

Board Members

President:

- Billie-Renee Knight

Vice President:

- Alisha Davis

Secretary:

- Leslie Galbraith

Treasurer:

- Marsh Douglas

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
knighdark2@gmail.com

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

Kansas Writers, Inc.

September 2025



Notes From the Margins:

As autumn settles in, I find myself reflecting on the natural rhythm of the seasons and how it mirrors the creative life. Just as the trees shed their leaves, we too can let go of what no longer serves our writing—old drafts, tired habits, or the fear of starting something new.

This is a season of gathering as well: gathering inspiration from the crisp air, golden light, and the stories waiting to be told around us. I encourage each of you to use this time to slow down, notice the details, and capture the richness of the season in your work.

Whether you are revising a long project, beginning something fresh, or simply jotting down a few lines in your notebook, remember that every word is a seed planted for the seasons ahead.

I look forward to hearing the harvest of your words at our next meeting.

Billie-Renee Knight
President

KWI Meetings

Future Meetings

When: October 25, 2025
Where: Topeka Library,
Anton Room
Topic: Speaker. Andrew
Howard, Round Table Book
Store

When: November 22, 2025
Where: Topeka Library,
Anton Room
Topic: TBA

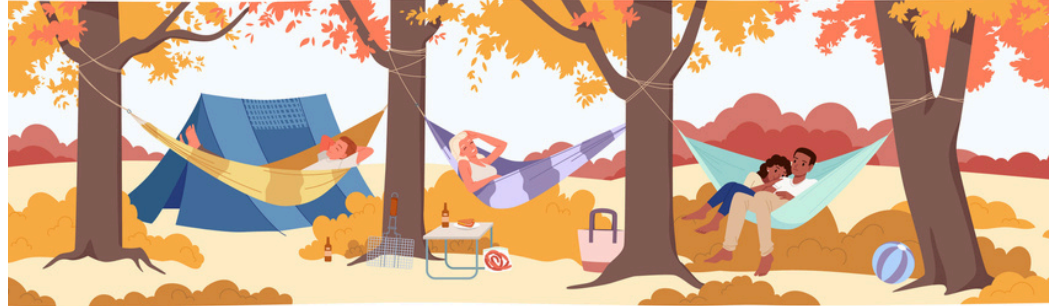
When: December 13, 2025
Where: Hayden High School
Library
Topic: Holiday Party and
Raffle

Meeting Format

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

September Meeting

Our regular meeting will be held September 27, in the Anton Room at the Topeka Library. Morgan Chilson will be the guest speaker.



From the Slush Pile

Board Member Changes

We are pleased to announce two changes to our board. Marsh Douglas will be stepping into the Treasurer's position. Leslie Galbraith has agreed to become the Secretary.

November and December Meeting Changes

After discussion and feedback from members, we are switching meeting plans to close out 2025. October remains the same. November will feature a regular meeting at the Topeka Library, Anton Room. The holiday party will be held on December 13, at the Hayden High School library between 10 AM and 2 PM. Bring a covered dish to share, and an unwrapped prize if you want to participate in the raffle.

Kansas Book Festival

There was a good turnout and perfect weather for the September 20 book festival. KWI hosted a table and informed visitors about our organization. Thank you to Alisha Davis for organizing our participation and the members who volunteered to help.

KWI's table "neighbor" was Marsh Douglas. He had an excellent display of his books and many people stopped to browse and visit.

Financials

August 2025

Beginning Cash Balance
\$3,9920.34

Income: \$N/A

Expenses: \$N/A

Ending Cash Balance:\$N/A

Due to difficulties with the change of treasurer and bank account access, the finalcals were not available at time of publication.

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.

Condolences

Please keep member Julie Nischan in your thoughts. She lost her husband, Andrew Peter Nischan, on September 2, after a hard-fought battle with cancer. We are here when you feel ready to come back, Julie.

Member Dues

Annual dues of \$25 are still being collected. You can either pay at the time of the meeting or mail it with your renewal form. A \$5 late fee will be assessed for dues paid after October 1.

Short Story Submissions-Last Call

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.

Author's Publish Opportunities

As summer turns to autumn, and our thoughts turn from summer activities to writing, a reminder that [Author's Publish](#) sends periodic emails about publishing opportunities for a variety of subjects and genres. Signing up for the emails is free, and you can unsubscribe at any time. The email I received this month listed publishers with geographic limitations (for example, Alaska, Texas or Chesapeake). You don't necessarily have to live in the region to submit. The website is authorspublish.com.

KickStart Opportunities

Shayne Huxtable found a video about an author using KickStart to fund their writing. Shayne says the information is good but warns the video has graphic images. [Kickstart Dystopian Romance](#)

Out and About

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

- September 27, S.E.K. Bordertown Paracon will hold a paranormal conference in Caney, Kansas, starting at 9:30 am.
- October 10-11, Heartland Book Fest.
- November 2, Alisha Davis will be at the library for an Author Talk between 1:00 and 2:30 pm.

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

October Online Writing Courses

21 Days to Your Novel Outline & Synopsis

Dates: October 9 - October 30, 2025

Presenter: Bryan Young

[Writers Digest University](#)

Writing the Romance Novel

Dates: October 16 - November 27, 2025

Terri Valentine

[Writers Digest University](#)

Making a Good First Impression-First 5 Chapters

Dates: October 6 - 31, 2025

Presenter: Tere Michaels

oiwi.org

It was a Dark and Stormy Night on the Moors: Writing Gothic Romance

Dates: October 13 - November 9, 2025

Presenter: Rebekah Ganiere

www.savvyauthors.com

Autumn Pitchfest

Dates: October 24, 2025

Presenter: Various Agents

www.savvyauthors.com

Kudos

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

Alisha Davis was recently presented with a Kansas Notable Book Award for her novel, "Switch Point."



Connie Beckett self-published a novel with Draft to Digital titled "All Fall Down: The Journey."

Topeka Book Festival



Kansas Writers, Inc.
Meeting Agenda
July 26, 2025

- **Call to order** 11:03 am by acting president Billie-Renee Knight
- **Roll call:** Connie Beckett, Romie Chavez, Alisha Davis, Marsh Douglas, Leslie Galbraith, Tish Glasson, Kat Hamrell, Shayne Huxtable, Billie-Renee Knight, Annie Wilcox
- **Minutes of previous meeting** – June 2025
- **Financials** - June
 - Beginning Balance \$3970.34
 - Expenses \$ 0.00
 - Income \$ 0.00
 - Ending Balance \$3970.34
- **Correspondence**

Shayne:

 - 1) US Copyright Office Zoom
 - 2) Bank - merger is ongoing, but account will continue as is
990 IRS E-File is submitted, good until Aug/Sept 2026
 - 3) Next year, State Taxes will be due (due every other year) and will be \$80 dollars
 - 4) Domain name renewal - can be done off-budget.
- **Unfinished business**
 - 1) Upcoming meeting dates & programs
 - August 23 – Thea Rademacher, Flint Hills Publishing
 - September 27 – Morgan Chilson (Topic TBD)
 - October 25 – Andrew Howard, Round Table Bookstore
 - November 22 – Holiday party
 - December – No meeting
 - 2) It was a dark & stormy night – Need some more submissions. Connie will advertise again in the newsletter. Billie and Connie are working on 2nd submissions
 - 3) Retreat Proposal
 - Feb/March - 1 day
 - Potential locations: Library, Roundtable, Lake Shawnee - collect ideas and make a proposal next meeting
- **New business**
 - 1) Election committee report
 - 2) Congratulations to the new board
 - 3) Announce special election for treasurer
 - 4) Next board meeting, Wednesday, August 13 at 7:30 pm on Google Meet
 - 5) Shayne stepping down as treasurer, will need to ask membership for volunteer.

- 6) Worked on contingency plan with Marsh if needed. So far no one has volunteered
- 7) Questionnaire results – Alisha
- 8) End-of-year reports
- 9) President's report (August newsletter)
- 10) Financial audit (August meeting)
- 11) Annual budget review
- 12) Kansas Book Festival
 - Need people to man the table
 - Authors may sign up & pay to sell their own books \$20 fee
 - Sign up with Alisha
- 13) Teresa is preparing a flier and will personally print at no cost
 - Important that we email follow-up anyone who gives contact info
- 14) Membership dues beginning in August \$25
- 15) Newsletter information to Connie/Website & blog submissions to Billie-Renee

- **New Board Goal Proposals**

- 1) Fill board positions by October
- 2) Recruitment table in front of Roundtable for a First Friday in spring
- 3) Dark and Stormy night published
 - Questions about rights for the story
 - Where do proceeds go?
- 4) Need pen/mug budget for the year
- 5) Round Robin Story complete/edited
- 6) Two 1-day writing retreats
- 7.) New Member recruitment goal (5 members)

- **Kudos**

- 1) Alisha's 2nd novel has been published
- 2) Marsh was a member of an author's panel at a conference in Denver with several renowned authors. He will submit a report for the next newsletter.

- **Adjournment** – 11:28 am

Kansas Writers, Inc.
Meeting Minutes
August 23, 2025

- **Call to order** 11:06 am by president Billie-Renee Knight
- **Roll call**
- **Minutes of previous meeting**
- **Financials - July**

Beginning Balance \$3970.34

Expenses \$ 185.00

Income \$ 135.00

Ending Balance \$3920.34

- **Correspondence**

- 1) Simple 990 IRS E-file

- **Unfinished business**

- 1) Upcoming meeting dates & Programs

A. September 27 – Morgan Chilson - Billie-Renee Knight will contact her to remind her about the meeting.

B. October 25 – Andrew Howard, Round Table Bookstore

C. November 22 – author panel

D. December 8 - Holiday party at Hayden Catholic High School library
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

- 2) Kansas Book Festival Update - table has been paid for, and a sign-up list is in the works. Alisha Davis is coordinating the sign-ups for table workers and will be present for the setup on Saturday, September 20.

- **New Business**

- 1) Treasurer position

No one has stepped up to run for the open position.

Marsh Douglas has agreed to move from the position of secretary to the position of treasurer at the president's request, effective immediately.

Leslie Galbraith, the other secretarial candidate on the ballot, has agreed to take on the position of secretary as an appointment from the president to fill the vacant spot, effective immediately.

- **New board goals**

- 1) Membership drive - increase membership by five members
- 2) Kansas Book Festival sign-ups
- 3) NOTO First Fridays
- 4) Attend library events
- 5) Finish edits on the group novel.
- 6) Publish the anthology It Was a Dark and Stormy Night
- 7) Fill all board positions by October.
- 9) Plan two retreats for the year.
- 10) Create a budget for the welcome committee.

- **End of year reports**

- 1) President's report - published in July newsletter
- 2) Financial audit - completed following the business meeting
- 3) Annual budget review - published in newsletter
 - A. Membership dues were raised to \$25 for the upcoming year and are due to the treasurer by October 1.

- **Kudos**

- 1) Connie has published her novel, North of Juarez, Far from Saigon
- 2) Alisha - Nov. 2 reception at the library for Switch Point.

- **Adjournment** at 11:54 a.m. by the president.