

Board Members

2021-2022

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Newsletter: Connie
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Advisor to the President:
Billie-Renee Knight

KWI Blog: Tish Glasson

Interested in writing a blog for
KWI? Contact Tish Glasson,
bearwmnkwi@gmail.com

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Kansas Writers, Inc.

March 2022 Newsletter



Ponderings and Smackerals:

Greetings writer friends,

Is everyone recovered from “losing” an hour last week? I don’t remember the time change wreaking this much havoc on my system when I was a kid, but boy howdy, it sure does now that I am (as my friend Brian likes to say) “eld.”

Join us this month while we discuss query letters. I know there are a few of us who have already reached this point in our writing journey, and maybe they’d be willing to bring along a copy of their query to share with us.

Enjoy the lovely spring weather friends!

As always, I wish you words,

Bear.

KWI Meetings

Future Meetings

When: March 26, 2020

Where: Blue Moose
Restaurant

Topic: TBA

Future Meetings

When: April 23, 2022

Where: Blue Moose
Restaurant

Topic: TBA

Meeting Format

Program: 10:00am

Board Meeting: 11:00

Critique: 12:00pm

March Meeting/Program

The March meeting will be held March 26 at the Blue Moose, 3030 SW Wanamaker Road, Topeka. We will begin with a 10 a.m. program. A link to the program on how to write a query letter will follow.



From the Slush Pile

From member Shayne Huxtable, below is a link to a Reedsy blog about bad actor publishers and what to watch out for so you don't get ripped off.

[Book Publishers to Avoid \(and other Shady Author Scams\)](#).

I keep coming across chatter about publishing on Kindle Vella. For those not familiar with Vella, it is a Kindle platform for serialized novels similar to Wattpad or Radish. Here is a link to a Reedsy blog to see if this is something that might work for you.

[Kindle Vella Blog from Reedsy](#)

April Online Writing Workshops

Thank you to Angela Johnson for providing the following April training opportunities.

Starting in the Right Place: Where Does the Story...

Date: April 1-20, 2022

Presenter: Beth Daniels, FMI,

[Starting in the Right Place](#)

Financials

February 2022

Beginning Cash Balance:
\$3,600.13
Income: \$0.00
Expenses: \$0.00
Ending Cash Balance
\$3,600.13

Tweet This Way! by Cassandra Carr

Date: April 1-30, 2022

Presenter: Cassandra Carr, FMI,

[Tweet this way](#)

Zoom Virtual Class: Male POV

Date: April 2, 2022

Presenter: Sascha Illyvich, FMI;

[Zoom Virtual Class: Male POV](#)

The Age of the Sail Part I

Dates: April 4-29, 2022

Presenter: Cindy Vallar, FMI,

[Age of the Sail, Part I](#)

How Important is GMC? (Craft/Goal, Motivation & Conflict)

Dates: April 4-29, 2022

Presenter: Mary Marvella, FMI,

[How Important is GMC](#)

How to Write Sports Romances

Dates: April 4-29, 2022

Presenter: Cassandra Carr, FMI;

[How to Write Sports Romances](#)

Mastering Character Arcs

Date: April 4-29, 2022

Presenter: Peter Andrews, FMI;

[Mastering Character Arcs](#)

Monster Revisions

Date: April 4-29, 2022

Presenter: Suzanne Johnson, FMI,

[Monster Revisions](#)

More than Just Window Dressing: Secondary Characters make Your Novels Come Alive

Dates: April 4-29, 2022

Presenter: Linnea Sinclair, FMI,

[More than Window Dressing](#)

Shape Your Ideal Author Career

Date: April 4-29, 2022

Presenter: Sandy Vaile, FMI,

[Shape your Ideal Author Career](#)

Time, Place & Beyond – Bringing your Setting to life

Dates: April 4-29, 2022

Presenter: Cynthia Owens, FMI,

[Time, Place & Beyond](#)

If this was a Movie...Plotting Adventure, Mystery, and More

Date: April 4-30, 2022

Presenter: Beth Daniels, FMI,

[If this was a Movie](#)

YOU are the Detective: Writing Believable, Realistic MURDER

Date: April 4-30, 2022

Presenter: Wesley Harris, FMI,

[You are the Detective](#)

Indie Author's Guide to Indie Editors

Date: April 18-29, 2022

Presenter: Jen Graybeal, FMI,

[Indie Author's Guide to Indie Editors](#)

Double D's: Dynamic Description & Delicious Dialogue

Date: April 23, 2022, 9:00AM

Presenter: Laurie Schnebly Campbell, FMI,

[Double D's](#)

March Featured Member

This month we are featuring author Angela Johnson.

Q: I understand you had a book published. What is the name of the book? Do you use a pen name?

A: I signed a two-book contract with Kensington Publishing under what they called their Zebra Debut Author program. It was a medieval romance series called The Crusader Knights'. Book 1 is titled VOW OF SEDUCTION and Book 2 is titled VOW OF DECEPTION. I wrote both books under my own name.

Q: Tell us a little about how the publication process worked.

A: After I finished writing my novel, I began entering writing contests where the contest finalists were judged by editors of Romance publishers. As a result of placing in several contests, editors began to read partials of my work, and I received several submission requests from various New York editors. One of those editors was Hilary Sares, who was at Kensington at that time.

She was the final editor judge in the GOTCHA Contest I had placed in. After reading my full manuscript, Hilary offered me a two-book contract from Kensington, which I accepted.

Q: What were the hardest and easiest parts of the publication process?

A: The hardest part of the publication process is marketing and promotion of your book. Unless you're a big name author with a hefty advance, traditional publishers expect you to promote your book. And they don't give you a crash course on how to do it. I had to learn along the way.

I started by having a website built, creating an author newsletter and building a subscriber list for it, and creating social media accounts like Facebook and Pinterest. The most time consuming and fulfilling part of marketing my book was going on Romance Review and Romance Blog sites to engage with readers. This was in the format of Book Reviews, Interviews and Blog posts about my book.

The easiest part of the publishing process was finding a valuable support network for critiquing and content development as I was writing my books. The writers and connections I made from joining KWI were invaluable to me. Many of those relationships have turned into lifelong friendships as we continue to support each other year after year. I will be forever grateful for these people who helped me develop as a writer and who continue to enrich my personal life today.

Q: Are you a panster or outliner (Just start in and let your imagination take you, or develop an outline?)

A: My writing process has evolved over the years. For my first book I just gave my imagination free rein and wrote from the heart. Until I hit a wall about two-thirds of the way through the book and didn't know how to end the story. Then I went to a writer's conference workshop on *How to Plot a Novel*. I plotted out the last third of the book, which became VOW OF SEDUCTION. The next two books I wrote with more of an outline format

Now I would classify myself as a combination of a panster and a plotter. With my current WIP, I have found that utilizing both processes together works best for me. With every story, I write my hero's and heroine's goals, aspirations, and motivations. Those come to me first in the creative prewriting process. I also have a general idea of the opening hook, inciting incident, the main conflict of the story plot, and Romantic relationship as well. When I begin writing I let my imagination, or what I like to call my Muse, take over fleshing out my characters' personalities, attitudes, and beliefs as I write each scene.

Then as my Muse brings me possible scene ideas I put them in a separate file as a scene sentence, in bullet point format. For the plotting side of the equation, I will plot out 3-5 scenes in advance, choosing ideas from this list, and then write the scenes. I can then repeat the process again and again, all the while knowing nothing is written in stone; that new and better scene ideas will come to me. Therefore, my Muse is free to create while at the same time I can keep the book from running into a dead end.

Q: What is the most interesting thing you discovered while researching a book?

A: When I was researching Medieval hospitals for a scene in VOW OF DECEPTION, I found a great website online: The Great Hospital. It's dedicated to the St. Giles Hospital, Norwich, England. In the Middle Ages hospital architecture was similar to churches. They consisted of an infirmary where the inmates were cared for, a chapel with an altar, and a bell tower to chime the hour of the Elevation of the Host during Mass. The infirmary was a large, vaulted space like a church nave, and had smaller aisles on both sides where the beds resided. Opposite the center aisle, the chapel altar was visible to the occupants in the beds. The inmates were typically the old and poor. The wealthy paid for private, in-house physicians and surgeons.

If you're interested, click on the following link to see a computer generated video (Download the WMV version of the video) of what St. Giles Hospital might have looked like in the Middle Ages.

<http://www.thegreathospital.co.uk/exploring/journey.html>

Q: I have heard other writers say they like to light a candle, start a timer, or put on music to ready them to write. Do you have a prompt to get you in the groove of writing? What is it?

A: Yes, I have a ritual to begin my writing day. It has evolved over time but has always included music. Currently I have a playlist of songs I listen to before, and while I am writing. For inspiration, all of the songs evoke specific emotions I want to express in my book. As a romance writer, I often seek to express many shades of love between my main characters. The music helps me do that.

Q: Tell us what you are working on now?

A: My current WIP is a Medieval Romance. It's the 2nd book in a new series I'm writing about 3 knights who have lost their way, but find hope and redemption with the strong, independent women they fall in love with.

Kudos

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.

February Meeting Minutes

KWI Business Meeting February 26, 2022

I. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 11:04 by the president Tish Glasson.

II. Members Present: Connie Beckett, Romie Chavez, Irving A. Cohen, Tish Glasson, Leslie Galbraith, Angela Johnson, Billie-Renee Knight, Jessica McNary, Julie Nischan

III. Financials:

Beginning balance - \$3600.13

Ending balance - \$3600.13

IV. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – were unanimously approved by voice vote.

V. Correspondence: There was no correspondence this month.

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Programs

1. Any member may submit a suggestion for a program to the board.
2. Last month a member asked for a program on writing queries.
3. Another member suggested a series of programs delving into the specifics for various genres such as poetry, romance, mystery, science fiction, fantasy, etc.

B. Round Robin Novel

1. Richard Forque has finished his chapter.
2. Connie Beckett is up next, followed by Billie-Renee Knight.
3. Rough drafts of chapters 8 – 11 have been forwarded to Billie-Renee to be added to the website.
4. Romie Chavez will forward his summaries to Billie-Renee for inclusion as well.

VII. New Business

A. Review of new format & meeting location

1. New format is successful. Most members are pleased with the changes to condense the meeting time from 4 to 2 hours.

2. Those present discussed the meeting location issue. Although the library is now open for meetings, the Millenium Café is no longer open on the weekends and no outside food or drink can be brought into the meeting rooms. The group will need to decide whether to meet at the library from 10 – 12 and then move to a different location to eat or to continue meeting at the Blue Moose (or another venue) where food is available on request at any time.
- B. Memoriam – Member Carolyn Kaberline passed away in December 2020. KWI voted unanimously to send \$100 memoriam to the family to be donated to a charity of their choice.

VIII.Reminders

- A. Newsletter – Connie Beckett would like to send out the newsletter by the 15th of each month. She would therefore need to have the articles and submissions several days prior to this.
- B. Blog – blog posts may be submitted to Tish Glasson.
- C. Author biographies and photos for the website can be sent to Billie-Renee Knight for inclusion on the website.

IX.Kudos

- A. Angela Johnson has hit the halfway mark on her current manuscript and is celebrating the milestone.

X.Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 by the president Tish Glasson.

