

KWI: KANSAS WRITER'S INK

Newsletter Vol. 16. No. 4

September 2014

Regular Meeting Minutes (May 24, 2014)

Submitted by Billie-Renee Knight

Present: Michael Adams, Romie Chavez, Morgan Chilson, Leslie Galbraith, Tish Glasson, Ian Hall, Carey Kennedy, Billie-Renee Knight, Shayne Sawyer, Brittany Willes, Kevin Wilson

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Published in August newsletter

Treasurer's Report:

\$2817.70 beginning balance.

Ended with \$2814.21.

Correspondence: None submitted.

Unfinished Business: By-Laws Review – By-laws will be finalized and posted to website. The membership will be more cognizant of following the regulations laid out in the by-laws.

Blogging for group – Please submit blogs to bearwmn@gmail.com. Last blog is two years old.

Newsletter – Items to Romie. He will send out a reminder the week before articles are due.

New Business: Membership – The new membership year starts this month. The updated renewal form will be linked into the KWI website along with the new members' form. Forms and dues go to the new membership coordinator Jan Stotts.

Mid American Romance Authors Contest – Romance contest, deadline September 14. Completed works only, minimum 40,000 words. Agents and publishers present, non-members only. A new page will be added to the website to highlight contests and other writing news. Information to be added to this page can be forwarded to Billie-Renee at knightdrk2@yahoo.com.

Honorarium – Proposed reduction from \$75 to \$50. Passed unanimously.

Ideas for Future Programs – marketing, blogging, social media marketing, query process and synopses – Morgan will begin planning and recruiting presenters for the current year.

Committee Reports: None submitted.

Kudos: Ian Hall has completed a steampunk novel based on the dream he had at the Elms 3 or 4 years ago. Titled the *Clockwork Killer*, it is available on Amazon.

Kevin Wilson's first book has been published, titled *Change One Thing: Take Your First Steps Towards Massive Success*.

Deidre Hazim published a book in June 2014 entitled *Polygamy Preppers Guide: Five FICTIONAL Stories About What Can Happen If You Are Caught Unprepared for a Polygamy Storm*.

2014 KWI Board Members

President: Tish Glasson

Vice-President: Morgan Rothenberger

Secretary: Billie-Renee Knight

Treasurer: Reed Holwegner

Membership: Jan Stotts

Newsletter: Romie Chavez

Advisor to the President: Mark Bouton



In This Issue

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- Workshops
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- Kudos

October Online Workshops

By Angela Johnson

Overcoming Your Fear of Editing—A Sixteen-Step Program for Writers

Date: September 29–November 21, 2014

Presenter: MM Pollard. FMI, <http://crw-rwa.ning.com/page/2013-onlineworkshops>.

Self Publishing on a Shoe String

Date: October 1–31, 2014

Presenter: Magda Alexander. FMI, <http://www.marylandromancewriters.com/self-publishing-on-a-shoestring/>.

Dialogue

Date: October 3–31, 2014

Presenter: Shannon Donnelly. FMI, <http://www.romance-ffp.com/category/workshops>.

Man Talk

Date: October 6–13, 2014

Presenter: Barbara Bins. FMI, <http://lowcountryrwa.com/workshops/all-workshops/#OCT>.

Build a Timeline, Not an Outline/Tick Tock: Building Timelines to Keep Your Characters on Track

Date: October 6–17, 2014

Presenter: Beth Daniels. FMI, <http://crw-rwa.ning.com/page/2013-onlineworkshops>.

Creating Non-Human Characters

Date: October 6–17, 2014

Presenter: Renee Wildes. FMI, <http://crw-rwa.ning.com/page/2013-onlineworkshops>.

Plotting

Date: October 6–19, 2014

Presenter: Monette Michaels. FMI, <http://www.romance-ffp.com/category/workshops>.

Vampires Along Silk Road and Beyond

Date: October 6–19, 2014

Presenter: Eilis Flynn & Jacquie Rogers. FMI, <http://www.romance-ffp.com/category/workshops>.

Never Give a Sword to a Man Who Can't Dance—Aspects of the Hero's Journey for a Gay Protagonist

Date: October 6–24 2014

Presenter: Lloyd Meeker. FMI, <http://www.frwriters.org/events/online-workshops/>.

Are We There Yet? Getting Your Manuscript in Tip-Top Shape

Date: October 6–31, 2014

Presenter: Susan Palmquist. FMI, <http://www.yosemiteromancewriters.com/workshops>.

Crafting Memorable Dialogue

Date: October 6–31, 2014

Presenter: Joni M. Fisher. FMI, <http://fthrw.com/online-workshops>.

Emergency Dispatch 9-1-1

Date: October 6–31, 2013

Presenter: Kathy Bremner. FMI, <http://www.rwamysterysuspense.org/coffin.php>.

Making your Characters Real

Date: October 6–31, 2014

Presenter: Rebecca Martinez. FMI, <http://lowcountryrwa.com/workshops/all-workshops/#OCT>.

The E-book Controversy

By: Romie Chavez

The literary world is no stranger to controversy, especially when it comes to the forms in which the information is formatted. Prior to World War II, the paperback book was created. It was cheaper and more cost effective, making it a well-received invention by most readers. Despite the popularity, it was often met with harsh criticism. Literary establishments argued that the low cost of paperbacks would destroy the industry. Fast-forward to today and the paperback is still going strong. But for how long?

A new player arrived in town and is turning the literary establishment upside down again. The introduction of the e-book generated a lot of buzz when it was first conceived. We were given a glimpse into a world in which our libraries would be reduced to mere files on electronic devices. Newspapers, magazines, and all printed materials would be obsolete. Information would be delivered fast and easily accessible from the comfort of our own homes.

Since the beginning, e-books have been met with controversy. If you talk to any avid reader who loves handling books, there's something about a physical copy in your hand that can never be accurately replicated. The distinctive smell that accompanies the opening of the hardbound binding has that synthetic aroma, not entirely unpleasant, but a fresh scent, akin to a new car. However, with an e-book, you lose out on all of these characteristics. Of course, this is not the only reason, but it's a very important one.

Recently, Amazon implored its Kindle Direct Publishing Authors to lend a voice to the legal dispute between Amazon and Hachette (another US Publisher). Amazon states that they want lower e-book prices. Hachette, obviously, does not.

In thinking about printing versus electronic media, Amazon wants their consumers to consider the following fact about e-books. When investing in e-books, "there's no printing, no over-printing, no need to forecast, no returns, no lost sales due to out of stock, no warehousing costs, no transportation costs, and there is no secondary market (resold as used books). Therefore, they should be less expensive."

Hachette was recently caught illegally colluding with its competitors to raise prices on e-books. As a result, the parties involved along with Hachette, had to pay over \$166 million in penalties and restitution. These actions were viewed as a slap in the face to its readers. Other establishments don't always consider the bigger picture in terms of competition. It is no longer limited to books vying against books. Due to technological advances, Amazon identifies how they compete with "mobile games, television, movies, Facebook, blogs, free news sites and more." Instead of worrying about how much of an inconvenience e-books are in terms of their format and pricing, consider how they could rejuvenate the industry.

Amazon implores its members to consider the elasticity of e-books. "When the price goes down, customers buy much more. We've quantified the price elasticity of e-books from repeated measurements across many titles. For every copy an e-book would sell at \$14.99, it would sell 1.74 copies if priced at \$9.99. So, for example, if customers would buy 100,000 copies of a particular e-book at \$14.99, then customers would buy 174,000 copies of that same e-book at \$9.99. Total revenue at \$14.99 would be \$1,499,000. Total revenue at \$9.99 is \$1,738,000. The important thing to note here is that the lower price is good for all parties involved: the customer is paying 33% less and the author is getting a royalty check 16% larger and being read by an audience that's 74% larger."

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October Workshops

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By: Angela Johnson

NaNoWriMo Success

Date: October 6–31, 2014

Presenter: Peter Andrews. FMI, <http://lowcountryrwa.com/workshops/all-workshops/#OCT>.

Raiding the Poet's Toolbox to Enrich Your Writing

Date: October 6–31, 2013

Presenter: MM Pollard. FMI, <http://www.rwamysterysuspense.org/coffin.php>.

Scene by Scene

Date: October 6–31, 2014

Presenter: Sally J Walker. FMI, <http://contemporaryromance.org/events/>.

Scrivener Outline

Date: October 6–31, 2014

Presenter: Rebeca Schiller. FMI, <http://crw-rwa.ning.com/page/2013-onlineworkshops>.

Working with Your Editor

Date: October 6–31, 2014

Presenter: Susan Palmquist. FMI, <http://lowcountryrwa.com/workshops/all-workshops/#OCT>.

Flashbacks that Please Your Editor and Don't Confuse Your Reader

Date: October 6–November 2, 2014

Presenter: MM Pollard. FMI, <http://www.passionateink.org/workshops/>.

Creating the Perfect Cover

Date: October 12–19, 2014

Presenters: Lily Smith and Andris Bear. FMI, <http://heartofcarolina.org/calendar/>.

Collaborative Writing

Date: October 13–20, 2014

Presenters: Erin McRae & Racheline Maltese. FMI, <http://contemporaryromance.org/events/>.

Short Stories

Date: October 13–November 9, 2014

Presenter: Louisa Bacio. FMI, <http://www.occrwa.org/onlineclasses.html>.

The Art of Blurb Writing

Date: October 20–November 7, 2014

Presenter: Beth Fred. FMI, <http://crw-rwa.ning.com/page/2013-onlineworkshops>.

By: Romie Chavez

The justification sounds reasonable enough and makes logical sense. However, not even authors are united on this front. There is a great divide amongst colleagues about who is right and wrong in this debate. Many articles have been written on this subject along with many generated petitions designed to get others to weigh in. Amazon understands that most authors want to be left out of the argument and want them to settle it amongst themselves. However, they want authors to know that they've tried to work out an agreement. "Hachette spent three months stonewalling and only grudgingly began to even acknowledge our concerns when we took action to reduce sales of their titles in our store. Since then Amazon has made three separate offers to Hachette to take authors out of the middle. We first suggested that we (Amazon and Hachette) jointly make author royalties whole during the term of the dispute. Then we suggested that authors receive 100% of all sales of their titles until this dispute is resolved. Then we suggested that we would return to normal business operations if Amazon and Hachette's normal share of revenue went to a literacy charity. But Hachette, and their parent company Lagardere, have quickly and repeatedly dismissed these offers even though e-books represent 1% of their revenues and they could easily agree to do so. They believe they get leverage from keeping their authors in the middle."

Despite their efforts, Amazon does not want its authors to fret too much about it. They will never give up on advocating for reasonable e-book prices. But they would like assistance in voicing opinions to Hachette.

After consideration of the important points that Amazon pinpoints for authors to be aware of, it seems rational for the literary world to play close attention to how this all plays out. Our dreams of becoming one of the next great American authors of our time could be easily clouded by outcome.

If you would like to read more about Amazon's request or would like to send an e-mail to Hachette to voice your opinions, visit www.readersunited.com. Thank you to KWI member, Morgan Rothenberger for the article.

Further Reading

If you would like to hear from other author's perspectives on the e-book controversy and Amazon's involvement, check out this article from *The Guardian*, titled "Bestselling authors take out full-page New York Times ad against Amazon."

You can check it out here: <http://www.theguardian.com/books/2014/aug/08/authors-ad-new-york-times-petition-amazon>

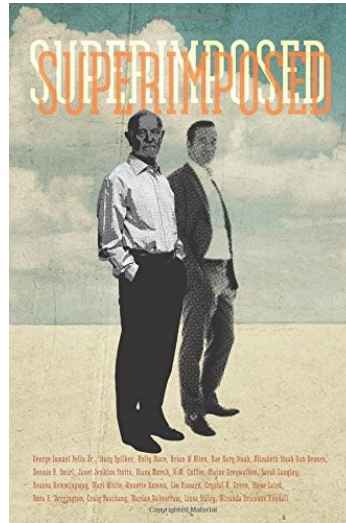
Kudos

Congrats to Billie-Renee Knight for completing the third book in her Lord Dragon series. The next project on the horizon for her is book four.

Congrats to Romie Chavez for completing the sequel to his first novel. His next projects include editing and starting the sequel to his Nanowrimo novel.

Kudos goes out to the KWI members involved in the 2014 TSCPL Community Novel Projects *Spirits of Oz* and *Superimposed*. The book launch for both novels will be on September 28th, 2014 @ 2:00pm-4:00pm.

Stop on by and support your fellow writers!



Writing Resources

Body Language Cheat Sheet for Writers

<http://writerswrite.co.za/cheat-sheets-translate-emotions-into-written-body-language>

<http://archetypewriting.blogspot.com/2008/01/downloads-and-cheat-sheets.html>

KWI Next Meeting

When:

September 27th, 2014

Where:

Topeka Shawnee County
Public Library

Topic: TBA

Future Meetings:

When:

October 25th, 2014

Where:

Topeka Shawnee County
Public Library

Topic: TBA

Financials

August 2014

Beginning balance: \$2,814.21

Receipts: \$0.00

Expenses: \$89.36

Ending balance: \$2,724.85

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www.kswriters.wordpress.com