

## Board Members

2021-2022

President: Tish Glasson

Vice President: Jason Glasson

Secretary: Billie-Renee Knight

Treasurer: Shayne Huxtable

Membership: Brittany Willes

Newsletter: Connie Beckett

Advisor to the President: Billie-Renee Knight

KWI Blog: Tish Glasson

Interested in writing a blog for KWI? Contact Tish Glasson, [bearwmnkwi@gmail.com](mailto:bearwmnkwi@gmail.com)

Visit us online at:  
[www.kswritersinc.com](http://www.kswritersinc.com),  
[www.kswriters.wordpress.com](http://www.kswriters.wordpress.com)

# Kansas Writers, Inc.

## July 2022 Newsletter



### Ponderings and Smackerals:

Greetings writer friends,

I hope everyone had a safe and happy fourth! It was our first one with the furry terrorist. He did pretty well with all the noise and commotion, didn't get too upset until he was actually outside while people were blowing stuff up. I will confess that this month has gotten away from me. I was certain that our meeting was next week, not this upcoming Saturday. Those five Saturday months can sometimes trip me up. I trust your writing is going well. Mine is still on new puppy hiatus. Keeping him entertained and out of trouble is a full-time job. Who knew? Oh, everyone you say? You couldn't have shared with the class?

Hope to see you Saturday. Program TBA.

As always, I wish you words,

Bear

## KWI Meetings

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### June Meeting

When: July 23, 2022

Where:

Topeka/Shawnee County  
Library, Menninger Room

Topic: TBA

### Future Meetings

When: August 27, 2022

Where: Topeka  
/Shawnee County Library,  
Anton Room

Topic: TBA

### Meeting Format

Program: 10:00am

Board Meeting: 11:00

Critique: 12:00pm

## July Meeting/Program

This month's meeting will be held Saturday, July 23, at the Topeka /Shawnee County Library in the Menninger 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. A reminder that the Café is closed on the weekend, and we are not allowed to bring in food.



## From the Slush Pile

### KWI Board for 2022-2023

Congratulations to the incoming officers for the year beginning August 1, 2022.

President – Tish Glasson

Vice President – Jason Glasson

Treasurer – Shayne Huxtable

Secretary – Billie-Renee Knight

Newsletter – Connie Beckett

Membership – Alisha Davis

### Blog Recommendation

Member **Shayne Huxtable** recently attended a zoom event featuring Ms. Hank Phillip Ryan as guest speaker. Ryan recommended a blog saying it is a good resource for authors. The blog can be found at

[www.careerauthors.com](http://www.careerauthors.com)

### Estate Planning for Authors

If you missed June's program about estate planning and protecting your intellectual property, the presenter, M.L. Buchman, wrote a book on the topic. It is titled "Estate Planning for Authors: Your Final Letter (and why you need to write it now)." You can find the book on Amazon and at other retailers.

## Financials

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June 2022

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

### Book Length

Writers often ask how long their novel should be. Writers' Digest published a helpful article that answers that burning question. They said in general, between 80,000 and 89,999 words is recommended. For more information, and word counts for specific genres, you can read the article at:

<https://www.writersdigest.com/whats-new/word-count-for-novels-and-childrens-books-the-definitive-post>

### Indie Publishing

Member **Theresa Grennan** passed along a presentation about how to make your self-published books more visible. You can learn more at

<https://danklefstad.medium.com/so-you-published-a-book-how-come-i-havent-seen-it-54663544f352>

## August 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 ONLINE WORKSHOPS

MASTER CLASS: Bringing Abundance into Your Life

Date: August 1-12, 2022

Presenter: **Diana Stout**, FMI, <https://writeruniv.com/classes/>

Speak up! – Writing Dialogue

Date: August 1-12, 2022

Presenter: **Tere Michaels**, FMI

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

Story Openings: Beyond “Once Upon a Time”

Date: August 1-12, 2022

Presenter: **Tina Tocco**, FMI

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

Bringing Pirates to Life

Date: August 1-26, 2022

Presenter: **Cindy Vallar**, FMI

<https://ffprwa.com/bringing-pirates-to-life/>

Heroines

Date: August 1-26, 2022

Presenter: Cassandra Carr, FMI

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

Hook 'Em Dano: Writing the Grabber Opening Scene

Date: August 1-29, 2022

Presenter: Linnea Sinclair, FMI

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

Website Tips & Tricks – 15 Lessons to Supercharge Your Author Website

Date: August 1-31, 2022

Presenter: Barb Drozdowich

[Website Tips and Tricks](#)

Creating the Framework for Stories that Sell

Date: August 6, 2022, 9 AM-12 PM. CST

Presenter: Grace Wynter, FMI

<https://austinrwa.org/special-events/>

Regency and Victorian Forensics

Date: August 6, 2022, 12-1:30 PM, CST

Presenter: Kerry Cathers, FMI

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

Using Kindle Create to Publish Both Print & EBook

Date: August 8-21, 2022

Presenter: Terrie Main, FMI

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

Beginners Guide to Story Arc for Trilogies and Series

Date: August 8-September 4, 2022

Presenter: Beth Anderson, FMI

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

Keeping Secrets and Creating Suspense

Date: August 8-September 4, 2022

Presenter: Jeffe Kennedy, FMI

<https://ffprwa.com/keeping-secrets/>

Crash Course: Interactive & Episodic Fiction

Date: August 13, 2022, 1-3 PM CST

Presenter: Kate Johnson, FMI

<https://akrwa.com/events>

What's Your Vision – Using a Vision Board to Help You Get Everything Your Heart Desires

Date: August 13, 2022, 9-10:30 AM PT

Presenter: Peggy Jaeger

[What's your Vision?](#)

Mystery—Bury the Lead: Effective Ways to Hide Clues Without Hiding Them

Date August 15-21, 2022

Presenter: Anna Denish, FMI

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

Create Graphics About Your Books for Social Media by Using Word and/or Publisher!

Date: August 15-28, 2022

Presenter: Beth Anderson, FMI,

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

The Economy of Words: Writing Short Story Romances

Date: August 15-28, 2022

Presenter: Savannah J. Frierson, FMI

[Economy of Words](#)

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.rwakissofdeath.org/workshops/>

Savvy Authors offers a plethora of workshops every month:

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

## July Featured Member

This month's spotlight is on member **Theresa Grennan**. Theresa has had an interesting employment history with lots of experiences to draw from as a writer. We look forward to reading about them.

I like to write Women's Fiction and frequently it is about women in transition which has been a large part of my life so here goes:

I have always worked with real estate in some manner and most recently have retired from managing an apartment complex in Topeka. For twenty-five years of my previous life, I was an abstractor/title examiner and title insurance agent. I was born and raised in Kansas and have lived in several states including Colorado, Florida, and Oklahoma. For the past thirteen years, I have been a single grandmother raising two grandchildren. I'm sure there's a book, blog, or how to survive article waiting to be written.

My career began in Key West, Florida working for 1st Title Service Company of the Florida Keys in 1974. In 1984 my family and I made the decision to return to Kansas. To meet people in the community, I attended a newly formed women's network meeting. There was the usual stand up and introduce yourself, so I did. About two weeks later I get a call from a man who introduced himself as an attorney in Concordia. He said it had taken him two weeks to track me down. Gulp! I've always been a by-the-book kind of gal but also sure I was going to get caught doing something wrong. Panic set in until he explained his wife had been at the network meeting. He and his law firm were looking into buying the Cloud County Abstract Company and needed someone to run it for them.

Several meetings later we reached an agreement. I trained with the current owner who was retiring and studied for the abstractor's exam. This exam is not short or easy. It takes the better part of a full day. You are required to submit a complete abstract from patent in advance and then sit for the exam. The same attorney who hired me was also taking the exam. They wanted to have a backup plan in case things did not work out.

There were about twenty people taking the exam. It was two parts: one part in the morning and a second given in the afternoon. Neither of us realized there was a long part and a shorter part, and they were handed out at random. I got the long part in the morning and the attorney got the short part. He finished and left the room a little after eleven o'clock and I labored on until almost one o'clock.

He took a nice long lunch, and I took a very short lunch and we both restarted at one thirty. I finished at three o'clock and kept glancing over at him and double checking my work for the next half hour. Finally, I turned in the second part of the exam and went into the hallway to wait. Four o'clock-nothing. Four thirty-still no sign of the attorney. I glanced in the room thinking maybe he had gone out the other door. Exam time ended at five o'clock. On the way home, we compared notes and realized how different the two parts of the exam had been. He had left the last few questions unanswered and was concerned about passing.

The retiring abstractor taught me two things about being successful which have served me well both in business and in my personal life. It was a small community, and we did much of our work at the courthouse. We also worked closely with local bankers, realtors, and attorneys. He told me it was best to not get into an argument or sideways with any of these people as I would need to work with them again. He relied on the old adage, "Promise less, deliver more."

In 1996, I sold my portion of the title company back to the attorneys. During the next year, I completed college and got my Bachelor of Science degree in Human Resource Management. I also worked at the local courthouse part time in the County Appraisers office. I had already decided I wanted to stay in the title business and was searching for a title company to buy. My thesis addressed the topic of whether it was best to buy an established business or start one on my own. This is not the type of business you typically can just start from scratch.

In spite of my conclusion that it would be best to buy an established company, I ended up doing the exact opposite. I had an underlying suspicion the company I was looking at buying had some issues the seller was not sharing with me. Knowing most of my business would be coming from the local realtors, bankers, and attorneys, I decided to introduce myself to them. This was an eye-opening process, and my suspicions were confirmed. (More details about this in one of my books.)

I determined the records at the Register of Deeds office would be adequate for my research, rented a small office, and hung out my shingle and began marketing. Within the first week, the *Cadillac* of older, established and well-respected Realtors stopped by my office to introduce himself and get to know me. He called me later that day to place an order for title insurance. My business was off to a great start. The business was very successful and before the end of the first year I purchased a building and moved my business into it. Six years later, I sold the company and moved with my family to Edmond, Oklahoma. (One of my books is about a woman starting a new business and the troubles she encounters.)

I worked at a title company in Oklahoma City for about three years. (Another chapter in a different book. Involving the big D and a serious car wreck and the worst possible care in the emergency room.) During my years in Oklahoma, I joined a writers' group, took writing classes and attended the OWFI conventions. These were all fabulous experiences and the beginning of my writing adventures.

I returned to Kansas again, where I officially started the next phase of my career in property management. My first job was at a HUD low-income apartment complex which was very challenging. I added on a Rural Development complex and quickly discovered that managing two complexes with different sets of regulations regarding income was not going to work for me. I decided it was time for a change, located a property management position in Topeka and moved. That job lasted about eight months and was not a good fit. (Look for more detail about this in one of my books.)

I quickly found another position in Topeka, managing a large complex along with two smaller complexes of Tax Credit properties. This was a challenge but a great fit for two years and my immediate boss stated I was one of their best property managers. The property was in a rough neighborhood and had a reputation for crime and drug use. (Lots of interesting stories and quirks to work into my novels.) I had been there a little over a year when I walked the property and saw parents and little kids out on the sidewalks feeling safe and secure, and realized how much the property had changed. Occupancy at all three properties was between 90-100% which was previously unheard of. Things were going well and then two things happened. I got a new district manager and hired a new assistant manager. I had the audacity to expect my new assistant to work. She wanted to come to work high and spend most of the day flirting with the maintenance guys. (Read at least two chapters about this somewhere in one of my books.)

I am not a person who gets fired from jobs. I show up on time, am reasonably pleasant, know what I am doing and am dressed appropriately. Four years after my car wreck and head injury and three failed jobs, I decide the common denominator was me and decide to take a break and reassess my life. I filed for disability and set some sort of record for getting approved. Things began to settle down and I decided to try working part time. Since my most recent experience was in property management, I looked for a part time job to ease back into work. I worked part time for about four years and was successful. Then I went full time with new owners and after establishing I could handle the workload, went off disability and have worked full time for the past six years.



Since the end of 2005 when I left Edmond, Oklahoma I have continued to write off and on and enjoyed it. Now that I am retired and my life is calmer, I plan to establish a writing routine. My writing style-I guess you would call me a pantster. I'm going to give plotting and outlining a try and see if I can be more productive using that method. There are five novels I have been working on for many years, mainly inspired by incidents I have personally experienced.

My Oklahoma writers group self-published a series of short stories called *Food Fight!* and I have a story in it. I pitched my novel titled *Sweet Spot* to an editor at the OWFI conference and was invited to submit the entire manuscript. Gulp! I really dropped the ball on that as I did not realize I was supposed to have an entire manuscript ready to go. I plan to review and revive my previous work, see if my slightly addled and damaged brain still works and give it my best shot!

Thanks,  
Theresa Grennan

## Kudos

Kudos to member **Billie-Renee Knight**. She participated in the 5-Day Writing Challenge through The Writer's Club the beginning of June. Billie-Renee reports that, "aside from the writing exercises and feedback throughout the challenge they also offered a grand prize drawing for those of us who stuck through to the very end, and I won. I received a one-on-one mini session with editor and agent Katelyn Silva. We looked at my stack of manuscripts and assessed my publishing readiness. Katelyn's analysis is to publish the first novels in both my series as soon as I can complete a final edit and get my ducks in a row."

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](mailto:conniebeckett942@gmail.com). We would love to feature you in an upcoming newsletter.

## June Meeting Minutes

**The meeting was held at the Topeka/Shawnee Count Library on June 25, 2022.** Members present were David Mealing, Wendi Rogers, Irv Cohen, Jason Glasson, Tish Glasson, Daniel Sloan, Cassie Nicholas, Theresa Grennan, Julie Nishan, Shayne Huxtable and Connie Beckett. **President Tish Glasson called the meeting to order.**

**The minutes of the previous meeting as posted in the newsletter were approved.**

**Treasurer's Report:**

Shayne Huxtable presented the Treasurer's Report. The beginning balance was \$3,696.13, expenses were \$50, and the ending balance was \$3,646.13

**Correspondence:**

- No correspondence was received this month.

**Unfinished Business:**

Round Robin Novel

- Billie-Renee Knight is working on her chapter.
- There was a discussion on who will write the next chapter.

Annual Elections

- Billie Renee said the officer election ballots have been emailed to the members.
- The election results will be announced in July.
- The nominees are: President-Tish Glasson; Vice President-Jason Glasson; Treasurer-Shayne Huxtable, Secretary-Billie Renee Knight; Newsletter chair-Connie Beckett; Membership-Alisha Davis.

**New Business:**

Meeting Location

- The library is available for meetings through September, but the Millennium Cafe is not open and there is no option for lunch.
- Billie Renee asked that members email photos to her for the blog.
- Tish asked members for upcoming meeting program ideas.

**Committee Reports**

No committee reports were made

**Kudos**

Connie Beckett showed the cover art for her upcoming book, "Nana Belle Wins the Lottery."

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 a.m.**

