



From the President's Desk

by Gerold Wilson

Dear Fellow EMWA members,

I hope all of you had a restful and enjoyable summer and that you had better weather than we had in Berlin. In the last issue of *The Write Stuff*, I outlined what I hoped the Executive Committee would accomplish in the coming year. I am happy to now report that we have attained at least one of our goals. Within the next few days, I will receive the Articles of Incorporation for signature. By the middle of October EMWA will be incorporated as a non-profit organisation. This will immeasurably add to our legitimacy and help us to gain more recognition. I am excited about this important step, and I hope you join me in this excitement.

The transfer of our bank account to the UK is now complete. I want to take this opportunity to thank Philip Cooper for the dedication and hard work he put in as our Treasurer for five years. During Philip's tenure, the Treasurer had to not only keep the books straight, but he also willingly shouldered the burden of keeping track of registrations for annual conferences and send out homework assignments for workshops. He held one of the busiest offices in our organisation for five years and did so with professionalism and good humour. Hats off to Philip!!

In June/July 1998, in response to a brilliant suggestion from Phillipa Clow, EMWA introduced a once-a-year billing system. Under this system, all of us will pay our membership dues at the same time annually. With the implementation of this system, we hope to save administrative expenses and streamline membership management. Although I've heard that there have been a few growing pains during the switch, I'd like to ask for your patience and understanding. The future gains in efficiency and convenience should more than offset any short-term problems we have this year. If you have any questions about membership, please contact Phillipa (telephone/fax/e-mail elsewhere in this issue).

In January 1999, the AMWA Executive Committee (EC) will discuss and vote on the continuation of our affiliate status with them. Prior to that I will attend the AMWA annual conference in Vancouver in October where I will discuss our affiliate status with Art Gertel (current AMWA president), Barbara Good (AMWA president-elect), and other members of the AMWA EC. Depending on the results of these talks, I will ask to be invited to the AMWA EC meeting to present our position. I feel that a continuation of the affiliate status is mutually beneficial and I would like to extend the agreements indefinitely. However, I also think that some adjustments need to be made in certain financial aspects of our agreements with AMWA and I would like to see less bureaucracy with regard to our subscription of the Core Curriculum Programme. If any of you have opinions regarding our affiliate status, please send me an e-mail (see below) and let me know what you think.

I call on all EMWA members to make it a goal this year to recruit one new member

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In my last letter to you, I mentioned that the EC would like to move forward this year on the corporate sponsorship concept. Unfortunately, we have not made much progress on this front. However, at the EMWA EC meeting in November this year, we will discuss this and I hope that I can put this project on the road in the first few weeks of 1999. Corporate sponsorship, depending on the extent of funds that we might receive, would enable us to put more emphasis on what I think our most important function as an organisation is: continuing education. I would like to see annual conference registration fees and workshop fees decrease and I would like for us to be able to organise an annual two-day, workshop-only session in addition to our annual conference. This can only be accomplished with more funding. The only two ways I see us gaining more funding is to increase membership or obtain regular, continuing corporate sponsorship.

Another item on the agenda for the EMWA EC meeting in November will be measures we can take to increase our membership. I have a number of ideas and I am sure that Debbie Jordan and the other members of the EC will also help us but your help is vital. I call on all EMWA members to make it a goal this year to recruit one new member. So far in our short history, word-of-mouth has been our most successful recruitment tool. Word-of-mouth should not be our method of choice in the future to increase membership, but until we have something more productive in place, it can be more effective than nothing.

The Copenhagen conference is taking form. The slate of workshops, the keynote speaker, topics for plenary sessions, and social events have been selected. Geoff Hall and Julia Cooper have done a truly fine job! I have every expectation that the 1999 conference will be our best yet and I hope that you can attend.

Finally, I want to thank Barry Drees and Marian Hodges for the excellent work they have done with our journal and website. The Write Stuff is not only the "right stuff", it is SUPER STUFF! Please show our journal to colleagues and friends. It is something that we are all proud of and goes a long ways towards establishing our credibility as a professional organisation. Over and again, people have told me that the EMWA website is great!! And, the Members Only section is a real hit. I have visited the website regularly for about 2 years. Over this time I have seen it grow in size and quality. I truly envy Marian's web skills and flair. I encourage you visit the website often and to make use of the Dialogue section in the Members Only page to make your views known.

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