

# KWA

Celebrating our 15th year

Kansas Writers Association

all genres. all formats. ALL WRITERS.

JUNE 2011

Volume 15, Issue 6

Editor: Starla Criser

## June 18 — 1:30-4:30 pm — Rockwell Library — Sensory & Setting Details

Our program for the June monthly meeting will focus on Sensory and Setting Details with handouts and group discussion on the topics.



### PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Gordon A. Kessler

What a great time!

After the meeting, a few of us stayed over to discuss the latest developments in e-publishing and self-publishing (now commonly referred to as “indie publishing”). All writers need to have a complete understanding of what’s going on in the “e-world.” We’ll discuss this a little more at the June meeting, and I’ll unveil my new website designed specifically for the “Indie” writer.

The regular meeting program will be on sensory and setting details—elements that are of utmost importance to ensure you set your readers into your story with verisimilitude, engaging readers in such a way as to make them feel that they’re not just reading your story, but living it! Starla will once again head up the program and discussion—thanks, Starla!

*But that’s not where the fun ends; after the general meeting at the library, those who are able, are in for another real treat—we’re going to carpool and caravan to Cully Abrell’s (a.k.a. JJ Crazyfox) Tahitian Room, a couple of miles north of Peck, KS. This time, Cully’s going to treat us to dinner! And the entertainment (besides Cully’s master storytelling), will be readings from dramatic scenes in famous movies. You can take part or just listen and be entertained. It’s a follow up on the dialogue seminar Cully gave last time we visited. Come on down—I know you’ll have a great time!*

(Cont’d pg. 3)

We had another great meeting at the library in May. Starla discussed fiction genres and subgenres and provided handouts with detailed explanations. There were many questions and great discussion, as always. Then, we were thoroughly entertained with several very moving readings from members’ work.

### Calendar

- June 18: **Sensory and Setting Details**
- June 18: Bonus**—Road trip to Cully Abrell’s following the monthly meeting (4:30-8:00)
- July 16: **Editing and Revisions**
- August 20: **Contests: Pros, Cons, and Preparation**
- September 17 **Submission or Self-Publishing**
- October 15: **Promotion**
- October 15: Possible Bonus**—Road trip to Cully Abrell’s after the monthly meeting
- November 19: **Business Side of Writing**
- December 17: **Holiday Party**

### New Members

Carla Barber  
Billie Palmer  
April Pameticky  
Sharon Smith  
Judy Stock  
Parlene Warren  
Makayla Yokley

## Member News

**Gary Cummings** won second honorable mention in the OWFI 2011 contest's Mystery Suspense Novel category with *Breaking In*.

**Bill Goodwin** won 1st place in the OWFI 2011 contest's Play/Film/TV Script category with *Millenium Madness*.

**Erin O'Donnell's** article "Clubhouse Scholar" was published in the June issue of the *LION*, the official magazine of Lions Clubs International. Another article, "Be Your Own Brand," came out in the Spring issue of *Texas Meetings + Events* magazine.

**Ray "Grizzly" Racobs** was awarded first place in two separate categories with this year's Kansas Authors Club District #2 contest. His short story "A Bird in the Hand" took first in Children's Story by Adult Author and his commentary piece "The Pursuit of Happiness" took first as a Feature Article.

**Lois Ruby** shares three pieces of news this month. First, she was featured in an interview as the May guest author on a blog about children's literature (<http://davidharrison.wordpress.com>). Second, her first non-fiction book, *Strike! Mother Jones and the Colorado Coal Field Wars*, will be published by Filter Press of Colorado to be released early 2012. Third, in June she will be teaching a 3-evening class on writing historical fiction for Southwest Writers.

**Starla Criser** aka Starla Kaye has sold two novellas to Decadent Publishing. *Maggie's Secret Wish* and *Starting Over* will be published later in 2011. In addition, she has her first book video out for *Their Lady Gloriana*. It can be viewed on YouTube by searching for the book

## 2011 OWFI Conference—KWA Members



Left to right:

Bonnie Eaton, Hazel Hart, Arlene Graber, Gordon Kessler, Vicky Hermes-Bond, Starla Criser, Keith Boscher, Gary Cummings, Tonya Cummings, guest from Joplin

## More Member News

**Bonnie D. Tharp** shares that her *Active Aging* article "Reliving history from the undergarments out" won second place in the 2011 Kansas Professional Communications contest.

**Bonnie Eaton**, aka B J Myrick a former KWA member, won third place in the OWFI 2011 Contest's Western Novel category for *Pioneer of No Man's Land*.

**Hazel Hart**, a former KWA member, won first place in the OWFI 2011 Contest's Short-Short Story category for "Flashes."

# OWFI Conference—By Victoria Hermes-Bond

“The Oklahoma Writers’ Federation Inc. Conference: was held from May 5-7 at The Embassy Suites in Oklahoma City. Over three hundred participants came to glean new information related to the mechanics of writing, publishing, marketing, and where the writing industry is headed with the onslaught of e-books.

The title of this year’s conference was “Write Now.” However, a subtitle could be what’s happening *right now* that’s having the greatest impact on writers and the future of writing. Writers need to network with other writers, join social networks, *and* create a writing presence through the use of a web page and/or a blog.

New York Times bestseller, Steve Berry, gave the Key-note address. While he talked about his career the one issue that he stressed was the necessity of revision. He will edit/revise a manuscript up to sixty or seventy times before he’s finished with it.

William Bernhardt presented two excellent seminars,

“Fundamentals of Story” and “Character Driven Novel.” Plot and character should be viewed as two sides of the same coin.

Other speakers, such as Kelly James-Enger discussed query letters and Amy Shojai addressed “Media Training” for writers and the impact of e-books.

In two days, the “OWFI Conference offered detailed suggestions regarding the mechanics of writing, the business end of writing, changes in the publishing world, and the necessity of learning how to market yourself in the social media avenues available to writers.

However, *right now* each of us must “Write Now” to be able to participate in this exciting and perhaps confusing time in the writing world.

*OWFI is a multi-genre writers’ organization with more than 600 members from Oklahoma, the surrounding state, and around the world. For more information on the organization see <http://www.owfi.org>.*

## Another Road Trip—following the June 18 meeting

(Cont’d from pg. 1)

If you can’t make the regular meeting, be sure to be at the library by 4:00 PM, just in case we get done early and decide to head on out. Don’t miss it!

**Directions are from the Rockwell Library, 5939 E. 9th St. N, Wichita to Cully’s place at 11142 S. 39th St. W., Peck, KS**

1. Take Woodlawn south to Kellogg (US 54/US 400), turn right.
2. Take Kellogg west to I-135 South.
3. Take I-135 south to Exit 1B, for 47th Street. Turn right on 47th and follow to Broadway (US 81).
4. Turn left on Broadway and drive for about 7 miles to 103rd St. Turn right.
5. Take 103rd west for about 3 miles to 39th St. (S. West St.) Turn left on 39th.
6. Cully’s is about one more mile south on 39th/West St.

# Social Media for Writers: Facebook and Twitter—Starla Criser

## Importance of Social Media

- Communicate with readers, other writers, publishers, and editors
- Provide quick samples of your writing style
- Sharing bits of news
- Promoting discussions for others to follow

## Facebook Fan Page

- This is a step beyond just personal communication with family and friends. This lets you promote your writing business and connect with other writers, publishers, and readers.
- A plain fan page includes a wall for sharing messages, feed, photos (of you, events, or covers), videos (book trailers), and a list of fans.
- There are a lot of interactive applications that can be added to the page, or you can create your own application. These are the applications that will bring readers back to the page.
- Let it show your personality by adding a logo or photo.
- Use a sharp graphic to link to your website.
- Add a flashy banner on the side to promote a contest.
- Add links to status posts to raise your ranking.
- Write questions and invite interaction.
- Post once a day, preferably in the morning.

### *Helpful Links to Create a Facebook Fan Page:*

- Tutorial Blog: <http://tutorialblog.org/how-to-create-a-facebook-fan-page>
- 12 Reasons You Need a Facebook Fan Page... <http://socialmediapathways.com/facebook-fan-page/12-reasons-you-need-a-facebook-fan-page/>
- How to Create a Custom Vanity URL for Your Facebook Fan Page: [http://www.ehow.com/how\\_7954434\\_create-vanity-url-facebook-fan.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_7954434_create-vanity-url-facebook-fan.html)
- 10 Ways to Create a More Engaging Facebook Page: <http://www.toprankblog.com/2010/05/10-ways-engaging-facebook-page/>
- Facebook Marketing Tips: Make the Most of Your Fan Page: <http://www.toprankblog.com/2010/01/facebook-marketing-fan-pages/>

## Marketing on Twitter

- Micro blogging with small spurts of content.
- Don't spam. Do post meaningful, relevant content for readers to look forward to reading.
- Create a profile page and choose a background design that fits your personality.
- Facilitate conversation by asking questions.
- Follow almost anyone who follows you. Unfollow spammers.
- Promote other people.
- Retweet the good things you read.
- Use Tweetdeck so you can see more.
- Tweet about your blog posts by asking a question that leads readers to the post.

### *Helpful Links About Marketing on Twitter:*

- 10 Tips to Be Effective at Marketing on Twitter: <http://www.twitip.com/10-tips-to-be-effective-at-marketing-on-twitter/>
- Twitter Marketing Tips: <http://www.nickmutt.com/twitter-marketing-tips.htm>

# Market News: Contests & Other Opportunities

## Poetic Justice

Coffee and poetry in a local coffee shop at 300 S. Greenwich, north of Kellogg/54. They have artists and writers in to share their work in various venues, including a regular Friday night open-mic night until midnight. They also have a once-a-month youth open-mic. They are also attempting to sponsor a team of spoken-word artists to the national competition, National Poetry Slam 2011 in Boston and Cambridge August 8-13. To find out more about them see <http://poeticjusticecafe.com>.

## Writers' Resource

Tom Adair, a retired, internationally recognized, forensic scientist/CSI from Colorado has recently launched an informative blog: <http://forensics4fiction.wordpress.com>. He will explain the basics of forensics for crime writers and will be adding some fun categories for science fiction and fantasy/paranormal writers. He would love to answer questions about forensics and law enforcement in general.

## Ebook News

**Amazon.com** is now selling more Kindle books than print books.

**Library Journal** and **Net Gallery** announce partnership for reviewing romance E-originals.

**McGraw-Hill** launches new eBook platform offering patrons unlimited access to content.

**Quirk Books** launches new interactive website.

## Exhibit of Interest

Exploration Place will have a new exhibit May 28-Sept. 5, CSI: The Experience National Traveling Exhibit. It will be an immersive, interactive experience where you "follow the clues" and gather evidence, go inside "laboratories" and to "autopsy" rooms, then return to the "office" to build your case. [300 N. McLean Blvd, Wichita.](#)

## CONTESTS

### Voices: An Anthology of Short Stories Volume IV

A contest for unpublished short stories up to 3,000 words. All genres, except erotica. Deadline: July 1, 2011. For information: [deloism@gmail.com](mailto:deloism@gmail.com) or [louturn@aol.com](mailto:louturn@aol.com).

## EPIC's 2012 eBook Competition

The Electronic Publishing Industry Coalition opens its yearly contest, a premier event for authors and publishing houses. Open for entries June 1-July 15. In addition, they have a New Voices Young Writers Competition for writers ages 11-18. This contest is open for entries Aug. 1-Oct. 20. For more information see <http://epicorg.com>.

## Aesthetica Creative Works Competition

*Aesthetica Magazine* invites all artists, photographers, writers and poets to submit to the competition. Deadline: Aug. 31, 2011. For guidelines see [http://www.aestheticamagazine.com/submission\\_guide.htm](http://www.aestheticamagazine.com/submission_guide.htm).

## 2011 Art Affair Writing Contests

The writing contest has three categories: Poetry, Western Short Story, and Short Story. Deadline: Oct. 1, 2011. For information see [www.shadetreecreations.com](http://www.shadetreecreations.com).

## CONFERENCES

### Delaware Dangerous: Sept 9-16, 2011

This is a unique concept in writer's retreats offering the opportunity to get hands on with all types of weapons and combat: hand guns, long guns, knives and hand-to-hand. It includes professional instruction, ammo, use of various firearms, training blades and live blades. For information see [www.DelawareDangerous.com](http://www.DelawareDangerous.com).

### ACFW 2011 Conference: Sept. 22-25, 2011

"The premier Christian fiction conference." St. Louis, Missouri. For information see <http://acfw.com/conference>.

### Outdoor Writers of Kansas Conference: Nov. 22-24

The Outdoor Writers of Kansas will have its fall meeting in Great Bend. For information see <http://www.outdoorwritersofkansas.com>.

## EVENT

### 1st Annual Poetry Community Festival: June 11

Poetic Justice Café and The City of Wichita's Park & Rec. Dept. present The 1st Annual Community Poetry Festival. McAdams Park, 1329 E 16th St N, Wichita  
June 11, 2011 11:00 am—5:00 pm

# JUNE 2011

## Kansas Writers Association

P.O. Box 2236, Wichita, KS 67201

### Newsletter Submissions

Submit articles and member news by the 20th of the month to Starla Criser at [newsletter@kwawriters.org](mailto:newsletter@kwawriters.org) or to our address above. Put "KWA" in the subject line for emails, and send information in the body of the email, not as an attachment.

### Join KWA

Membership through Dec. 31, 2011, includes our monthly newsletter and discounts on KWA programs. Current prorated dues for **new members** are \$20 for a mailed newsletter, \$17 for an emailed newsletter, and \$10 for youth 18 and under. Join online at [www.kwawriters.org](http://www.kwawriters.org) (click on Membership), or download the form there and send it with payment to **P.O. Box 2236, Wichita, KS 67201**.

## 2011 KWA Board Members

**President** - Gordon Kessler, [president@kwawriters.org](mailto:president@kwawriters.org)

**Vice President** - Seti Walker, [vp@kwawriters.org](mailto:vp@kwawriters.org)

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**Member At Large** - Colleen Kelly Johnston, [board@kwawriters.org](mailto:board@kwawriters.org)

Our mission: to inform, support, encourage, and promote the writer.

The Kansas Writers Association is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

<http://www.kwawriters.org>