

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 knightdark2@gmail.com

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

Kansas Writers, Inc.

October 2025



Notes From the Margins:

October has arrived with its golden leaves and crisp mornings — the perfect backdrop for creativity. There's something about this season that invites reflection and imagination. Whether you're drafting a spooky short story, revising a novel, or simply jotting down a few poetic lines inspired by the changing light, I hope you're finding moments to write and enjoy the process.

This month let's embrace the spirit of transformation — in our surroundings and in our stories. Try something new: experiment with a different point of view, reimagine an old piece, or share your work with someone for feedback. Growth as writers often begins when we step just beyond what feels comfortable. I look forward to seeing what you've been working on at our next meeting. Until then, keep your pens moving and your imaginations kindled like a warm October fire as we move ever closer to November and National Novel Writing Month!

Billie-Renee Knight
President

KWI Meetings

Future Meetings

When: November 22, 2025

Where: Topeka Library,

Anton Room

Topic: Author Panel

When: December 13, 2025

Where: Hayden High School

Library

Topic: Holiday Party and

Raffle

When: January 24, 2026

Where: Topeka Library,

Anton Room

Topic: TBA

Meeting Format

Program: 10:00 a.m.

Board Meeting 11:00 a.m.

Critique: 12:00 noon

October Meeting

Our regular meeting will be held October 25, in the Anton Room at the Topeka Library. The guest speaker will be Andrew Howard owner of the NOTO Round Table Book Store. Andrew encourages members to bring their questions.



From the Slush Pile

Topeka Library Author Talk

We are excited to announce that member Alisha Davis (writing under A. D. Childers) will be giving the Author Talk at the Topeka Library on Sunday, November 2, 1:00-2:30 pm. She will be speaking about her 2025 Kansas Notable Books novel, The Switch Point, and A History of Madness. The talk is free, but attendees will need to register on the library website.

November and December Meeting Changes

A reminder that 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.

November Author Panel

Do you have questions about the writing, publishing or marketing process? Join us for an informative November meeting featuring members who will talk about their experiences and answer questions.

Financials

September 2025

Beginning Cash Balance	
	\$3,920.34
Income:	\$ 275.00
Expenses:	\$ 0.00
Ending Cash Balance:	
	\$4,195.34

Year 2025-2026 Budget

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

November Writing Marathon

Although the NaNoWriMo organization has closed, the spirit lives on at NaNo2.O. You can learn about the organization at NaNo2.org. One of the changes in 2.O is that instead of setting a 50,000-word goal for November, a participant can set their own goal.

The NaNoWriMo spirit also continues locally in Topeka. Join fellow writers in a writing marathon on November 15th at the Hayden High School library. The marathon runs from noon to midnight. A sign-up sheet will be available later. Writing is hard work, so feel free to bring food to share.

You can follow and learn about upcoming events on the Topeka Wrimos - 50,000 words in 30 Days Facebook page.

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

Annual dues of \$25 are still being accepted. However, effective October 1, a \$5 late fee will be assessed.

The Power of Hopeful Fiction in Difficult Times

Author Shanne Hatfield wrote in an recent essay,

“In a world filled with uncertainty, division, and heartbreak, stories can be lifelines. Hopeful fiction reminds us of better possibilities, of courage tucked away, waiting to blossom. It offers the assurance that beauty can emerge from hardship. Fiction infused with hope doesn’t blithely skip around reality. It faces it head-on, then provides the steps for readers to climb above it.”

You can read more of Hatfield’s article at [Hopeful Fiction in a Difficult Time](#).

Out and About

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

- November 2, Alisha Davis will be at the library for an Author Talk between 1:00 and 2:30 pm.
- Alisa and Marsh Douglas will have a book event at the Round Table Bookstore at 4:30 pm on October 25.

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

November Online Writing Courses

Establish (or Improve) Your Email Newsletter

Date: November 13, 2025, 1 pm ET

Presenter: Jane Friedman

Writers Digest University

Turning Concept into Gold: Crafting High-Concept Stories

Date: November 20, 2025, 1 pm ET

Presenter: Jessica Berg

Writers Digest University

Why Aren't You Writing Action Adventure?

Dates: November 3-28, 2025

Presenter: Beth Henderson

oiwi.org

Writing With Splash: Enriching Your Writing with Sensory Language

Dates: November 3-30, 2025

Presenter: Joan Koster

www.savvyauthors.com

2025 NaNovember Write with Savvy Authors

Dates: October 27-November 30, 2025

Presenter: Free Bootcamp

www.savvyauthors.com



Kudos

We have Kudos to report this month. Congrats to Alisha Davis and Marsh Douglas.

Alisha Davis and her husband at the Heartland Book Fest



Alisha Davis and Marsh Douglas at the September 27 Bordertown Paracon



Kansas Writers, Inc.
Meeting Minutes
September 27, 2025

- Call to order 11:06 am by President Billie-Renee Knight
- Roll call
- Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
- Financials - No financials available
- Correspondence - more information regarding the bank merger.
- Unfinished business
 1. Upcoming meeting dates & programs
 2. October 25 – Andrew Howard, Round Table Bookstore
 3. November 22 – author panel discussion
 4. December 13 - Holiday party at Hayden Catholic High School library 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
 5. Short story anthology is coming along, but we could still use a few more submissions
- New business
- Adjournment at 11:54 a.m. by the president.