



Kentucky Christian Writers Conference 2016 Advisory Board and Planning Committee



Advisory Board



Kate Thomas (KCWC Founder)

Along with founding the Kentucky Christian Writers Conference in 1997, Kate was a former public school teacher and has authored four books, co-authored one, and she has published several articles in her writing career. Kate is involved with public speaking and is a member of the Advanced Writers and Speakers Association. She is a graduate of CLASSeminar. Kate is the mother of two children and grandmother of four.



Karen Hart (Advisory Board)

Karen Hart attended the first KCWC and became a volunteer to help with the second. She has served as treasurer, book sales, coordinator and advisory board. She has written articles for church, women and children.



Barbara Wells (Advisory Board)

Barbara is a Published Author and Speaker, member of AWSA Advanced Writers and Speakers Association. She served as Faculty Chair - 2006-2008, Resource Chair - 2009, Conference Emcee - 2010, Co-Coordinator - 2011, Coordinator - 2012, 2013, 2014. Host of SteeplePeople Talk AM 1330. Member of WordGirls Writing Association. Visit Barbara at BarbaraWells.webs.com.



Betty Whitworth (Advisory Board)

Betty is a retired language arts teacher. She has been writing a weekly column and special features for The Breckinridge Herald-News for 25+ years. The past 16 years she has worked as an independent editor and has worked with over 60 writers in both fiction and nonfiction. Betty makes her editing a learning experience for the writer by actually making changes on the manuscript and then explaining those changes in a detailed letter when the project is finished. She charges according to amount of work involved and bases total fee on the sample pages. She has been published in periodicals such as Psychology for Living, Kentucky Monthly, Kids' Ministry Ideas, Vocational Biographies, and National Drama Service.

Planning Committee



Lea Ann Young Johnson (Coordinator)

Lea Ann is an ordained deacon in full connection of the Kentucky Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. She retired after 30 years of serving as a counselor in an extension ministry position at Fort Knox, KY in June 2013. She has served on the Planning Committee of Kentucky Christian Writers Conference in various positions since 2009. She has published several articles and devotions in various newsletters and Christiandevotions.com. She currently lives in Lebanon Junction with her pastor husband, Calvin.



Cathy Robinson (Secretary)

Cathy is an elementary special education teacher. She is also a freelance copyeditor, primarily serving authors in the Christian writing community. Along with her husband Michael, Cathy resides in central Kentucky, where they are the proud parents of two college-age sons. In her spare time, Cathy enjoys reading, sewing, knitting, and working on the historic Victorian home she shares with her husband.



Trish Nail (Treasurer)

This is Trish's fourth year to serve on the KCWC planning committee, first as secretary, and now as treasurer. She is a National Board Certified Teacher with a Master's degree and a Rank I in elementary education. She currently teaches 4th grade and has 30 years in education. Although not published, Trish enjoys writing Christian romance and children's books. She hopes to have more time to dedicate to her writing after her retirement next year.



Ralene Burke (Faculty Chair)

Whether she's wielding a writer's pen, an editor's sword, or a social media wand, Ralene Burke always has her head in some dreamer's world. And her goal is to make it SHINE! She spins fantastical tales of that place where the light pierces the darkness. She's worked for a variety of groups/companies, including The Christian PEN, Realm Makers, Kentucky Christian Writers Conference, Splickety Publishing Group, and as an editor for a number of freelance clients. When her head's not in the publishing world, she is wife to a veteran and homeschooling mama to their three kids. Her Pinterest Board would have you believe she is a master chef, excellent seamstress, and all around crafty diva...if she only had the time. Visit Ralene at www.raleneburke.com.



Adrienne Niceley (Publicity Chair)

Adrienne has often been compared to Anne of Green Gables. Although she's never desired to sleep in a wild cherry tree, she has yearned to use stories as a way of reaching out to others and pointing them to God. A student of the One Year Adventure Novel, Adrienne has been pursuing the art and craft of writing fiction for five years, and is deeply involved in the OYAN community. When she isn't writing or daydreaming, you can find her playing with young children, watching movies, creating quirky creations out of yarn, or fellowshipping with her close friends. She currently resides in Louisville, KY.



Hallee Bridgeman (Resource Chair)

Hallee is a best-selling Christian author who writes action-packed romantic suspense focusing on realistic characters who face real world problems. Her work has been described as everything from refreshing to heart-stopping exciting and edgy. Hallee loves coffee, campy action movies, and regular date nights with her husband. Above all else, she loves God with all of her heart, soul, mind, and strength; has been redeemed by the blood of Christ; and relies on the presence of the Holy Spirit to guide her.



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Marty Fulkerson (Facility Chair)

Marty is the Church Administrator at Grace Heartland Church (GHC), the host site for the KCWC. He has been part of the GHC Family since 1996. Marty has served as Treasurer and Chairman of the Board of Elders before coming on staff as Church Administrator in April 2011. He is a former small business owner and banker; and is in his 14th year on the Elizabethtown City Council. Marty is an auctioneer and realtor. He and his wife, Rhonda, had a son, Dawson.

Patricia Vansant (Registrar)

Patricia is the Executive Director of the Frankfort Arts Foundation in Frankfort, Kentucky. In her position, Patricia writes feature articles about the visual, performing, literary, and culinary arts for The State Journal and other publications. The foundation also presents benefits that aid community homelessness, veterans, and animal rescue, and she writes advocacy pieces for these causes. She is a former Contributing Food Columnist for The State Journal. Patricia is a past Director of Publications and art teacher at Capital Day School in Frankfort. She holds a M.A. in education and a B.A. in art. She is a practicing artist and writer.



Lisa Greer (Historian)

Lisa is a contract analyst, writing contract language and handling negotiations for a local Fortune 300 company. She also does freelance writing, with over 300 published articles. Lisa has been a regular contributor for local publications such as Southern Indiana Living and The Capitol New. She and her husband own a freelance writing and photography business, Olive Tree Enterprises, LLC at www.olivetreeenterprisesllc.com.



Carlton W. Hughes (Blog Administrator @ <http://kychristianwriters.blogspot.com/>)

Carlton is a communications professor at Southeast Kentucky Community College and coordinates the Dual Credit Program at Harlan County High School where he also teaches part-time. He is children's pastor at Lynch Church of God and won the 2013 Shepherd's Cup Award, the highest honor for children's pastors in the Church of God denomination. Hughes is also a year-round volunteer and Relay Center Coordinator for Operation Christmas Child. As a writer, his works have been featured in numerous publications, including the books *Chicken Soup for the Soul: The Dating Game* and *Simple Little Words*. Hughes is a two-time first-place winner in the "Dramas/Plays/Scripts" category in the Blue Ridge Mountains Christian Writers Conference Writers Contest. He resides in Cumberland, KY. He and his wife Kathy have two sons, Noah and Ethan. He is a fan of chocolate, good books, basketball, and classic television shows like "I Love Lucy."



Connie Camden (Webmaster @ <http://www.kychristianwriters.com/>)

Connie retired from State Government as an Executive Staff Advisor in 2010 to pursue her passion for Christian writing and public speaking. In 2011 she reached a goal of becoming a published poet. In addition to poetry, journaling and devotional writing, Connie has crafted and delivered messages for various church/women's ministry events since 1996. She served in Women's Ministry leadership at Buck Run Baptist Church from 1999 - 2010; and as Director of the community-based ministry, Women In God's Service (WIGS) from 2007 - 2012. Currently, she teaches Adult Sunday School classes at her local church. Connie is employed by NTT Data, Inc. and contracted with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Office of Information Technology as a Business Analyst. She is a native of Frankfort, KY where she lives with her husband of 30 years. They have two adult children, a granddaughter, granddog and grandcat.