Voices Committee

Mission:

IRP Voices encourages IRP members to develop and share their recent creative talents. *Voices* presents their high quality literary and artistic work in an easily accessible online format. Currently *IRP Voices* appears as an annual edition, with prior "issues" available through an online archive.

Activities:

The Voices Committee meets once a year as a team to establish plans for that year's issue. Additional committee meetings are scheduled as required.

There is a division of responsibilities between the publishing, operations, and editorial activities to ensure the independence of the editors in selecting the works for publication. The publishers convene the team and set the calendar. The editors select the judges and oversee the rating and editorial process.

Submissions are submitted over the summer with a deadline of September 1. Information about submitting to *Voices* is posted in the Observer and on the Zine in April. Repeated announcements are made throughout the summer. Submissions are received by the publishers and operations staff. They acknowledge receipt of the submissions, remove identifying information and forward the submissions to the editors. The editors convene panels of judges (for photography and art) and readers (for poetry and prose), who review all submissions and make selections. The editors are then given the names of the submitters for notification and follow-up.

The edited content is sent to the publishers and operations staff for uploading to the online format. *Voices* is published in the late fall. In addition to the online publication, at least one presentation of material from *Voices* is made to IRP members at a general meeting or other event.

Committee Membership - Skills and Experience:

Editors usually serve for three to four issues--one per year.

It is desirable to have one or two editors for each category of submissions: currently these are prose, poetry, photography, and visual art. Editors should have prior experience related to the category. Relevant experience would include: coordinating an IRP study group; teaching; publication in Voices; other juried competition.

Publishers and other technical staff should have administrative experience and some background in the implementation of web pages or other on-line publication.

Committee Selection Process:

Editors and operations staff are chosen by the publishers in consultation with the Committee members and the Director.   An annual announcement of openings for these positions will be made and posted in the IRP Observer and on the IRPZine.

IRP members interested in becoming publishers for future issues of *Voices* should communicate their interest to the current publishers or to the Director.

While not members of the committee, judges and readers are important members of the *Voices* process. They are selected for each issue by the editors. IRP members who would like to serve as judges or readers are invited to express their interest by writing to the editors.