

If you're considering running for a seat on the board of Wyoming Writers, Inc. here are a few things to think about:

Wyoming Writers, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. So what is a non-profit?

The National Council of Nonprofits defines a nonprofit organization as “tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), a “public charity.” Its mission is to provide “public benefit.” *

Will I get stuff for serving on the board of Wyoming Writers, Inc. such as free meals and free conference registration?

The Board's code of ethics forbids such benefits. The role of the Board is “to assist THE ORGANIZATION we serve in achieving its objectives and goals,” and “adhere to the highest standards of ethical and professional behavior.” The members of the Board of Wyoming Writers are not compensated in any way.**

Will I be recognized for giving freely of my time and energy for at least two years while serving on the board of Wyoming Writers, Inc?

Sometimes. Outgoing presidents have traditionally received applause and a plaque, or gift. Almost the ENTIRE FOCUS of the organization is conceiving and carrying out the ANNUAL CONFERENCE. That's a LOT OF WORK. The president keeps everything on track and on schedule, the Vice President carries the heavy load of arranging for the presenters, the Treasurer takes care of all the bills and greets new members. Other details—secretarial, publicity, grant seeking, and tracking the hosting member committees—falls on the rest of the Board.

The contract Administrative Assistant takes care of keeping members informed with website, and social media updates and a newsletter. When we don't have an AA, those duties also fall on the board. After two years (or more in some cases) members rotate off of the board and someone else steps up to help keep the wheels turning on this wagon train. Without energetic volunteers, the wagon train circles defensively. No volunteer is on his or her own. Old hands are the mentors. Collaboration is the guideline.

So what's the point of volunteering for the board?

The point is to keep improving Wyoming Writers, Inc., the only statewide organization devoted to writers. Begun in 1974, Wyoming Writers is still going strong, serving, recognizing, and encouraging writers all across the state and the nation. Our dues and conference fees are deliberately low so that any writer, from beginner to published professional, can join in the conversation. Giving back to Wyoming Writers, helping shape its future, is simply the right thing to do. And, sometimes it's fun.

*See more about non-profits organizations at: <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/what-is-a-nonprofit#sthash.3PncZQGP.dpuftax>

**See more about non-profit boards at:

http://www.forakergroup.org/layouts/forakergroup/files/documents/resources_legal/Code