

The Military Writers Guild

21 September 2015

Article I: Purpose

The Military Writers Guild (henceforth The Guild) exists to gather writers committed to the development of the profession of arms and the communication of life as a service member through the exchange of ideas in the written medium and in all genres. Through its members, The Guild will encourage an open dialogue from diverse perspectives, thereby supporting the study of military affairs, spread knowledge of the military profession, and increase the assistance available to those writing in the national security and veteran space. The Guild will help foster a strong peer ecosystem focused on writing about military affairs through our ability to, “Advocate, Collaborate, and Promote.”

Article II: Membership and Qualification for Membership

1. There are two types of members in The Guild: Active and Associate.
 - a. Active members are full members that have proven their value to the military writing community, having first spent time as an Associate member and being promoted by a majority vote of The Guild membership. They are also responsible to The Guild for recruitment of new members and providing the support and mentorship for which The Guild was established.
 - b. Associate members are those members approved by The Guild membership for accession into the organization. Once they have proven themselves to The Guild, they can be nominated or can nominate themselves for full membership.
2. Qualification for Membership
 - a. Active members: Any person that has a proven record of writing about military or veteran affairs is qualified for membership and has been approved for promotion from Associate membership by a majority of the governance committees. Qualified individuals are either nominated by current Active members, or may apply for membership. An application/nomination must include name, affiliation, writing samples (which show qualification for membership), and any current Active members in support. Applicants are voted in by a majority of committee members.
 - b. Associate Members: All members begin in an Associate member status. Qualified individuals are either nominated by current Active members, or may

apply for membership. An application/nomination must include name, affiliation, writing samples (which show qualification for membership), and any current Active members in support. At least one Active member must be willing to be the mentor of the Associate member before they will be referred for a vote on their membership. Applicants are voted in by a majority of committee members.

- c. Voting in new members will occur on a rolling basis and membership will be determined by a majority vote by committee members.

Article III: Governance

1. There are six committees established to support the functions of The Guild: Management, Membership, Communications, Editing, Publications, and Awards. Each committee will be composed of a lead member and as many supporting members as required.
 - a. Management - Provide strategic guidance and enable committee leads to push the Guild forward.
 - b. Membership - Manage the accession of members as Associates, integrate them into the community, encourage participation in committees, and help promote them from Associate to Active members.
 - c. Communications - Manage FB, Twitter, Medium, and TinyLetter to highlight the Guild member work and keep members informed. Coordinate any unified messaging efforts when the Guild as a whole is being represented (e.g. op-ed strategy, press relations, etc.).
 - d. Editing - Assist members in finding editors as needed. Future functions may include generating informational material that help members become better editors themselves.
 - e. Publications - Ensure members have information and a link into professional publications.
 - f. Awards - Run awards program to increase awareness of and award excellence in military writing.
 - g. There is the possibility of other committees, as well - recent possibilities are a committee on writing mentorship and a committee on creative writing. Once a lead and supporting members are identified, such a committee will be incorporated into the charter and the governance structure.

2. Serving on a committee is the most effective way to support the Guild.
3. Membership, both accessions and promotion, will be determined by a majority vote by all committee members.

Article IV: Functions of The Guild

4. Advocate for writing on military affairs.
 - a. Active members should be proactively recruiting new members for The Guild. This will be done in two ways: 1) finding individuals interested in The Guild's mission, and 2) branding personal and group production under the banner of The Guild. The best advocates for writing are writers themselves. The Guild must build the network of those strengthening the profession of arms through the written word.
 - b. Members will advocate for writing by tying pertinent products to The Guild, helping create a brand that people want to be associated with. This will not only develop a brand that can recognize and lobby for quality in the writing of military affairs, but will also draw in talent to The Guild, providing the opportunity for the organization to also improve the quality of writing. Members should mention The Guild in their bios for blogs, articles, and on social media profiles (i.e. on Twitter profiles, publication bios, link to any Guild Twitter/Facebook pages, etc.); The Guild graphics should be prominently displayed on members' blogs, as best as possible based on their sites; and a blogroll with The Guild website and all Guild members should be displayed on personal websites. Members should also actively promote other Guild members' work, when and where appropriate.
 1. Tools to support this will include: a website with branding, a blogroll of all Guild member websites, a bio page including all Guild members, a rolling feed with all blogs/articles submitted to the website by Guild members (which is also tied to an RSS feed), and links to Guild social media.
2. Support the collaboration efforts of military writers.
 - a. More than anything, The Guild is a member-supporting organization. Membership must be continually earned. As shown in the process for removing members, Guild members are responsible for helping develop writers and their content, as well as promoting completed content by Guild members.

- b. The Guild will establish tools to encourage collaboration between members. At the very least this will include a record of all members and associate members, their interests, and what they believe they can provide and a website for promoting Guild members' work.
 - c. The Guild will facilitate and manage a blog series on a specific topic once a quarter, leveraging the skills and blogs of Guild members. A different member will be requested to head up a series each quarter.
3. Promote and recognize excellence in writing on military affairs.
- a. The Guild will recognize quality military writing in two ways: 1) a quarterly award for the best single blog post; 2) an annual award for the year's best blog. The awards committee will determine the governance structure and frequency of all awards.
 - b. All awards will be funded by The Guild, either through donations by outside organizations secured by members, or by donations by members themselves.

Article IV: Guild Branding Material

1. Logo:

