



## Our Next KWA Event March 17

Rockwell Public Library  
5939 E. 9th, Wichita

11:30-1:15

**KWA Board Meeting**

1:30-2:30

**Mini-workshop**

***Sci-Fi and Paranormal Markets***

2:30-2:45

***Social Time***

2:45-4:30

**Program**

***“The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly of Writing First Novels” Panel Discussion***

**Old Business**

### Board Meeting Agenda

- Video and radio announcements—progress
  - Competition—discuss new categories
  - Grant—discuss progress and tutoring
  - Membership Survey—any discussion on responses received
  - Membership Database—progress
  - New Member Packets—hand out to new members present
  - KWA Blog or Yahoo Loop—discussion
  - 2007 Programs—Presenters and other news
- New Business**
- Community Outreach—
  - USD 259 Tutors Needed, Collegiate 2008 Arts Festival
  - Membership writing/reward incentives—any interest?
  - Writing retreat for members—any interest?

*All members are welcome to the KWA Board Meeting, if you are interested, please attend.*

### New & Renewing Members

WELCOME

New

Ray “Grizzly” Racobs (Spelling correction)  
David H. Desmond

Renewals

Lois Ruby  
Courtney Ruthven  
James D. Wright  
Rachel Lou Dayvault  
Victoria Hermes Bond

*A special thanks to those members who have responded to the member survey. We appreciate your comments and hope to be able to address them over the next few months.*

### Mark Your Calendar

**Apr. 14**—Lois Ruby, Reading/Signing at Central Library

**Apr. 15**—Anthology Presentation at Watermark Books 1:00 PM-4:00 PM

**Apr. 21**—Poetry

#### 2007 KWA Program Ideas

**Apr. 21** - Poetry

**May 19** - Computer Tips for Non-Techie Writers

**June 16** - Writing Sex Scenes

**July 21** - Thriller Fest

**Aug. 18** - Mystery

**Sep. 15** - Writing for Kids/Young Adult

**Oct. 20** - Crime

**Nov. 17** - Scriptwriting

**Dec. 15** - Member Holiday Party

# Market Place

## Markets & News

**Butler County History Center** is in need of *non-fiction* submissions on topics related to Butler County history, people or places, or the Oil Industry in Kansas. Entry Fee: \$10. Deadline: March 16. Cash prizes and opportunities for publication will be awarded. For more information contact Lisa Cooley, 316-321-9333, [history@kansasoilmuseum.org](mailto:history@kansasoilmuseum.org).

**Doorways Magazine** horror/paranormal magazine launches: **Doorways Magazine, A Journal of Horror and the Paranormal.** Content will include dark fiction as well as interviews with horror writers. Visit [www.doorwaysmagazine.com](http://www.doorwaysmagazine.com), Brian Yount is publisher and editor-in-chief.

**Highlights High Five** is a new magazine designed to help stimulate social and emotional growth, creative thought and reasoning, physical well-being, and acquisition of language skills in ages 2-6. While much of the magazine is staff written, Christine Clark will consider high-quality read-aloud stories of 150 words or fewer. Payments begin at \$150. Finger plays should have plenty of action and minimal text, and be easy for very young children to act out. Payment \$25 and up. Visit [www.highlights.com](http://www.highlights.com).

**Ignite Your Faith** wants first-person stories of 1,200-2,500 words that capture experiences in teenage lives. Must be true, highly descriptive, but can incorporate fictional techniques. Query first; no unsolicited manuscripts. Payment 15-20 cents per word. Typical response takes 3-6 weeks. [www.christianitytoday.com/teens](http://www.christianitytoday.com/teens).

**Harlequin:** Tina Colombo new associate senior editor, promotional pro-

grams in New York office. Valerie Gray now senior editor, Mira-Toronto office. Lola Speranza now assistant managing editor in Toronto office.

**Pegasus Books** new associate editor, Jessica Case, is interested in narrative non-fiction, literary fiction and criticism, mysteries, and thrillers. <http://www.pegasusbooks.us/>

**Leaf Books** British publisher is looking for 20,000 to 40,000 word novellas in any genre. Submit by mail. Detailed guidelines at <http://www.leafbooks.co.uk/writers/submissions.html>.

**Gray Friar Press** is accepting submissions for *Paging Mr. Hitchcock*, "an anthology of dark stories inspired by the cinema. Prefer 4000-7000 words. Detailed guidelines at <http://www.grayfriarpress.com/guidelines.html>.

**Dorchester Books** seeking speculative romance aimed at a younger, hipper audience. **Shomi** books will debut in July 2007, featuring paranormal, futuristic or fantasy romances. Senior Editor, Chris Keeslar accepts agented and unagented material. For details go to <http://www.shomifiction.com/index.html>.

## Contests

**ByLine Magazine Contests.** For more information on all of their contests, see [www.bylinemag.com/contests.asp](http://www.bylinemag.com/contests.asp).

**Filler:** Deadline March 8. Short prose (up to 600 words) on any topic, from humor to household hints, tips, original anecdotes, etc. Entry fee: \$4. Prizes: \$35 first, \$20 second, \$10 third.

### By-Line (cont.)

**New Talent Poetry:** Deadline March 15. Any style, subject or length. Open to anyone who has never won a cash prize in a ByLine poetry category. Fee: \$3.00. Prizes: \$50, \$35, \$25.

**Character Sketch:** Deadline March 20. Practice creating believable characters in 500 words or fewer. Show your character in a scene, doing something typical of him. Entry fee: \$4.00 Prizes: \$40, \$25, \$15.

**Reason to Rhyme!** Deadline March 30. Rhymed poems of any length, on any topic. Entry fee: \$3.00. Prizes: \$40, \$25, \$15.

**Flash Fiction:** Deadline April 5. A quick fiction which feels complete in less than a thousand words. These stories often depend on atmosphere, technique, and sense of immediacy. Entry: \$5.00. Prizes: \$50, \$35, \$25.

**Kansas Voices, 18th Annual Contest for Writers Living in Kansas** Deadline March 15, 2007. Prizes: Adult, \$275 Best Prose, \$275 Best Poem; Youth, \$75 Best Prose, \$75 Best Poem; Honorable Mentions \$200 total. Entries must be unpublished poetry or prose. No subject matter requirement. Any single entry must be no longer than 20 pages. For more information call 620-221-2161 x.10; email [info@winfieldarts.com](mailto:info@winfieldarts.com); web page [www.winfieldarts.com](http://www.winfieldarts.com).

**2007 Pocatigo Poetry Contest** Deadline: March 15. Fee: \$10 per each group of 3-5 poems. Must be unpublished free verse, formal, or experimental. All entrants receive copy of Spring issue. Prizes: 1st \$500, four copies of journal, 1-yr. Subscription, and 2 gift subscriptions. For more information go to: <http://www.yemasseejournal.org>.

# More Market Place

## Conferences

### 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.

### 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 <http://www.nswc.org>.

## Workshops/Classes

Heartland Writers Guild hosts a 1-3 day program annually in April. Costs: \$185-250, which includes most meals. Location: Sikeston, Missouri. Writing workshops, agent/editor panels, multiple genres. Go to <http://www.heartlandwriters.org>.

Basic Web Page Design: WSU Continuing Education, Non-Credit Course, WSU West Campus, 3801 N. Walker Ave. (37th/Maize Rd). May 15, 2007, Tuesday. Time: 9 a.m.—4 p.m., Fee: \$78. Instructor: Norm Gentry. Register and pay on-line at [webs.wichita.edu/continuinged](http://webs.wichita.edu/continuinged)

### Writing Books for Children & Teenagers

WSU Continuing Education, Non-Credit Course, Hughes Metro Complex, 29th & Oliver. Saturday, April 28, 9 a.m.—4 p.m. Fee: \$95. Instructors: Debra Seely & Dian Curtis Regan, Published Authors

### Missouri Writers' Guild Annual Conference

April 20-22, 2007. St. Charles Convention Center, St. Charles, Missouri. Non-Member fee \$175. Walk-in at \$25 to rate. Present-

ers include Dr. Debra Peppers, motivational speaker, author, radio-talk show host. Philip Gully, author of *Harmony* series and Porch tales. Ashley & Carol Grayson Literary agents; Greg Michelson, publisher of Unbridled Books; David Kohner TV producer and script doctor; and Susan Kirpatrick, editor *Ozark Magazine*. For complete listing to [conferen-](mailto:conferen-)  
[ceinfo@missouriwritersguild.org](mailto:ceinfo@missouriwritersguild.org) or [www.missouriwritersguild.org](http://www.missouriwritersguild.org).

## Be a Hero, Be a Tutor

With the completion of the 501(c)(3), KWA now moves into a new arena of grant application. As the newly appointed Grant Coordinator, I plan to submit our application to the City of Wichita Cultural Arts Grant committee by the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

In order to secure grants for KWA, it is very important that we can demonstrate how we are involved in the community of Wichita. Based on a number of articles in the paper recently, I decided to contact USD 259 and find out what their needs are at the moment for tutors. To say that they would welcome KWA members tutoring in the schools is an understatement. Debi Corrigan, who is the Volunteer Services Coordinator, said that she would be willing to come and do a special Volunteer Training Session for us if we had a number of members who could volunteer in the schools yet this year.

At the moment they have a great need for tutors at Brooks, Coleman and Curtis Middle Schools. They also have need at Chisholm Trail, Anderson and Gardner Elementary Schools. However, they would accept any help from our membership at any school. Debi would appreciate it if those trained to commit to tutor an hour a week, or a couple of hours every two weeks or any other block of time that could be maintained. A vol-

unteer could also choose to tutor "one on one" or in a "small group" setting. She would also appreciate it if anyone who was trained to be a tutor volunteer would commit to at least seven to eight weeks, although the schools would love to have our support until the beginning of May as that's right before their end of school testing. I would love to have a great response and perhaps have her do this at our next meeting in March.

I am fully committed to helping KWA and USD 259 with this tutoring project as I believe it would be most beneficial to everyone. I believe that as writers we have an obligation to help create a generation of readers because without the ability to read these children will have a very tough time in the future. That is a proven statistic.

I would appreciate anyone who could help with this tutoring project send me an e-mail at [Vhblondie@aol.com](mailto:Vhblondie@aol.com) with "School Tutoring" in the subject line so that I can facilitate this project quickly.

CALL ME 316-682-5035.

Vicki Hermes-Bond  
Grant Coordinator



A WRITER!

## MFA & Sci-Fi Workshops

By James Gunn, KU English Department

The English Department at the University of Kansas offers an MFA in creative writing, as well as an M.A. and an undergraduate concentration on creative writing for the English major.

Details are on the University's website:

[http://www.english.ku.edu/graduate\\_program.shtml](http://www.english.ku.edu/graduate_program.shtml).

The Center for the Study of Science Fiction offers a non-credit two-week intensive workshop on the writing of science fiction and fantasy, as well as a companion workshop on the writing of SF and fantasy novels. The fee for either is \$400 plus housing and meals.

James Gunn leads the workshop with the assistance of Chris McKitterick; Kij Johnson leads the novel workshop. The dates are the last week in June and the first week in July, culminating in the Campbell Conference and followed by the two-week, three-credit-hour intensive course in the literature of science-fiction. Details of both are available on the Center's website: [www.ku.edu/~sfcenter](http://www.ku.edu/~sfcenter).

## More Markets & Contests

### Moondance International Film Festival

Get your projects ready to submit to the 2007 Moondance. Applications are currently being accepted. Competition categories include films, screenplays, stage plays, short stories and more. Deadline: April 1. For more information go to <http://www.moondancefilmfestival.com>.

**First Chapters Writing Competition** **Gather.com** is seeking completed book-length manuscripts from unpublished authors. Deadline: March 15. Designed for first-time author's gateway to publication. Chosen winner win a publishing contract with Touchstone/Simon & Schuster, \$5000 cash prize and promotion by Borders. Five finalists will be chosen for review by on-line ratings, so enter; check, read, and rate chapters published on the Gather.com site.

**2007 Pikes Peak Flash Fiction Contest** sponsored by the Pikes Peak Branch of the National League of American Pen Women. 100 words or fewer, theme "In Your Back Yard." Deadline: March 1. Fee \$8. SASE. Send entry to Diane Hoover, Chair, Flash Fiction Contest, 5150 Meadows Lane, Colorado Springs, CO 80908. Multiple entries welcome, must include \$8 fee.

**Writer's Digest Writing Competition** Deadline: May 15. Ten Categories including Inspirational, Memoirs/Personal Essay, Magazine Feature, Genre story (mystery, romance, etc.), Mainstream/Literary, Rhyming Poetry, Non-Rhyming Poetry, Stage play, Television/Movie Script, Children's/Young Adult Fiction. Grand Prize: \$3000 cash and a trip to NYC to meet with editors or agents. Fees: Poetry \$10 for the first entry, \$5.00 for each additional poem submitted in same online session. All other entries are \$15 for the first mss; \$10 for each additional mss submitted in the same online session. Go to: <https://www.writersdigest.com/contests/annual/76th/>

**Writer's Digest Self-Published Book Awards** Gain national exposure for your book. Writer's Digest is searching for the best self-published books of the past few years. Here's your chance to enter the ONLY competition exclusively for self-published books. Categories include Mainstream/Literary, Genre fiction, Inspirations, Life Stories, Children's Picture Books, Middle-Grade/Young Adult, Reference Books, Poetry. Deadline: May 1. For more information go to: [http://www.writersdigest.com/contests/self\\_published.asp](http://www.writersdigest.com/contests/self_published.asp).

### Master of Fine Arts in Writing Program

Study creative writing and earn a degree through the brief-residency Master of Fine Arts in Writing Program at Spalding University in Louisville, KY. Study fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, writing for children, screenwriting, or playwriting. Each semester begins with a 10-day residency away from home, after which you return home to study one-on-one with a faculty mentor by correspondence. Request brochure FA35 by email [mfa@spalding.edu](mailto:mfa@spalding.edu), by phone (800) 896-8941, ext. 2423, or see the website [www.spalding.edu/mfa](http://www.spalding.edu/mfa).

### Ship Lit: Cruises Help Promote Authors

Some publishers are using literary-themed cruises to promote their authors. The author gives a reading and seminars to those interested passengers. It's an opportunity to promote your book to a captive audience. People tend to read a lot on cruises. The profile of a typical Ship Lit cruiser customer is female. Publishers say it is a good match for romance and health/fitness books. For more information: [http://www.nytimes.com/2007/01/01/business/media/01cruise.html?\\_r=1&oref=slogan](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/01/01/business/media/01cruise.html?_r=1&oref=slogan).

*"Happiness is a butterfly which when pursued is just out of our grasp...But if you will sit down quietly, may alight upon you."*

-Nathaniel Hawthorne



*“The first law of exuberant imperfection is essentially this: The quickest, easiest way to produce something beautiful and lasting is to risk making something horribly crappy.”*

- Chris Baty, Founder of the National Novel Writing Month

## Not Just the Luck of the Irish

By B.D. Tharp

Some of us are lucky enough to be Irish, but some of us aren't. You don't have to be Irish to be lucky, however. It's my firm belief that each of us has opportunities and challenges that bring good luck to our lives. How we deal with them affects the outcome.

You've heard that some people are just in the right place at the right time. And the reverse as well. As writers we need to take every opportunity to learn, promote, and network in the writing community. Writing groups, workshops and conferences are great ways to do all three.

If you attend local readings and book signings you'll meet new people who may someday attend yours. Be the best you can be. Share your enthusiasm for reading and writing. Listen to their comments and smile! The person sitting next to you may be the first person in line to buy your book.

Now if your book is still an idea that you haven't committed to paper yet, put your butt in the chair and write. No one is going to do it for you. The laundry can wait. You don't have to create three course meals every day. What you can do is let your spouse pick and prepare dinner tonight, or call in a pizza.

I've heard over and over, write what you know. I don't agree entirely with that statement. Research what you don't know and then write. If your character is wielding a gun, make sure it's a gun that's appropriate to the time and place. If you're writing an historical, make sure you know how people speak, what things cost, what they wore, their transportation and dwellings. Research.

It's not just luck that makes you a successful writer. It's creating a story so compelling that people can't wait to read it. But in order for them to hear about your work, you have to create it.

I've been reading Chris Baty's book, "No Plot, No Problem," and he talks about exuberant imperfection. When I first started writing I was filled to the brim with exuberance and my stories were filled with imperfections. Instead of giving up, I kept writing, reading, studying the craft and my writing has im-

proved. Is my prose perfect? Absolutely not. Do I keep on writing? You bet. Do I think I'll ever be a successful writer? Without a doubt. I'm halfway there just by virtue of my dedication to learning the craft and business of writing.

Organizations like KWA are vital tools for the craft. It offers you information, support, with a little fun thrown in. We writers are unique. No one knows or understands us like other writers. Instead of competition you receive honest commiseration and congratulations, which is rare in our culture.

We each have a unique voice, ideas, and stories to tell. Don't be afraid to reach for that pot of gold. Glide down the rainbow that leads you there. And if there's an occasional rain shower, so much the better. There are rainbows in those dark clouds, and we can all enjoy the Luck of the Irish if we work towards our writing goals, believe in ourselves, and never give up.

Write-On, folks!

## How Do You Know You're A Writer? Some possible signs might include:

- You interrupt conversations to get your pad and pencil
- You eavesdrop on conversations in the mall, restaurants, the bus, etc.
- When you aren't writing — you're reading
- There's dust on every surface in your house, except your computer and adjoining desktop
- You wake up in the wee hours of the morning with a great idea and have to write it down immediately
- You have more books than shoes
- Your office chair is the most comfortable piece of furniture in your house
- You have signs and slogans all over your tack board about patience, creativity, inspiration, and perseverance
- You clip photos out of newspapers and magazines because you think they might inspire your muse
- There's a notebook and pen/pencil on every flat surface in your house as well as in your purse or pocket
- Your family no longer tells you secrets for fear you'll write them in your next story
- You work on dialogue while you walk your dog causing the neighbors to stare
- The contents of your pantry include a plethora of caffeinated beverages, chocolate, and snacks, but very few ingredients for a healthy meal

## Taxes: Deducting Vehicle Expenses

By Hazel Hart

In the course of your writing business, do you use your vehicle in any of the following ways?

- To take your manuscripts to the post office
- To drive to interviews
- To gather research information
- To attend writer's group meetings or courses to improve your skills
- To meet with a lawyer, agent, or other professional
- To drive to any other writing-related activities

If you use your vehicle in your writing business, you may be able to deduct expenses on your income tax. However, before you can take these deductions, you need to decide whether you want to take actual expenses or the standard mileage rate. Unless a majority of the mileage on your car is writing-related, the standard mileage rate is probably the best choice.

How much can you save? Imagine that your post office round trip is 4 miles and you drive to the post office weekly to have your manuscripts weighed and mailed. Your total mileage for one year for that activity is 208 miles. For tax year 2006, the standard mileage rate for using a vehicle for business was 44.5 cents per mile. Beginning January 1, 2007, the rate went to 48.5 cents per mile. That means those 208 miles to the post office in 2007 would result in a \$101.00 reduction in your taxable income. Add other writing-related trips to that total and watch your tax savings grow.

To take the deduction, you need to keep a record of the following:

- Your vehicle's mileage at the beginning of the year or the month you started using it for business
- Your vehicle's mileage at the end of the year
- Your commuting mileage if you have a job (you don't get a deduction for this, but the IRS wants to know)
- Your writing-related mileage

To claim the deduction, you also must keep a written record of the following for each writing-related trip:

- The date
- The destination
- The purpose
- The number of miles driven

You may want to keep a small notebook in your car so you can record each trip as you take it. When it is time to file

your taxes, total your miles and record them on Form 2106. Then transfer the total deduction to a Schedule C.

For more information on vehicle expenses and the standard mileage rate, see IRS Publication 463, Travel, Entertainment, Gift, and Car Expenses, and Publication 535, Business Expenses.



## You're a What?

By Ray "Grizzly" Racobs

Tell someone you are a writer and you could receive a "ho-hum" look. They might be a little curious, but the conversation may never advance past that point. Tell them you are an author and you'll probably be perceived differently. I normally don't go out of my way to mention my writing accomplishments. It is usually someone with me, who lets the fact be known, either in passing or as part of an introduction. But many folks, young and old, male and female, blue and white collar, who learn of my sideline, are interested for one reason or another.

Younger school kids are excited about being in the presence of an author. They often want autographs from the writer, like they would from a sports hero or movie star and it doesn't matter what the book is about, because they haven't settled down long enough to even ask.

The kids also want to know where they can buy the book, as if they were financially independent with plans to rush over to the mall after school to make a purchase. If this were the case, I could have sold a truckload of books.

Middle and high school students seem to be impressed with the fact, probably because most of them cringe when they think of having to write a class term paper or any paper for that matter. I can understand the feeling, for I've been in their shoes.

They may view someone who has the ability to put enough words down to produce a book, as being special...or not. Some might think writers are a little weird, because they *intentionally* go out of their way to put enough words together to produce a poem, story or book. So, keep writing, get published and you too will become a "star" in the eyes of many.

*Ray's third book, about a telepathic dog, will go to a publisher soon. Ray "Grizzly" Racobs is a freelance report and writer for The Haysville Times. His self-syndicated humor column, "Grizzly's This 'N Tharp" has appeared in a number of Kansas newspapers.*

## Member News

**Lois Ruby**, will hold a public Reading/Signing at the Central Library Auditorium 1:00-2:00 PM, and a Teen Writing Workshop in the Patio Room from 3:00-5:00 PM, Saturday, April 14.

### **KWA Members Place in Contest**

KWA Members **Myrne Roe** and **Hazel Hart** submitted winning entries in Winfield Writer's and Poetry Contest for *Between Fences*, a traveling exhibit which is part of the Museum on Main Street, collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and the Kansas Humanities Council. Myrne's poem, "Gateless Fence," placed first and Hazel Hart's poem, "Out of Sight," placed second. The awards presentation was held in College Hill Coffee in Winfield, Kansas, on February 8.

**Richard R. Walkup** has published "Memoir of A Life, Life Experience Essays". The stories begin February 15, 1934 through July 2006. Ask him about it.

**Dr. Bill DeArmond** had a story, "A Day in the Life," published in the February issue of *Down in the Dirt* and a poem, "The World Trade Center," in the February issue of *Children, Churches & Daddies*.

*This is your opportunity to toot your own horn, let other members know what's happening in our writing community, and encourage us all to keep right on writing. Send your accomplishments to bdtharp@cox.net.*

## KWA News

### **The Anthology Is Coming!**

Colleen Kelly Johnston is working diligently to get the anthology laid out and to the printers in February. The book will be presented to KWA members and the public on Sunday, April 15 at 1:00 o'clock at Watermark Books. Every winning author will receive one complementary copy. Sarah Bagby at Watermark has agreed to give members that purchase five or more copies at one time a \$2.50 discount per copy. (Thank you Sarah.)

Watermark Books & Café has been one of our sponsors since our first competition and hosts the party for KWA. Authors and their families and friends are invited. Winners will be given an opportunity to read from their work and sign copies for all fans. Refreshments will be served.

*Are you interested in starting or participating in a critique group? Let us know who you are and we'll hook you up with other members.*

## **KWA Hits the Airwaves!**

Arlene Rains Graber, PR

In an effort to gain new members and publicize Kansas Writers Associating, Keith Boscher of KB Creative, and Arlene Rains Graber, East Wichita News, have put together a short radio spot. So, crank up your radios and listen for it. These public service announcements will be running on several radio stations in Kansas. The spot mentions our web site for information about KWA. We would love to hear feedback on this effort, so when you hear the spot about KWA let us know your comments.

## **President's Letter**

Starla Criser

Most recently we have had the resignation of two board members: Richard Walkup, our Secretary, and Brian Johnson, a Member-at-Large. Brian was also the member who had planned to help us get a blog and a Yahoo group started, as well as finding us someone to get the database organized (although none of these tasks are related to being a Member-at-Large).

Both of these members will be missed on the board and in the organization. We worked very hard last year to take this organization to a new step, to obtaining a 501(c)(3) status, which means we are a not-for-profit organization. The board, in particular, decided to pursue this so that we could possibly get funding to help pay for the Scene of the Crime conferences we hold, and possibly to help with our annual competition. We have worked hard these last few years to really expand what the group has to offer writers: adding the publishing of an anthology for our competition winners, having a website that is updated monthly, improving the newsletter all the time to provide helpful information and a place to share member news, increasing the size and depth of our annual conference, and so much more.

But there is a cost to all of these wonderful things, mainly in a whole lot of time and dedication being provided by a small group of people. This same group of members has basically been on the board for a while now, simply shifting positions as needed from year to year. We are beginning to suffer burn out. The current board would like to turn their positions over to new people in 2008.

This is a valuable organization with so much potential. We have a fairly large membership, although quite a few members do not live in Wichita where we hold our monthly meetings.

What we need are two members to wildly wave their hands or bravely email one of the remaining board members and volunteer to act as our Recording Secretary or as our second Member-at-Large for the rest of 2007. What we need after that are members to seriously consider running for a board position next year. Every organization needs "fresh blood" now and then, people with new suggestions and fresh enthusiasm. Please, think about helping out our organization now.

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

Starla Criser

**VICE-PRESIDENT**

Conrad Jestmore

**TREASURER**

Courtney Ruthven

**RECORDING SECRETARY**

(open)

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

B.D. Tharp

**AT LARGE BOARD MEMBERS**

Colleen Kelly Johnston

(open)

**HISTORIAN**

Arlene Rains Graber

**PROMOTIONS MANAGER**

Arlene Rains Graber

**WEB SITE COORDINATOR**

Angela Criser

**CONTEST COORDINATOR**

Colleen Kelly Johnston

**AMBASSADOR**

Gordon Kessler

**MEMBERSHIP**

Jeanette Shepler

**GRANT COORDINATOR**

Victoria Hermes-Bond

**Newsletter**

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](mailto: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, WordPerfect, Works, 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](http://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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