

Board Members

President:

- Tish Glasson

Vice President:

- Jason Glasson

Secretary:

- Billie-Renee Knight

Treasurer:

- Shayne Huxtable

Membership:

- Alisia Davis

Newsletter:

- Connie Beckett

Advisor to the President:

- Billie-Renee Knight

KWI Blog:

- Billie-Renee Knight

Interested in writing a
blog for KWI?

Contact Billie-Renee
Knight at
knightdark2@gmail.com

Visit us online at:
<https://kswriters.wixsite.com/my-site>

Kansas Writers, Inc.

March 2025



Ponderings and Smackeral's:

Greetings Fellow Writers,

The parking lot snow mountains have finally melted and spring is on the way. To celebrate, we have a one-day retreat planned in lieu of the April 26 meeting. Come join us at the Lawrence Library, 707 Vermont Street. We meet at 10:00 am, write like mad, and then break for an early dinner at the nearby Free State Brewery. Please RSVP to kswritersinc@gmail.com so we know how many to expect.

This month our speaker is Dylan Butler who will be giving us the scoop on how to create audiobooks. We plan to - fingers crossed - Zoom the meeting for members unable to attend.

See you Saturday,
Connie Beckett
Editor

KWI Meetings

Future Meetings

When: April 26, 2025
Where: Lawrence Library
Topic: One-day writing retreat

When: May 24, 2025
Where: Topeka-Shawnee County Library
Topic: TBD

Meeting Format

Program: 10:00 a.m.
Board Meeting 11:00 a.m.
Critique: 12:00 noon

March Meeting

The March Meeting will be held the 22nd at the Topeka Public Library, Anton Room. Dylan Butler will be our guest speaker talking about the audiobook process.



From the Slush Pile

April Retreat Reminder

We will be holding a one-day retreat on April 26 at the Lawrence Library. We meet at 10 a.m., paper or laptop in hand, to write and then break for an early dinner at Free State Brewery.. The cost is minimal (room fee), the company excellent, and distraction-free time to write invaluable. **RSVP to kswritersinc@gmail.com** so we know how large a room is needed.

Calling All Short Story Writers

We are still accepting short stories for the KWI anthology, "It was a Dark and Stormy Night." Submit stories to kswritersinc@gmail.com

KUDOS to Marsh Douglas. He was recently featured in an "[In Other Words](#)" podcast, Season 1, Episode 8. Well done, Marsh.

Generating Story Ideas

Are you stuck finding an idea for a new story? Author Sarah Eden has suggestions. One suggestion is to twist a trope to transform it into something fresh. Another suggestion is to combine tropes. For example, she said, "start with 'Unrequited Love,' then combine it with 'Office Romance' and we get Jim and Pam from The Office."

Financials

February 2025

Beginning Cash Balance
\$3,985.34
Income: \$35.00
Expenses: \$0.00
Ending Cash Balance:
\$4,020.34

2024-2025 Budget

Anticipated Income: \$581.00
Anticipated Expenses:
\$235.00
Income Loss/Gain: \$346.00

Another way is to flip a genre. Flip romance into science fiction and you get Star Wars' Han and Leia. Eden's final suggestion is to swap, for example, gender, outcomes, or characters. You can read her article at [Generate Story Ideas](#)

5 Deadly Climax Mistakes

Thank you to Shayne Huxtable for recommending a 12-minute YouTube clip by Abbie Emmons on mistakes writers make in the climax of their story. You can view it at [YouTube.com/watch?v=fZoXdSb-QjU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fZoXdSb-QjU)

Tool-Kit Articles

Shayne recommended Emma Darwin's webpage "This Itch of Writing" for a tool kit of articles about voice and dialogue. You can find Darwin on Substack and online. Here is the link.

[Emma Darwin Tool-kit](#)

Draft2Digital Price Changes

Effective April 1, D2D will change their print and royalty prices. The new unit cost will increase to \$2.20 from the previous \$2.08. They are also changing the royalty rate from the current \$2.42 to the new \$2.30. Details and a calculator can be found at the D2D [Calculator](#)

More Writing Tips

These come from "100 tips that May (or May not) Improve your next Novel," from Via Soho Press.

1) Every third book you read should be older than you are.

2) The first letter of the first word of each chapter of your manuscript should form a secret message for scholars and obsessives to discover later.

3) Learn a second language. Nothing helps you discern the oddities and peccadillos of English like seeing how another tongue arranges grammar into meaning.

4) Listen to Rebecca Makkai's lecture "The Ear of the Story."

April Online Writing Courses

21 Days to your Novel Outline and Synopsis

Dates: April 20-May 1, 2025

Presenter: Bryan Young

<https://writersdigestuniversity.com>

You can't Copyright Tropes, But You Can Make Them Your Own.

Date: April 4-18, 2025

Presenter: Tere Michaels

<https://heartsthroughhistory.com>

Basic Marketing and Promotion

Dates: April 19, 2025

Presenter: Susan Palmquist

www.oirwa.com

Hero's Journey for Lovers

Dates: March 3-28, 2025

Presenter: Tere Michaels

www.oirwa.com

Create Mock Book Covers and Images for your Online

Dates: April 7-20, 2025

Presenter: June Diehl

www.savvyauthors.com

Demonstrating Complex Emotions without Sinking into Stereotypes

Dates: April 14-27, 2025

Presenter: Cassandra Carr

www.savvyauthors.com



Kansas Writers, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2025

I. Called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Treasurer Shayne Huxtable.

II. Members present: Connie Beckett, Alisha Davis, Shayne Huxtable, Julie Nischan, Theresa Grennan, Kat Kamrell, and Annie Wilcox.

III. Correspondence

A. There was no correspondence received.

IV. Financials for January 2025

Beginning balance:	\$3,855.34
Expenses:	0.00
Income	130.00
Ending balance:	\$3,985.34

V. Old Business

A. Group novel – Editing continues on the Round Robin Novel. Chapters 1-8 were reviewed and edited in January, and the remainder will be done in subsequent months.

B. Upcoming Programs

1. March – Guest speaker on creating audiobooks

2. April – One day writing retreat in Lawrence

3. Subsequent programs are still being scheduled as speakers are arranged.

C. Shayne has booked a room at the library for our monthly meetings through October, with the exception of April.

VI. New Business

A. Officer Elections for the 2025 – 2025 year

- The list of nominations is due to the executive board before the March business meeting.
- Elections are held at the June business meeting.

B. The board will look into offering the option for non-members to subscribe to the newsletter.

C. Short stories for the anthology will still be accepted.

D. Dylan Butler will be the guest speaker at the March Meeting and will talk about creating audiobooks.

E. Plans have been finalized for the April day retreat. Members meet at 10:00 at the Lawrence Public Library. We will break for an early dinner at Free State Brewery.

VII. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.