



## Your SLPA: Members Get More!

By SLPA Board Members

After collecting your comments during the January and February meetings and responses from previous surveys, we're prepared to answer your questions. On Wednesday, March 11 the SLPA presents "Your SLPA: Members Get More!" Board members will discuss all the advantages of annual membership in the SLPA. Many of your responses were similar, so we'll group our answers into five categories. We'll start by navigating the website, including members-only access, and cover topics that fall into these categories as time allows.

- (A) **Membership Benefits**—archives, articles, blogs
- (B) **Partnerships**—local groups for writers, networking
- (C) **Your Book's Interior**—coaching, editing, revisions
- (D) **Your Book's Exterior**—summary descriptions, cover design
- (E) **Next Steps**—what to do after typing "The End"

Did You Know? Membership in the SLPA includes these benefits:

### FREE

- Admission to monthly meetings
- Listing of your books on website
- Listing of your related business on website
- Monthly newsletter and archives
- Members-only access to event archives, presentation slides, and member directory
- Peer support, networking, and much more!

### DISCOUNTED

- Admission to annual special workshop, including early bird pricing
- Services from participating vendor partners
- Membership in IBPA (Independent Book Publishers Association)



Share a drink and make some friends

**SLPA Happy Hour at Earthbound Brewing**  
Thurs. • March 19 • 6 to 9 pm  
2724 Cherokee Street



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Mar. 11, 7pm–9pm**  
**Your SLPA: Members Get More!**  
@ THE HEIGHTS  
By SLPA Board Members

**Mar. 19, 6pm–9pm**  
@ Earthbound Brewing  
**Happy Hour with the SLPA**  
Free to attend. No registration needed.  
[www.earthboundbeer.com](http://www.earthboundbeer.com)

**April 8, 7pm–9pm**  
**Authors Journey Panel**  
@ THE HEIGHTS  
With Jo Lena Johnson, Jessica Mathews,  
Debbie Burns, and Ellen Parker

**Apr. 25 8am–12pm**  
**How to Publish Your Own Book: What You Need to Know**  
@ STLCC—Meramec  
With Warren Martin, Andrew Doty, Peggy Nehmen, Jo Lena Johnson, and Bob Baker

**See page 2 for details.**

Need more in-depth information on how to publish your own book?  
Register for our April 25 workshop (see page 2 for details!)

### Authors Journey Panel

Wednesday, April 8

Moderated by SLPA Board Member Jo Lena Johnson

Every writer's journey is as unique as the number of diverse stories contained in published books today. There truly isn't a one-size-fits-all approach to becoming a published author. At our April 8 meeting, SLPA Board Member Jo Lena Johnson will facilitate "Successes and Failures," an authors journey panel, featuring St. Louis Writers Guild President and children's author Jessica Mathews, and local romance novelists Debbie Burns and Ellen Parker.

Come ready to engage in candid conversation about their personal experiences as published authors, from the writing and editing process, to cover design, publishing options, marketing and self-promotion, book events, sales and more. Learn what worked—and didn't—and how they transformed those experiences into a successful writing career.



Jo Lena Johnson

**Saturday, Apr. 25**  
**8am - 12pm**

Presented by the **St. Louis**  
**SLPA Publishers Association**

## HOW TO PUBLISH YOUR OWN BOOK: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!

Thinking about writing a book and want to know how to publish it yourself? Maybe you've already written one and need direction for the next steps. The St. Louis Publishers Association presents its bi-annual workshop covering the realities of independent publishing—how editing and design can make your book look great, options for getting your book into print, sales channels, e-book production, marketing tips, and more.

Register through  
**St. Louis Community College**

Course number: WRIT-704 Section: P06 Fee: \$45

<https://www.stlcc.edu/ce>

**314-984-7777**

**Location: Meramec – Social Science Bldg.,  
MC-SO 108**



## LAST MONTH'S RECAP: Getting to Yes

Thanks again to [Jody Feldman](#), award-winning children's author of the *The Gollywhopper Games* series and *The Seventh Level* for sharing the ups and downs of her 20-year journey—including over 300(!) query rejections and changing cover designs for later editions of her books—on the way to becoming a successful published author. Visit her at [jodyfeldman.com](http://jodyfeldman.com).



**Read!** Take an active interest in your topic by reading other books in the same genre, first as a normal reader, then again as a writer. Take note of what you like/dislike, e.g., pacing, structure, level of explanation, character development, etc. Use that as a comparative guide with your own writing to be sure it will “fit” alongside other books.

**Write!** Set aside dedicated time for writing. Make it a part of your schedule

and stick with it, whether it's a specific block of time each day or a set number of hours/pages each week. This is important to focus on getting your words onto the page.

**Revise!** Writers critique groups can offer your first experiences with feedback. As you work through the editing process and later submit queries for an agent or publication, don't be so in love with your work that you ignore critical reviews. Rejections may come but consider repeated comments about your work, those may signal a part of your book that needs more attention.

**Adjust and Persevere!** Be willing to put in the work to produce your very best manuscript. Don't let setbacks and delays discourage you. Trust those who are willing to help with their constructive suggestions, from your peers in writers groups to your publication team. They're all working to help you succeed. Becoming a published author is a process with many steps and adjustments along the way. Your story is absolutely worth the effort!



**NOTICE:** All member payments submitted on our website (annual dues, special events, etc.) will now process through Affinipay instead of PayPal. You will incur no additional fees because of this switch. The change is required by our hosting service, Wild Apricot. We appreciate your support.

## KUDOS CORNER

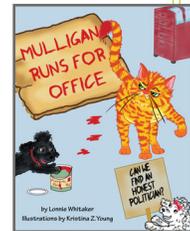
SLPA Member: [Lonnie Whitaker](#)

Newly released *Mulligan Runs for Office* is the second book in the Mulligan/Poodlums series, with Mulligan, the chili-eating tomat, running in an election for dogcatcher. As a retired federal attorney, Lonnie Whitaker's first novel, *Geese to a Poor Market*, was awarded the Ozark Writers' League Best Book of the Year.

His stories have appeared in *Chicken Soup for the Soul*, regional magazines, and anthologies, and have also received awards in nationally advertised fiction contests.

Lonnie is hosting a “*Mulligan Runs for Office* Campaign Rally” with autographed books for purchase and election stickers on Saturday, March 21 at 6 North Café in Ballwin.

Visit: [lonniewhitaker.com](http://lonniewhitaker.com)



Meetings on the  
second Wednesday  
of the month

### Monthly Meeting Admission

- FREE for Members
- Guests – \$10 at the door
- Annual Membership – \$60 per year  
(*guest fee applied to membership if you join that evening*)

Doors open for networking at 6:30pm  
Program begins at 7pm

The meeting concludes around 8:30pm  
Networking until 9pm

THE HEIGHTS: Richmond Heights  
Community Center

The Argus Room • 8001 Dale Ave.  
Richmond Heights, MO 63117  
(Child care available at THE HEIGHTS)

### SLPA NEWS & VIEWS

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