1. Defending writers’ rights. Most recently we opposed the Google Book Settlement as being grossly unfair to writers: By scanning and digitally reproducing millions of copyrighted books and articles without permission by the writers, Google violated authors' constitutionally protected rights. Yet Google offers writers’ chump change for its blatant infringement. By demanding that writers opt out of its program, Google is saying “we are going to steal your work and sell it under terms we dictate unless you tell us not to.” The settlement also makes assumptions about electronic rights that writers may or may not have assigned to publishers. Find out more by visiting our website: www.nwu.org.

2. Demanding adequate payment. When publishers began issuing amendments to contracts offering 25 percent royalties for e-books this spring, we advised members to negotiate for a better deal. See our advice on www.nwu.org.

3. Advising on contracts and handling grievances. Our Grievance and Contract Division is famous for its free advice to members. The NWU’s Guide to Book Contracts covers all aspects of traditional publishing, and our trained advisors stay on top of their game through an internal listserv where tricky issues are discussed and resolved. We’ve helped members collect nearly $1.5 million in grievances since the early 1990s.


5. Being part of an online community. Book authors raise problems, discuss issues, and share information on a special listserv. Frequent topics are book promotion and self-publishing. It’s great to have such a valuable resource literally at your fingertips.

Be sure to check out www.nwu.org to find many more reasons to join the NWU, including being part of the organized labor movement through the United Auto Workers. If you want to fight for your rights and improve the lot of all book authors in the process, join the NWU.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please print clearly or type:

If renewal, is this an address change? □Yes □No
First Name_________________ Last Name_________________
Address ____________________________________________
City___________________________________ State _______ Zip __________
Country (if outside the U.S.)___________________________

BARGAINING COUNCIL INFORMATION

The NWU’s organizing efforts are carried out by three divisions, each focused on a specific sector of the publishing industry. Please select the division(s) to which you’d like to belong:

□ BizTech* □ Book □ Journalism

*Business, technical, non-profit, instructional, educational

By tracking our members’ writing information, we’re able to gather information on industry trends and determine our organizing strategies. Please tell us more about the kinds of writing that you do:

GENRE

□ Academic □ Juvenile □ Books
□ Business □ Labor □ CD-ROM
□ Cartoon □ Literary/Small Press □ Magazines
□ Fiction □ Nonfiction □ Misc. Copy
□ Inst./Nonprofit □ Poetry □ Multimedia
□ Instructional □ Public Relations □ Newspapers
□ Journalism □ Technical □ On-line
□ Other:________________________ □ Other:_____________________

Primary Genre: __________________________

Literary Agent: __________________________

List all books by publisher, newspapers and magazines by title, and firms or institutions for which you have worked as a writer in the past three (3) years. Use back of sheet if you need additional room.

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PARTICIPATION/OTHER

Your participation is what makes our union strong. Please check those areas in which you can contribute to building the union:

□ BizTech Issues □ Grievances □ Electronic Rights
□ Book Issues □ Phone Calling □ Journalism Issues
□ Cartoon Issues □ Membership □ Event Planning
□ Fundraising □ PR □ Contract Advice
□ Office Work □ Newsletter □ Diversity
□ Political Issues □ LBGTT Issues □ Legislative/Lobbying
□ SPIN* □ Organizing □ Not sure, I need more info.

*African Writers Caucus

In addition, we also have the following committees. Please check which, if any, you would be interested in joining:

□ Women’s Committee □ Civil Rights/Diversity
□ Political Issues □ CAP (Community Action Program)

How did you hear about the National Writers Union?

__________________________

NWU MEMBERSHIP DUES

NWU dues are based on your annual writing income. If you have other sources of income, we encourage you to pay dues at one of the higher rates. If necessary, you may pay dues in half-year installments.

Annual Writing Income Full-Year Half-Year
1. Under $5,000 □ $120.00 □ $60.00
2. $5,001-15,000 □ $195.00 □ $97.50
3. $15,001-30,000 □ $265.00 □ $132.50
4. $30,001-45,000 □ $315.00 □ $157.50
5. Over $45,000 □ $340.00 □ $170.00

Donation in addition to dues (not tax deductible) $____________________

Total amount $____________________

Enclose check or money order. For credit card payments:

□ Mastercard □ Visa Expiration Date:____________

Card Number:_____________________

Signature:_______________________

OFFICE USE ONLY
Membership ID#_________________ Date ___________

CHAPTER USE ONLY
This member joined “on the spot.” □Received □Please send Guide
Chapter Representative___________________________

Return to: National Writers Union  ●  256 W. 38th Street, Suite 703  ●  New York, NY 10018  ●  212-254-0279  ●  Fax: 212-254-0673