

## Board Members

2022-2023

President: Tish Glasson

Vice President: Jason  
Glasson

Secretary: Billie-Renee  
Knight

Treasurer: Shayne  
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Membership: Alisha Davis

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.

## September 2022 Newsletter



### Ponderings and Smackerals:

Greetings writer friends,

I can't believe that September is almost over, not that you can tell by the weather. Who's ready for fall? I long for hoodies, bonfires and keggers. Or hot chocolate. Don't go to many keggers these days. I do find that I pay more attention to my writing when cooler weather hits. How about y'all? Does the change in season affect your writing one way or the other?

I hope to see everyone at the meeting on Saturday. This month's program is: Pacing: Writing an Addictive Page-Turner.

Enjoy the rest of your week!

As always, I wish you words.

Bear

## KWI Meetings

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### September Meeting

When: September 24,  
2022

Where:  
Topeka/Shawnee County  
Library, Hughes Room

Topic: TBA

### Future Meetings

When: October 22,  
2022

Where: Topeka  
/Shawnee County Library,

Topic: TBA

### Meeting Format

Program: 10:00am

Board Meeting: 11:00

Critique: 12:00pm

## September Meeting/Program

This month's meeting will be held Saturday, September 24, at the Topeka /Shawnee County Library in the Hughes 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

### August Program Link

The August program featured a Jeff Lyons video "How to Avoid the Mushy Middle" of a novel. We've been there, right? The beginning and end of a story are straightforward but the middle—well, sometimes we find ourselves stuck in a bog. Here is the YouTube link if you are interested in learning more.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oxw8WDqTzM>

### Blog Recommendation

Member Shayne Huxtable recently read a blog post about how romance novels have become popular among Gen Z readers. Tik Tok is aiding in promoting the books. Publicist Ariele Fredman said about the popularity among millennials, "their youth has been marked by global and social upset and unrest in many ways, so looking for a happy ever after or an emotional outlet in a book seems like a healthy way of coping." You can find the link to the article at

<https://www.npr.org/2022/08/29/1119886246/gen-z-is-driving-sales-of-romance-books-to-the-top-of-bestseller-lists>

## Financials

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### August 2022

**Beginning Cash Balance:**

**\$3,646.13**

**Income: \$240.00**

**Expenses: \$317.59**

**Ending Cash Balance**

**\$3,568.54**

### Membership Dues Reminder

A reminder that KWI is resuming the \$20 dues for the August 2022 – July 2023 year. Members are asked to complete a renewal form. You can find the form on the website at [www.kswritersinc.com](http://www.kswritersinc.com). Members can either pay Treasurer Shayne Huxtable at the meeting or email her for payment instructions. The membership roster will be updated October 1.

### November Holiday Party

KWI will hold its holiday party November 19 at Grace United Methodist, 2627 SW Western Avenue, from 10:30 to 1:30. Park in the north lot and enter through the unlocked door by the stairs. 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 will be holding its annual retreat April 28-30, 2023, at Lake Wabaunsee. Please let Shayne know if you are interested in attending. If you have never been to one, the house we stay at is lovely, the view of the lake beautiful, and the company inspiring. The address is 440 Flint Hills Drive, Alma.

## October 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.)

### SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER ONLINE WORKSHOPS

#### WOocommerce for Writers

Date: September 26-October 16, 2022

Presenter: Terry Main FMI

[WOO Commerce Class](#)

#### Build a Book

Date: September 26-November 7, 2022

Presenter: Brenda Chin, FMI

[Build a Book Class](#)

#### Every Generation

Date: October 1, 2022: 11:00 AM-2:30 PM CT

Presenter: Jenna Grinstead, FMI

[Every Generation Event](#)

**Hooks and How to Use Them: A Pantser's View on Plotting**

Date: October 1, 2022: 1:00 PM CT

Presenter: Terri Brisbin, FMI,

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

**The Writer's Law School – Protecting Your Legal Rights**

Date: October 1, 2022: 9:00-10:00 AM CT

Presenter: Jode' Millman, FMI

[Writer's Law School](#)

**Level Up Your Social Media**

Date: October 1-31, 2022

Presenter: Lisa Catto, FMI

[Level Up Social Media](#)

**Bringing Memorable Characters to Life**

Date: October 3-14, 2022

Presenter: Sally Kilpatrick, FMI

[Bring Characters to Life](#)

**Big Picture Revising**

Date: October 3-16, 2022

Presenter: Kate McMurray, FMI

[Big Picture Revising](#)

**Creating the Romantic Couple**

Date: October 3-17, 2022

Presenter: Cassandra Carr, FMI

[Creating the Romantic Couple](#)

**Surviving NANO**

Date: October 3-17, 2022

Presenter: Peter Andrews, FMI

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

**A Fiction Writer's Secret Weapon: Show, Don't Tell**

Date: October 3-24, 2022

Presenter: Leslie J. Hall, FMI

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

**Fast Draft Your Way to the End**

Date: October 3-28, 2022

Presenter: Joan Koster, FMI

[Fast Draft to the End](#)

**Self-Publishing**

Date: October 3-28, 2022

Presenter: Cassandra Carr, FMI

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

**Stuck in the Middle: Getting from the Set-Up to the End**

Date: October 3-28, 2022

Presenter: Tere Michaels, FMI

[Stuck in the Middle](#)

**Water Beasties Through the Seven Seas**

Date: October 3-28, 2022

Presenter: Ellis Flynn, FMI

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

**What About Gentleman? Occupations, Clothes, Clubs, and Sports**

Date: October 3-28, 2022

Presenter: Nancy Mayer, FMI

[What About the Gentlemen](#)

**Witch Hunting in Britain**

Date: October 3-28, 2022

Presenter: Val Fassnight, FMI

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

**Writing a Mid to Late 20th Century Historical**

Date: October 3-28, 2022

Presenter: Nancy Mayer, FMI

[Mid to Late 20<sup>th</sup> Century Historical](#)

**Witches, Kelpes, and Fairies, Oh My**

Date: October 3-29, 2022

Presenter: Cindy Vallar, FMI

<https://ffprwa.com/witches-kelpies-fairies/>

**Scrivener Scene by Scene**

Date: October 3-31, 2022

Presenter: Ines Johnson, FMI

[Scrivener Scene by Scene](#)

**Writing Characters of the Opposite Sex**

Date: October 8, 2022, 4:00 PM ET, on Zoom

Presenter: Mary Buckham, FMI

[Characters of the Opposite Sex](#)

**Write a Good Manuscript for F's Sake**

Date: October 3-31, 2022

Presenter: Katie McCoach, FMI

[Good Manuscript for F's Sake](#)

**MASTER CLASS: Breaking Out in Self-Publishing**

Date: October 9, 2022, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM ET

Presenter: Eliza Knight, FMI

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

**The Panster's Guide to Preparing to Dive into Writing a Novel**

Date: October 10-20, 2022

Presenter: Beth Daniels, FMI

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

**MASTER CLASS: Building Your Braid**

Date: October 10- 21, 2022,

Presenter: Laurie Schnebly Campbell, FMI

<https://writeruniv.com/classes/building-braid/>

**Adding Humor to Your Novel or Short Stories**

Date: October 10-24, 2022

Presenter: Steve Shrott

[Adding Humor to Novel or Short Stories](#)

**Choosing That Fatal Flaw**

Date: October 15, 2022, 9:00-10:30 AM, PT, Virtual Classroom

Presenter: Laurie Schnebly Campbell, FMI

[Choosing that Fatal Flaw](#)

**NaNoWriMo Prep for Success**

Date: October 15, 2022, 4:00 PM ET on Zoom

Presenter: Libby Waterford, FMI

[NaNoWriMo Prep](#)

**Say it Like You Mean it!!**

Date: October 17-28, 2022

Presenter: Tina Tocco, FMI

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

**Why GMC Matters**

Date: October 18-November 1, 2022

Presenter: Mary Marvelle, FMI

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

Date: October 22, 2022, 11:00 AM-12:30PM CT

Presenter: Kim Taylor Blackmore, FMI

[Editing Bootcamp](#)

**MASTER CLASS: The Art & Business of Author Platform**

Date: October 29, 2022, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM ET on ZOOM

Presenter: Jane Friedman, FMI

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

**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 Billie-Renee Knight. Billie-Renee is a life member of KWI and currently serves as Advisor to the President.

*Q: What prompted you to begin writing? (life events, a need for artistic expression, an encouraging teacher, a love of reading, etc.)*

A: I actually started telling stories to my cats and the other barn animals when I was very little. My mother read to me every night before bed and I would make up stories based on whatever she had read to me the night before to share with my animal friends. I wrote my first short story in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade about milk-stealing aliens who really needed Earth's milk to survive. I even illustrated it. I won some kind of award and it was published somewhere. After that I just never stopped writing stories.

*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.*

A: I'm definitely a genre-hopper! I currently have series going in two different areas – urban fantasy and historical romance (heavy on the historical/light on the romance!). This probably surprises my family since a lot of my early work was sci-fi and fantasy. My urban fantasy series grew out of my love of mythology. I'm also a big history buff, especially medieval British history. My family has also been really into the SCA, which is an historical re-enactment organization, so writing historical fiction is just another way of exploring that interest.

*Q: Where are you in your writing journey (writing, a first draft written, published, etc.)?*

A: I have a lot of first drafts and about a dozen others in various stages of edit. I have published and after my session with a book agent, which I

won following a workshop this summer, I am just about ready to publish book one of my historical romance series, which will be shortly followed by books two, three and four – they are that close to being done.

*Q: How have your experiences in life or at work influenced how or what you write about?*

I've always told my students that everything around them influences their writing. One day in my creative writing class we were discussing where ideas come from and I had just finished saying they come from everywhere and anywhere and a squirrel fell out of the ceiling of my classroom. I couldn't have planned it any better! My students challenged me to use that as the central idea of a piece of writing, so I finished the year with them writing a novel about a Catholic high school being terrorized by a giant vampiric squirrel and the members of the class as the characters, which I then gifted them at graduation. It led to a sequel. Of course, I'll have to edit it heavily to protect the not so innocent before I could ever publish it.

*Q: Do you have a special routine, time of day, or favorite place to get you in the mood to write?*

A: Before my series of concussions, I preferred to write early in the mornings in my home office with a very large cup of coffee and my cats huddled around me for moral support. As I'm recovering and getting back to being able to look at a computer screen for longer periods of time, I find myself writing more at night – still with a large cup of coffee and my cats huddled around me.

*Q: Do you have any suggestions (workshops, how-to books, websites, experiences) that you think might be helpful to our members on their writing journeys?*

A: My suggestion is the same that almost any writer will tell you – write every day no matter what. If you stop, even for one day, it makes it easier to not do it a second day and so on. I really enjoy the materials on Reedsy as well as the resources at [wewritebooks.com](http://wewritebooks.com).

Billie-Renee



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.

## August Meeting Minutes

### **KWI August Meeting August 27, 2022**

I. **Called to order** at 10:45 a.m. by the president Tish Glasson.

II. **Members Present:** Connie Beckett, Alisha Davis, Tish Glasson, Theresa Grennan, Shayne Huxtable, Billie-Renee Knight, Julie Nischan

III. **Minutes** – there were no minutes for July as a quorum was not present to conduct business.

IV. **Financials** – We began the month with \$3646.15 and ended the month with \$3646.15. There were no expenses and no income.

V. **Correspondence** – Reed Holwegner sent a note along with his membership renewal. He has donated \$80 to the group with the recommendation we offer the extra funds to members who might need it this year as we reinstitute dues.

#### **VI. Unfinished Business**

A. Round Robin – Billie-Renee is ready to pass it on to the next writer. Tish will let her know who that is once she is able to access the file.

B. Programs – Anyone with ideas for programs should communicate them to a board member.

C. Spring Retreat – Shayne has booked the AirBnB in Wabaunse for April 28– 30 for the annual writing retreat. This means no official meeting that month.

D. November Holiday party – will be held November 19th at the Grace United Methodist Church beginning at 11 am. More details will be shared in the newsletter.

#### **VII. New Business**

A. Dues – Post-pandemic, the \$20 dues have been reinstated. These should be paid to Shayne Huxtable, treasurer. The dues should be accompanied by either a renewal form or a new member form. After October a late fee will be charged.

B. Financial audit – July was the end of our fiscal year and a mandatory audit is required of our account following this business meeting. A board member and a non-board member are required to complete the audit. This year Connie Beckett and Julie Nischan have volunteered to conduct the audit.

C. Kansas Book Festival – will be held on September 24, which is the date of our next meeting.

#### **VIII. Kudos**

A. Connie Beckett has recently signed for a new book.

B. Billie-Renee Knight won a private mini-consultation with a book editor.

IX. **The meeting was adjourned** at 11:00 a.m. by the president.

