

KWA

Celebrating our 15th year

Kansas Writers Association

all genres. all formats. ALL WRITERS.

MARCH 2011

Volume 15, Issue 3

Editor: Starla Criser

The 2011 Scene Seminar!

Plan now to attend KWA's **Scene Seminar** on **March 26** at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Wichita. It's a fantastic opportunity to sharpen your skills and network with other regional writers. **See the registration form insert, and send it in today!**

We're pleased to welcome back one of the most popular speakers from the 2010 conference in an expanded role.



Kirt Hickman is the author of the self-editing guide *Revising Fiction: Making Sense of the Madness*, the sci-fi thriller *Worlds Asunder*, and its follow-up *Venus Rain*. This year, Kirt will join us for the entire day to give two in-depth workshops:

- **How to Write a Great Story**—Learn the nuts and bolts of building fictional worlds, character development, and plot.
- **How to Write Your Story Well**—Get the details on how to develop your scenes, find your narrative style, and sharpen your dialogue.

Cost is \$40 for KWA members and \$50 for non-members, due March 19. Send in the registration form enclosed, with payment, or register online and get more details at www.kwawriters.org.

April will be a road trip meeting for KWA to Peck, KS

APRIL WORKSHOP

Saturday, April 16

1:30-4:30 p.m.

Cully's Tahitian Room

Peck, KS

As Gordon shared with us last month, we're going someplace very special in April for our monthly meeting. You will not want to miss this adventure and great learning experience! Cully Abrell, a long-time KWA member, has invited us to his Tahitian Room where we'll learn about dialogue and other writing-related aspects. Watch for more details in the April newsletter, including directions.

Calendar

- **March 26: Scene Seminar**, Hyatt Regency
- **April 16: Dialogue Workshop** at Cully's Tahitian Room, Peck, KS
- **May 21: Genres and Sub-Genres**, member readings and critiques; Rockwell Library
- **June 18: Sensory and Setting Details**
- **July 16: Editing and Revisions**
- **August 20: Contests: Pros, Cons, and Preparation**
- **September 17 Submission or Self-Publishing**
- **October 15: Promotion**
- **November 19: Business Side of Writing**



PRESIDENT'S REMARKS Gordon A. Kessler

As writers, we all know how finding time, motivation and inspiration to write is difficult, sometimes impossible in our busy lives. KWA understands the writers' woes and is trying to help in any way it can.

We think next month's Scene Seminar is a major step in the "write" direction. Please join us at this year's biggest KWA event. If you're a fiction writer of any type and any level, you're sure to take away valuable writing notions that will help you hone your skills.

You can register from our new KWA website or from a form in the newsletter. Whichever way you decide, please register soon and join us for a fun and educational seminar on March 26!

Member News

Starla Criser, writing as Starla Kaye sold a five novella historical Western romance series, *The Braddocks*, to Blushing Books. The first book, *Daniel*, will be published in March.



Starla Criser writing as S.K. Fero had her previously serialized contemporary romantic suspense, *Tangled Lies*, published as an ebook with Blushing Books in January.



Please let the newsletter editor know about your news to share with everyone. Email newsletter@kwawriters.org.

Market News: Contests & Other Opportunities

Kansas City Voices: Deadline March 15, 2011

Kansas City Voices, a literary magazine published by Whispering Prairie Pines, is currently accepting submissions of poetry, short prose and artwork. The deadline for submissions is March 15, for Volume 9, which will be published in November 2011. Guidelines at <http://kansascityvoices.com/04submissions/submit.shtml>.

Kansas Author's Club District 2 : 2011 Writing Contest

The contest is open to writers in Kansas and Missouri and includes prose, poetry, and youth categories. Closing date for entries is **March 31, 2011**. Find out more at www.kansasauthors.org, under Districts, then District 2 News.

Cowley County Writers Guild

The Guild is looking for three or four people to be part of a book talk/panel discussion on children's books in April. If you are interested, contact Carol Martin at cjmartin62@yahoo.com.

Third Annual WordFest: April 8-9, 2011-McPherson

A writer's conference for writers at all levels. \$75 early bird full-conference rate until April 2nd. Email Carla Barber at Carla_barber@sbcglobal.net for information.

KWA Sampler: Deadline June 30, 2011

If you have ever wanted to have something published without any fee or obligation—now is the time. Send 1 poem or 1 short story (max. 7,000 words) per member to: KWA Sampler, Prairie Moon Publications, PO Box 236, Hillsboro, KS 67063.

The collection will be published in book form and ready for purchase sometime in November. There is no obligation to purchase. The works must be original and by the author. You must be a KWA member to take part in this opportunity.

February Meeting Highlights: Getting Past the Idea Stage

Starla Criser provided handouts and led the discussion to take writers beyond the January meeting's topics of Ideas, Goals, and Organization. Those in attendance eagerly shared their experiences with and thoughts about the subjects presented.

Handouts were borrowed from Starla's "Writing Tools" on her website <http://starlakaye.com>. They are listed below and can be viewed/printed from there:

- Basic Word Counts & Common Formatting Guidelines
- General Internet Resources for Writers

- Understanding Point of View
- Understanding Goal, Motivation and Conflict
- Backstory: Purposes & Problems
- Hooking the Reader

The articles will also be added to the KWA website.

Following the discussions about the various handouts, Gordon went into brief explanations over things to consider when writing a story opening hook. He then gave those present a writing challenge and anyone who wanted to read what they had written during the exercise did so.

KWA's Newly Designed Website: <http://kwawriters.org>

If you haven't been to the newly designed KWA website, you need to check it out. Although the site is still undergoing construction there are exciting changes already in place.

Some of the current blog highlights include:



Announcing our 2011 Scene Seminar!

March 26 Kirt Hickman will present a two-part seminar on How to Write a Great Story and How to Write Your Story Well.

Celebrate Kansas' 150th with Writers & Readers

January 29th was the Sunflower State's sesquicentennial with dozens of events taking place statewide...some even had a literary bent.



Wichitan Wins Newbery Medal

Local author Clare Vanderpool has won the John Newbery Medal for children's literature with her YA novel, *Moon Over Manifest*.

The Agent's Role in Digital Publishing

The world of publishing continues to evolve, including the world of digital publishing. What is an agent's role in this changing digital world?

New blog posts go up at least once a week with some kind of writing-related news. You, too, can share blog worthy news by contacting the website coordinator for how to do so at web@kwawriters.org.

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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 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 \$28 for a mailed newsletter, \$23 for an emailed newsletter, and \$14 for youth 18 and under. Join online at 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

Vice President - Seti Walker, vp@kwawriters.org

Secretary - Starla Criser, secretary@kwawriters.org

Treasurer - Mikelle Fraizer, treasurer@kwawriters.org

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Scene Conference Chair - Erin O'Donnell, scene@kwawriters.org

Youth Advisor - Ray "Grizzly" Racobs, youth@kwawriters.org

Member At Large - Sonny Collins, board@kwawriters.org

Member At Large - Colleen Kelly Johnston, 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>