

A Call for CWPA Summer 2024 One-day Regional Events

Proposals (see full information below) are due February 1, 2024

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In order to foster professional exchanges and social interactions with members around the country, CWPA invites proposals from writing programs or WPAs to host a one-day regional event in June or July 2024. We are looking for events that are interactive; that have a social component built around breaks, shared meals, or perhaps excursions; and that would invite participants to share ideas or work with colleagues, perhaps toward the end of creating something. We expect people attending these events to come from within easy driving distance (although they'd be open to anyone willing to travel), and we suggest a 4-6 hour event to facilitate easy participation.

CWPA aims to foster events that are simple, collegial, and inexpensive—we hope that registrations can be capped at \$50 or less, with a nominal additional charge for attendees who are not CWPA members. We hope that these events will prioritize making connections and building community, much like the Carolinas affiliate's annual day-long [“Meeting in the Middle”](#). We also envision these one-day meetings as opportunities to explore possibilities for establishing or reinvigorating regional CWPA affiliates that might continue conversation and sustain collaboration after the event itself.

Possible Formats

We invite individuals/institutions to be creative in proposing a format. Here are some possible ways to organize the event; please note that these are only suggestions. Again, we invite creativity.

- A traditional small conference, with refereed/selected presentations followed by discussion. Variation 1: Typical presentations in panels. Variation 2: Roundtable discussions in which panelists each speak briefly to a specific topic, then engage in conversation with each other and with audience members.
- A day of discussion/working groups focusing on topics or issues announced in advance

- A day of discussion/working groups focusing on topics or issues generated by participants on the day of the event
- A mixed-format event; part of the day devoted to selected presentations or roundtables, part of the day devoted to discussion/working groups
- Another format you propose to encourage attendance, engagement, interaction, and value to participants

Possible topics/themes

Again, we encourage creativity when it comes to proposing a topical or thematic focus for the day. We merely request that you frame the event in ways that are inviting and useful to a wide range of WPAs and writing specialists.

Following are some suggestions—and merely suggestions.

- What pressing issues face programs and WPAs in 2024?
- What pressing issues do new, mid-career, and late-career WPAs face? How can we help or advise each other?
- What pressing issues affect writing programs at different types of institutions, from 2-year colleges, to liberal arts colleges, to minority-serving institutions, to large universities—and everything between/beyond?
- What should writing programs and teachers do in response to generative AI? How can (or should) it be a writing tool? If yes, how can we teach students how to use generative AI intelligently, ethically, and responsibly?
- How can writing instruction do more to support the varieties of English that students bring with them into college? What does socially just writing program administration in our context entail?
- Given current conditions, how might we best assess writing courses or programs?
- How are external conditions affecting writing curricula, whether FYC or beyond, and how can WPAs work effectively in those circumstances? For example, in some states, legislatures or governors have mandated features of university curricula. On many campuses, budgetary constraints, structural reorganizations, general education imperatives and so on are impacting writing programs.
- How do WPAs most effectively work with different constituents including administrators, students, graduate teaching assistants, and faculty?
- What are—or should be—the futures of FYC, WAC, independent writing programs, writing majors/minors, or other types of programs?
- What research do WPAs need?
- How do WPAs maintain a work/life balance? How can we support each other?

Support from CWPA

- National advertising and visibility for the event
- Space on the CWPA website to support proposal submission

- A system for collecting registration fees
- Modest up-front seed money or support (to pay deposits, etc), to be reimbursed once registrations are collected
- Possible virtual keynoter/featured panel
- CWPA may offer advice and/or logistical support on key elements of developing a conference from our past experiences.

Local Hosts Will Be Expected To

- Define the nature of the event (see “Format” and “Themes” above) and create an invitation/call based on that definition; circulate that call regionally
- Convey the Invitation/Call to CWPA, which will circulate that call nationally
- Create a budget, keeping registration fees under \$50
- Arrange space for the event
- Arrange any catering needed for the event (or identify nearby restaurants where participants can get lunch!)
- Communicate regularly with registrants about details as the event approaches
- Create a program; handle onsite registration and day-of activities
- Write a brief report to the CWPA EB after the event

Proposals are due February 1, 2024, emailed to (councilofwpa@gmail.com)

Proposals should include

- Names, affiliations, and full contact information of all proposers
- Description of the proposed event, including format/theme and how the program will be set
- Description of how the event will feature professional and social interactions
- Location of the event, including meeting spaces, parking, amenities, etc
- Budget, including registration fees and all expenses
- (Optional) Any special requests or needs from CWPA

A Note About the Nature of the Events

We intend these events to be relatively low-key, planned and carried out with minimal fuss on behalf of organizers, priced affordably, primarily to cover costs. To be sure, they’re professional, but informally so. While we’d like to see events hosted in several places around the country, we are not aspiring to “coverage.” Think of these as pilot events that might bring 15-20 people together for a day of professional learning and convivial exchanges.

Questions?

Please contact Lilian Mina (councilofwpa@gmail.com) or any other member of the ad hoc committee, and they will see that you receive an answer.