**Kansas Writer’s, Inc**

Kansas Writers INK Newsletter

September 2017

**Board Members 2017-2018:**

President: Billie-Renee Knight

Vice President: Morgan Chilson

Secretary: Leslie Galbraith

Treasurer: Shayne Sawyer

Membership: Bobbie Johnston

Newsletter: Brittany Willes

Advisor to the President: Tish Glasson

**September Meeting Program**

TV was once described to me as an "income reducer" by someone running his own business. I think of that every time I watch a show or cruise Facebook when I haven't written a word on my own book in days. Weeks even.

And yet, like everything, there is tremendous good also buried in the online environment for writers. At this month's meeting, we're going to explore ideas for expanding your craft -- writing, editing, researching -- through online avenues.

For instance, many universities are beginning to offer free online college classes. You sign up and get access to video or audio lectures. Oftentimes, these schools are tops in their fields, such as MIT, Harvard and Yale.

We'll listen to a few online podcasts or videos, and talk about ways to utilize the vast resources in the best ways possible.

See you there!

Morgan

**Business Meeting, KS Writers, INC**

August 26, 2017

**Members present:** Morgan Chilson, Leslie Galbraith, Jason Glasson, Tish Glasson, Theresa Grennan, Angela Johnson, Carolyn Kaberline, Billie-Renee Knight, Shayne Sawyer, Brittany Willes

**Previous Minutes:** approved as written

**Treasurer’s Report:** not available at time of printing

**Correspondence:**

1. Lily Fouts – thank you for sympathy card
2. Announcement – writing retreat in London, England
3. Ryan Freeman – email asking to speak to the group

**Unfinished business:**

1. Round robin novel update – chapter 5 is nearly finished and will appear in the September newsletter email
2. Election results – congratulations to the new officers, especially Brittany Willes who will take over the newsletter spot
3. Reminders for newsletter, blog, & website information

**New business:**

1. Report from executive meeting
2. Holiday party – November 18 at 11:30 at the 1st Congregational Church – more details in next newsletter
3. Nanowrimo marathon – November 11 noon to midnight at Hayden Catholic High School
4. Annual retreat will be April 27 – 28, 2018 at Basswood Lodge – details will be shared in September newsletter
5. New membership year
6. Renewal forms available from Bobbie or on website
7. $20 renewal fee due to treasurer by October 1

**Door prize:** Shayne Sawyer

**Annual President’s Report**

KWI members,

Another year has flown by – can you believe it? We had an eventful year with a lot of

ups and downs.

**August 2016** – The new board took over with only one minor change in the line-up.

President – Billie-Renee Knight

Vice President – Morgan Chilson

Treasurer – Shayne Sawyer

Secretary – Leslie Galbraith

Newsletter – Romie Chavez

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The Executive Board changed the time of the executive meeting a second time to

accommodate concerns by a few members. The new meeting time was changed to

10:00 a.m. with the critique session beginning at 10:30. The Board continued working

on scheduling a time for an author event, but finding a venue was a difficult proposition.

At this point we had confirmed Barnes &amp; Noble, but needed to set a date. Several

members were planning on participating in the monthly open mic poetry readings being

held at a coffee shop downtown on the first Wednesday of each month.

**September 2016** – Bill Bunten, a former mayor of Topeka, presented the September

program on forming LLCs and covered the basics of operating your writing career as a

small business. Barnes &amp; Noble had not yet confirmed a date for the author event.

Members Anne Barringer, Shayne Sawyer, and Tish and Jason Glasson presented the

group with the themes for the group novel writing project. Everyone interested in

participating in the round robin signed up and were assigned a chapter. Anne took the

first chapter with Shayne volunteering to write chapter two. Chapters were to be

published in the newsletter on an ongoing basis.

**October 2016** – The group voted to cancel October’s meeting and go instead to Kansas

City to the MARA meeting where Harlequin editor Piya Campana was presenting.

Following the meeting she heard pitches from various authors, including KWI’s Morgan

Chilson, Barb Baldwin, Anne Barringer and Billie-Renee Knight. Morgan and Billie-

Renee were asked to submit to the publication. The annual retreat was announced for

April 7-9, 2017 at Basswod Lodge in Kansas City. A $50 deposit was requested by

Feburary 1.

**November 2016** – The Holiday party was held on November 12 at the First

Congregational Church. The food was fantastic and the gift auction was a resounding

success. Reed Holwegner, Reaona Hemmingway and Janet Stotts all received

honorable mentions from the Kansas Authors Club annual contest.

**December 2016** – The group took this month off to be with family for the holidays.

**January 2017** – KWI kicked off the new year with a large group critique session held at

the First Congregational Church due to a lack of space at the public library. The

Executive Board again shifted their meeting time to accommodate a few members who

were concerned about arriving too early for the critique and having to wait for the

meeting to conclude. A board member also requested the change so the meeting was

not held so early in the morning. Morgan Chilson was honored by the Greater Topeka

Chamber of Commerce for her hard work and dedication to the Topeka Capital Journal.

Romie Chavez and Shayne Sawyer represented the group at the library’s Great Writers,

Right Here author event.

**February 2017** – Julie Trelstad was scheduled to present a program on publishing and

marketing tips along with industry trends. After complaints in January regarding the

timing of the new executive meeting time, the executive board reinstated the original

schedule of holding the meeting at 11:30 while the membership went downstairs to

lunch.

**March 2017** – President Billie-Renee Knight was not present for the March meeting as

she was in Europe with students. Advisor to the President Tish Glasson was in charge

for the month. Max Wirestone, a local author, gave the program on writing tips and

Detailing his personal writing journey. The deadline for submitting a deposit to the

treasurer for the annual retreat was extended. Member Barb Baldwin sold her latest

book Game of Love to Books We Love and member Lily Ann Fouts was featured in a

live podcast for her autobiography.

**April 2017** – No regular meeting was scheduled this month. Instead members met at

Basswood Lodge in Kansas City for the annual writing retreat April 7 – 9. Eleven

members attended the event. There was much fun, writing, and networking. And the

food was awesome!

**May 2017** – The program this month was a writing workshop. Members used the

afternoon session to write, share and critique. The executive board heard concerns from

certain members regarding the structure of the executive board meetings themselves –

mainly the fact that they are closed meetings as stipulated by the KWI by-laws.

Arguments for opening the board meetings included statements such as, “Every club I

belong to has open executive meetings” and “Why do they have to be closed? It’s not

fair to the rest of the membership.” First and foremost, we are not a “club.” We are a

non-profit organization operating within the state of Kansas. I was not a member when

KWI was first formed and I cannot speak to why or how they designed the by-laws, but I

imagine there are certain protocols inherent in the non-profit structure that mere “clubs”

do not have to meet. Second, as president I report all business conducted in a closed

executive meeting to the membership during the regular business meeting as detailed in

the by-laws. Our regular meetings are also open to the public – meaning non-members

can and do attend. These participants have no business attending an executive meeting

even if it were to be “open.” Personally, I don’t think the general membership needs to

be in on every little detail the executive board goes through in making decisions. There

are times when the executive meeting can get quite heated and I don’t think that’s

something everyone needs to be a part of or even know about. We were elected to

ensure the smooth operation of KWI. If members cannot trust us to uphold these duties

then they should either not vote for us or step up and run for office themselves.

**June 2017** – Gina Penzig from Westar Energy gave an outstanding presentation on

interviewing. Actual interviewing practice implementing her suggestions was scheduled

for the July meeting. Member Theresa Grennan attended the Oklahoma Writing

Conference in May and pitched a work in progress. She was invited to submit an

outline, synopsis and three chapters. Elections for the next year were announced.

**July 2017** – Advisor to the president Tish Glasson ran this month’s activities while the

president was away at a conference. The new slate of officers was announced:

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Vice President – Morgan Chilson

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Newsletter – Brittany Willes

Membership – Bobbie Johnston  
Advisor to the President – Tish Glasson  
The scheduled program of live interviews was rescheduled to August and a writing  
workshop was held this month in its place.

**Financials**

**Opening Balance    $3,063.03**

**Income                     $280.00**

**Expenses                 $0.00**

**Closing Balance      $3,343.03**

**Membership Renewal Reminder**

Reminder that membership dues are now due. Membership fees remain $20.00 and a renewal form is attached to this newsletter. Your dues may be paid at our monthly meeting or mailed to Shayne Sawyer (address at the bottom of renewal form). October 1st is the cutoff for renewal after which the roster will be updated and those not renewed will be dropped from the membership roll.

**2018 KWI Retreat**

**Save the Date**

Hello, All:

We wanted to give members plenty of time to plan ahead for the upcoming KWI Retreat next year. The dates for the retreat are as follows: April 27 - 29, 2018, Basswood Lodge in Platte City, MO. More information to follow in future newsletters so stay tuned! You don’t want to miss out!

**Kudos**

Shayne is nearing completion of her first novel and has been working hard on her branding. She submitted her cover material to the Killian Group and is looking forward to seeing the completed product.

6 of Janet Stott’s haiku poems and 3 tanka poems will be published in KONZA!  #51. This will be published online in October and can be ordered from Amazon after it appears online.

**KWI Blog**

Are you interested in writing a blog for KWI? Contact Tish ‘Bear’ Glasson by e-mail: [bearwmnkwi@gmail.com](mailto:bearwmnkwi@gmail.com) (She offers bribes for posts).

**KWI Meetings**

**Next Meeting**

When: September 23rd, 2017

Where: Topeka Shawnee County Public Library (Menninger Room)

Topic: Online Writing Resources

**Future Meeting**

When: October 28, 2017

Where: Topeka Shawnee County Public Library (Anton Room)

Topic: TBA

**All Meetings Begin as Follows:**

Time - 9:30am - 3:30pm

Writing/Critique/Audio Lecture

Open Writing - 9:30am - 10:00am

Critiquing - 10:00am - 11:30 am

Board Meeting - 11:30am - 12:00am

Member Meeting - 12:30pm - 1:00 pm

Program Topic - 1:00 pm - 2:30pm

Visit us online at: ww.kswritersinc.com, www.kswriters.wordpress.com