

Emergency Memo about October 9 and 10 Kansas Authors Club Convention

Date: Friday, August 27

To: Members and Supporters of the Kansas Authors Club

From: District 1 President Anne Spry, State President Duane Johnson, and members of host district and the convention planning committee

Re: **Switch from in-person convention in October to virtual webinar convention**

On Saturday, August 21, members of the District 1 Kansas Authors Club, hosts for the 2021 State Writing Conference and Convention scheduled for October 9 and 10 at the Ramada Inn in Topeka voted to switch from an in-person event to a virtual one.

Shawnee County issued a state of emergency proclamation on August 18, projected to be in place through October 28, due to rising Covid-19 cases and the lack of hospital beds, supplies, and equipment. A few days later, one local hospital began turning ambulances away because there were no available beds. The hospital was completely full—something that had not happened during the initial wave of the pandemic in 2020.

With this situation, District 1 members decided it would be safer for everyone if we once again held a virtual convention.

For all those who have already registered for the October 9 and 10 convention, there will be no need for further action. You will receive detailed instructions on how to access all live zoom webinars during the convention, as well as the recordings of sessions on the state's YouTube channel following the event.

Those who have paid for meals through the website's Submittable registration site will be receiving details on the refund procedure for those expenses. Correspondence will be copied through your submittable account, as well as email.

Those who had made hotel reservations should immediately contact the hotel at 785-234-5400 for cancellation and refunds.

All those who have signed up to sell books in the bookroom will be included in our virtual bookroom promotion. We are pulling out all the stops to be as innovative and as creative with book sales as possible. Stay tuned for more details as they become available.

For anyone who purchased advertising for the program—those ads will appear in the digital program, which will be distributed to all members before the event. In addition, the ads will be running in between webinars in a repeating loop, so they will be seen and noticed. We will also be sharing ads on social media before, during, and after the convention.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we shift to Plan B for the convention. We promise that it will still contain the same motivational and informative workshops and speakers. It will perhaps be even more intimate in the webinar setting, as no one will have to strain to see or hear speakers. You'll be able to look into their eyes and feel like you're sitting in the same room with them. And, actually, you will be...in the same zoom room!

We look forward to seeing you in October on Zoom!