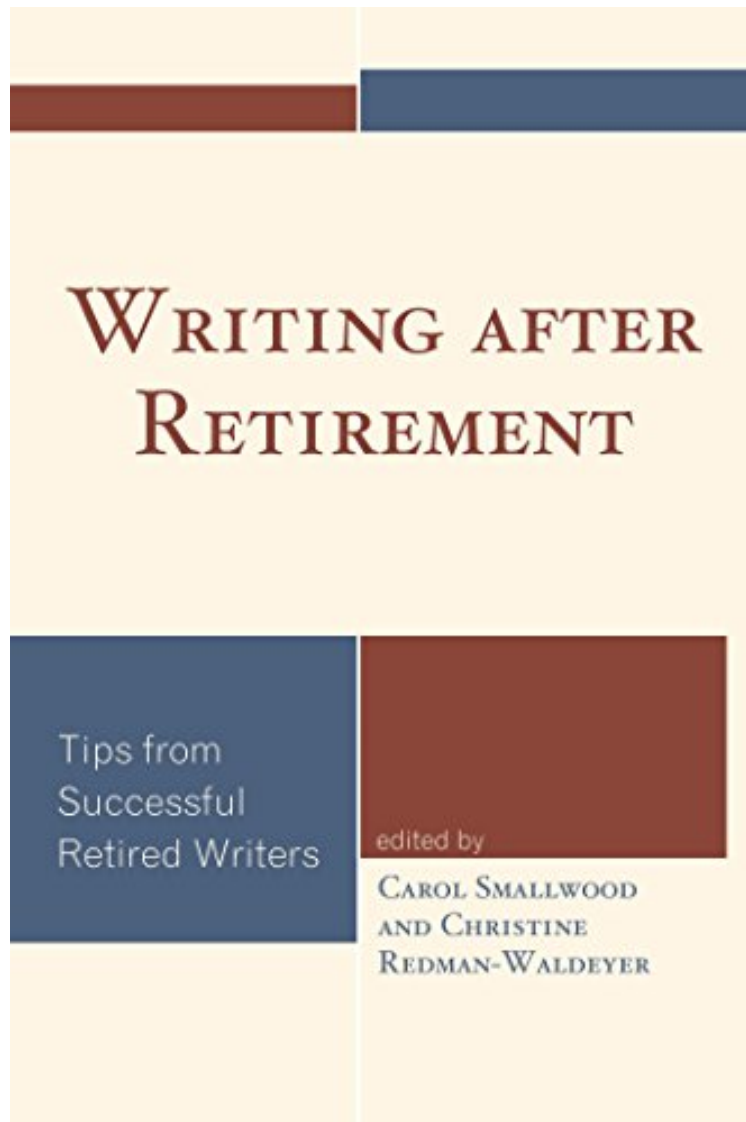


Writing after Retirement: Tips from Successful Retired Writers

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From Rowman Littlefield Publishers : **Writing after Retirement: Tips from Successful Retired Writers** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Writing after Retirement: Tips from Successful Retired Writers:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Writing Resource for RetirementBy MariaThere is so much information in this book. A very good resource for deciding what type of writing to do during retirement. The possibilities are endless. Great advice!2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Tips any writer could useBy Story Circle Book ReviewsWriting after Retirement: Tips from Successful Retired Writers, edited by Carol Smallwood and Christine Redman-Waldeyer, is a collection of twenty-seven essays divided into four sections. Each

essay or chapter offers advice and informative anecdotes for anyone interested in pursuing writing as a career or avocation. Section I of the collection focuses on Arlene Mandell's anchor piece, "Building a New Life by Connecting to Community," which offers six steps toward building your post retirement career. These steps include getting involved in local activities, attending meetings, and joining organizations, and are sound advice for anyone interested in a writing career. Likewise, Stanley Klemetson's advice, in "Following Dreams Put On Hold," is to join a writers group, attend workshops, take continuing education classes, and engage in blogging. Further sound writing advice, no matter what stage of your career. This collection has something for every writer: retired, beginning, or seasoned. Many practical aspects of writing are addressed in Section II, including Robert Runte's "Estate Planning for Authors." Section III offers "Finding Your Niche." Here, Don Mulcahy discusses the work of compiling an anthology. Other sections discuss blogging, poetry, memoir, health, and heritage. The final section covers marketing and publishing. The overall tone of the book is one of support and encouragement. Stephen Scottong in his essay "Some Writing Nuts and Bolts" asserts: "Writing, like wine, improves with age" and B. Lynn Goodwin in "My Niche My Way" asserts that a writer is "someone who writes and doesn't quit." The most liberating lines were by Sarah W. Bartlett in her essay "It's Never too Late to Start Blogging." "Now that we're retired," she says, "we no longer need to follow any one else's schedule or goals. We have the complete freedom to pick and choose... Moreover, we've earned the right to say what we think and feel..." As I read through the book, I frequently set it aside to pursue links to web sites, writing groups, books by other authors, and publishing opportunities. I took notes and bookmarked a great deal of new and pertinent recommendations. The structure of the book allows one to focus on specific areas of interests while exposing one to fresh considerations, such as making a will. I am sure I will pick it up again and again and use it as a reference (and perhaps read the section on estate planning a bit more closely.) If you want to write and perhaps are retired, *Writing After Retirement* is a wise investment of your time and money. by Diane Stanton for Story Circle Book

Reviews reviewing books by, for, and about women 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Never Too Old to Start Writing By Kindle Customer Retirement! A recliner chair in Florida? Hitting the road in a motor home? However we seniors dream of, or actually spend, our retirement years, more and more of us are including a laptop and a stack of writing tablets. Twenty-first century retirement—the wisdom generation, as some social scientists phrase it—often involves reflection on our lives and loves, our successes and missed opportunities. Perhaps in return for the gift of extended time and opportunity, we think about recording memories (while we still have them) of the decades we shared with billions of other humans on this planet we have called home. Depending on the scope of our remembering, the product of our literary labor may take the form chronicling our childhood years, our education and coming of age, our career(s), and the experience of aging in a youth-worshipping culture. This labor of love is a worthy end in itself. And what a gift our work is to younger generations hanging on the branches of our family tree. Many retirees are just as intent on writing from the deep pool of their hard-earned wisdom, but for reasons other than producing private memoirs. Seniors in Western cultures today are more tech savvy than any generation of elder statesmen and women that preceded them. Technology has opened new doors to retirees who catch the writing bug. They are blogging, self-publishing both fiction and nonfiction. They're producing and marketing their own poetry, rather than competing for recognition by a shrinking field of verse publishers. Retirees are writing from the experience of aging, and they're getting published in senior journals and health magazines, both print and online. The truth is that every avenue of writing and publication is now open to retirees. And growing audiences of younger adults are eager to learn from those who have walked the meadows and cliffs of life's journey before them. But hold on. Suppose that you retired just last month. You now have time on your hands to pursue interests you formerly had to put on hold. Or at least you have more control over your time. You are educated and still in pretty good health. You have stories to tell and unique experiences to share. Within reach, a computer screen or writing tablet is eager to capture the treasures you've collected over a lifetime. Where can you find the help you need in order to reach your goal of producing a finished, professional-quality product, whether for private or broad publication? There isn't a better one-stop shop than *Writing After Retirement: Tips from Successful Retired Writers*. Editors Carol Smallwood and Christine Redman-Waldeyer have compiled an ideal A-to-Z anthology for aspiring retiree-writers. The book is organized into four sections: Starting In, Practical Aspects, Finding Your Niche, and Publication and Marketing. The men and women authors offer page after page of tips and advice to help you achieve your post-retirement writing and publishing goals. A few samples will reveal the benefits of owning this volume. Writers like to speak of their "muse"—someone or something that gets them out of bed in the morning and inspires them keep at their creative task, sometimes skipping meals in the process. Appropriately, the lead-off essay is "A Muse of One's Own: Finding Inspiration for Your Writing Life" by Alice Lowe, who gets right to the heart of the matter: "Writers need good teaching and models, encouragement and motivation." Jinny V. Batters ("Using and Tuning Life Experiences") makes a key point under the section heading, "Aiming For an Audience." "One of the most difficult tasks for any aspiring writer is defining and finding an audience." She offers many helpful prompts for accomplishing this fundamental requirement. In Rita Keeley Brown's essay, "Using Life Experience: Memoir Writing," she cautions retiree-writers whose aim is to write their life stories, to discipline themselves. "Memoir is but one window into your life. It is not the whole house or your

entire life" (italics added). B. Lynn Goodwin, author of *You Want Me to Do WHAT?: Journaling for Caregivers*, transitioned from a teaching career into writing professionally. In addition to her published works, she moderates a popular educational website for writers called *Writer Advice* (writeradvice.com). In "My Niche, My Way," Goodwin outlines how she found her writing and publishing path by being open to life experiences, both happy and difficult. Allowing life to guide you step by step will lead you one day to a wonderful new place—your unique writing niche. Editors Smallwood and Redman-Waldeyer and their varied, experienced, and successful retiree-contributors have left no gaps in this near encyclopedic volume. It's a "must have" for any senior who's been bitten by a too-long dormant writing bug.

Unlike previous volumes which focus on how to earn a living while writing in very specific areas, this anthology accurately describes a wide range of different avenues an aspiring author can pursue, either for profit or for personal fulfillment. Speaking directly to retirees, this book opens doors to many other areas worth pursuing; its chapters vary from the inspirational (the importance of linking to a community with similar interests, reconnecting to one's dreams, seeking inspirational sources) to the quotidian (everyday writing tips, and how to use one's experience to find subjects to write about). *Writing after Retirement* provides a variety of vantage points from published authors and paints a realistic portrayal of what it takes to get started in the industry. This book also includes preparation for the challenges that aspiring writers face, and practical guides for overcoming them. A range of issues are addressed: Linking one's writing to current activities The nuts and bolts of writing Planning one's estate New career paths Writing opportunities Practical advice on how to take that first step Whether writing for pleasure or for profit, the reader will find plenty to choose from in this collection.

"This collection by those who've succeeded in writing after retirement will strengthen your resolve and know-how!"
Sheila Bender, founder, [Writing It Real.com](http://WritingItReal.com)