

## Board Members

Acting President:

- Billie-Renee Knight

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? We welcome essays on craft, marketing, research, or anything writing-related. Contact Billie-Renee Knight at [knightdark2@gmail.com](mailto:knightdark2@gmail.com)

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

# Kansas Writers, Inc.

July 2025



## Notes From the Margins:

July – often the hottest month of the summer in Kansas and my favorite month to hibernate in my cool basement with gallons of iced tea, some sweet snacks, my cats, and my laptop where I can dive into any number of imaginary worlds I have created and peopled with diverse characters and scenarios to amuse myself. With a dash of hope, a lucky streak, and a lot of hard work perhaps one day soon these stories will amuse and entertain others as well.

Next month begins KWI's new year and ushers in the new board. Congratulations to the newly elected officers – president, Billie-Renee Knight; vice president, Alisha Davis; secretary, Marsh Douglas; newsletter, Connie Beckett; membership, Theresa Grennan; and past president, Tish Glasson. Sadly, our long-time treasurer, Shayne Huxtable, has announced she is stepping down after this month and while we will miss her expertise and sage guidance, we wish her the best. Anyone interested in running for treasurer should reach out to me as soon as possible.

I am looking forward to the upcoming programs, including this month's presentation by our own Romie Chavez on writing dialogue. I hope everyone can come out to support Romie on Saturday even though it means leaving the safety of our air-conditioned basements for a morning! Stay safe in the heat and write lots!

Billie-Renee Knight

## KWI Meetings

## Future Meetings

When: August 23, 2025

Where: Topeka Library,  
Anton Room

Topic: Speaker: Thea Rademacher, Flint Hills Publishing

When: September 27, 2025

Where: Topeka Library,  
Anton Room

Topic: Speaker: Morgan  
Chilson

When: October 25, 2025

Where: Topeka Library,  
Anton Room

Topic: Speaker. Andrew Howard, Round Table Book Store

When: November 22, 2025

Where: TBA

Topic: Holiday Party

## Meeting Format

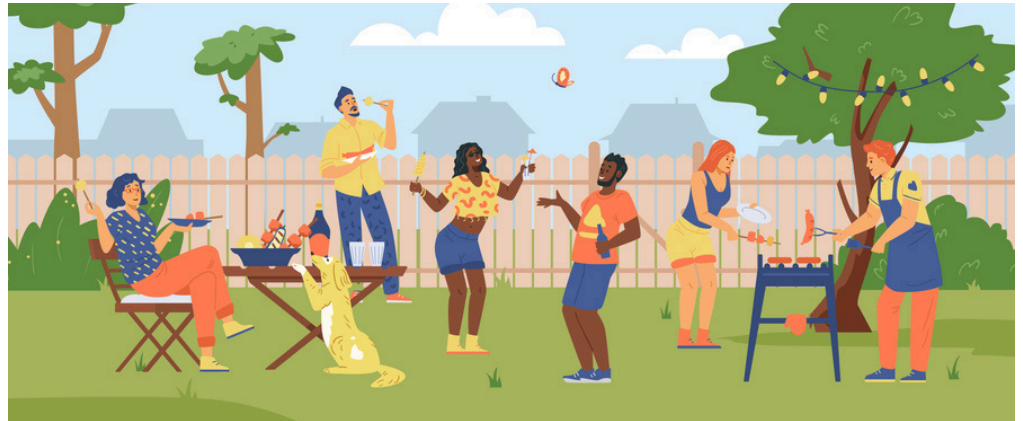
Program: 10:00 a.m.

Board Meeting 11:00 a.m.

Critique: 12:00 noon

## July Meeting

Our regular meeting will be held July 26, in the Anton Room at the Topeka Library. Romie Chavez will be speaking on the topic of dialogue.



## From the Slush Pile

## Board Position Open

After serving as KWI treasurer for many years, Shayne Huxtable has decided to pass the baton. We thank Shayne for her dedication and wish her the best. Not to worry, she continues to be an active member and will be available to help the new secretary acclimate.

We are seeking a member to serve as secretary. Please let Billie-Renee Knight know if you are interested in the position. Her email is [knightdrk2@gmail.com](mailto:knightdrk2@gmail.com)

## Survey Questionnaire

Thank you to everyone who responded to the survey. Here is Alisha Davis with the results.

We appreciate everyone who took the time to fill out the survey! This information has been compiled and sent to all of the incoming board members, but here are some takeaways:

1. The ranking of elements for programs and meetings from most important to least was: (1) Writing Community/Networking, (2) Group Writing Projects, (3) Guest Speakers, (4) Videos on Craft, (5) Peer Critiques, and Videos on Querying and Marketing tied for last.

2. More members are interested in short fiction group projects than long ones, though there is only moderate interest in projects for the future.

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## Financials

### June 2025

Beginning Cash Balance  
\$3,970.34  
Income: \$0.00  
Expenses: \$0.00  
Ending Cash Balance:  
\$3,970.34

### 2024-2025 Budget

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

3. Members were in favor of a virtual meeting option.

4. Dues were regarded as either appropriate or too low, and all members who filled out the form were unanimous in favoring an increase from \$20 to \$25 with the goal of helping with recruitment and affording guest speakers.

5. Members reported they regularly read the newsletter and gave suggestions for new ideas to be included. The website is less utilized by members, but there were suggestions for how to improve it.

6. Members favor single-day retreats over multiple-day retreats.

7. Members are supportive of both the book festival and the holiday party. Other ideas for places to recruit were shared, so be on the watch for these opportunities!

8. A common theme of more time for discussion, both concerning writing and also just socially, was found in many suggestions.

While the new board will be taking all of your feedback into consideration, please know that the survey is not the only time to speak up! If you have ideas, please feel free to bring them to the meeting or to a board member.

### Zoom Access

Based on member feedback, we are implementing Zoom for our monthly meetings, starting in July. The link to join will be sent the morning of the meeting.

### Member Dues

Beginning August 1 (the start of the fiscal year), our membership dues will increase to \$25 annually. You can either pay at the time of the meeting, or mail it with your renewal form.

### Short Story Submissions

We are still accepting short stories for the KWI Anthology, "It was a Dark and Stormy Night." We received seven. Our goal is ten or more. If you have not submitted one or wish to submit a second story, you can send them to [kswritersinc@gmail.com](mailto:kswritersinc@gmail.com)

# August Online Writing Courses

## **Creating a Writing Routine**

Dates: August 7, 2025

Presenter: Cody Smart

[Writers Digest University](#)

## **Science Fiction & Fantasy Virtual Conference**

Dates: August 22-24, 2025

Various Panels

[Writers Digest University](#)

## **It Takes a Village: Writing Supporting Characters**

Date: August 4-29, 2025

Presenter: Tere Michaels

[www.oirwa.com](http://www.oirwa.com)

## **Creating Professional E-Book Covers Using Free Online Tools**

Date: August 4-31

Presenter: Teri Main

[www.savvyauthors.com](http://www.savvyauthors.com)

## **Creating Sexual Tension**

Dates: August 11-14, 2025

Presenter: Cassandra Carr

[www.savyauthors.com](http://www.savyauthors.com)

## Kudos

We have great Kudos this month. Tish Glasson has officially retired. Leslie Gabraith earned her ten-year pen for working for the state. Connie Beckett signed a contract with Flint Hills Publishing.

Let us know if published a book or short story, won a contest, or received an award. We want to celebrate the accomplishment with you.



**Minutes  
KWI Regular Meeting  
June 28, 2025**

I.Call to order 11:03 a.m. by acting president Billie-Renee Knight

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

III.Minutes of previous meeting - May 2025 - approved as submitted

IV.Financials - May

Beginning Balance	\$3970.34
Expenses	\$ 0.00
Income	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$3970.34

V.Correspondence - none

VI.Unfinished business

1. Continuing edits on group novel will be continued during subsequent meetings as part of continuing programming
2. It Was a Dark & Stormy Night - 6 submissions to date, but we would like an even ten before submitting for publication

VII.New business

- A. Elections - results will be emailed on Monday morning
- B. Care Bridge link for Julie Nischan & family
- C. Questionnaire for membership - all responses due by Monday, June 30
- D. Kudos
  1. Tish has officially retired.
  2. Leslie is receiving her 10-year pin for working for the state.
  3. Connie has signed a contract with Flint Hills Publishing.
- E. Door Prize Drawing - Alisha Davis
- F. Reminders for newsletter, blog & website

VIII.Adjournment - 11:23 a.m. by acting president Billie-Renee Knight