AWC monthly meeting: December 17th
1:30PM – 4:00PM, Georgia State University
Dunwoody Campus, 2101 Womack Rd.,
Atlanta GA 30338, Building NC Auditorium

Featuring:
Barbara Connor (Member Minute)
Lynn Cullen – Only speaker
Holiday Gathering
...founded in 1914
We are a social and educational club where local writers meet to discuss the craft and business of writing. We also sponsor contests for our members and host expert speakers from the worlds of writing, publishing, and entertainment.

Event in December

AWC Monthly Meeting 17th

http://www.facebook.com/people/Atlanta-WritersClub/100000367043383
http://twitter.com/atlwritersclub
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**December 17th**

Speakers

Barbara Connor (Member Minute)

Lynn Cullen - Speaker
The following is a blatant commercial plug.

My writer’s journey began the day I joined the Atlanta Writers Club. I had been writing steadily for a few years, but knew no other writers and wrote in a veritable vacuum. I can’t recall how I found out about the AWC but the name alone sounded as if it might be worthwhile to join. (I know—I’m a genius.) The nominal membership fee is one of the best investments I’ve ever made.

Through the club, I learned of a critique group in my area, the Fiction Crafters, lead by Barbara Connor. The group met every two weeks and, for the first time, provided me with the objective feedback I so desperately needed. We also formed close personal friendships within the group that last to this day. For eight years or so, Barbara and I, along with fellow member, Mary Anna Bryan, have been regular attendees at AWC functions. Since then, I’ve been a part of other AWC groups that have helped me improve my writing skills.

Many people have followed this same path and I believe the AWC is a major factor in nurturing the vibrant writing community in the state of Georgia and beyond. Along with monthly meetings, we have two Conferences a year, at least two workshops, the Writing Contest, the Decatur Book Festival, the picnic, and the eQuill newsletter. Involvement in all of these activities, along with the opportunity to network with other writers, has a cumulative effect of a broader and deeper understanding of the craft and industry of writing. This connection to the writing community is what the AWC is all about.

Recently, attendance at weekly meetings has been low. The speakers are well-prepared and offer interesting insights from a wide range of perspectives. Will attending one meeting make you a better writer? I doubt it. But, over time, I have learned a lot by attending the meetings as if by osmosis. And, at the least, the habit has helped me stay focused on writing, not as a hobby or a career, but as a way of life. I understand that attending the meetings requires a special effort. So does everything else on a writer’s journey. I hope to see you at our meeting on December 17th. Bring a dessert or snack and we’ll share fellowship after the break.

Have a great Holiday Season.

Mike Brown
President
Monthly Meetings

November Meeting Photos
by Perry Powell

1. Ron Aiken with fellow members
2. Jim Auchmutey
3. Jim Auchmutey signs books
4. Daniel Black reads a passage from his book
5. Daniel Black signs books
BARBARA CONNOR – Member Minute

Before moving to Georgia ten years ago, Barbara Connor was a features correspondent writing a weekly column at the Ocala Star Banner. She also wrote articles for various publications around the state, published three short stories and several poems and still managed her volunteer positions as president of both Main Street Inc. and the Friends of Rainbow Springs State Park. One day, having fulfilled her penchant for public service she awoke and reminded herself that this was not the retirement she had in mind. Ready for some fun, Connor sold her home, moved into the city and joined the Ocala Civic Theater. When not involved in production, she became part of the theater's Golden Troupers, a group that performed skits and songs for area nursing homes and retirement communities. Having returned recently from a two thousand mile self-drive trip through Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic, doing research for two historical novels on which she is currently working, Connor says, "If they thought they could reign me in, sorry, nice try."

LYNN CULLEN – Featured Speaker

Lynn Cullen grew up in Fort Wayne, Indiana, the fifth girl in a family of seven children. She learned to love history combined with traveling while visiting historic sites across the U.S. on annual family camping trips. She attended Indiana University in Bloomington and Fort Wayne, and took writing classes with Tom McHaney at Georgia State. She wrote children’s books as her three daughters were growing up, while working in a pediatric office and later, at Emory University on the editorial staff of a psychoanalytic journal. While her camping expeditions across the States have become fact-finding missions across Europe, she still loves digging into the past. She does not miss, however, sleeping in musty sleeping bags. Or eating canned fruit cocktail. She now lives in Atlanta with her husband, their dog, and two unscrupulous cats.

Lynn Cullen is the author of *The Creation of Eve*, named among the best fiction books of 2010 by *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and as an April 2010 Indie Next selection. She is also the author of numerous award-winning books for children, including the young adult novel *I Am Rembrandt’s Daughter*, which was a 2007 Barnes & Noble “Discover Great New Writers” selection, and an ALA Best Book of 2008. Her novel, *Reign of Madness*, about Juana the Mad, daughter of the Spanish Monarchs Isabella and Ferdinand, was chosen as a 2011 Best of the South selection by the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* and was a 2012 Townsend Prize finalist. Her 2013 novel, *Mrs. Poe*, examines the fall of Edgar Allan Poe through the eyes of poet Francis Osgood. Cullen’s latest novel, *Twain’s End*, re-imagines the tangled relationships between America’s most iconic writer, Mark Twain, his private secretary, Isabel V. Lyon, and his business manager, Ralph Ashcroft.
Monthly Meetings

Future Guests & Events

2016/17

December 17, 2016
Barbara Connor (Member Minute)
Lynn Cullen
Annual Holiday Gathering

January 21, 2017
Katie Hart Smith (Member Minute)
Clifford Brooks
Deborah Malone

February 18, 2017
Linda Sands (Member Minute)
Alex Berensen
Mary Hall Kelly

March 11, 2017
Spring Writing Workshop with Cherry Weiner

March 18, 2017
Barbara Brockway (Member Minute)
Amber Brock
Scott Hawkins
Recap

Atlanta Writers Conference

Our 15th Atlanta Writers Conference welcomed 193 participants, including writers from across U.S., as well as 12 literary agents and acquisition editors who critiqued manuscript samples, responded to pitches, paired up to make query letters more impactful, and provided insightful responses during two Q&A panels. In parallel with the agent and editor activities, educational sessions focused on marketing for authors, understanding the publishing process, and improving one’s writing craft. Our Friday mixer was attended by more than 80, and at the Saturday award ceremony that capped the conference, best manuscript submission and best pitch awards were given to nearly 30 of our participants. Many thanks to the Atlanta Writers Club volunteers who make this conference possible!
Recap

Atlanta Writers Conference cont.

Some comments received from participants included the following:

“Many thanks for a wonderfully organized conference! The AWC does such a great job, a great service for writers.”

“The writers conference was wonderful, as always. This year was well organized, and you have a wonderful team of helpful, supportive, and enthusiastic volunteers. You should be so proud of them. And the caliber of guests I met both times is amazing. I’m always proud to say I’m a member of the Atlanta Writers Club.”

“Thank you again for organizing the conference. This was my first time attending, but I look forward to coming back in the spring.”

Our guest agents and editors enjoyed themselves, too, and appreciated the helpful volunteers and talented writers they met:

“The Atlanta Writers Conference is one of the best in the country. Editors and agents will enjoy getting to know each other while having the opportunity to discover top-notch regional talent.”

- Julie Stevenson, Literary Agent for Lippincott Massie McQuilkin

“This was a thoughtfully structured and wonderfully run conference that really gives writers, editors, and agents alike the chance to benefit from great conversations and productive activities. I had a great time meeting interesting writers and publishing colleagues who I hope to work with in the future.”

- Gabriella Doob, Associate Editor for Ecco Books

“The Atlanta Writers Conference is a blast, and the best organized writers conference I’ve attended. The AWC is a diverse group of talented writers, and everyone I met was friendly and respectful. All the volunteers are lovely and incredibly helpful, and make everything run smoothly.”

- Chloe Moffett, Assistant Editor for William Morrow

The 16th Atlanta Writers Conference will be held on May 12-13, 2017. It is in the planning stages and will be announced by e-mail and in the eQuill newsletter by January 2017.
ELIGIBILITY:

1. The AWC 2017 Writing Contest is open to: **All current, paid club members**. Please check your membership status before submitting your entry. (To join AWC, please contact the Membership VP, Yvonne Green, at ytgreen@bellsouth.net.)

2. Submissions must be **original, unpublished**, and previously **un-awarded work**. Entrants may submit to only one category per contest year.

DEADLINE:

Midnight, March 18, 2017. Submissions received after this date will automatically be ineligible.

AWARDS:

Each award carries a $300 cash prize, a plaque, and publication in *The Blue Mountain Review*. Winners will be announced at our club meeting on April 15, 2017.

CONTEST CATEGORIES:

- **Terry Kay Prize for Fiction** (Maximum, 3000 words)
- **Rick Bragg Prize for Nonfiction** (Maximum, 3000 words)
- **Natasha Trethewey Prize for Poetry** (Maximum, 90 lines)

CONTEST GUIDELINES:

**Manuscript Format.** Failure to adhere to the following format will result in disqualification.

- DO NOT place your name anywhere on the manuscript entry
- Only Word files (.docx) will be accepted.
- Font: 12 pt, Black, Times New Roman
- Margins: 1 inch
- Line spacing: double – yes, even for poetry.
- White background (no colors, photos, graphics or images)
- Page size & layout: 8-1/2 x 11; Portrait

First page: Title and Prize Category should appear in the upper left corner

PAPER ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
SUBMISSION RULES:

Failure to adhere to any of the submission guidelines will lead to disqualification.

Send ONE ENTRY and the corresponding Standard Submission Form (SSF) to chramse@gmail.com.

There is no template for the SSF; you create the document yourself (see below) and send it as a separate attachment. The entry and SSF both must be sent as attached Word documents (.docx). The SSF is used for identification purposes by Clay Ramsey only. Judges never know the identity of any author; they see only the blind entry document.

IMPORTANT: Name the documents by title, i.e. Title.docx and SSF-Title.docx

Example: if the entry title is Moon Fire, the document should be named Moon Fire.docx (this is the document that will be sent to the judges) and the SSF should be named SSF-Moon Fire.docx (this is the document that will be seen only by Clay Ramsey).

Standard Submission Form (SSF):

The SSF must include the following information:

- Author’s Name
- Prize Category
- Title of Entry
- Word Count (Line Count for poetry)

Named the document: SSF-Title.docx

Attach the entry document and your SSF document to an email addressed to Clay at chramse@gmail.com. Your EMAIL MESSAGE MUST INCLUDE:

Subject Line: AWC 2017 Writing Contest
Your name, phone number, prize category, title

Example:

Dear Clay,

I have attached [Title] for the [Prize Category] and the corresponding SSF.

Thank you,

[Your name]
[Your phone number]
AWC Author Spotlight

Kerry Alan Denney’s New Book

*A MIGHTY ROLLING THUNDER*, the new post-apocalyptic/urban fantasy by Kerry Alan Denney aka "The Reality Bender" from Burning Willow Press

December 3, 2016

The end of the world is just the beginning of the terror...

Spring, 2024: Two spirit hordes break through from another dimension, and make half the world’s population vanish. The spirits possess the survivors, dividing them into two groups: those who fight to retain their humanity, and marauders who destroy everything in their paths.

Artist Livi DeSilva is fleeing from possessed killers when she meets Conor McLain, a man suffering from amnesia. Outnumbered and outgunned, Livi and Conor team up and fight off homicidal lunatics and ruthless gangs, only to end up cornered by their deadliest foe: billionaire Victor van Danz, a psychopath who commands the new world’s dark forces. Victor craves immortality, and kidnaps Livi. He believes that when he kills Livi in front of her collection of canvases and absorbs her life energy, he will transform into a god.

With only Conor, two amazing dogs, and a band of plucky children to aid her, Livi must harness the power of the spirits inside her and use it to defeat Victor—or die in the clutches of a madman.

Amazon:
https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01N3JL331

Goodreads:

Official Book Trailer:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wPdK1u7ILs0&feature=youtu.be

Author Website:
http://www.kerrydenney.com
Soniah Kamal’s essay, *The Fall: How Not To Survive Your Father's Imprisonment*, is nominated for 2017 Pushcart Prize!

*Introduced by Constance A. Dunn*

Soniah Kamal’s story begins with a phone call informing her that her father has been taken to prison after a nonviolent coup of the Pakistani government. She is stuck in the USA, thousands of miles away from the ensuing family upheaval. Her raw, personal narrative of distance and the pain of separation weaves in and out of memories and history, ending poignantly at 9/11 and the ominous phrase, "A safety net has fallen and we’re all tangled up." Despite the piece ending on an event that redefined the world, it’s the image of Kamal’s father that stands out. Elegantly sandwiched between short descriptions of his favorite chair (one that no one sat in during the entire nine months of his imprisonment), Kamal’s father is the everyman — stable, intelligent and loving, a timeless universal that asks the reader to imagine their own father whisked away without explanation. And rather than school the reader on the whys and hows, she asks them to feel alongside her, creating a disarming empathy that feels more like a late night chat with a friend than a speech to the class.

Kamal’s story does what short nonfiction does so well, putting the reality of an individual experience in the context of world events.

Short Story Opportunity

**Catch Our Drift Productions** is producing a compilation of short stories that aims to make a difference in the lives of readers ... and writers.

*39 Signs of Hope*, coming in the fall of 2017, is a collection of stories from writers around the world. Whether facing personal challenges, trying to combat environmental threats or dealing with global unrest, people rely on hope to help them through difficult situations.

"So many writers have compelling stories," says Sheila Cameron, co-founder of Catch Our Drift Productions. "By sharing those stories, contributing writers will offer comfort to readers seeking a greater sense of hope or purpose in their lives."

*39 Signs of Hope* will be published under a hybrid publishing model, wherein the publisher and selected authors will share in both the cost of production and the opportunity to sell books. "Many writers don't have the experience or means to publish their stories," says Mark Cameron, also a co-founder. "Similarly, small-scale publishers have limited resources for working with multiple authors and reaching readers. This new model is a win-win plan to fill a gap between independent authors and publishers, who are both working with small budgets."

Each selected author will make a financial contribution toward production costs in exchange for having their work professionally edited and designed. They will also receive 20 trade paperback copies with an option to buy additional books at a wholesale price. Catch Our Drift Productions will contribute 39% of profit from e-book and print-on-demand sales from *39 Signs of Hope* to a registered charity that is voted on by contributing authors.

Catch Our Drift Productions is accepting submissions (1,000 to 2,000 words) until January 31, 2017. There is no fee to submit a story. For more information, visit [www.catchourdrift.ca/39-signs-of-hope](http://www.catchourdrift.ca/39-signs-of-hope).

**Catch Our Drift Productions Inc.**
Gibsons, BC,

Phone: 604-740-2179
E-mail: [info@catchourdrift.ca](mailto:info@catchourdrift.ca)
Web: [www.catchourdrift.ca](http://www.catchourdrift.ca)
Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/CatchOurDrift](https://www.facebook.com/CatchOurDrift)
The Lillian E. Smith Center of Piedmont College is accepting applications for the Lillian E. Smith Writer-in-Service Award. The award winner gets a two-week residency at the Center in Clayton, Georgia, a $500 honorarium, and a $500 travel allowance. Applications are accepted through mid-January, with the winner named in late February. The Award is open to U.S. residents working to advance writing through public service careers or volunteer work. Eligible activities include, but are not limited to, arts education, literacy instruction, prison arts and education, English as a second language instruction, art-related therapies, etc.

Please help us spread the word about the award application among your circles of influence. Here’s the link to the website:

http://www.piedmont.edu/writer-in-service-award
Other Opportunities

We depend on our members for support, and ask for volunteers to help out with some of the many exciting programs heading our way in the coming months.

We'll need check-in volunteers for each of our future monthly meetings. If you would like to volunteer for a specific meeting, please let VP of Operations Jennifer Wiggins know which month you prefer. Or, if you would like to volunteer but are unsure about your availability until the time gets nearer, she will gladly include you in her list of volunteers to contact at a later date. Please respond to: jennifer.wiggins1@aol.com.

Fiction Critique Group Online

If you have difficulty in finding a critique group that meets at a convenient location and fits your schedule then you might consider the Atlanta Writers Club Fiction Online Critique Group. This group encompasses all genres of fiction writing from flash fiction to short story to novella to novels. All subject areas are welcome, although content warnings are appreciated. Group members are also encouraged to exchange information on any aspect of writing or publication, including query letters and self-publishing.

Lianne Simon has led this group for several years but is ready to hand it off to someone else. If you have an interest in hosting this group, please contact michael@atlantawritersclub.org.
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<th>Club-Sponsored Critique Groups</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Atlanta/Midtown</strong> Nonfiction 1st &amp; 3rd Wednesday 6-7:30 pm at 77 12th Street</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Online</strong> Fiction Ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Alpharetta</strong> All Genres Barnes &amp; Noble on North Point Parkway in Alpharetta on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 7 p.m.</td>
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<td><strong>Avondale Estates</strong> Nonfiction Mon, 6:30 p.m. @ Urban Grounds</td>
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<td><strong>Avondale Estates</strong> Nonfiction Tues, 4-6p.m. @ Urban Grounds</td>
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<td><strong>Buckhead/Midtown</strong> Poetry 4th Sun @ 11a.m.</td>
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<td><strong>Conyers</strong> All genres Every other Tues, 6:30 @ Whistle Post Tavern</td>
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<td><strong>Decatur</strong> All genres Every other Thursday at Choco Late, 2094 North Decatur Road</td>
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<td><strong>Decatur</strong> Adult &amp; YA fiction Sunday, 1:30PM, monthly</td>
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<td><strong>Decatur</strong> Adult, YA fiction, &amp; memoirs Sunday, 10AM, fortnightly</td>
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<td><strong>Decatur</strong> Children's and YA fiction Thursday, 10AM, monthly</td>
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<td><strong>Decatur</strong> Adult/YA fiction groups Every 3rd Wed @ 7 @ Java Monkey</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Decatur</strong> Fiction Every other Wed, 6:30 pm @ ChocoLate Coffee – Clair- mont/ North Decatur Road.</td>
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<td><strong>Dunwoody</strong> All genres Once a month, on the Saturday of the AWC meeting at 12:30 in the Georgia Perimeter College breakroom</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dunwoody</strong> All genres 1st and 3rd Fri, 1-3 p.m. @ Georgia Perimeter College Library Building, Rm3100</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lawrenceville/Snellville</strong> Novel, Short Story &amp; Memoir 1st Saturday @ 9:30 a.m. - noon @ member’s home</td>
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<td><strong>Loganville</strong> Fiction 1st Saturday of each month at 9:30AM</td>
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<td><strong>Marietta</strong> All genres 1st and 3rd Tues, 7-9p.m.</td>
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<td><strong>Poncey-Highlands</strong> All genera 2nd &amp; 4th Monday Manuel's Tavern email John Fortune</td>
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<td><strong>Roswell</strong> All genres 1st &amp; 3rd Thursdays The Heron House</td>
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<td><strong>Roswell</strong> Poetry 3rd Sunday</td>
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<td><strong>Roswell</strong> All genres 4th Saturday of month</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Roswell</strong> All genres Every Tues 6:45 - 9:00 p.m. at member's home</td>
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<td><strong>Roswell</strong> All genres women's 2nd and 4th Wed, 7 to 9p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Roswell</strong> All genres Twice monthly, Mon,10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. @ Roswell Library.</td>
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Membership Renewal—What to Expect

The AWC has an automated system for tracking memberships and alerting members when it's time to renew. You will receive an e-mail from the system (showing Officer Emeritus George Weinstein’s e-mail address george@atlantawritersclub.org) one month before your membership expiration date. If you haven't renewed within a week, you will receive another e-mail every seven days, with a final e-mail one week from expiration. If the expiration date for your membership passes without renewal, the system will mark your membership as expired. It is a good e-mail practice to check your spam/junk folder to see if any legitimate e-mail has been misfiled there, possibly including the email you'll receive from george@atlantawritersclub.org prior to the expiration of your membership.

We appreciate your continued support of the Atlanta Writers Club. Your membership dues make it possible to bring fabulous speakers to our meetings, provide generous cash awards for our annual writing contest, and sponsor scholarships, literary prizes, and local writing festivals.
Membership Information – The Atlanta Writers Club

Regular membership dues are $50 per year per person. Students can join for $40 per year. Family members of active AWC members can join for $25 per year.

We are one of the best literary bargains in town. The Atlanta Writers Club is simply a group of writers that work together to help each other improve their skills and attain their writing goals. Anyone can join, with no prior publication requirements. Here are a just a few membership benefits:

**Monthly meetings.** On the third Saturday of each month, our members gather to listen and learn from two guest speakers who cover a broad range of topics and genres, and come to us from many facets of the literary world. Our speakers include published authors, literary agents, editors, playwrights and poets, just to name a few. Please refer to our list of upcoming guest speakers in this newsletter.

**Workshops.** Your membership provides access to outstanding writing workshops. Some are free with membership and others are provided at a discounted price. Watch for announcements about upcoming workshops.

**Twice-Yearly Writers Conferences.** This is your opportunity to spend time face to face with a literary agent or editor and have the chance to pitch your work. Conferences include agent Q & A panels, writing workshops, and a social gathering where you’ll get to meet and talk with the agents and editors in a more informal setting.

**Critique Groups.** We now have approximately twenty (20) different critique groups available to members. Scattered about the Atlanta metro area, these critique groups meet regularly to read each other’s writings and recommend modifications.

**Writing Contests With Cash Prizes.** At least one contest is held each year with a variety of formats and topics.

**Monthly Newsletter.** Our monthly newsletter, the eQuill, provides the opportunity for our members to advertise their book launches and book signings to a wide reaching mailing list. And, it will keep you up to date with news about writing opportunities and literary events across the Southeast and beyond.

**Decatur Book Festival Participation.** The Atlanta Writers Club has a tent at the Decatur Book Festival each year, that’s staffed by member volunteers. It’s a great way to get involved in the largest book festival in the area.

Potential members are invited to attend a first meeting as our guest. After that, we’re sure you will want to become a member and take advantage of all the benefits that come with it. You may join The Atlanta Writers Club at any of our events or meetings, or pay on line at our website using PayPal at [http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/membership.html](http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/membership.html).

If you have additional questions, contact AWC President Michael Brown at michael@atlantawritersclub.org
Membership Form

□ New Membership  [Individual]  [Family]
□ Renewal  [Individual]  [Family]

*If this is a Renewal, please update your information*

First Name: __________________________ Last Name: __________________________
Cell Phone: ________________________ Other Phone: _________________________
Email: ____________________________ Alternate Email: _______________________

First Name: __________________________ Last Name: __________________________
Cell Phone: ________________________ Other Phone: _________________________
Email: ____________________________ Alternate Email: _______________________

*For additional family members, please use additional forms*

I would like to become involved with the AWC as a:  □ Meeting Volunteer  □ Conference Volunteer
□ Decatur Book Festival Volunteer  □ Other (please specify):

AWC MEMBERSHIP DUES

Individual [$50.00]: $________
Family [add family members for $25.00 each]: $________

Membership is for ONE YEAR

Student [$40.00]: $________

Make checks payable to: Atlanta Writers Club  Tax Deductible Donation: $________

Total: $________

Mail check and form to: Atlanta Writers Club
C/O Ron Aiken, Treasurer
155 Glen Eagle Way
McDonough, GA 30253

Name: ____________________________ donated $ ________ to the Atlanta Writers Club.

Date: ____________________________

The Atlanta Writers Club is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.

No goods or services were provided in exchange for or in association with this donation.

*Please keep this portion of the form as you receipt*