hosting to domain registration and email, we offer a wide range of services for members at an affordable cost. We’ve recently added new themes to Sitebuilder and made software improvements, including enable scrolling while dragging, Updates to ReCAPTCHA, theme improvements, and numerous bug fixes. Over 2,200 members use our sitebuilding platform.

Explore a Few of the Additional Benefits of Your Authors Guild Membership

• International press cards
• Exclusive discounts including hotels, rental cars, computers, LexisNexis, etc.
• Media liability insurance

7 https://www.authorsguild.org/member-services/
Join the Conversation in the Community
The Members Community is a meeting place and a forum for discussion. It’s where you go to connect with your fellow authors, and for conversation and questions about craft, the business of writing, copyright and piracy, free speech, books you’ve read and books you’re looking forward to, and more. A third of the Guild’s membership checks the community each day and there are over 1,000 new discussions each month on a wide range of topics including legal issues, marketing advice, questions about the writing life, and more.

What Members Are Saying About the Community:
“I use the AG daily discussion as a morning warm-up—a sort of bridge between breakfast and my writing day. I find it helpful, because it gets my head into my ‘author space’ but doesn’t demand that I focus on my current book projects. I think starting my day with the discussion group makes me more productive.”

“I find this site helpful, it provides a sense of community in the isolated profession of writing; we are all experiencing the same problems”

“As a new member of the Authors Guild, I’ve just started following the discussions and have found them remarkably frank and informative. I belong to several other writer’s discussion groups, all based on Facebook, and the discussion there is perhaps muted by the knowledge that FB is so large and Big Brother-like. So I’m finding AG discussions refreshing and interesting. Thanks!”
“Did You Know?” Campaign
Many in the Guild aren’t aware of all the benefits we offer. We ran a campaign aimed at educating Guild members about our many core benefits.

Brooklyn Book Festival and AWP Conferences
To expand our presence, the Guild sponsored the Authors’ Green Room at the Brooklyn Book Festival and a luncheon for the Association of Writers & Writing Programs.
Author Testimonials

Author testimonials were solicited from leading figures in the literary community, giving a literal face to the appreciation of all that the Guild offers in support of working writers. These ads appeared in Poets & Writers, online, and at conferences and book festivals we attended.
The Hot Sheet
The Hot Sheet is known as the essential publishing industry newsletter for authors. A special Guild reciprocal discount was offered to its readers.

The American Literary Translators Association (ALTA)
A special reciprocal discount was offered to members of both the Authors Guild and ALTA to engage and foster new communities.

ALTA Testimonials
We also solicited testimonials from members who are translators. The testimonials describe the value their Guild membership has in their profession.

“Thanks to a contract review by the Authors Guild, I managed to get a major international publishing conglomerate to modify a standard contract offer that would have sequestered my translation from all but paying members of their network and would have required both me and my author to give up copyright to our own work. I’ve also relied on advice from the Authors Guild when a publisher attempted to renegotiate an existing contract midway through the publication process. I cannot say enough good things about the Authors Guild, and I am continually recommending their services not only to translators, but fellow creative writers. I wish I’d joined sooner!”
---Katherine Young

The Breakout 8 Writers Prize
The inaugural Breakout 8 Writers Prize, sponsored by Epiphany and the Authors Guild, was launched to recognize outstanding emerging literary voices and bring visibility to the writers of our future by honoring eight student authors.

There were hundreds of submissions from graduate and undergraduate poets and writers. The Guild selected as judges Hannah Tinti, Alexander Chee, and Tracy O’Neill. They chose eight honorees to receive: publication in Epiphany’s Breakout 8 special issue; a $250 cash prize; a year-long mentorship with Epiphany editor-in-chief Tracy O’Neill; a complimentary one-year student membership to the Authors Guild, including free access to seminars, webinars, and the Writers’ Resource Library; a featured interview published on the Epiphany website, in the Authors Guild Bulletin, and on the Authors Guild website; a one-year subscription to Epiphany; and a short manuscript review.

Genrepalooza
Genrepalooza is a networking mingle co-presented in partnership with Mystery Writers of America, Romance Writers of America, Horror Writers of America, and Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America.

Announcing:
The 2018 BREAKOUT 8 WRITERS PRIZE honorees!
In June 2018, we announced the creation of our Regional Chapters, an initiative that meets the needs of Guild members living throughout the U.S. The chapters host local events focused on working writers and the writing life. Each chapter is led by engaged Guild members (chapter “Ambassadors”), who volunteer their time to foster greater connection among members and their writing communities.

The Guild Ambassadors represent 14 geographical regions and have held dozens of events across the country. Photos from recent chapter events can be found on page 19.

Brief highlights from the organizers and attendees include:

“I’m thrilled that our local chapter is getting off the ground. I moved to Raleigh a little less than a year ago and have been itching to find my tribe.”
—Erin S. Lane, Guild member, Raleigh, NC

“The organizers were welcoming and gracious. They convinced me it’s an organization I should join.”
—Victoria Noe, self-published writer, Chicago, IL

“Many told us how glad they are that a local chapter was coming into being and how they were very pleased with the program.”
—Beryl Benderly, Guild member and Washington, D.C. Ambassador

“It was impressive, though not surprising, to see how much energy and interest there is in having more meetings. It was a great start.”
—Ann Steiner, Guild member, Oakland, CA
### 2018 Regional Chapter Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 24</td>
<td>“The Business of Being a Writer,”</td>
<td>Raleigh-Durham, NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 28</td>
<td>Chicago Chapter Launch Party,</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 29</td>
<td>“Marketing for Authors that Hate to Market,”</td>
<td>Seattle, WA</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 16</td>
<td>Meet and Greet, Bay Area, San Francisco, CA</td>
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<td>September 15</td>
<td>Member Get-Together, Philadelphia, PA</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 20</td>
<td>Los Angeles Mixer, Los Angeles, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 23</td>
<td>“Writing Chapter Books and Middle Grade”, Raleigh-Durham, NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 27</td>
<td>Detroit Meet and Mingle, Detroit, MI</td>
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<td>October 4</td>
<td>Tampa Organizational Meeting,</td>
<td>Tampa, FL</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 6</td>
<td>“Taxes 101,”</td>
<td>Seattle, WA</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 26</td>
<td>“Protect Yourself: Scary World of Publishing,”</td>
<td>Los Angeles, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 8</td>
<td>Cleveland Meet and Greet,</td>
<td>Cleveland, OH</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 13</td>
<td>“Perfect Pitch,”</td>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 19</td>
<td>Member Lunch, Philadelphia, PA</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 6</td>
<td>Holiday Party, Tampa, FL</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 12</td>
<td>“Exploring Your Creative Passion in the New Year,”</td>
<td>Detroit, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 12</td>
<td>Holiday Party at American Writers Museum, Chicago, IL</td>
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</table>

### 2019 Regional Chapter Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 6</td>
<td>“Mastering the Traditional Book Market,”</td>
<td>Seattle, WA</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 9</td>
<td>“Giving Memorable Readings,”</td>
<td>San Francisco, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 7</td>
<td>“A Discussion on the Art of Science Writing,”</td>
<td>Los Angeles, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 21</td>
<td>A Midwinters Reading and Open Mic,</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 28</td>
<td>“Copyright and Author Platforms,”</td>
<td>Tampa, FL</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 24</td>
<td>“Successful Self-Publishing,”</td>
<td>Raleigh-Durham, NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 31</td>
<td>Member Potluck, Philadelphia, PA</td>
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</tbody>
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In order from top to bottom:

“Perfect Pitch” panel held on November 13, 2018. Pictured left to right, seated is: agent Bridget Wagner Matzie, agent Howard Yoon, writer Shanon Lee, and editor Kristen Hinman. Standing is our Ambassador Mary Kay Zuravleff. Credit Irene Rojas/Small Wonder Media.

“Los Angeles Mixer” held on September 20. Author Carl Lynn, essayist Julia Ingalls, agent Dara Hyde, attorney Laine Mervis, and Ambassador Magdalena Edwards. Photo taken by Kristin Wong.


Group shot at the Tampa Holiday Party, December 6, 2018.


Stay tuned for news about the launch of additional chapters in 2019, including Portland, OR, Santa Fe, NM, Dallas, TX, and Nashville, TN.
Navigating the Authors Guild Website

The Authors Guild website provides everything you need to make the most of your membership. Create your online member account to access members-only areas such as the Community, member profiles, legal resources and forms, advocacy updates, the Authors Guild Principles, the event calendar, and exclusive access to discounts and webinars.

**Browse the Event Archive**
Access dozens of our previous seminars, panels, and online webinars on topics including self-publishing, contracts, copyright, social media marketing, and more. See upcoming events and add your own events to the AG Event Calendar.

**Search the Writers’ Resource Library for Articles, Forms, Seminars and Other Valuable Resources for Members Including:**
- Publishing contracts and legal issues
- Self-publishing
- Managing your finances

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**Check out the latest from the Guild in the News & Events section**

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**Featured News**
- **News from the Guild**
  - Four Journalists Barred from Covering U.S.-North Korea Summit Dinner
- **News from the Guild**
  - Authors Guild Champions New Group Registration for Online Pieces
- **Featured**
  - Nora Roberts Fights Back Against Plagiarizers

**Featured**
- **News from the Guild**
  - Call to Action: Get Google to Remove Ebook bike Links from Search Results
- **Join Us!**
  - Literary Journeys: Exclusive Trip to Iceland

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**Find the Membership That’s Right for You**
All writers at all stages of their careers are invited to join.

**Join**
Stay Informed

Newsletter
Our bi-weekly newsletter keeps you up to date on Authors Guild advocacy efforts and provides valuable resources for your writing business.

Weekly Roundup
Our weekly round-up email is a curated collection of interesting and key news items affecting authors.

Social Media
Also, make sure to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for up to the minute information.
   Facebook: www.Facebook.com/authorsguild
   Twitter: @authorsguild
   Instagram: @authorsguild

Not receiving our emails? Add staff@authorsguild.org and news@authorsguild.org to your safe sender list. Also, make sure to check your spam, junk, and promotional folders.

Technology Updates

Last fiscal year, one of the main focuses of our IT department was to simplify our technology architecture to reduce cost and staff workflow time. Many other changes were made in response to member requests.

We worked to eliminate redundant and old technologies. This meant focusing on moving members out of the Classic Sitebuilder software and over to the redesigned and improved Sitebuilder. We also moved many backend administrative tools out of the older technology.

Improving our auto-renewal of dues was another way to streamline our processes. Our membership department has more time to focus on members, rather than on manually processing credit cards.

We built forms that let members enroll in the Back in Print program online. Previously it was handled by email attachments, and a back-and-forth that made keeping members’ applications all together an onerous task. This online enrollment process lets us sign up more people, more quickly.

We also created a simple tool that lets members without accounts create them, without having to wait for a response from Authors Guild staff.

We integrated the Forum login system so members now need only one login. Other website improvements include combining News and Events onto one page, making updates to comply with GDPR, and making security updates.

For the Sitebuilder platform we added new themes, moved most of the remaining items out of an older code, and improved migration scripts to help members move into the new software.
The Authors Guild Foundation is the charitable and educational arm of the Authors Guild, which hosts programming open to the public and to Guild members.

We held 30 events in the 2018 fiscal year and are off to a strong start for the 2019 fiscal year: we will have held at least 30 events by May 2019.


**AWP**

In March 2018, the Foundation once again served as a Literary Partner of the AWP Conference, the largest literary conference in North America. We organized two educational programs, one on book contract basics and one on agent-author relationships. We also hosted one of the evening’s featured events—a discussion between Carmen Maria Machado and Lesley Nneka Arimah, moderated by Authors Guild vice president Richard Russo.

Feedback from AWP staff and attendees was that Foundation events were some of the most informative and efficiently organized panels. We have been invited back to once again be a Literary Partner for AWP 2019, in Portland, Oregon, March 27–30. We’ll host a featured discussion between Authors Guild Council Member Tayari Jones and Rebecca Makkai, moderated by Lesley Nneka Arimah. We’ll also host, for the first time, an intensive session of two back-to-back legal panel discussions on contract basics, followed by legal and ethical issues to consider when writing about real people.

**BookExpo**

We again formed a partnership with BookExpo, the largest annual book trade fair in the U.S., held in New York City May 30–June 1, 2018. We negotiated a 50%-off badge discount for Authors Guild members and organized three educational panels—one solely hosted by the Foundation and one in collaboration with the American Booksellers Association. We collaborated with the Association of American Publishers and the Copyright Alliance on “Copyright Trends: The State of the Industry,” a panel that kicked off the conference. We participated in BookCon, a conference following BookExpo geared toward readers, from June 2–3, 2018.

The next BookExpo will be held in New York City at the Javits Center, May 29–31, 2019. The New York Rights Fair, the international adult and children’s content and licensing marketplace, and UnBound, an exhibit floor and show focused on non-book literary lifestyle products, will run concurrently with BookExpo in the Javits Center. BookCon will follow from June 1–2, 2019.

**NYSCA and NEA Grants**

For the first time, the Foundation has received grants from the New York State Council for the Arts (NYSCA) and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

**Programs & Events**

**From Manuscript to Marketplace Series, Funded by New York State Council for the Arts (NYSCA)**

The Foundation received a small two-year grant from NYSCA to fund an in-person series of panels. The discussions feature an author and members of their publishing team, such as their editor, publicist, and/or agent, discussing the process of creating and publishing their most recent book. The first round of events included Naima Coster at the Queens Central Library; Rumaan Alam at A Public Space, a literary magazine, in Brooklyn; and Uzodinma Iweala at Oblong Books in Rhinebeck, NY. The discussions have been followed by active and engaged Q&A sessions and book signings facilitated by partner indie bookstores. We’ll hold at least three more of these discussions in 2019.

**Business Bootcamps for Writers Series,**

The Foundation’s Business Bootcamps for Writers series is our largest new program funded by the Authors Guild Foundation with National Endowment for the Arts, Penguin Random House, and an anonymous private donor. Classroom notebooks were donated by Leuchtturm notebooks.

The series’ goal is to equip writers from diverse backgrounds and writing styles with tools and resources to manage their careers, navigate the
publishing marketplace, protect their rights, and build a readership.

We have funding for travel to an initial round of six cities, selected because they are major cities with developed literary communities that tend to not have much business-related programming for writers. We are working with local literary groups, including libraries, bookstores, writing rooms, MFAs, and writing workshops, to reach out to local writers to let them know about the program and to develop programming beneficial to each city.

The daylong events include instruction on the business side of writing, breakout sessions to network with fellow writers, Q&A periods, and follow-up educational webinars. We also host a networking lunch for participants and a social reception at the end of the day for participants and other local writers, partners, and literary organizations.

Speakers include Penguin Random House corporate and regional publishing professionals, Authors Guild staff, and local agents, publishing professionals, and writers. Topics covered include publicity, marketing, paths to publication, working with an agent, the overall marketplace, contracts and legal rights, engaging in your local literary community, and more. Spaces for 40 writers in each city are fully funded, including stipends to cover ground transportation.

Our first bootcamp was held in Philadelphia on November 2, 2018 at the Free Library of Philadelphia. The next round of bootcamps were in Cincinnati, OH, at the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County (January 18, 2019); Atlanta-Metro Area/Decatur, GA, at the Georgia Center for the Book with Broadleaf Writers Association (January 26, 2019); and in New Orleans, LA, at the arts collective Antenna's gallery space with the New Orleans Writers Workshop (February 2, 2019).

We will also hold a bootcamp at Hugo House in Seattle, WA, on March 24 and in Santa Fe, NM, at the Institute of American Indian Arts on May 19, 2019.

A follow-up round of six webinars will happen in late spring. We have received an extremely positive response from attendees and have built strong relationships with local literary communities. We hope to secure additional funding to continue the program.

Webinars
We host webinars on a wide variety of educational topics, such as creating engaging school visits, piracy, taxes, navigating self-publishing services, and the right of publicity. Webinars hosted in the 2018 fiscal year included:

- **Book Publishing Standards: An Overview of the Most Important Checklist Every Author Needs Before They Publish** (Brooke Warner)
- **Writers Collaborating: Sometimes It Gets Complicated** (Jonathan Lyons)
- **Understanding Your Royalty Statements and Learning What Questions to Ask Your Publisher** (Juli Saitz)
- **Is Paid Advertising on Social Media Worth Your Time?** (Justin Alvarez)
- **Hybrid Publishing: What You Need to Know About Book Publishing’s Newest Business Model** (Brooke Warner)
- **2018 Tax Tips for Authors** (Robert Pesce)
- **Changing Tides: Novel Approaches to Combating Digital Piracy** (Umair Kazi, Sarah Pinneo, Mary Rasenberger)
- **Navigating Self-Publishing Services** (Jane Friedman, Mary Rasenberger)
- **Creating Engaging School Visits** (Michelle Cusolito)
- **Book Contracts 101** (Cheryl Davis, Michael Gross)
- **How to Use Facebook Ads to Grow Your Author Brand and Sell More Books** (Ricardo Fayet)

In fall 2018, we partnered with the Library of Congress on two webinars about accessing their archives, with one session specifically geared towards writers of biographies. We also partnered with Reedsy on two webinars, one about Facebook ads and one about building a powerful mailing list. We will announce our spring 2019 webinar schedule soon.
Age of the Storyteller Online Marketing and Publicity Course

We kicked off 2019 with an online eight-part marketing and publicity course hosted by Lisa Weinert. Topics covered include developing an author brand, choosing a publishing path, building a readership, engaging with the literary community, etc. Traditional and indie/self-published options are discussed.

Writers can watch the entire series or choose the topics of interest to them, and each module will have a live Q&A session for our members.

Module 1: The Age of the Storyteller
Module 2: Your Book Is a Startup
Module 3: Be a Literary Citizen
Module 4: Design Your Author Brand
Module 5: You’re in the Driver’s Seat. Now What?
   How to Choose the Right Publishing Path
Module 6: Nuts and Bolts—Publicity for Every Author
Module 7: Social Media for Writers
Module 8: Beyond the Launch—Reader Engagement in the Long Term

In-Person Series and Events

The Foundation seeks to collaborate with other literary organizations whenever possible. In 2018, we hosted a series with the American Booksellers Association that took place in independent bookstores around the country. The events—which included a conversation and book signing—paired a debut author with an established author in the authors’ home area. The emerging authors were chosen by independent booksellers for ABA’s Indies Introduce list.

In November 2018, we collaborated with the Society of Authors (U.K.) and the Writers’ Union of Canada on a panel at Scandinavia House in New York City, “Writers on the Brink: The Current Economics of Authorship.”

In late 2018 and early 2019, we held a two-part series “Who Owns the Word?” at the New York Public Library. The series explored the impact of declining wages for full-time book authors, journalists, and television and screenwriters and how concerns about content ownership, copyright laws, censorship, and quality control will affect the future of American culture and intellectual discourse. The first part focused on journalism and the second part focused on book publishing.

In February 2019, we held a panel “Writers on Screenwriting: The Art of Writing for Film and Television” at the New York Public Library.
Authors Guild Foundation Literary and Cultural Trips
The Authors Guild Foundation held trips to Cuba in November 2017, December 2017, and February 2018. Participants met with distinguished professors of literature from the University of Havana; engaged with prominent writers, poets, and publishers; visited museums with renowned curators and art historians; and enjoyed private concerts with Cuba’s foremost jazz and trova artists.

In 2019, we’re planning three international trips, which will have unique literary and cultural components.

- **Jordan, April 15–25.** Possibly an additional trip to Jordan in the fall.
- **Iceland, June 24–29** to explore Reykjavik, a UNESCO City of Literature—the first non-native English speaking city to receive this title—and tour the surrounding countryside. We are collaborating with the Writers’ Union of Iceland to plan literary components of the trip.
- **Scotland, September 21–28** for a tour of Edinburgh, Perthshire, and Glasgow guided by Scottish writers and ethnologists. The custom itinerary includes Scotland’s most beautiful castles, literary sightseeing, and meetings with local storytellers.

If you’re interested in more details about the trips, please reach out to Andrea Bronson at travel@authorsguildfoundation.org. We’d love to have you travel with us!

The Authors Guild Foundation is a 501(c)(3) supporting organization of the Authors Guild. Our custom tours help us raise funds to advocate for authors’ rights, educate authors across the country in the business of writing, and promote an understanding of the value of writers.
The Authors Registry was created in 1995 by the Authors Guild with three partners: the Association of Authors Representatives, American Society of Journalists and Authors, and Dramatists Guild of America. Its job is to distribute fees and royalties that were collected by others on behalf of U.S. authors but not paid out. This money comes from a variety of sources, nearly all of them overseas, such as the Authors’ Licensing & Collecting Society (ALCS) in London. In the Netherlands, LIRA collects payments for American authors from libraries under Public Lending Right. All of these payments are considered secondary royalties, since they do not come from book sales and do not involve a publisher. Registry payments are for photocopying and electronic use in educational, business, and governmental institutions, as well as for library lending payments.

In 2018 the Registry distributed $2.7 million to over 10,000 American authors. To date, the total distributed is over $36 million. Payments range from a few dollars to a few thousand. The Registry charges a fee of 10% on all distributions to pay the bills. The Registry pays authors of academic, nonfiction, fiction, children’s, and every other category of literature.

If you receive a mailing from the Authors Registry, be assured that it is legitimate, and that it represents another royalty stream for you. Send in the forms and get your payment!