



Our Next KWA Event

February 17

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

11:30-1:15

KWA Board Meeting

1:30-2:30

Mini-workshop

Alternative Publishing Markets

2:30-2:45

Social Time

2:45-4:30

Program

The Business Side of Writing

New & Renewing Members

New

Linda Millhuff
H.B. Berlow
Ray “Grizzly” Rabobs
Sara Huter
Patricia L. Barnes
Maurice Henry Van Strickland, MD
Michael T. Richardson
Cherilyn G. Fienen
Cyndy Hodge
Linda Kasten

Renewals

Ralph Allen, Jr.
Roy R. Baker
Dennis McKay
James D. Yoder
Scott E. Eveloff

Board Meeting Agenda

Mark Your Calendar

Old Business

- 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
- Sci-Fi workshop in March—discussion

New Business

- Writing retreat for members—any interest?
- Collegiate—
- Membership writing/reward incentives—any interest?

- Mar. 17**—KWA Board Mtg 11:30-1:15 PM
Mini Workshop 1:30-2:30 PM
Social Time 2:30-2:45 PM
Main Program 2:45-4:30PM
- Apr. 15**—Anthology Presentation at Water mark Books 1:00 PM-4:00 PM

2007 KWA Programs

- Mar. 17** - Paranormal Sci-Fi
Apr. 21 - Poetry
May 19 - Children’s Market/Writing for Kids
June 16 - Nonfiction/Articles
July 21 - Thrillers
Aug. 18 - Mystery
Sep. 15 - Young Adult
Oct. 20 - Crime
Nov. 17 - Scriptwriting
Dec. 15 - Member Holiday Party

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

Market Place

Market News

Amalgamae Press is on the look out for short stories, serial work, and articles pertaining to fantasy, science fiction, and horror. Looking for fiction that isn't afraid to stretch the normal boundaries. Pays \$25 USD for each story and article. For information go to <http://amalgamaepress.com/manuscripts.htm>.

Avalon Publishing Group signed a letter of intent to be acquired by the **Perseus Books Group**.

Light Sword Publishing is looking for manuscripts in a full range of genres: Suspense, Romance, Fantasy, Self-Help, Paranormal, Historical Romance, Mystery, Sci-Fi, Children's and Western. Visit <http://www.lightwordpublishing.com> for submission guidelines.

Yemassee, a bi-annual literary journal of the University of South Carolina-Columbia, is seeking general submissions. Spring issue appears March, Fall issue in November. Send SASE with submission. For guidelines see: <http://www.yemasseejournal.org/>.

Zumaya Publications has chosen the **Zumaya Embraces** for their new fantasy romance imprint. **Zumaya** also publishes science fiction and fantasy under its **Zumaya Otherworld's** imprint. For more information, visit <http://www.zumayapublications.com>.

Contests

Author Island.com Readers Choice Awards. Deadline: February 15, 2007. Eligibility: Works of fiction with first copyright or 1st No. American printing date of Jan. 1, 2006 through Dec. 1, 2006. This includes traditionally pub-

lished titles, e-books, self-published titles and small press titles. Fee: \$20. Awards: Promotion on Author Island.com, certificates, one-year membership to Author Island.com to the book chosen Book of the Year!

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

Valentine or Love Poem: Deadline: February 14, 2007. Entry Fee: \$3. Prizes: \$40 first, \$25 second, \$15 third. Submission: Any style or length.

Short Article: Deadline: February 20, 2007. Any nonfiction subject suitable for a magazine or newspaper, 1,500 words maximum. Entry fee: \$5. Prizes: \$50 first, \$30 second, \$20 third.

Winter or Snow Poem: Deadline: February 28. Any style or length. Entry fee: \$3. Prizes: \$40 first, \$25 second, \$15 third.

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.

Erma Bombeck Writing Contest Deadline: February 18. No Entry Fee. Humor and Human Interest categories. Go to: www.wcpl.lib.oh.us/adults/erma.html.

Gather.com, in conjunction with Borders Books, is sponsoring a First Chapters writing contest. First prize: \$5000 and a publishing contract with Simon & Schuster. Deadline: March 15, 2007. Novelists submit their full-length commercial fiction manuscript. Over the course of the competition, the first 3 chapters will be posted to First Chapters Group (<http://firstchapters.gather.com>) for evaluation by the Gather community and Editorial team. Five finalists will be selected through 3 rounds of voting. Entry is FREE.

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; web page www.winfieldarts.com.

2007 PNWA Literary Contest (Pacific Northwest Writers Association): Entry Deadline: February 20. Twelve contest categories, and prizes ranging from \$600 to \$150. Every entry accepted in the contest will receive two critiques. Entry Fee: \$50 non-PNWA member, \$35 PNWA member. For information contact staff@pnwa.org, call 425-673-2665, or visit <http://www.pnwa.org>.

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>.

7th Annual Chistell Writing Contest NO ENTRY FEE. Deadline: February 28, 2007. Theme: Life's Common Thread. Must be 16 years or older to enter contest. Genres: Short Story and Poetry. Winners announced April 1, 2007, <http://www.chistell.com>. Winning material will be published on the web site. A press release will be sent to media globally regarding winners. Prizes: 1st Short Story \$200, 2nd \$50; 1st Poetry \$100, 2nd \$50.

More Market Place

2007 Amarillo Writing Contest

Panhandle Professional Writers of Amarillo, Texas. Seventeen categories include, Mainstream Novel, Mystery/Suspense/Thriller, Historical or Western, Romance, Science Fiction/Fantasy or Horror, Juvenile, Young Adult. Other categories are Short Story, Non-Fiction Article or Essay, Nonfiction Book, Screenplay, Memoir, Juvenile (fiction or non-fiction), Young Adult (fiction or non-fiction), Poetry Short, Poetry Long, and Poetry Chapbook.

Published authors will judge the first round. The top six scores from each category will be submitted to professional, acquiring editors for final judging. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three winners in each category.

Entry fees range from \$10-\$15 for PPW members and \$15-\$20 for nonmembers. Membership in PPW is not required to enter the contest. Submissions must be postmarked by March 1, 2007. Winners will be announced at the Frontiers in Writing Conference at the Fifth Season Inn at 6801 W. Interstate 40 in Amarillo, Texas on Saturday, June 9, 2007.

Rules and entry forms for the contests are available on the PPW website www.panhandleprowriters.org.

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.

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, multi-

ple genres. Go to <http://www.heartlandwriters.org>.

Learn the Basics of Writing Popular

Fiction: WSU Continuing Education, Non-Credit Course, Hughes Metro Complex, 29th & Oliver. Feb. 28-April 18, 2007. Time: 7-9 p.m., Fee: \$86. Instructor: Sharon Dennison, Author (pseudonym Shawna Delacorte). Register and pay on-line at webs.wichita.edu/continuinged

Writing Books for Children & Teen-

agers 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

Call for Tutors!

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 1st 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 volunteer 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 February.

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 with "School Tutoring" in the subject line so that I can facilitate this project quickly.

Thank you,
Vicki Hermes-Bond
Grant Coordinator

ATTENTION

Please take a few moments and fill out the enclosed Survey to help be a part of shaping the future of OUR KWA. Without your input we cannot as efficiently direct the course of future of KWA for our members.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Thank you for your time.

How's your New Year's Resolution Coming?

By Colleen Kelly Johnston

So you made a New Year's resolution to do something special to improve your writing? How is that going? Aside from attending KWA meetings and workshops, what have you selected as the place to go to fulfill your wishes to update your skills, meet editors, and network with other writers?

Have you decided on your special conference? Have you already registered to attend? Decided to go to summer school and take a course on plotting? Attend one of Gordon Kessler's classes on How to Write the Perfect Novel?

Let me make some suggestions. There is an abundance of seminars, classes and meetings available nearby and, if you are interested in traveling, great annual conferences for particular genre's of writing skills, thrillers, romance and whodunits.

The National Writers Workshop, held at the Hyatt Regency and sponsored by the Wichita Eagle, hosts a plethora of excellent writers, including several Pulitzer Prize winners. Held in late April or early May, there is a modest charge for two days of intensive classes on every possible aspect of writing. Though designed principally for non-fiction writers, the Workshop offers a number of sessions of value to any writer. Watch the newsletter or the Eagle for details.

Oklahoma Writers Federation will hold their annual conference May 4 and 5 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Oklahoma City. OWFI offers editors, agents, writers in all genres. An excellent place to go for all phases of writing from novels to poetry to nonfiction. See details at their website at www.owfi.org.

Summer schools and special classes abound in the south central Kansas area. Salina holds a succession of four special sessions in poetry during April for National Poetry Month. Rockhurst College in Kansas City is sponsoring **An Evening with Donald Hall, our U S Poet Laureate**, on Wed., Jan. 24, 2007, at Rockhurst University Convocation Center, 54th and Troost. Reading begins at 7:30 p.m. Admission: Adults, \$4; Students/Senior Citizens, \$3. <http://www.rockhurst.edu/news/events/poetlaureate.asp>

Poetry in Kansas, sponsored by Kansas Poets and Kansas State University will host Kansas' Poet Laureate in the next of their continuing sessions **Kansas Poets Shop-talk Series** February 13 (7:00p – 8:00p). The local session will be held at WSU with Jonathan Holden, First Poet Laureate of Kansas and distinguished Kansas State University professor. The author of many award winning

books, Jonathan will read select poems, answer attending guests' questions and provide unique insights to poetry. This *live* video conference broadcast is *FREE*. To reserve your seat at one of the TELENET-2 locations and to inquire about the exact location of the video conference in your area...Please call the following # ASAP that the location nearest you can be notified of your attendance plan. Toll Free: 1-866-379-2279 (or E-mail: t2net@ksu.edu).

Want to explore possibilities farther away allowing you to travel as well as enhance your writing skills? Four universities offer summer school with sessions covering anything you want to work on. Five day workshops are included as well as weekend sessions. All four offer extensive faculties of agents, editors, professors, novelists, poets of excellent reputation and excellent experience. There are no requirements for any of these fine summer schools beyond the desire to write.

The University of Iowa Summer Writing Festival is a short term, noncredit writing program for adults. The Festival offers 136 workshops across the genres, including novel, short fiction, poetry, essay, memoir, humor, travel, playwriting, writing for children at all levels. Held from June 10 through July 27 at the university in Iowa City, Iowa, the programs are available from their website www.uiowa.edu/~iswfest, e-mail: iswfestival@uiowa.edu or telephone 319-335-4160.

Nebraska Summer Writers' Conference is held June 16-22 at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. The faculty this year includes former US Poet Laureate Ten Kooser as well as the vice president of Random House, Jane von Mehren, numerous agents and writers. Workshops and Master Classes are available in all genres. Details at <http://www.nswc.org>, email nswc@unl.edu or telephone 402-472-3067 for a complete brochure.

The University of Wisconsin and Sarah Lawrence College in New York City offer graduate, master and noncredit experiential classes during late spring and early summer. Try their websites for additional information if you wish to travel further than the Midwest

Not wanting to travel far but still interested in furthering your writing progress? **The Split Rock Arts Program** Online Mentoring for Writers offers one-on-one mentoring for poetry, fiction or creative nonfiction via the internet, through its faculty at The University of Minnesota. Their faculty is a group of writer-teachers working in various literary forms and representing a range of mentoring interests. Visit their website at www.cce.umn.edu/mentoring for complete information. E-mail omw@cce.umn.edu or telephone 612-62-4375.

Conferences in the three big genres, romance, thrillers and whodunits will be on this summer also.

ThrillerFest 2007 will be hosted by New York City July 12-15 at the Grand Hyatt Manhattan. Spotlight (continued on page 5, column 2)

Rejections: A Writer's Purple Heart

By Starla Criser

Have you ever received a rejection letter on a writing project? Almost every writer has. I would have said all writers have, but there is always the exception to the rule in life. Anyway, you're in good company. Listed among your comrades fighting the battle for publication and receiving "purple heart" after purple heart for valiant efforts are Agatha Christie, James Joyce, George Orwell, Richard Bach, Margaret Mitchell, Jack London, J. K. Rowling, John Creasey, and Stephen King just to name some you might be familiar with.

It's hard work to come up with an idea for an article, a short story, a novella, a script, a poem, or a novel. Writers put in hours and hours of thought on each project. From the first seeds of an idea to the lengthy creation process, on to the nerve-wracking revisions, and finally on to pursuing someone willing to publish or represent the work, we are on emotional swings. We fuss and fret as we begin and work on a project. We scrutinize and worry during revisions, wondering if we'll ever get it right. We gather our courage and send a query, a synopsis, a proposal, or an entire project off to a stranger. During the time that project is off trying to sell itself, we fuss and fret some more.

If we're lucky enough to make a sale, we go on an emotional high. All is right with the world. But if we receive the dreaded rejection letter... All is wrong with the world. You hold that letter in your hand and think about the pain of rejection threading through you. It is so easy at that low point to tell ourselves we'll never make it as a writer; so easy to give up on a dream. Don't.

Remember the great writing authors who have suffered the same rejection but didn't give up. Think of William Saroyan who had a stack of rejection letters 30 inches high, some 7,000 rejection letters before he sold his first story. He wanted that dream, and he kept after it. If you want, really want, that dream as well, then you must endure your disappointment, find another possible publisher or agent, and send that project right back out there. Beyond that, you need to get focused on the next project and the project after that.

There are many reasons for rejections, and most are never mentioned in a rejection letter. Most of us receive impersonal form letters. Editors and agents are often overwhelmed with the number of submissions they receive and don't have the time to pen a personal comment. Some editors and agents have been burned by taking the time to make a comment, and then have received an angry, argumentative response from the writer.

There are the rare times, though, that a writer receives an encouraging rejection with observations on how to improve the work.

Here are a few suggestions for getting past the rejections and moving on toward your goal of being published:

- Consider any comments made in a rejection letter, but don't make changes until you have received several other such comments. At that time, consider what revisions you can live with and make them.
- Don't let a rejected piece gather dust. Find another potential agent or market, and send it back out.
- Keep enough projects circulating for possible publication that no single rejection will seem overly important.
- Constantly read and listen for information about agents, editors, and publishers. Make sure you know what they are looking for in genres, in formatting, in word or page length, in style, and maybe even in storyline preferences.
- Polish each piece as best you can to give it its very best shot.
- Don't harp on rejections or spend a great deal of time thinking about them. That is a waste of time. It happened. Get on with your work of creation and submission.

Resolutions (Johnston) cont. from Page 4

writers for this conference will be Clive Cussler and James Patterson. For complete details, see their website at <http://www.thrillerfest.com>.

Romance Writers of America® 27th Annual National Conference is scheduled for Dallas, Texas July 11-14 at the Hyatt Regency. Workshops in historical, paranormal, sensual, contemporary, futuristic aspects of plotting, planning, character development will be well attended and many top writers in the Romance field will be available to meet and network. www.rwanational.org.

Lastly, join those of us interested in crime and mystery in Anchorage, Alaska September 27 - 30 for **Bouchercon 2007 Bearly Alive**. Hosted by Dana Stabenow, she of the Kate Shugart series, the conference promises to give you everything you want to know about writing whodunits.

The conference site is with the spectacular Chugach Mountains to the east and Cook Inlet to the west. When not conferencing you can hike 200 miles of cross-country trails, fish the Kenai River, Ride the [Alaska Railroad](#) to Seward and visit the [Alaska Sea Life Center](#), or charter an air taxi to Talkeetna and commune with Mt. Denali. Just don't miss out on this exciting adventure. Website at www.bouchercon2007.com.

I'm going, how about you?

Good Recordkeeping: the Key to Tax Deductions

By Hazel Hart

If you have writing income for 2006, where you record the income and expenses on your tax return will depend on whether your writing is a business or a hobby. According to the IRS, you must regularly engage in an activity in a businesslike manner for the purpose of making a profit to consider that activity a business. With this in mind, see if you can tell whether the taxpayers in the following examples have business or hobby income.

Writer A got fired up in June and wrote an opinion piece which he sent to *Newsweek* for their "My Turn" column. *Newsweek* bought it for \$1,000, and sent the writer a check in November. During the rest of the year, Writer A entered a poetry contest and received a \$25 award. He also sent short stories to two literary magazines and received acceptances for both. The magazines pay in copies on publication. He wrote the first story in January and the second in May. He had had the poem around for a couple of years. He did no other writing or marketing during the year. Except for a few stamps, some paper, ink, and a small contest entry fee, Writer A had no other expenses. He made a profit of over \$900.

Writer B sold three articles during the year for a total income of \$700. She wrote about ten hours each week and kept her 2006 New Year's resolution of sending out a query a week. She completed a book manuscript and attended a writer's conference where she met with an agent who is now submitting the manuscript to publishers. Writer B's expenses exceeded her income because of the cost of the conference. She had a loss of \$500.

Writer A has a hobby, regardless of profit, because he did not conduct his writing activities in a businesslike manner. He needs to report his income on line 21 (other income) of his 1040. If Writer A files a Schedule A where he takes medical expenses, property taxes, home mortgage interest, charitable donations and other deductible items, he may also list the expense he had for his hobby.

Writer B, in spite of the loss, will take business expenses on Schedule C. She devoted regular hours to her writing and made consistent efforts throughout the year to sell her work. However, should the IRS ever question Writer B, she will need records, not only of her income, but of her time and efforts that show she was writing with the intent of producing income.

When people think of tax records, they usually think of receipts for expenses, but you also need to make sure you are using the correct forms.

The two types of records below will help you decide whether your expenses are for a business and taken on

Schedule C or a hobby and taken on Schedule A.

Records that show regular engagement: a time record that shows you write regularly. Two hours a morning five days a week or six hours a day twice a week are examples of regular times.

Records that show you intend to make a profit: a record of submissions that show an effort to sell your work. This means regular submissions to editors, agents, and publishers.

You've probably heard that if you want to take your writing expenses as business tax deductions, you must make a profit in three out of five years. However, profit is not the sole determining factor. Keeping good records will ensure that you are properly reporting your income and expenses and keep you and the IRS on good terms.

About the author: Hazel Hart teaches English at Butler Community College. She worked as a tax consultant for seven years and beginning tax trainer for four years with H&R Block. For more tax information on business or hobby see Publication 535, Business Expenses, <http://www.irs.gov>.

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Lost in the Dream

By B.D. Tharp

There are schools of thought that dreams are a random set of images from our subconscious, with no clear purpose or intent. The dictionary tells us that a dream is a series of mental images, thoughts, and emotions occurring in certain stages of sleep. It also goes on to say that a dream can be a state of abstraction: trance; a hope or aspiration.

The study of dreams and the symbols they contain is fascinating to me, but I've never taken the time to delve into it. I do believe that I have had dreams that gave me the answers to questions, inspired a story or character to write about, or just stuck with me over the years for one reason or another.

One such dream I had when I was in my late teens. I found myself in a totally unfamiliar locale, with no idea where to go to find home. The fear was overwhelming me so I located a phone booth and called my boyfriend (who's been my husband of more than 30 years). I described the landscape, the buildings, the street signs, but none of it was familiar to him either. In frustration he finally said, "How can I find you if you don't know where you are?"

And that, my dear writing friends, is a very good question. We have this dream of being successful writers, and try to follow the advice of books written by authors we deem successful. We study the craft of writing and try

Member News

Dr. Bill DeArmond, Professor of Mass Communication and Film at Southwestern College in Winfield, has his poem “Sins of the Father” and a story “The Conversation” in the January issue of *Children, Churches & Daddies*. His story “Karma Chameleon” is in the January issue of *Down in the Dirt*. His story “Just a Stranger on the Bus” has been published in Fall 2006 *Trail of Indiscretion*.

Arlene Graber has published an opinion piece in the January issue of the *East Wichita News* entitled “Dreifort-Sorting Out a Complicated World.” (Front page—above the fold!)

Peg Morrison’s memoir, “The Other End of the String,” is going through final editing and the publication date will be announced soon.

KWA News

The Beginning of an Anthology

By Colleen Kelly Johnston

The last poem from the winning authors in our 2006 competition is in and work on composing Words Out of the Flatlands 2007 is beginning. It will be at the printers sometime in February. The book will be presented to KWA members and the public on Sunday, April 15 at 1:00 o’clock. Every winning author will receive one complementary copy.

Watermark Books and Café will be the setting for the anthology presentation. Watermark 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. Refreshments will be served.

President’s Summary

By Starla Criser

It’s that time of year when the organization changes officers, and some of us just change “hats.” I’ve spent the last five years as Newsletter Editor for KWA. Now I’m shifting to the role of President for this year, and Bonnie Tharp has already taken over my former role. I’m looking forward to the new position and the new challenge.

I’ve been a member of KWA from nearly the beginning and I’m a proud past recipient of the Dale German Award. Over the years I’ve watched the organization grow and change in many ways. The new board and I are hoping to see this growth and these changes continue. We’ve talked before about how to communicate better with our membership,

most of who have never been to a meeting. We’ve discussed developing a database that lets us know who is interested in what genre, who is willing to help in what way, who has what kind of knowledge to share, who wants to belong to a critique group, and many other things. This is a massive project, but one that we’re seriously focusing on this year. Any and all help would be appreciated. We need you to help us help you.

Last year we had one of the best Scene of the Crime conferences ever. And our annual prose competition continues to grow and improve with each year as well. There will be a lot of thought being given on how to make the next conference even better, if that’s possible. There will also be a lot of thought given to enlarging and improving our writing competition. While we do other special workshops and present a lot of programs for the benefit of our membership, the conference and the competition are our two biggest projects. They take a lot of hard work and man hours from a number of people. Please let one of the officers know if you’re willing to share the burden of some of that work.

Other items we’re planning to do this year include creating a blog and a Yahoo loop so we can communicate with each other more often, having our board/business meetings before the monthly meetings so more people can attend and take part, doing a survey among our members, and providing new member packets. Watch for announcements about all of these things, and please offer helpful suggestions.

Lost (Tharp) cont. from Page 6

and try our hand at it time and time again, only to have rejection after rejection pile up amidst the occasional publication.

What does this mean? Are we on the wrong path? Do we need to dream another dream? Can someone help us find our way home? It’s true that some of us will go on to other dreams, but not all. Those of us that keep on the writing path will find our way to publication and success. To what level is yet to be seen.

In order to be the next John Grisham or Nora Roberts we’ve got our work cut out for us. They, too, had their share of rejections when they first started out. I read somewhere that Chicken Soup for the Soul was rejected more than a hundred times before the author found a publisher willing to take a chance, and look how that turned out. In his book “On Writing,” Stephen King wallpapered his attic with rejection slips. The author of the “First Wives Club” didn’t find publishing success until there was film interest. So, we never know what direction our dreams may take us.

Dreams are something very difficult if not impossible to control, but by keeping positive pictures in your mind, striving to improve your craft, as well as networking in the book industry – these steps can only help your dreams come true. One of my favorite “positive pictures” or “dreams” is of me sitting behind a table in a crowded bookstore with a line of fans weaving through the store while they wait to have me sign my book. I’m sure this dream is shared by many of you, if not all, and I don’t mind sharing.

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

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GRANT COORDINATOR

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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 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

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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