

Horror Writers ASSOCIATION

www.horror.org

MEMBER HANDBOOK

Welcome to the Horror Writers Association!

As a new member of the Horror Writers Association, you are now part of the leading international organization for professionals in the horror field. We're a community of writers, readers, publishers, editors, poets, screenwriters, game writers and other industry professionals dedicated to advancing the genre and supporting fellow creators.

This handbook is your guide to the resources the HWA offers to enhance your writing career, help you grow your network, and effectively promote your work. In this guide, you'll find links and resources to help you navigate the "Members Only" section of the website, connect with your local chapter, and find success as a professional in the horror field.
In the words of Mary Shelley, "when we volunteer, we show that we can outshine even the darkest shadows."

We love our volunteers and as a new member, we encourage you to participate as often and as much as you can. This helps the organization thrive, but you'll find the more you give, the more you receive. We offer a range of commitment levels, so even a small contribution of time is possible and much appreciated. Volunteering is also a great way to get to know your fellow members and make some wonderful new friends.

If you have questions not addressed in this guide, please email membership@horror.org.

Welcome to the HWA!

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Yours forever and ever,

Kate Jonez
Membership
Committee Chair



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Before you Start —Your Website Log-in Details

As a new HWA member you have two sets of login credentials. One set works with Wild Apricot which is where you update your membership account information. The other set of login credentials works with the Members Only section of our website, www.horror.org. You will need to log in to the Members Only section to access many of the benefits listed in this guide.

If you have difficulty accessing your Wild Apricot account or the Members Only area, email webmaster@horror.org for assistance.



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1. About the HWA

The Horror Writers Association has a storied history and is home to many of the most accomplished and respected authors in the genre. The group has evolved from a small gathering of horror writers to a major genre organization.

Check out a short history at our About Us webpage.

2. Industry News

The HWA is a great place to keep up with what's happening in the horror field. Several member resources offer information about markets, events, publishing news, trends, member sales and publications, as well as advice and tips



on the business and craft of horror writing. HWA publications are open to all members to submit announcements or articles.

The HWA Newsletter:
Published monthly, the official newsletter of the HWA is full of news about genre events and occurrences, market information, publication announcements, writing advice, and much more. You will receive an email around the 1st of each month with a hyperlink to the new issue. Back issues are also archived on the website.

The newsletter editor, Kathy Ptacek is always looking for new and interesting articles. If you would like to pitch something to her please email GilaQueen@att.net.

Quick Bites:
The HWA releases the Quick Bites newsletter each month. It is available for members and non-members alike and includes news about HWA events, author signings, readings, and other news of interest to horror lovers. You can sign up to receive the Quick Bites newsletter here: Quick Bites.

To submit news to the Quick Bites newsletter send email to quick-bites@horror.org

Every member is automatically signed up to receive the HWA emails. If you have not been receiving yours, contact newsletter2@horror.org.

You may opt out of receiving the Newsletter or Internet Mailer in your profile at hwa46.wildapricot.org. Look for the "Subscribe to HWA Emails" field at the bottom of the Private Information section. However, we strongly recommend against this because you will miss important messages about the organization.

The Official Blog of the HWA:
The HWA Blog is open to the public. It hosts author interviews, members' new release announcements, notices about special events and member opportunities, and informational articles.

It is also the home of the HWA's annual online Halloween Haunts Event, celebrating horror writing every day during the month of October.

The HWA also offers a blog dedicated to Poetry.





3. New Release Form

You can submit your upcoming books for automatic publication on the HWA blog via the New Release Form on the Promote Yourself page of the Members Only section of the website.

The beauty of using this form is that it also submits the relevant information about your new book to the HWA Newsletter!

4. Networking Opportunities

The HWA Facebook Group and Discord Server:
The HWA Facebook Group and Discord Server are spaces for members to meet online, share information, and discuss HWA business, industry and market information, the horror genre, and anything else you'd like to communicate about. They are also great places to seek advice.



Membership Directory:
Membership in the HWA gives you access to contact information from a huge database filled with horror writers, editors, agents, and others associated with the genre.

Use the Directory wisely. Please take great care to follow protocol and be careful not to send unwanted email. If you would like to make an announcement to HWA members, consider using the HWA Internet Mailer instead.

Never include anyone with the "No Mass Mailing Please" tag after their entry.

Also, see the protocol for promoting your work for Bram Stoker Award consideration before using the directory for that purpose.

The directory is searchable in multiple ways by using the advanced search function. This includes searching by state, country, zip (postal) codes and more.
You can change your personal information in Wild Apricot at any time. Please keep your information up to date, so you don't miss any benefits of membership.



Chapters:
We have a number of active regional chapters, with more being added all the time. Chapters provide a great way to meet other members face to face and to get involved with events in your area.

Please check the List of Chapters on the website to contact a chapter near you.

5. Learning

Mentoring Program:
HWA's Mentor Program is designed to provide less-experienced members with advice and guidance from the seasoned professionals in our ranks. The program is open to all members, and the Mentor Chairman looks for the best possible match between mentor and mentee to meet the mentee's needs.

Horror University:
Horror University has been one of the most successful and popular aspects of StokerCon. It is now available online for anyone who wishes to attend. Horror University furthers the Horror Writers Association's focus on education with a curriculum run by some of the best and brightest in the horror field.

We offer a series of 90-minute to two-hour hands-on, intensive workshops that include interactive activities and exercises. Classes are available as live events and recordings are also available year-round.

To see what classes we offer and register for a course, visit Horror University Online (teachable.com).

HWA members are eligible for a discounted rate for Horror University courses. To find the most recent coupon codes, visit the Members-Only discounts page.

6. The Bram Stoker Awards

Each year since 1987, the Horror Writers Association has presented the iconic Bram Stoker Awards for superior achievement in various categories of horror writing. Any work of Horror or Dark Fiction first published in the English language may be considered for an award during the year of its publication.



The Bram Stoker Award categories are Novel, First Novel, Short Fiction, Long Fiction, Young Adult, Middle Grade, Fiction Collection, Poetry Collection, Anthology, Screenplay, Graphic Novel, Nonfiction, and Short Nonfiction.

The Bram Stoker Awards ceremony is the major event of the HWA's year. It's an opportunity not only to recognize the achievements of our fellow writers but to celebrate the vitality of the genre. All HWA members including Supporting Ally are permitted to recommend works to be considered for the Bram Stoker Awards. This is a notable feature of your membership.

Active, Affiliate and Lifetime Members may serve on the award juries. Active and Lifetime members may vote on the final ballot. Carefully study the protocol for Submitting your work for Bram Stoker Award consideration. Please take great care to comply, as failure to do so can offend other members and in some cases make your work ineligible for consideration.



StokerCon:
The Bram Stoker Awards are presented at HWA's StokerCon in a different city each year. StokerCon includes an exciting roster of guests, workshops and special presentations designed to help writers at all levels advance their careers. We also have a gala presentation of the Bram Stoker Awards. For details on upcoming StokerCon events and to register, please visit www.stokercon.org.

Registered Trademark:
The HWA holds the registered trademark for the terms Bram Stoker Award and Bram Stoker Awards. When referring to the awards in your correspondence, blogs, social media posts or in any other written form use the registered trademark symbol ®. Use the symbol in the headline and the first time the term appears in the article or post. It is not required to use it when you use the term again in the same article or post.

7. Writer's Resources

Markets:
The HWA provides links to several websites that maintain active Directories of Markets for horror writing.

HWA Anthologies:
The HWA publishes anthologies using well known editors and major publishing houses. HWA members are invited to submit stories for these anthologies, and all contributors are paid professional rates. Watch for calls for submission on our blog and social media. Here is a list of our Past Anthologies.

Poetry Showcase:
A decade ago, Peter Adam Salomon wanted to recognize horror and dark poetry as a genre. He brought his idea to then president Rocky Woods and the first HWA Poetry Showcase was born. The response from our membership was excellent and the Showcase has been published every year since. Watch for calls for submission on our blog and social media.

Agents:
The HWA maintains a Directory of Agents interested in horror or who represent one or more HWA members. Note that this is a very fluid market and some entries may be outdated.

Contracts:
Resources to help members understand and negotiate contracts are available in the Contracts and Protecting Yourself section.

Reviewers:
The HWA Reviewers List provides quick reference to print publications, websites, and independent book reviewers who review horror.

Libraries:
We also have a Library Database, listing libraries that favor horror. This may be useful for pitching your book or arranging to give or attend readings. Please note that contact information at libraries changes frequently and you may encounter information that is out of date.

Events:
If you have a horror-related reading, convention, workshop or other event coming up let us know and we'll add it to our Public Event Calendar.



Banners and Buttons:
Promote your membership of the HWA proudly with Banners and Buttons you may use on your website, blog and other social media.

8. Scholarships

The Horror Writers Association is pleased to offer a variety of scholarships to assist writers looking to pursue a career as a writer of horror fiction, nonfiction, or poetry. We also offer an endowment to libraries to expand their young adult reading programs.

- The Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley Scholarship, open to female writers.
- The Horror Writers Association Scholarship, open to all writers.
- The Rocky Wood Memorial Scholarship for Non-fiction, open to non-fiction authors and scholars.
- The Dark Poetry Scholarship, open to poets.
- The Dennis Etchison Young Writers Scholarship



- Young Adults Write Now Endowment Program
- Diversity Grants
- The Scholarship From Hell, which provides transportation to and accommodation at StokerCon, a full membership providing access to all workshops and special presentations offered during the event.

All Scholarships are designed to assist in the professional development of horror writers and poets.

Applications will open on or around November 1 and close at midnight PST on December 31. A Scholarship Committee will choose the winners, who will be announced around March 15 of each year.

Each Scholarship may be spent on approved writing education over the two years following the granting of the scholarship. For more information, please visit:
www.horrorscholarships.com

9. Other Member Benefits

Mental Health Initiative:
The aim of the Horror Writers Association's Mental Health Initiative is to bring hope and promote inclusion for those who endure mental illness. The initiative wants to challenge a climate within the horror genre that has traditionally focused on poor and ill-informed representations of mental illness because this is known to be

a vehicle to perpetuate stigma in wider society. Learn more about the Mental Health Initiative.

Member Health Insurance:
The HWA has partnered with LIG Solutions to offer members health insurance and related coverage options including major medical, short term health plans, vision and dental plans, critical care coverage, life, and several different supplemental health options. Learn more here.

Hardship Fund:
The Horror Writers Association maintains a Hardship Fund for when long term members, particularly those who have served the HWA or the genre, fall upon hard times.
Tax deductible donations may be made to the Hardship Fund via PayPal by using the email, treasurer@horror.org or by sending a check to:

Horror Writers Association
P.O. Box #14387
Columbus, OH 43214

Members wishing to avail themselves of the Hardship Fund should contact president@horror.org. All applications are held in strict confidence.

Waiving Dues:
The HWA Bylaws allow the HWA Board to waive Dues. "The Board may by unanimous vote waive the payment of dues of any member for the sole reason of financial hardship and for a period to be determined from time to time by the Board."

The Board's current policy is that we will only waive dues for one year at a time. If you feel you qualify you should write to president@horror.org. All applications are held in strict confidence.

Grievance Committee:
When members have a writing or publishing related grievance concerning issues such as plagiarism, contract disputes with publishers or similar matters and the grievance has not been resolved after the member has taken reasonable measures, the member may approach the HWA Grievance Committee.





The Committee will consider the facts and attempt to assist in reaching a satisfactory resolution. If you require assistance write to the Chair of the Grievance Committee at grievance@horror.org

Discounts:
The HWA provides many Discounts for members.

Merchandise:
Find HWA merchandise online.

A percentage of sales from these items supports the HWA.

10. Volunteer Opportunities

The HWA is a largely volunteer run organization and there is always plenty to do to keep the HWA running smoothly.
Volunteering is a great way to make friends, network, and learn the ins and outs of the business of horror writing.



The HWA needs volunteers for record-keeping, qualifying Bram Stoker Award recommendations, coordinating committees, website maintenance and management and much more.

Those interested in helping should contact volunteers@horror.org to be directed to an appropriate volunteer opportunity.

Other calls for volunteers are issued in the newsletter.

11. Social Media

HWA maintains a number of social media accounts:

Facebook
Discord
X(Twitter)
LinkedIn
YouTube

Our YouTube channel includes the full Bram Stoker Awards presentations for recent years as well as interviews with horror authors and editors, roundtable discussions, and other items of interest to members.



Last Things

Keep your details up to date:
If you change your email address or other contact details please keep us informed. If we don't have your current email address, we will be unable to contact you with the Newsletter, the Internet Mailer, Ballots, Bram Stoker Award information and dues renewals.

Dues Renewal:
Dues become due on January 1st. You will receive a renewal notice in November every year. Any member who has not renewed by January 31st is no longer in good standing and is ineligible to vote or hold office. If your membership is in not up-to-date by March 1st, the your account is automatically deleted and you must re-apply to re-join.

For your convenience, we also offer 5 and 10 year memberships.

Questions?

If you've made it here and still have questions please consult the Contact HWA page and reach out to the appropriate person.

If you can't determine the right person to contact you can always write to director@horror.org.

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Thank you for joining the Horror Writers Association. We're so glad you are one of us!

