

Heart of America Christian Writers' Network Fall Conference

Jump-Start Your Writing

November 2–4, 2023

Be sure to use the abilities God has given you . . . (1 Timothy 4:14)

Held at Open Door Baptist Church, 3033 N 103rd Terrace, Kansas City, KS 66109

Do you have a gift for writing and wonder what it would take to be published? Or perhaps you've been published but want to broaden your writing sales or look into writing in a new genre. Maybe you have a vision to write the message God has given you, but are hesitant about this calling.

Whether you're new to the writing world or a longtime pro, the HACWN fall conference has plenty to offer you:

- Dozens of workshops to choose from, all taught by professionals who have decades of combined experience.

You'd have to go very far to find a more experienced staff than we have this year!

- A faculty of professionals who are eager to meet you and to find new writers for their needs
- In-depth critiques and other services
- Opportunities to talk one-on-one with editors, agents, and others

From Thursday's opening to the Saturday afternoon closing, you'll enjoy workshops that cover more areas of the writing and selling world than ever before. As always, you'll learn what editors are looking for—and be able to talk to editors and seasoned writers for feedback and pitching ideas.

Take your first step in pursuing your writing vision . . . by registering today!

FEATURED FACULTY - (more inside)

For full bios, see www.HACWN.org/conference-faculty/



Rhonda Robinson - *Focus on the Family*

A long-time family and cultural expert, Rhonda is the the acquiring editor for family, parenting, and youth materials. She will also teach HACWN writers about how AI can affect them and how to leverage search engine and social media strategies.



Dave Fessenden - *Agent, WordWise*

Dave truly wears many hats . . . and wears them all well. With years of editorial experience, he is currently an editor for CLC (Christian Literature Crusade) and is an agent for Wordwise. He represents science fiction, fantasy, historical fiction, theology, Bible studies, professional, church issues, social issues, career, and reference.



Sherri Langton - *Bible Advocacy, Now What?*

Sherri is the associate editor of the *Bible Advocate* magazine (baonline.org) and of *Now What? e-zine* (nowwhat.cog7.org), and has worked for more than 30 years in Christian publishing. She is also an award-winning freelance writer.



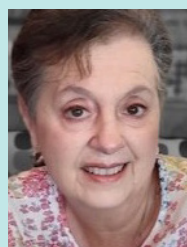
Lin Johnson - *Christian Writers Market Guide*

Lin Johnson is a marketing expert and a general publishing expert. Among her other editorial jobs, she is the editor of *The Christian Writers Market Guide*, which tells authors where and how to sell their work. Lin is the author of 70 books, specializes in writing Bible curriculum, and has worked with publications.



Josh Mann - *The Lion*

Josh is managing editor for the Hertzog Foundation, working specifically with *The Lion* newspaper. *The Lion* carries articles covering a wide range of issues facing American families and culture, especially related to the education of children.



Deb DeArmond - *Elk Lake Publishing*

Deb is another faculty member with a ton of interesting experience. Deb has worked for 30 years as a business coach in management roles including Bank of America and HJ Heinz. Deb will let HACWN authors know how to break into this market that produces more than 30 books per year and will help authors develop personally.

ADDITIONAL FACULTY



Rebecca Ford - EABooks Publishing
Rebecca is author liaison and acquisitions editor for EABooks Publishing. She has walked nearly 200 authors through every step of getting their book published, helping them understand procedures. She can help you understand what hybrid publishing is all about and what questions you should ask.



Janet Stapleton - The Foundry Publishing

For more than 20 years, Janet has worked with The Foundry Publishing (formerly Nazarene Publishing House) in managing rights and contracts for US and international projects.



Jeanette Levellie - Guideposts Author
Jeanette has been a *Guideposts* contest winner and frequently writes for their publications and Chicken Soup books, as well as writing other articles, greeting card verses, and calendar poems. Jeanette also enjoys speaking to groups, offering hope and humor in every message.



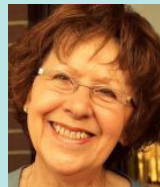
Craig Von Buseck - Author

Formerly with CBN and Focus on the Family, Craig has years of experience as a writer and editor in various genres. He shines both in producing short materials and as a book author who specializes in research. He is also a mentor to writers, helping them chart their own courses.

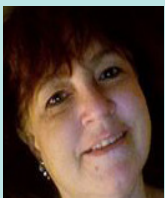
HACWN ADVISORY BOARD (and their specialties)



Zeta Davidson is our HACWN Membership Coordinator. She writes articles and devotionals and loves to speak for women's ministry and at writing events. She is also the author of a book of devotionals for widows.



Ardythe Kolb writes non-fiction articles and devotionals and has completed four books, including one on protecting children from being bullied. She is also our newsletter editor.



Jeanette Littleton has written 5,000 articles and edits books and magazines for different publishers. She is currently editor of *Standard and Intertribal Life*, and is managing editor for EABooks Publishing.



Pamela Sheddric is our newest advisory board member and leads our critique group. Her writing has been published in magazines, anthologies and devotionals including *Focus on the Family Club House Junior*, *In Touch Magazine*, *Guidepost* books and *101 Facets of Faith*.

ADJUNCT FACULTY - HACWN Pro Members

For full bios of all faculty, see <http://www.hacwn.org/conference-faculty/>



Caroline Cooper writes and speaks as part of In God's Corner Ministry, which includes a YouTube show and podcast.



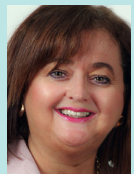
Cheryl Paden has a passion for crafting inspirational, devotional, and memoir pieces. She often writes for magazines and anthologies.



Shawn Barr has been published by Grace Evangelical Society and God's Word for Today. He has also published through KDP.



Sally Jadow writes books (check out her series based on her family diaries), personal experience articles, and poetry. She is also a Marketplace chaplain.



Anne Rauth writes personal experience and non-fiction pieces and is seasoned in marketing, promotion, and advertising.



Kathy Nickerson is an author, speaker, and optimist whose favorite accessory is a microphone. She writes magazine articles, newspaper columns, short stories, and novels.



Rebecca Thesman writes both fiction and nonfiction, including the Reverend G series. She is also a lifecoach for writers and others.



Mike Freeman is a teacher who freelances in writing, photography, and creating book covers for authors.



Elaine McAllister specializes in intergenerational writing, telling her family's stories and helping others tell their stories, too.

CONNECTING WITH THE PROS

FREE APPOINTMENTS

At the conference you can sign up for free 10-minute appointments with faculty members to show them your manuscript, pitch ideas, or discuss your writing. You will sign up for these appointments at the conference on a first-come, first-serve basis. Also chat with faculty and others about your ideas at lunch, coffee breaks, and other times!

FIRST PAGES

When editors and agents pick up a manuscript, what makes them read on—or quickly put the manuscript down? Through First Pages, an editor/agent panel will read the first page of your manuscript (author's name is not read) and discuss in a forum setting: "Would I keep reading or would I reject this (and why)?"

Send in your first page, double-spaced, of any manuscript or poem, and \$15 for your manuscript. A limited number will be accepted. The editors will respond on Friday night (all invited to this whether you submit to first pages or not). Get insight you need to get published. Contact HACWNKC@gmail.com if you're interested.

PRO/FACULTY DINNER

IF YOU'RE A PROFESSIONAL HACWN MEMBER, you are welcome to attend dinner with this year's HACWN faculty members on Friday early evening. During this time you can network with the editors around the table. Cost is only \$16, but this is limited to HACWN members who are at the Professional level membership.

PAID CRITIQUES AND SERVICES

We're offering several services to help you be the best professional possible and to fit your needs. Each paid critique or special service is \$40 for 20 minutes of personalized attention with faculty members. You can sign up for these when you send in your registration (or you can still sign up for them until about a week before the conference). Make sure you note the faculty member with whom you'd like to meet. Send any materials to be evaluated to Jeanette at HACWNKC@gmail.com. We will schedule a time for you to meet with faculty members and let you know when that will be.

MANUSCRIPT CRITIQUES

A favorite service for years! Send in your materials ahead of time and the faculty member of your choice will come to the conference prepared to sit down with you for 20 uninterrupted minutes to give you feedback on your writing (article up to 2,500 words, or a book proposal with one sample chapter).

PERSONAL COACHING and SPEAKING SESSIONS

Are you stuck between an idea and the first paragraph? Have you wondered how to find the best writing plan that fits with your personality? Take the next steps with the help of a coach. RJ Thesman, Rhonda Robinson, or Deb DeArmond can help you jump over your obstacles and move toward your writing goals (Deb sends you a questionnaire ahead of time).

Do you want feedback on your speaking skills? Our faculty can help with that, too.



RJ Thesman

WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA, and BLOG CRITIQUES

Do you have a blog, website, or social media you'd like to get feedback on? Rhonda Robinson has years of experience helping authors in these areas. Get pro input to make your Internet presence reflect your goals. Prepare a one-page report about the focus and purpose of your website and provide a link. Rhonda will come to the conference prepared to give you feedback on how to make it even better.



Rhonda Robinson

MARKETING/MAILCHIMP and LINKED IN COACHING,

Would you like guidance, feedback, and assistance on your professional presence and marketing support areas? Anne Rauth has worked for Hallmark and H&R Block, and Mercy and Truth Medical Missions, helping companies and individuals get their messages out to build support. Schedule a session with Anne and come away with specific tips and next steps in the area you need help on the most: social media posts, maximizing Linked In to connect with industry experts, or email marketing. She's passionate about helping others build and grow their relationships. You'll come away excited and encouraged.



Anne Rauth

HACWN Conference Writing Contest

DETAILS

- **Open to all those who attend the HACWN Conference November 2–4, 2023.**
- **Entry fee:** \$5.00 each piece, send check to HACWN or PayPal HACWN@earthlink.net or call Ardy Kolb for credit card processing at 913-706-2177. Each attendee may enter as many categories as he or she wants.
- **Email submissions** to Jeanette at HACWN.contest@gmail.com. Please note “contest” in the subject line.
- **Deadline: Entries must be sent by Oct. 25, 2023.**
- **Format:** All entries except poetry must be double-spaced, 1 inch margins, Times New Roman 12 point font. In the upper right hand corner of all pages except the first, put one word of the title in CAPS and the page number. Don't put your name on your work—it appears only on the cover sheet.
- **Cover Sheet:** In upper left hand corner type your name, address, phone, and email. In the upper right hand corner put the number of words and the category. For poetry, put the number of lines and the category. Center the title halfway down the page.

CATEGORIES

Short Story: 1,000 words maximum.

Poetry: rhymed or unrhymed, 40 lines maximum.

Article: 800 word maximum.

Devotional: 225 word limit.

Children's Story: 700 word limit.

Unpublished Book: up to 1,000 words of first chapter and a three-sentence summary of the book's focus.

Self-Published Book: Send book to 3706 NE Shady Lane Dr., Gladstone, MO 64119 (You can pick up your book at the conference or donate it as a door prize).

Published Book: Send book to 3706 NE Shady Lane Dr., Gladstone, MO 64119 (You can pick up your book at the conference or donate it as a door prize).

For the Best Deal . . .

Not an HACWN Member? Join now for the best conference prices and other benefits:

Active Membership: \$35 annually

- o HACWN's monthly newsletter.
- o Event discounts.
- o E-mail marketing updates, as available.
- o Critique groups.
- o Member-only networking group on Facebook.
- o Discounts on books carried by HACWN.

Professional Membership: \$45 annually

- o All active benefits plus:
- o Listing and photos on website with links to your page.
- o Free participation in book signing events.

Tentative Conference Schedule

THURSDAY, November 2:

5:30-7:00 (PM) Registration
7:00-9:00 Opening Session: Meet the editors and learn what they're looking for. Sign up for editorial appointments.

FRIDAY, November 3:

8:00-8:30 (AM) Registration
8:30-5:05 Workshops, etc.
5:25 Faculty/Professional Dinner

SATURDAY, November 4:

8:30-4:30 Workshops, etc.
5:00-5:30 Final Benediction

SEE FULL SCHEDULE ON WWW.HACWN.ORG/christian-writers-conference/

2023 HACWN Conference Registration Form
November 2-4, 2023

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

(We do not give out your contact information, but phone and e-mail are important for communication.)

Full Conference (Thursday Night - Saturday):

Active/Pro Members	\$225 (before Oct. 8)	\$250 (after Oct. 8)	\$275 (at door)
Others	\$275 (before Oct. 8)	\$300 (after Oct. 8)	\$325 (at door)

Total conference registration fee enclosed: _____

Optional Individual Paid Critique/Services (Circle which): Manuscript Website/Blog/Social Media Coaching Marketing (\$40 for each. Please e-mail manuscripts to HACWN@earthlink.net, along with name of person you'd like to critique the work by October 23.)

Total paid critiques/services: _____

Membership fees: Professional \$45, Active \$35

Total membership fees: _____

Meal options (please check meals you want.)

_____ Friday lunch (for any conferees): \$11.00

_____ Friday night professional and faculty dinner (HACWN professional members only): \$16

_____ Saturday lunch (for any conferees): \$11.00

Total Meal Options: _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

(Remember, all fees are tax-deductible!)

You can pay by credit or debit card. Fill out this form and mail to Ardythe Kolb at the address below.

Name on Credit Card: _____

Visa or Mastercard Number _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____ Security code: _____

Register online at <https://www.hacwn.org/christian-writers-conference-2/>

Address for PayPal payments: HACWN@earthlink.net

For checks, send this form with your check (payable to HACWN) for the appropriate amount to:

Ardythe Kolb, 11514 S. Deer Run St., Olathe, KS 66061

To register by phone, call Ardy at 913-706-2177

Questions? Contact Jeanette at HACWN@earthlink.net.