

## Board Members

President:

- Billie-Renee Knight

Vice President:

- Alisha Davis

Secretary:

- Marsh Douglas

Treasurer:

- Open Position

Membership:

- Theresa Grennan

Newsletter:

- Connie Beckett

Advisor to the President:

- Tish (Bear) Glasson

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.

## August 2025



## Notes From the Margins:

August - a bittersweet month that ushers in a variety of memories and emotions. It marks the beginning of a new school year, which can be very exciting for writers because store aisles are filled with piles of writing supplies -- notebooks, pens, pencils. Who can resist the smell of brand-new paper and fresh ink? With everything on sale, who can resist stocking up on spiral notebooks, composition books, and jumbo packs of Bic pens in every conceivable color? Not me! Just the thought of filling all those enticingly empty pages with ideas, outlines, poems, and stories can inspire a great deal of creativity. It's also a transitional month as we prepare for autumn and cooler weather, which is optimal weather for writing while sipping a warm beverage. So bring on the pumpkin spice lattes, falling leaves, cooler days, and well-written words!

Billie-Renee Knight  
President

# KWI Meetings

## Future Meetings

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: Hayden High School  
Library  
Topic: Holiday Party

No Meeting in December

## Meeting Format

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

## August Meeting

Our regular meeting will be held August 23, in the Anton Room at the Topeka Library. Thea Rademacher, Flint Hills Publishing, will be the guest speaker.



## From the Slush Pile

### Board Position Open

We are still seeking a member to fill the position of treasurer. The treasurer's duties include 1) notifying the president membership director of delinquent members, 2) keeping the financial records of KWI in good order, 3) keeping a regular listing of member in good standing to provide to membership, 4) completing any required business forms, 5) providing accurate and complete monthly financial statements, 6) presenting the annual audit report to members, and 7) preparing and presenting an annual budget no later than the September meeting.

Shayne Huxtable, the former treasurer, continues to be an active member and will be available to help the new secretary acclimate. Please let Billie-Renee know if you are interested ([knightdark2@gmail.com](mailto:knightdark2@gmail.com))

### Kansas Book Festival

Mark the date. This year's festival will be held on September 20, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. at Washburn University near the library. KWI will have a table and we are asking members to volunteer for a time slot. A shout-out to Brittney W and Annie for volunteering. A link to the sign-up sheet can be found in the email.

## Financials

### July 2025

Beginning Cash Balance  
\$3,970.34  
Income: \$135.00  
Expenses: \$185.00  
Ending Cash Balance:  
\$3,920.34

### Year 2025-2026 Budget

Anticipated Income \$405.00  
Anticipated Expenses \$415.00  
Income Gain / Loss (\$10.00)

## Zoom Access

Based on member feedback, we are implementing Zoom for our monthly meetings. 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." 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)

## Dictate Your Novel

Shayne Huxtable found an informative YouTube video from Self Publishing Insiders. Nick Thacker with Draft 2 Digital talked with author Sarah Elizabeth Sawyer about dictating a novel. Sarah said with practice dictation becomes like keyboarding; spoken words flow from a writer's imagination much like it does when typing on a computer or laptop. When Lisa Scottoline spoke at the Topeka library earlier this year she often used dictation for emotional scenes. Here is the YouTube link [Dictate Your Novel](#)

## 2025-2026 Goals

The board met last week. We brainstormed goals for the upcoming year. The member survey responses were helpful, but we still need your input on the direction of our organization and how to best promote KWI. The following list of goals is fluid.

- 1) Fill the vacant board position before October
- 2) Set up a table at a NOTO's First Friday to talk to visitors about KWI.
- 3) Finish editing the Round Robin novel and have it published.
- 4) Publish the Dark & Stormy Night anthology.

## **Out and About**

Our members are participating in these upcoming events. The events are open to the public.

- September 6, Flint Hills Publishing is celebrating its tenth anniversary at NOTO's Redbud Park from 7 to 9 pm.
- September 20, KWI is hosting a table at the Topeka Book Fair at the Washburn Library between 9 am and 4 pm.
- September 27, S.E.K. Bordertown Paracon will hold a paranormal conference in Caney, Kansas, starting at 9:30 am.

Let us know if you will be attending or participating in an upcoming event.

## **September Online Writing Courses**

### **Submitting Short Fiction: From Polished Manuscript to Publication**

Dates: September 11 - October 19, 2025

Presenter: Jessica Berg

[Writers Digest University](#)

### **Story Development and Outlining**

Dates: September 25 - October 23, 2025

Presenter: Lynn Grant Beck

[Writers Digest University](#)

### **How Important is GMC? Goal, Motivation, Conflict**

Dates: September 1-26, 2025

Presenter: Mary Marvella

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

### **Creating a "Murder Book" for your Mystery Novel**

Dates: September 8 - October 5, 2025

Presenter: Beth Daniels

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

### **How to Land a Literary Agent: Perfecting your Submission Package**

Dates: September 22 - October 19, 2025

Presenter: Christina Hennmann

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



## Kudos

We have two Kudos to report this month. Congrats to both.

Marsh Douglas attended a Writing Convention called LitRPG Con and sat on a couple of panels: Animal Companions, Mounts, and Pets, and Diversity in Writing. The Animal Companion panel included NYT Bestseller Matt Dinniman. A thank you to Marsh for providing the convention artwork and photos.

Connie Beckett published a novel with Flint Hills Publishing titled "North of Juarez, Far From Saigon."



**JULY 19 @ 10:30 AM**  
**DIVERSE REALMS**  
Exploring Inclusion in LitRPG  
Moderator: Noret Floodl

Guests & Panelists: Rose (TJ) Reynolds, Ryan H Reid, Johnathan Smidt (Ryn), Reck Well, JP "Nixia" Valentine

A row of five book covers: "SHATTERED SWORD" by TJ Reynolds, "MIMIC ME BOOK 1" by NHD, "FLAREPITTER" by Ryan H Reid, "STUMBLING UP" by Marsh Douglas, and "BULLSHIT!" by La Montagne.

**PETS, FAMILIARS, & MOUNTS**  
The Role of Companions in LitRPG

A colorful illustration featuring several fantasy creatures: a cat with a crown and sunglasses, a red crab, a yellow blob-like creature with large eyes, a brown dragon, and a white bird with large wings.

Moderator: Shami Stovall  
Guests & Panelists: Matt Dinniman, Haylock Jobson, Reck Well, Sean Dunning, & Ryan DeBruyn

A row of five book covers: "DANNON CARL AND THE MATT DINNIMAN", "FAMILIARS", "PETS", "MOUNTS", and "COMPANIONS".

## **President's Annual Report 2024 - 2025**

The annual election was held during the June 2024 regular meeting. The following board officers were elected:

President: Tish Glasson  
Vice President: Jason Glasson  
Treasurer: Shayne Huxtable  
Secretary: Billie-Renee Knight  
Newsletter: Connie Beckett  
Membership: Alisha Davis  
Past President: Billie-Renee Knight

A weekend retreat was held in mid-October at an Airbnb in Potwin in Topeka. The annual holiday party was held in November at the library at Hayden Catholic High School. Following the holiday party, an executive board meeting was convened by the treasurer to announce the retirement of both the president and the vice president due to health issues. The past president agreed to step in as acting president and the other board officers agreed to assist with shared duties such as arranging programs for the rest of the year and writing the president's column for the newsletter through the end of the fiscal year.

The remaining officers successfully navigated the remainder of the year until the June 2025 elections and hosted several successful programs, including a one day writing retreat in Lawrence in April, which was popular enough that another similar event will be planned again for next year.

Billie-Renee Knight  
Acting President