

WOMEN
Writing the West
Diversity and Inclusion

Every writer knows that every person has a story, and each story is unique. But there are similarities too. We are all born. Some in large cities, some on remote islands, some in frigid climates, some in steamy heat near the equator . . . and we are all born hungry. We all need to be fed. How we are nourished depends on what's available, but also on what we choose to swallow and what we choose to spit out. Preferences begin at a very early stage of life.

Diversity is sometimes obvious, sometimes veiled, and sometimes it is a revision or acceptance of once hidden desires. Where we are born may influence obvious diversity through style of dress, patterns of speech, food, even politics and faith. Less obvious are personal decisions to embrace, modify, or question cultural norms entirely. These choices shape each story.

Inclusion embraces diversity. As writers, we ask questions. We want to get at the heart of the story. We research every distinctive, sometimes obvious, sometimes veiled reality to find nuggets others may have overlooked. We mine the depths of possibilities because we want to reveal the whole story. As writers, we cherish diversity. And we rely on each other to encourage us along the way. In this vein, we uphold and celebrate every person who joins our organization. Women Writing the West encourages its members to fearlessly proclaim their own distinct truth.

If you are interested in learning more, please visit the WWW Membership page.

Women Writing the West Anti-Discrimination Policy

- Any member who disparages any other member's experience, in word or spirit, on the WWW website, members' only email list, forum or other WWW social media sites will have their post removed and receive an explanation as to why this was done. A second occurrence will merit another warning and the post will be removed. On the third offense, online posting privileges for all of these sites will be suspended for six months. The arbitrator of any such claim shall be the Board of Directors. Specifically excluded from WWW review are non-WWW operated social media posts.
- Any member who demonstrates racist, inflammatory, or derogatory attitudes or actions toward others at any WWW sanctioned event or webspace will have their membership revoked without reimbursement. The arbitrator of any such claim shall be the Board of Directors.

The WWW Board of Directors is committed to developing programs and employing outreach efforts intended to diversify our membership and cultivate inclusion so that all members may have opportunities to thrive. WWW invites diverse perspectives and is dedicated to creating an inclusive community that is accessible to all. WWW supports all writers of women's fiction and non-fiction, and will not in any way censor an author's decision to write historically accurate depictions. We strive to build an environment of acceptance, empathy and compassion. We welcome suggestions and invite dialogue of how the organization can better serve WWW members in this and other endeavors.

WWW Bylaws: ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 – Eligibility: Membership shall be open to any person over the age of 18 who believes in the stated purpose. Membership shall not be denied because of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, religion or national origin.