

**ACWL GUIDELINES FOR SELF-PUBLISHED MEMBERSHIP**  
**(Same criteria used by Mystery Writers of America)**

You have been **self-published** and have earned a minimum of \$5,000 in a single calendar year from approved mystery works\* (novels, novellas, short stories), or suitable non-fiction titles, i.e., true crime; biographies of mystery authors; critical works about mysteries, their creators and characters; forensic works; or other nonfiction that is mystery or crime-related), either in print, electronically, or by way of an audio recording.

\* A "mystery work" is defined as a story where a crime is the central element.

This earning requirement is a one-time event, meaning there is no need to generate a specified income each year to maintain one's level of membership. The proof of earnings shall be either a US tax return (with all information not pertaining to publishing activity redacted) or an **IRS Form 1099**.

If your work is a contribution to a periodical, you must provide a hard copy. For an e-zine/webzine, you must provide a hard copy and proof of its online/electronic availability, even if the work is no longer available. A work must be available for a minimum of thirty days to be considered published.

*Not eligible: Works offered through predatory, i.e. subsidy publishing companies, shall not qualify.*