

KWI Meetings

August Meeting

When: August 27, 2022

Where:

Topeka/Shawnee County
Library, Anton Room

Topic: TBA

Future Meetings

When: September 24,
2022

Where: Topeka
/Shawnee County Library,

Topic: TBA

Meeting Format

Program: 10:00am

Board Meeting: 11:00

Critique: 12:00pm

August Meeting/Program

This month's meeting will be held Saturday, August 27, at the Topeka /Shawnee County Library in the Anton Room. We will begin with a 10 a.m. program. A business meeting will follow the program and we will conclude with a critique session for those who wish to participate.



From the Slush Pile

Blog Recommendation

Member Shayne Huxtable recently read a blog post about power words by Jon Morrow. It includes the definition of power words and how they can boost conversations for bloggers, freelance writers, and businesses. You can find the blog at <https://smartblogger.com/power-words/>

Kansas Book Festival

This year's book festival will be held September 24, 2022, at Washburn University. Admission is free. There will be author presentations, book sales and signings, children's activities, entertainment, and food trucks. Details can be found at <https://www.kansasbookfestival.com/>. They have a link on the website if you are interested in volunteering.

November Holiday Party

Hot weather aside, it will soon be time for KWI's holiday party. The party will be held November 19 at Grace United Methodist, 2627 SW Western Avenue, from 10:30 to 1:30. Lunch is potluck so bring your favorite dish. An auction will follow. If you wish to participate in the auction, please bring an unwrapped gift.

April Retreat

KWI is planning a retreat at Lake Wabaunsee in April 2023. Details will follow later.

Financials

July 2022

Beginning Cash Balance:
 \$3,646.13
Income: \$0.00
Expenses: \$0.00
Ending Cash Balance
 \$3,646.13

Membership Dues Update

We suspended membership dues the last couple of years because Covid made it difficult to meet. Now that things have improved, we will be initiating \$20 dues again for the August 2022 - July 2023 year.

September Online Writing Workshops

A big thank you to member **Angela Johnson** for providing the following August educational workshops and programs. (Note: Some of the classes may require you be a member of the Romance Writers of America to view.)

AUGUST | SEPTEMBER ONLINE WORKSHOPS

Hooking the Reader Again and Again

Date: August 22-September 3, 2022

Presenter: Kathy Otten, FMI

<https://savvyauthors.com/community/classes/>

Writing the Thriller

Date: August 22-September 3, 2022

Presenter: Steve Shrott, FMI

<https://savvyauthors.com/community/classes/>

19th Century Poisons

Date: August 27, 2022, 12-1:30 PM, CST

Presenter: Kerry Cathers, FMI

<https://www.rwakisofdeath.org/workshops/>

Mastering Your Creative Process

Date: September 1-29, 2022

Presenter Pamela Jaye Smith, FMI

<https://fthrw.com/upcoming-workshops>

50 Rude Questions to Get to Know Your Characters

Date: September 1-30, 2022

Presenter: Peter Andrews

[FMI, https://contemporaryromance.org/](https://contemporaryromance.org/)

Those Who Forget the Past: Using Backstory to Enhance Your Novel

Date: September 5-29, 2022

Presenter Cynthia Owens, FMI

<https://rwaonlinechapter.org/workshops-3/>

BDSM

Date: September 5–30, 2022

Presenter: Cassandra Carr, FMI

<https://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus2022/>

Digging Deep: Researching Your Novel

Date: September 5–30, 2022

Presenter: Cynthia Owens, FMI

<https://www.heartsthroughhistory.com/workshops/>

Essentials of Characterization and Plot

Date: September 5–30, 2022

Presenter: Tandra Nicole Kendall, FMI

<https://ffprwa.com/upcoming-workshops/>

Fictionalize Your Holidays

Date: September 5–30, 2022

Presenter: Sally Walker, FMI

<https://ffprwa.com/upcoming-workshops/>

The Paranormal Romance

Date: September 5–30, 2022

Presenter: Beth Daniels, FMI

<https://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus2022/>

Prep for NaNoWriMo the Bare Bones Way

Date: September 5–30, 2022

Presenter: Catherine Chant, FMI

<https://ffprwa.com/upcoming-workshops/>

Researching & Writing Historical Fiction

Date: September 5–30, 2022

Presenter: Cindy Vallar

[FMI https://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus2022/](https://www.oirwa.com/forum/campus2022/)

Your Plot/Character/Story Braid

Date: September 5–30, 2022

Presenter: Laurie Schnelby Campbell

[FMI, https://writeruniv.com/classes/braid/](https://writeruniv.com/classes/braid/)

Fan Service and Reader Engagement

Date: September 10, 2022

Presenter: Jen Graybeal, FMI

[Fan Service and Reader Engagement](#)

Writing the Romantic Novella

Date: September 12-23, 2022

Presenter: Catherine Chant, FMI

[Writing the Romantic Novella](#)

Brainstorming to Revision: Create an Erotic Romance

Date: September 12—October 9, 2022

Presenter: Angela Knight, FMI

<https://savvyauthors.com/community/classes/>

Writing the Historical Mystery

Date: September 12—October 9, 2022

Presenter: Beth Daniels, FMI

<https://savvyauthors.com/community/classes/>

Online Workshops @ Savvy Authors

Offers a plethora of workshops every month:

<https://savvyauthors.com/community/classes/>

August Featured Member

This month's spotlight is on member **Alisha Davis**. Alisha was recently elected to the Membership officer position.

Q: Congratulations on your election to the board as membership officer. Tell us a little about yourself, Alisha.

During the school year, I teach and during the summer I fantasize that I'm living the life of a full-time novelist. I am a member of a number of different writing and writing teacher groups, but lists are boring so let's move along. I have a very cute cat, dog, and husband, and they all are very supportive of my weird writing habits. I feel like I'm my most true self when I am writing.

Q: What prompted you to begin writing?

I was blessed with a mother and grandmother that always read to me, so I learned to love storytelling as a very young child. I also had a pretty bad speech impediment when I was a kid which I made worse by talking too fast, but when I wrote, it seemed everyone could understand me. I also had some amazing teachers that encouraged me along the way to stick with it. I've been so lucky to have always had so much support.

Q: Do you have a favorite genre that you write? Tell us why that interests you? Or how you came to be interested in that genre.

I have dabbled in YA fantasy, but I think I'm better suited for short stories and mysteries. I think all good writing contains some of the elements of a mystery. There has got to be a promise to the reader that there is something worth hanging around for, something to figure out, something to watch unfold.

Q: Where are you in the writing process (writing, a first draft written, published, etc.)?

I've had some luck with short stories winning awards and being published, but my goal has always been to publish a novel before checking into that big discard pile in the sky. I am currently on the third draft of my WIP, but since I just realized that that was not how the lady died at all, I guess I'll have to do another before getting beta readers. Seriously, my characters couldn't have told me this earlier?

Q: How do your experiences in life or at work influence how or what you write about?

Usually subconsciously, but I suppose that's just because I'm kinda thick. I often recognize an event in my writing as being inspired by something in real life after I write it instead of doing it intentionally.

Q: Do you have a technique, time, or place that gets you in the mood to write?

In college, I learned Aristotle was called a peripatetic philosopher because he supposedly walked around when lecturing; it helped him think better. I know a lot of writers have claimed walking helps them as well, and I have to say walking has been the biggest upgrade to my writing process. Now I hike almost as much as I write, and it has really become a necessity for me. I walk through the woods and the branches comb out all the snarls in my mind and when I get back, I've usually got an answer to whatever writing issue I had before I started. I'm a peripatetic writer.

Alisha

Kudos

Kudos to member **Connie Beckett**. She recently signed a contract with Next Chapter publishers for her historical mystery, "Murder at the Tindari." The story is set in 1920s Kansas City.

If you have published a book, received a writing award, appeared on a Podcast, or other such reason to celebrate a success, please let Connie know at conniebeckett942@gmail.com. We would love to feature you in an upcoming newsletter.

July Meeting Minutes

Due to illnesses and a prior commitment, we did not have enough officers present at the July meeting to meet the quorum requirement.

Members present included: Brittany Willes, Julie Nischan, Alisha Davis, Romie Chavez, Ira Cohen, Anne Barringer, Theresa Grennan. The members present discussed writing craft.

