

## Board Members

2019-2020

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KWI Blog

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# Kansas Writers, Inc.

## January 2020 Newsletter



### Ponderings and Smackeralms – A Message from the President:

Happy New Year my writer friends!

How many of you ascribe to the “New Year, New You” philosophy? I hold myself guilty as charged. However, do I believe that crossing over the threshold from December 31<sup>st</sup> to January 1<sup>st</sup> will cause a magical transformation? Will I suddenly become more prolific than Nora Roberts? Will perfect, no-need-for-editing words flow from my fingertips like chocolate from those delicious fountains found at schmancy weddings? Of course not.

But there is something to be said for a clean slate. A whole year lies ahead of you to achieve, or at least further, your writing goals. Start small, set measurable, realistic goals. Have a system of accountability and when you reach one goal, work on the next. Hack away at them.

After all, how does one eat a frog? One bite at a time. So, grab your fork, a little salt, and dig in. If you like, share your goals and we will check in with you next month to see how you’re doing. Remember, we are here to support one another.

Happy writing my friends!

Bear

## KWI Meetings

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### Next Meeting

When: February 22, 2020

Where: TSCPL, Anton Room

Topic: TBA

### Future Meeting

When: March 28, 2020

Where: TSCPL, Anton Room

Topic: TBA

### Meeting Format

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

Critiquing: 10:00am - 11:30am

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

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

Program: 1:00 pm - 2:30pm



## The Peanut Gallery: Romualdo R. Chavez

Let's be honest: we have some truly awesome people in our group. Romi Chavez (known as "Romie my homie to some") is one such awesome sauce-coated individual.

What makes him so awesome – other than agreeing to agreeing to be the guinea pig for this new feature of the newsletter when he was volun-told about it? Oh, so many things! Not the least of which is his genuine passion for his craft and determination to leave his mark on the writing world. He's certainly made one within our community.

### Q. Why do you write? What compels you?

It happened during my junior year of high school. We had just finished discussing "Masque of the Red Death" by Edgar Allen Poe. I was supposed to be taking notes, but my mind began to wander. A scene played out in my head with no context behind it. I had no idea who the character was or why they were important. I didn't even know what to call him.

I went to work right after school at a locally owned tuxedo shop. A woman came in needing to get her son fitted for a tux. Her son's name was Malachi.

Immediately my brain screamed, "That's it! That's his name!"

From then on, I knew nothing would be the same. I created something vastly different than anything I had done before. Malachi became the central protagonist of my first novel and its unpublished sequels. He paved the way for future characters to step up out of the shadows and demanded I write them into existence. In the process of writing about them, I found ways to comment on the world through their eyes. I never dreamed of the doors it would open, nor would I fully comprehend how much I needed this outlet.

Bottom line: I write to live. I write to be heard. I write because my soul demands it. But most of all, I write in order to leave my mark in this world.

### Q. What are your strengths as a writer? Where do you need to improve?

My writer friends speak very highly of the dialogue I craft within my stories. It's an honor to get any compliment from a fellow author/writer so I definitely feel confident that I'm getting something right. Ha!

I'm always looking for ways to improve and hone my skills; therefore, I don't always focus on one section at a time – which could be an issue, too! I tend to tackle all areas at once. However, if I had to pick one area that I wanted to strengthen, it would be remembering little details.

For instance, I tend to get so wrapped up in the dialogue between characters that I forget to make them do something. When people talk, they move. Whether they use exaggerated gestures with their hands or fidget with their hair, a character is not standing still or sitting perfectly. The details trip me up because I can see in my mind what's happening, but I have to remember to fill in the gaps and paint the full picture for the reader.

**Q. What is the most difficult part of the writing process?**

Editing. I have a love/hate relationship with it.

The reason for this is that I'm long winded. I write and write and by the time I'm finished, I've got 100,000+ words. I scold myself for writing too much because that means I have to actually go back and read every line to see if it needs to be there. Ugh! #Writerproblems

**Q: Your novel is being made into a movie. You get to make a cameo appearance. What character do you play?"**

Only a cameo appearance? You mean I can't be the lead? Rude!

In all honesty, I'd would like to be the random stranger that offers advice to the main character at a pivotal moment in the story. The kind of character that happens to be there when it seems like all hope is lost and all they do is give their two cents, which changes the M.C.'s entire outlook. Dang! Now I have to go back and make sure I put them in the story!



## January Meeting: Big Critique Session



Getting back into the swing of things after a hectic holiday season can be a challenge. What better way to encourage your writing than by getting some good feedback on what you've already done?

Our program for January will be our annual large critique session. We'll split into groups, read each other's work, and give in-depth feedback. This is a great chance to dust off the cobwebs, get some new perspective, and have some fun seeing what our awesome community of writers have been working on.

If you're planning on attending and bringing work to be critiqued the following guidelines will help to ensure everyone has enough time to have their work read.

- 10-page limit – this can be 10 single-sided or 5 double-sided for those wanting to save paper.
- Pages should be double spaced for easy reading.
- 12 pt. font size, Times New Roman (or other easily read font)
- Please provide 3 copies to share with group members

## Annual Writer's Retreat 2020:

For several years KWI members have enjoyed getting out of town together to write, critique, brainstorm, and just chill. This year's retreat will soon be upon us, so now is the time to be thinking about all the fun we will have as the weather warms (I say this with my fire blazing and my yard blanketed in frozen snow).



We had such a positive experience last year at the Lake Wabaunsee house in Wabaunsee County, KS, that we have booked it again for this year's retreat. **The dates are: Friday through Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>.**

So, mark your calendar if you're interested in a fun weekend of eating, drinking, hot-tubbing, fishing from the jetty (b.y.o. fishing pole) golf cart racing, horse riding (kinda), foosball, bbq-ing, and the all important WRITING! (We can sneak some critiques in as well.)

**A \$50.00 non-refundable deposit** will guarantee you get a bed. I will be accepting deposits any time between now and February 1st, either at our monthly meeting or via the mail.

My mailing address is: 2601 SW Western Ave, Topeka, KS. 66611  
Make checks out to: KWI

Shayne Huxtable  
Treasurer

# Financials

## October Meeting Minutes:

Not available at time of publishing.

### November 2019

Beginning Cash Balance:  
\$3,590.38

Income: \$147.00

Expenses: \$25.00

Ending Cash Balance: \$3,712.38

### December 2019

Beginning Cash Balance:  
\$3,712.38

Income: \$30.00

Expenses: \$10.92

Ending Cash Balance: \$3,731.46

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"Here are the minutes of our last meeting. Some events have been fictionalized for dramatic purposes."

## February Online Workshops

Motivate Your Character to Create the Plot

Date: February 1–14, 2020

Presenter: Alicia Rasley

FMI, <http://contemporaryromance.org/workshops/>

When Two Authors Are Better Than One, a Co-writing Class

Date: February 1–29, 2020

Presenters: Ivy Quinn and Midnight Voss.

FMI, <https://marylandromancewriters.com/event/when-two-authors-are-better-than-one-a-co-writing-class/>

Advanced Tarot for Writers

Date: February 3–28, 2020

Presenter: Elizabeth Delisi.

FMI, <https://starrwa.org/on-line-workshops/>

All About Character

Date: February 3–28, 2020

Presenter: Carol A. Henry.

FMI, <https://starrwa.org/on-line-workshops/>

The Art of Writing Novellas Quickly

Date: February 3–28, 2020

Presenter: Margaret Bates.

FMI, <http://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus/#FEB5>

Austen to Aliens: Creating the Classic Tough Chick

Date: February 3–28, 2020

Presenter: Jacqui Jacoby.

FMI, <https://rwaonlinechapter.org/>

Demystifying Police Work: Understanding Police Roles in Fiction

Date: February 3–28, 2020

Presenter: Wesley Harris.

FMI, <https://www.rwakissofdeath.org/coffin>

Finding Your Writing Muse

Date: February 3–28, 2020

Presenter: Joy Held.

FMI, <https://starrwa.org/on-line-workshops/>

How to Disappear

Date: February 3–28, 2020

Presenter: Frank M. Ahearn.

FMI, <http://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus/#FEB4>

Make Descriptions Earn Their Keep

Date: February 3–28, 2020

Presenter: Mary Marvella.

FMI, <http://www.neorwa.com/online-workshops/upcoming-meetings/>

Scrivener Scene by Scene

Date: February 3–28, 2020

Presenter: Ines Johnson.

FMI, <http://contemporaryromance.org/workshops/>

The Word-loss Diet—Professional Editing Techniques for Fiction Writers

Date: February 3–28, 2020

Presenter: Rayne Hall.

FMI, <http://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus/#FEB3>

Writing Conflict Hurts

Date: February 3–28, 2020

Presenter: Melinda Curtis.

FMI, <https://www.rwakisofdeath.org/coffin>

Writing Diversity in Genre Fiction

Date: February 3–28, 2020

Presenter: Eliana West.

FMI, <http://contemporaryromance.org/workshops/>

Writing Erotic Romance and Erotica

Date: February 3–28, 2020

Presenter: Susan Palmquist.

FMI, <http://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus/#FEB2>

Writing a Series or Trilogy BootCamp

Date: February 3–28, 2020

Presenter: Susan Palmquist.

FMI, <http://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus/#FEB1>

Creating Unforgettable Worlds: World-Building in Speculative Fiction

Date: February 3–29, 2020

Presenter: Midnight Voss.

FMI, <https://www.yosemiteromancewriters.com/workshops>

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