



**Our Next KWA Event
June 16**

**Rockwell Public Library
5939 E. 9th, Wichita**

**1:30-2:30
Mini-workshop
Writing Romance
(Starla Criser)**

**2:30-2:45
Social Time**

**2:45-4:30
Program
Writing Sex Scenes
(Colleen Kelly Johnston)**

**Next Board Meeting is scheduled for
July 18.
Time and place to be announced.**

Save your books!!!!

As we head into spring many of us will be doing our “spring cleaning,” and part of that process will most likely involve thinning out our books. This is perfect time to set aside good books to donate to the KWA book drive this August. We are looking for children, young adult and adult books which can be used in the schools next fall and perhaps to benefit the Literacy Program in Wichita.

Thank you for your help and support in this project.

—Vicki Hermes-Bond

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

WELCOME

New

Thomas Angelo
Monty McCord

Renewals

Mary J. Wilson
Trudeau Earley
Sue M. Robinson
William De Armond, Jr.
Joyce Markley
Billie J. Johnson

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 7 –Kansas Arts Commission honor
2007 Governor’s Arts Awards recipients

June 16—KWA Writing Sex Scenes
June 16—No Board Meeting

July 18 - KWA Board Meeting
July 21 - Thrillers, Mystery, Suspense
Aug. 18 - Mystery
August - KWA Book Drive
Sep. 15 - Writing for Kids/Young Adult
Oct. 5-6 –2007 Kansas Book Festival
Oct. 20 - Crime
Nov. 17 - Scriptwriting
Dec. 15 - Member Holiday Party

Market Place

Markets & News

Agent Search : (by location, name, or topic) writers.net/agents.html

Agent Query: lists agents seeking writers, query format & submission tips agentquery.com

Writing for kids: kidmagwriters.com

Poetry e-zine: has markets, contests, reviews and news thepoetrymarket.com

The World and I seeks in-depth commentary on current issues, the arts, natural science, life, books, culture and modern thought. Pay varies. Go to www.worldandi.com/guidelines.asp

Back to College focuses on the needs of adult students returning to college. Pays \$60-85 for 1200-1500 word articles. \$35-42.50 for reprints. www.back2college.com/guide.htm

Debbie Carter, Muse Literary is looking for writers of literary fiction who are working towards a collection and anyone who is writing for children or teens. Her contact information is 189 Waverly Place, #4, New York, NY 10014-3135, (212) 925-3721, museliterarymgmt@aol.com, www.museliterary.com.

Publishers Weekly says **Bloomsbury** has hired Michelle Nagler as Editorial Director. She was previously senior editor at Simon Pulse.

Little Brown & Company has moved to: Hatchette Book Group USA, 237 Park Ave., NY, NY 10169.

Tor Books has hired Heather Osborne as editor. She was formerly with Ellora's Cave.

Mommy Think is looking for articles about pregnancy, natural childbirth, midwifery, home birth, breastfeeding, natural baby care, gentle discipline and other natural family living subjects. Pay \$25 for 30 day exclusive electronic rights; \$50 for 90 day exclusive electronic rights. Go to: www.mommthink.com/web%20pages/resources-pages/pregnancy-parenting-articles-submission.php

Carus Publishing has several children's magazines on science, social studies and history. Articles and fiction pay .20-.25 per word. Pay for poetry, activities and other pieces varies. For guidelines: www.cricketmag.com/pages_content.asp?page_id=6

Contests

ByLine Magazine Contests. For more information on all of their contests, see www.bylinemag.com/contests.asp.

Mighty River Short Story Contest Deadline: August 1, 2007. \$500 and publication in *Big Muddy*. Best short story relating to Mississippi River, River Valley, or sister River. \$15 fee includes copy of *Big Muddy* with winning story. MRSS Contest, Southeast Missouri State University Press, MS 2650 One University Plaza, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701. Guidelines: www6.semo.edu/universitypress/mrss

The Wilda Hearne Flash Fiction Contest Deadline: August 1, 2007. \$200 and publication in *Big Muddy*. Best short-short story, 500 words or less (any theme). \$15 fee includes copy of *Big Muddy* with winning story. Wilda Hearne Flash Fiction Contest, Southeast Missouri

State University Press, MS 2650 One University Plaza, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701. Guidelines: www6.semo.edu/universitypress/hearne

Adventures in Saving NO ENTRY FEE. Deadline: June 30, 2007. Write a Children's Tale that teaches basic money lesson to young kids for a chance to be published and win \$1,000 Orange Saving Account from ING Direct. Guidelines: www.adventuresinsaving.com.

Past Perfect Contest Country Woman wants your best pasta recipe. Deadline: July 1, 2007. Cash prizes. www.countrywomanmagazine.com.

Ruminate Contests

Poetry. Deadline July 1. Entry fee: \$15. Cash prizes. You may submit up to three poems, include bio with submission. Winner featured in Fall issue of *RUMINATE*.

Short Story. Deadline July 1. Entry fee: \$15. Must be 5,000 words or less, and include bio.

For more information go to ruminatemagazine.com.

Helen Schaible Shakespearean/Petrarchan Sonnet Contest

No Entry Fee. Deadline Sept. 1. Submit only one entry of either a Shakespearean or Petrarchan sonnet. Prizes: 1st \$50, 2nd \$35, 3rd \$15.

Open Windows Creative Writing Contest

Deadline: June 30. Entry fee: \$15 for 1 story or essay/ up to 3 poems. There is no required theme. Do not exceed 4,500 words. Prizes: \$500 + copies for best story. 2nd and 3rd prizes receive copies. Go to www.ghostroadpress.com/contest.htm.

More Market Place

Conferences Workshops/Classes

Shawguides: writing conference database: writing.shawguides.com

Mayborn Literary Non-Fiction Writers Conference of the Southwest is July 27-29 in Grapevine, TX. For more information go to: www.mayborninstitute.unt.edu.

Nebraska Summer Writers Conference June 16-22, 2007. Registrations are first-come, first-served. Individual workshops are limited to 12. Weekend, week-long, combined, masters classes, manuscript consultation rates vary from \$250 and up. For more information go to www.nswc.org.

PNWA Annual Summer Conference July 26-27, 2007. Finalists in each category of the PNWA Literary contest will be notified prior to this event. Watch for more details on the conference as they become available. Another NEW opportunity for the first 10 early registrants. Daniel Lazar, an agent at Writers House, will read your "Boot Camp Entry" which is a query letter & first 15 pages of your novel. SASE required. Mail PNWA Boot Camp Entry to 1420 NW Gilman Blvd., #2, Issaquah, WA 98027.

Nebraska Summer Writers Conference, University of Nebraska Lincoln, June 16-22, 2007. Workshops, Readings, Panels and Master classes with notable experts on the Novel, Memoir, Poetry. www.nswc.org.

SCBWI (Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators) Kansas conference is June 23 at Carlsen Cen-

ter at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park. Tanya Dean, Editor at Darby Creek Publishing will be attending. For more information www.kansas-scbwi.org/

Jackson Hole Writers Conference June 28 to July 1, 2007. Special guest: Daniel Woodrell. On travel writing: Daniel Glick; Young adult fiction: Todd Strasser; Creative non-fiction & memoir: Terry Tempest Williams & Alexandra Fuller. Register online at www.jacksonholewritersconference.com.

Missouri SCBWI 2007 Workshop July 14, 2007 in Springfield. Novelists, poets, and illustrators will be speak. For more info www.geocities.com/scbwimo.

2007 Kansas Book Festival October 5-6, Koch Arena, Wichita State University. Free to the public and includes Author Programs, Book Signings, Children's Activities hosted by the Kansas State Historical Society, a Book Fair, and Entertainment. Festival hours are 9-3 Friday and 9-5 Saturday. The "Night of Notables" gala is Friday at 7:30 PM at the Wichita Art Museum (tickets \$50). For more info www.kansasbookfestival.ks.gov.

The fifth annual **BEA/Writer's Digest Books Writers Conference** <http://writersdigest.com/bea/> will be held May 30, 2007 at the Jacob Javits Convention Center in New York and for the first time ever, each session will be videotaped and made available for download on WritersDigest.com.

The all-day event, which takes place prior to the BookExpo America trade show, offers information sessions and workshops on the business and craft of writing, covering a wide range of mediums and genres:

Writing the Breakout Novel
Donald Maass, president of the Donald Maass Literary Agency.

The Rhythm Method: Illustrating the Marriage of Music and Poetry
Keith Flynn, founder/editor of the Asheville Poetry Review.

Breaking Into Magazines
Maria Schneider, editor, Writer's Digest magazine.

Pointers From Glimmer Train
Linda Swanson-Davies, co-editor of Glimmer Train Stories,

The Anatomy of Story: The New Approach to Screenwriting
John Truby, story consultant and "script doctor."

What's in Your Locker: Tools for Writing the YA Novel
K.L. Going, award-winning YA novelist.

How to Write an Irresistible Nonfiction Book Proposal
Rita Rosenkranz, founder of the Rita Rosenkranz Literary Agency.

Contests (cont.)

Inkspotter's Finding The Right Words Flash Fiction Contest
Deadline: July 21. Entry \$1.50. Fiction, 500 words or fewer. Prizes: 1st \$60 + publication; 2nd \$0 + publication. Inkspotter.com/contests.htm

Burnside Review Chapbook Contest
Deadline: June 31. Entry: \$15. Winner will be announced September 1st, with publication date set for winter. A 20-28 page manuscript of poetry. Winner will receive 25 copies, \$200, and publication in upcoming issue.

Success is so very possible...

By Shelley Plett

My first writing conference was a success, worthy of an extra vacation day, multiple babysitters, and several hundred miles. I know this because, unlike my scattered novel plot, I am able to summarize the experience in a single sentence: Success is so very possible.

I always found it hard to justify spending the time and money on a conference, but thank goodness I got over that. The recent Oklahoma City OWFI convention was full of motivational tools, big and bigger.

The biggest lesson was how possible it is to write better with accessible tools, like this very event, agents, editors and especially fellow writers.

The biggest relief was meeting a New York literary agent. Not because I made a contact that has sealed my career, but because I recognize that agents and editors are in fact, people, with likes, dislikes, and maybe even a little compassion. It turns out they aren't surrounded by radiant beams and angelic music and they don't pack paper shredders for destroying freshmen manuscripts. What a relief – on all counts.

The biggest disappointment was one particular agent who left her charisma at the office. In her session on the "anatomy of a best seller", she offered this inspirational morsel: "It's nearly impossible to get on the best seller list." True? Probably. But perhaps this wasn't the most motivational approach.

The biggest realization was that, in part, our odds are in our own hands. Good writing is our best weapon. Persistence, our concealed weapon. If we have these two things, then it doesn't matter if Agent Doom says *No thanks* or *Go get my shredder*.

Maybe she has a toothache, got chewed out by her boss, missed the season finale of *Grey's Anatomy*, or was told by her psychic to avoid new projects.

The fact that our success hinges on timing and luck, as well as an agent's horoscope is unsettling, but we have to take our chances.

And I definitely recommend taking a chance on a writing conference as soon and as often as possible.

THE FIFTH ELEMENT: The "Other Stuff" of Fiction

By Mike Klaassen

Not too long ago, the most enlightened of mankind considered the basic elements of the universe to be earth, water, wind, and fire. Over the last several hundred years, no doubt through lively debate, the scientists of the world have pretty much agreed on a standard periodical table of the elements.

Fiction-writing certainly isn't an exact science, so maybe it isn't too surprising that the most respected writing instructors of our day don't agree as to the basic elements of fiction.

When I flip through the how-to books on my shelf, I see that almost all of the authors include **character**, **plot**, and **setting** as basic elements. And most authors who address **theme**, also include it as one of the basics. Quite a few of the books stop there, but then they proceed to describe a mixed bag of "other stuff" such as craft, dialogue, voice, point-of-view, or whatever else they personally consider the keys to successful fiction.

In the Bruce Willis movie *The Fifth Element*, earth, water, air, and fire must be joined by an elusive fifth element to save the world from destruction. I believe there should be a fifth element of fiction to include all the "other stuff." What should it be called? Raymond Obstfeld has the right idea in *Fiction First Aid*. His first five chapters are titled: Plot, Characterization, Setting, Theme, and *Style*.

Style includes the multitude of choices fiction writers make, consciously or not. They encompass the big-picture, strategic choices such as point of view and narrator, but they also include the nitty-gritty, tactical choices of grammar, punctuation, word usage, sentence and paragraph length and structure, tone, the use of imagery, chapter selection, titles, and on and on. In the process of creating a story, these choices meld to become the writer's voice, his or her own unique style.

In the Five Elements of Fiction:

Character is the *Who*,
Plot is the *What*,
Setting is the *Where* and *When*,
Theme is the *Why*, and
Style is the *How*.

My favorite writing quote is by Ernest Hemingway: "We are all apprentices in a craft where no one becomes a master." Fiction-writing has come a long way since the days of Hemingway, and the craft of story-writing continues to evolve. But to keep building on the progress made by our predecessors, we need to recognize the basic elements of a story for what they are. Once we understand the basics, we can delve meaningfully into the more subtle aspects of the craft.

What are the chances for consensus on this? Realistically, there's less chance that writers will agree on the number of elements of fiction than, say, for astronomers to agree on something as basic as the number of planets occupying our own solar system.

"People become really quite remarkable when they start thinking that they can do things. When they believe in themselves they have the first secret of success." —Norman Vincent Peale

Remember Why You Write...

“Sometimes we forget that we have this talent. It sits bottle-necked while we run to the store, wash clothes, and hit a few balls at the golf course. But to experience those AHA! Moments where the work surprises even you, you have to write thousands of words regularly, daily, frequently.

When your subconscious cranks out words better than your conscious mind can imagine, magic happens. And that only occurs with a habit and an addiction to putting the words on the paper.” — William Faulkner

Clean That Mess Up

By Ray “Grizzly” Racobs

Many people, including myself, seem to have a propensity to let their work areas get cluttered, messy and something out of a scene from *The Grapes of Wrath*. In my case, I am often too busy (that’s my excuse) going from one task to another to properly put my papers, bills and miscellaneous materials back in the same spot twice. This does present a problem in finding things, now that my memory is not quite as good as it once was.

An old saying goes, in part, “a place for everything and everything in its place.” Part of the dilemma I face is that I have too many places to use as collection areas for my stuff. Now that my latest book, *Oro, The “Tail” Continues*, is off to the publisher the ongoing process of reorganizing items in my office, computer room and basement will hopefully proceed again in earnest. Does a person’s cluttered work place mean the individual responsible for the mess is unorganized, inept or just plain lazy? The answer may be “all of the above,” but not necessarily. I have a friend whose work area is simply a desk in a cubicle and she is able to stack papers, books, folders, etc. unbelievably high.

Mrs. “W” should have been a construction engineer with the accomplished, structurally stable ceiling-scraper stacks of stuff she has compiled. The woman mentioned here is, however, very organized and a productive worker, but I believe she may be an exception to the norm.

If one of the columns ever fell over I do believe a reading on the Richter scale would warrant an earthquake alert for Wichita. Is there a direct correlation between how one’s work place is and the quality of the work done? Quite possibly. I know I feel much more in control of my tasks when my work area is cleaned and organized. At least I believe that is how I feel, because it’s been ages since I saw my desk’s top. So clean up your work space and have a better day. If it works, let me know ... grizzly@sktc.net

Where do I go from here?

By B.D. Tharp

I’m sure we all ask ourselves this question from time to time. If you find yourself in a situation where you don’t know where to go, you have several options:

1. Wait and see what happens.
2. Move on to the next project.
3. Call an expert to give you advice.
4. Complain to your friends and hope one of them will do it for you.

There are more I’m sure, but I think number 2 is the better choice when it comes to writing. I finished my novel in 2003 and began querying agents. I just knew someone would be thrilled to represent it and I’d get a six figure advance and a movie deal.

Two or three were interested, but the majority were not. So the next year I hired a professional editor to help me polish my manuscript. By 2005 I was raring to go again, but narrowed the query field to less than a dozen versus 65 agents. In the meantime I had met several agents and editors at various conferences and garnered some interest there as well. One editor from a small press in Texas asked to read my novel.

I spent 2006 waiting for her response, but I was not idle. I decided my novel would make a great stage play. So, I worked on it and took a playwriting class at WSU. I loved it. I was hooked. This year I attended the Inge Theatre Festival in Independence and learned more about writing for the stage and made a few additional contacts as well.

During the course of adapting the novel to a play some new ideas and scenes developed that I

CRITIQUE GROUPS

“**Finding Our Voices**” online critique group is looking for members who wish to join. This group is for anyone trying something new. Maybe you are new to writing or perhaps trying a different genre. Fiction and non-fiction welcome. For information email Sara.Huter@intrustbank.com.

The Quill to Computer Guild would like to extend an invitation to new as well as existing members of KWA to attend our little Wednesday evening get-togethers. We are a critique group for beginning writers and interested in all genres of work. We will review anything from punctuation to plot to story flow.

We meet every Wednesday evening at Borders, 1715 N. Rock Road at 7:00 PM in the coffee shop area. Depending on work to be covered, our meetings last from one to three hours. We are very informal and often discuss a wide variety of topics.

For more information, contact: Linda Graves 945-5535, info@sgdrugfree.com or John Cleaver, 263-0084, trap-shot88@sbcglobal.net.

More Contests:

Pearls Writing Group Postcard Fiction Contest

Deadline: June 15. NO ENTRY FEE. Entries must not exceed 250 words, 12 point font, double spaced, with one inch margins. Email entries only. Theme: Water. Pearlswritinggroup.com/

Southern Hum Press—Women of Words

Deadline: July 15. Entry fee: \$10. Southern Hum Press is seeking to publish the award-winning poetry chapbook of the very best writing by a woman writer. They are seeking strong voices of women writers who approach writing with vision, passion, fresh language, and meticulous attention to craft. Entries should be no longer than 26 pages. Prize: \$250 and 25 copies. For info go to: Southernhumpress.squarespace.com/contests/

Crescent Moon Press Contest

Deadline: August 1. NO ENTRY FEE. Send query letter and the first three pages of your completed manuscript to CMPcontest@crescentmoonpress.com. Five will be chosen for the final round. Authors will be notified when to submit the complete mss. First place mss will receive a \$100 American Express card and a contract for publication. Places 2-5 will be eligible for (but not guaranteed), a publishing contract.

Where do I go...? (cont.)

...added to the novel, as well as some tweaking of the character’s ages. I sent the revised manuscript The Texas publisher the first of this year, excited about the new changes, sure she’d grab it up like the jewel that it is and showcase it for the world.

A couple of weeks ago she sent me this very nice rejection email. “This is so visual, it really should be a film or on the stage.” Interesting, I thought. Why if it was so visual was it not good enough for print? Why not put it on the stage and have the books on hand to sell to those in attendance? Why not recommend to those that read the book also see the play?

I doubt I’ll ever get the answers to those questions—so the next one is “Where do I go from here?” I’ll continue on. Writers are a tenacious bunch, we have to be in order to find any level of success.

My plan is to edit the play and prepare it for a reading. For free food I’m hoping that some actor friends from my playwriting class will read the play aloud and give me their input. I also plan to have some theatre loving writers in the “audience” who will also help me decide what works and what doesn’t. Interested?

In the mean time, I will submit my play to contests in order to get feedback and maybe win a few bucks in the process.

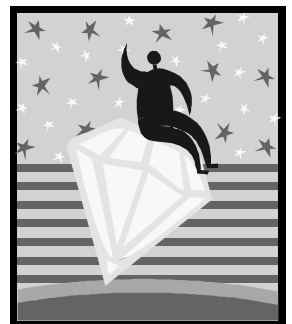
Then I’ll edit some more and have another reading in the fall, before I start shopping it around to local and regional theatres.

When I want a break from the play I’ll work on my second novel. Since it won the KWA First Pages of a Novel competition I think I’ve got a solid start. When I’m done I will find an agent or publisher that will want my story. Once it is sold (notice, I didn’t say if) I will go back to my first novel and see if I can make it better.

I’ve done a lot of writing over the past eight years. I’ve learned a lot from workshops and conferences, and feel as though I am continuing to improve in my craft.

Did quitting cross my mind? Not really. Did I cry from the disappointment? Only a little. Will I keep writing and trying to sell my work—ABSOLUTELY. I’m a writer. Will I be rejected again? Probably. Will it stop me? No.

We writers love to write, even when we don’t, and there are times when the words are difficult to find. But we never stop trying and sometimes we’re amazed at the jewels we find in the garbage.



Member News

CONGRATULATIONS!

Bernell Baldwin recently published her 2nd book, *Preacher Bill's Bats in the Belfry*, available at Watermark Books. She is a former freelance writer for the Wichita Eagle, three-time finalist for Chick Soup for the Soul, and has published short stories in magazines.

Sonny Collins recently published a book of cowboy poetry called "Beneath A Western Sky."

Colleen Kelly Johnston's poem "Land Bound" has been sold to *Young Teen Magazine* for publication.

Judy Nichols will be signing her book *Storytimes for Two-Year Olds* at Watermark Books June 30th at 1:30 PM. She will do a demonstration story-time at 1:00 PM for the children and families that attend.

Peg Morrison received her advanced author's copy of *The Other End of The String*. It will be available through Amazon and local bookstores September 15.

B.D. (Bonnie) Tharp's articles on "Rainbows United" and "personal wedding web sites" are scheduled to be published in the June edition of *Womens Focus Magazine*.

Arlene Rains Graber won two honorable mentions from the OWFI Conference contest. Nostalgia Prose for "Aunt Millie" and Feature Article for "Kansas Rich Commodity—Wind."

Dr. Bill DeArmond's poems "Flight" and "Hollow Men Redux" have been accepted for publication by Lewis-Clark State College. "Flight" has also been accepted by *Off the Coast* magazine for the January 2008 edition. His poem "The Quiet" is in the current issue of *Clark Street Review*. *Pointed Circle*, a publication of Portland Community College is publishing "Hollow Men Redux" in the June issue.

Vicki Hermes Bond won honorable mention for her poem "Umbrella" and another honorable mention for "A Vacation" from the OWFI Conference contest.

Shelley Plett won an honorable mention for her essay "Playing Nice With Your Internal Editor" from the OWFI Conference Contest.

Sara Huter's novel "Hercules the Dog" won first prize for a Young Adult novel from the OWFI Conference Contest.

From the Mail Bag

Arlene Graber writes: The National Writers Workshop (sponsored by the Wichita Eagle) was great as usual. The quality of speakers was awesome. *(If you were able to attend and would like to write about the experience, send your article by 6/20 to bdtharp@cox.net.)*

Internet Resources

- **Thesaurus:** www.thesaurus.com (also has a dictionary & encyclopedia)
- **Word Counter** ranks the most frequently used words in any given body of text. Great for "overused" words that stuck in your head. www.wordcounter.com
- **Audio Reader** reads your 2,000 words back by using one of four voices. Go to: www.readplease.com
- **Plagiarism:** go to www.plagiarismchecker.com
- **Cliché Finder:** <http://cliche.theinfo.org/>
- **Quick facts:** go to www.barleby.com/, refdesk.com, wikipedia.com
- **Legal questions:** go to literarylawguide.com/resources.htm
- **Writers Beware Alerts:** Go to sfa.org/beware
- **Freelance opportunities:** fundsforwriters.com
- **National Novel Writing Month** (November) www.nanowrimo.org
- **Independent Editors Group** Go to www.bookdocs.com
- **Consulting Editors Alliance** <http://consultingeditors.com>
- **Pat Holt** go to www.holtuncensored.com (independent editor)
- **Robyn Conley Weaver, Book Doctor,** go to bookdoctor@earthlink.net

Help Wanted

2008 Scene of the Crime Conference could use some extra help. Interested parties contact Gordon@gordonkessler.com.

KWA needs a **secretary** to record board meeting minutes. This is a voting position, so volunteer and make a difference!

Postage went up in May. Any members who would be willing to forgo the snail mail copy for an email copy, please contact bdtharp@cox.net. Thanks for your help in saving your organization money!

KWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**2007****PRESIDENT**

Starla Criser

VICE-PRESIDENT

Conrad Jestmore

TREASURER

Courtney Ruthven

RECORDING SECRETARY

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Newsletter Submissions

Please send all **newsletter submissions** of articles, member news, or encouraging quotes by the **20th of each month** prior to publication to **bdtharp@cox.net** or by snail mail to BD Tharp, 1813 N. Robin Rd., Wichita, KS 67212. All email attachments should have "KWA" in the subject line and can be submitted in Word or RTF format.

Join KWA For Only \$25.00

This will give you a one-year membership, our monthly newsletter, and a membership card which entitles you to discounts to our various programs and seminars. Send your check to KWA, P.O. Box 2236, Wichita, KS 67201

Visit our Web Site at: www.kwawriters.org

Our Mission Statement

To inform, support, encourage, and promote the writer.

KANSAS WRITERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 2236

Wichita, KS 67201

ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED

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