

KWI: Kansas Writers Ink

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KWI'S 2013
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Inside this issue:

Morgan's Musings 1

KWI Contest 1

Workshops 2

Kansas City
Voices 2

Editing Your
Novel 2

KWI info 3

Writer's Business 3

Morgan's Musings

When you run your own business – and that's what all writers do – one of the greatest gifts you can give yourself is to be honest about what you're not good at. Recognizing your weaknesses or even the places where you need a little extra help can go far toward making your business successful.

The challenge is being willing to face the hard, ugly task of being honest about who you are as a worker. I talked with someone this week about how most of us exaggerate the amount of time we work. "Oh, that document took me four hours, it was so tough to write!" "I spent all day yesterday working on that." "I devote at least three hours every day to writing."

Really? I don't think so. Of those three writing hours, how many were spent on Facebook, email or chatting

on the phone with a friend? How many were spent searching for an obscure fact (which means reading all the extra info that's really interesting) when you should have just put XXX in and gotten back to later?

It's not that you're not allowed to blow off time on Facebook or searching for those fun facts that lend reality to your fiction. That's half the fun of writing! But taking an honest inventory of what you're committing to your work – to your career! – is absolutely necessary to become successful. If the reality means you spend one hour a day writing, you're led to the question of whether that's enough. . .

Aside from understanding what you lack in the writing arena, it's also important to examine other business skills. Are you a good bookkeeper?

Marketer? Speaker? Salesperson? Web designer? If you're not, reach out to people who are. Maybe one of your writing friends is a web designer, but isn't good at plotting (and you just happen to be a master plotter). Make a trade. Or, if need be, pay for the services.

Many a business fails because of the inability of the owner to admit when he or she needs to hire help. As a reporter, I often do stories on new businesses, and I can't tell you how often I leave thinking, "Oh, what a shame. And they're so nice with such a good idea." What I'm thinking is that the person couldn't answer any of the questions I asked about marketing or future plans, and odds are, such short-term thinking will kill their business off.

Continued on page 3.

KWI First Line Contest

Attention all you wonderful writers out there! It's a brand new year chalk full of endless opportunities for writers. Let's start off 2013 right with a little contest amongst fellow peers. If you've forgotten the rules to the contest, you're in luck, here they are: for those

who would like to participate, you must write short story of 5,000 words or less. In doing so, you must use one of the following first lines to begin your story: "She would go to hell for what she was about to do." or "I distinctly remember blowing this mother-

fucker up a few days ago." Deadline has been extended to March 1, 2013. Send entries to Tish at bearwmn@aol.com. Good luck fellow writers!

February Workshops by Angela Johnson



February 2013 workshops to help hone your craft.

Cracking the Whip: BDSM for Writers
Date: Feb. 1, 2013
FMI, visit
<http://www.rwamysterysuspense.org/coffin.html>

E-book and Digital Publishing, Is it for Me?
Date: Feb. 1, 2013.
FMI, visit
<http://www.rwamysterysuspense.org/coffin.html>

Norman Britain
Dates: Feb 1-13, 2013
FMI, visit
<http://www.celtichearts.org/workshops.html>

Show Up Naked: Writing the Male POV
Dates: Feb. 4-28, 2013.
FMI, e-mail neorwaonline@gmail.com or visit

<http://www.neorwa.com/index.php/Workshops/Workshops>.

Authors vs. Editors: 10 Things I...About You
Date: Feb 5-6, 2013

FMI, visit
<http://www.passionateink.org/workshops/>

Scots Language
Dates: Feb 14-28, 2013
FMI, visit
<http://www.celtichearts.org/workshops.html>

The Character's Arc
Date: Feb. 4-17
FMI, visit
<http://lowcountryrwa.com/workshops/all-workshops/#FEB>

Plotting a Romance Series
Dates: Feb. 1-15
FMI, visit
<http://lowcountryrwa.com/workshops/all-workshops/#FEB>

Creating Great Villains
Dates: Feb. 1-28
FMI, visit
<http://lowcountryrwa.com/workshops/#FEB>

How to Promote Your Book Online
Dates: Feb. 1-28
FMI, visit
<http://lowcountryrwa.com/workshops/all-workshops/#FEB>

*"Authors with a mortgage never get writer's block."
-Mavis Cheek*

Kansas City Voices

Morgan graciously sent me an e-mail about a wonderful opportunity for writers wanting to submit their work for Kansas City Voices Magazine. For those that have never heard of them, KCV, according to their website, is a non-profit organization formed to discover, encourage and promote creativity and communication through

literature, art, and other forms of cultural expression. They publish an annual eclectic mix of fiction, essays, interviews, articles, poetry, and art. Currently they are accepting submissions for their 11th annual issue. Check out their website, www.wppress.org, for more information on full submission guidelines. Most submissions

are accepted via their online system, only. If they accept your submission, the author will receive payment and one copy of the magazine.

Editing Your Novel Event



Edit! Edit! Edit!

"The first draft of anything is shit." -Ernest Hemingway

Editing is important to any novel, short story, letter, etc, and is essential to perfecting the finished product. If you participated in Nanowrimo this year, you've probably heard about going back through your work and taking out all the unneces-

sary garbage used to make the word count. The library is putting on an event on Tuesday, March 12th, 2013 from 7:00 pm -8:00pm, on Editing Your Novel. The goal of the presentation is to teach a writer the skills to learn how to edit your own work. Our very own KWI president, Morgan Chilson-

Rothenberger, owner of Exactly Write, is offering advice and tips for editing. She talks in depth about the top manuscript mistakes and steps to overcome them. If you have a chance, please come out and support Morgan. You'll be glad you did.

www.kansaswritersinc.com
www.kansaswriters.wordpress.com

Blog/Facebook group

Tish has set up a new member only Facebook group. Checkout the KS Writers Inc. website for details. Tish adds all members who are her Face-book friends. If you would like an invite, please let her know. The forum is a great place to ask advice from your fellow writers. If you're interested in submitting a piece for the blog, please e-mail them to Tish at bearwmn@aol.com.

Timeline

Next meeting: January 26th, 2013 at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library. We begin at 10:00 A.M.

Membership

If you're interested in still being apart of KWI and have not paid fees yet, please contact our Treasurer, Carey Kennedy by e-mail. Her address is crkennedy3@gmail.com.

Financial Report

Minutes: There were no minutes from December. We did not meet because of the holidays.

Opening Balance: \$3,329.36

No Transactions

Closing Balance: \$3,391.36

A Writer's Business cont. from page 1



Doing more homework paves the way for success.

If you can't pay for someone to take over your marketing or to fill in for other business weaknesses – and let's face it, many of us can't – then you need to “put your big girl panties on” (as they say) and learn the stuff you really have no desire to know.

Frankly, I hate tracking tax info. But I can't afford an accountant so I've learned what's deductible and what's not through a lot of online research, and I track things. I get behind (we all tend to avoid what we hate), but I do it.

If you're unsure what you're neglecting, check out your local small business development center (the one in Topeka is phenomenal). They have cheap classes and lots of information about running a business. For that matter, the federal Small Business Administration has terrific online information at www.sba.gov.

Honest inventories are hard. If you don't think you can be unbiased enough, ask a trusted friend or family member what he or she thinks you

need to do to grow your business. You might be surprised at the answers you get!

The winners in life think constantly in terms of I can, I will, and I am. Losers, on the other hand, concentrate their waking thoughts on what they should have or would have done, or what they can't do. –Dennis Waitley