

Upcoming 2026 Meetings

February 11

Michael DePung
Soul Alignment: Writing
True to Self and
Authentically to Readers

March 11

Jeff Bender
Build Your Digital
Foundation: A Practical
Workshop For Authors,
Illustrators & Creators

The HEIGHTS Community
Center

Doors Open at 6:30 PM
Meeting Begins at 7:00
PM

FREE for SLPA Members
\$10 for Guests
Join SLPA Today!

Soul Alignment: Writing True to Self and Authentically to Readers

In this short, hands-on session, we start by choosing a single focus that feels true to who we are. Think of it as finding the heartbeat of your piece. Once that center is clear, we'll guide it into a draft that is readable, publishable, and deeply ours.

You will work with a simple framework that turns spark into structure. We'll cover how to open with clarity, how to shape a middle that keeps readers with you, and how to land the ending so it feels satisfying. Expect quick prompts, a little quiet time to write, and supportive feedback that helps you polish without losing your voice.

You will leave with a solid start, a checklist for revisions, and a plan for where to place your work. Bring a notebook or laptop, a curious mind, and one idea that will not let you go.



December Meeting Recap: Polish Your Pitch with Bob Baker

Our December SLPA meeting, featuring a time-honored favorite, Polish Your Pitch, facilitated by Bob Baker, wrapped up the year. The room was energized with thoughtful discussion, practical insights, and hands-on work around presenting and promoting books more effectively. Grateful to Bob, our members, and our guests for showing up with such focus and enthusiasm—it was a strong finish to a great year.



SLPA Election Results

Congratulations to new and returning officers and directors of the SLPA, who will take office on January 1, 2026. Thanks to all who were nominated and for those stepping down from the board who have served with commitment and dedication. SLPA officers and directors are volunteers who give substantial time, energy, and skills to the association.

Jo Lena Johnson, President
Jeff Bender, Vice President
Nichole Randall, Treasurer
Kerri Holloway, Secretary
Sean Gold, Webmaster
Kevin Ericson, Historian
Casandra McCottrell, Communications Director
Dr. Patrick Jones, Graphic Designer
Burchell McGhee, Board Ambassador
Warren Martin, At-Large Advisor



KUDOS CORNER



Big congratulations to our SLPA authors who signed copies of Tales of the 314 at the Missouri History Museum. You brought heart, craft, and St. Louis stories to a proud crowd. It was a strong showing for local voices and a great day for the book.



Admission and Membership

Meetings on the second Wednesday of every month

In-person meetings at
The HEIGHTS
Register for Zoom access.

Admission and Membership
Admission is FREE for members.
Membership is \$60 per year.
stloispublishers.org/join
stloispublishers.org/benefits

SLPA NEWS & VIEWS
Editor: [Casandra McCottrell](#)
Designer: [Patrick Jones](#)
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