

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *How is the Northern California region defined?*

The area extends from the Oregon border south to the Monterey/Carmel area. A requirement of joining the collective is participation in ten monthly business meetings. Some of these meetings can be attended electronically for those who live at a distance, but attendance in person is essential for an entrance interview and the annual Vision meeting. Details of attendance will be clarified during the interview with the author of a selected manuscript.

2. *What is the selection process for manuscripts?*

All readings are blind. A committee of at least four Sixteen Rivers members reads all submissions and chooses up to six finalists to be read by the entire collective, which then chooses one or two. It is possible that no manuscript will be selected in a given year. Once manuscripts are selected the authors' names are revealed and the authors are invited to a personal interview with members of the collective. At this meeting we discuss concerns of authors, how the collective works, and how the publication process goes forward. This meeting is to ensure that the personal fit is a good one for all.

3. *What are the tasks of collective members?*

The average of 8 hours a month is indeed an average. Ongoing tasks vary from less intensive but continuous ones (monitoring press email, posting on social media, etc.) to more intensive occasional tasks (mailing out review copies, writing grants, reading and editing mss., helping with the annual benefit, representing the press at book fairs, festivals, and AWP, etc.). Other tasks are both intensive and continuous tasks (serving as Treasurer, handling book fulfillment). Our authors have each managed to find appropriate commitments that can be managed with a variety of lifestyles, including full-time work and families.

4. *What are the tasks of new members?*

In their first year with the collective authors are primarily involved with producing their own book: revising the manuscript, selecting cover art, working with a book designer and our copyeditor. The author's book appears in the second year and the focus is on promotion. Authors must be able to give a series of readings throughout the region, including 3-5 in the Bay Area. Authors may pick up tasks for the Press as well during the first year, increasing them in the second and third years.