

Upcoming 2026 Meetings

October 14
 Editing Essentials with the
 Comma Queen
 Led by Karen L. Tucker

November 11
 Field Trip: The Novel
 Neighbor
 The Novel Neighbor
 7905 Big Bend Blvd.
 St. Louis, MO 63119

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!

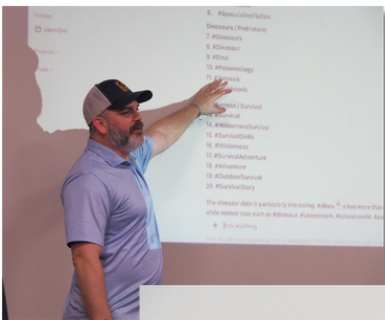
SLPA's October Meeting

Editing Essentials

with Karen Tucker, the Comma Queen

So, you're writing a book or have written a book, and you hear you need an editor, but you don't know how to find one, what kind of editing you need, or how much it will cost. Join us for Editing Essentials with the Comma Queen, Karen Tucker. In this informative session, she'll give you 5 things you should do before seeking professional editing services, define the 3 main types of editing, and go over the editing process, including how to find and hire an editor. Her tips will save you money on editing costs by utilizing other resources, like beta readers, to improve your manuscript before handing it over to a professional. You'll also learn the important questions to ask to make sure you find the right editor for you and your book. And she'll help you budget for the process. Finally, there will be time for her to answer your questions on editing.

Karen L. Tucker, of Comma Queen Editing, has been a professional editor for nearly 30 years and has worked with self-publishing authors for over 10 years. She has edited dozens of nonfiction books, including memoirs, motivational, and historical, and fiction, including women's fiction, mysteries, and spy novels. Through her editing services, Karen combines the insight of a reader with the detailed eye of a seasoned professional.



August Meeting Recap

Thank you to Jeff Bender for a great presentation on Social Media for Authors & Literary Professionals! Jeff covered a lot of ground, shared practical insights, and kept everyone engaged throughout the evening. We appreciate Jeff for sharing his time and expertise with the SLPA community!

Jeff is the founder of Daily Spark Social Brand. You can contact him by email at jeff@dailysparksocialbrand.com.

Other Happenings at SLPA

There's plenty to look forward to this fall! From educational workshops and networking opportunities to special events and fundraisers, SLPA has an exciting lineup of opportunities to learn, connect, and engage with fellow members. We hope you'll join us for these upcoming events.

From Draft to Shelf: The Indie Publisher's Guide

More than 30 attendees joined SLPA at the St. Louis County Library's Clark Family Branch on August 29 for From Draft to Shelf: The Indie Publisher's Guide, an engaging, information-packed program exploring the publishing journey from manuscript to market.

Jo Lena Johnson provided an overview of the publishing process, including important considerations and cautions surrounding the use of AI. Kerri Holloway shared guidance on working effectively with an editor, Peggy Nehman explored the nuances of interior and cover design, and Bob Baker offered practical strategies for book marketing.

Presented by the St. Louis Publishers Association in partnership with the St. Louis County Library, the program gave attendees valuable information and practical guidance for navigating the many decisions involved in bringing a book from draft to shelf.



SLPA Board Elections

SLPA Board elections are coming up in November. If you're interested in becoming more involved and helping support the organization's work, consider serving on the SLPA Board.

Board service is an opportunity to contribute your ideas and skills while helping shape SLPA's programs and activities. Interested members should contact President Jo Lena Johnson at president@stlouispublishers.org by September 25.

November Field Trip: The Novel Neighbor

Wednesday, November 11, 2026

Ever wonder how an independent bookstore works—and what authors should know before approaching one?

Join SLPA for a special field trip to The Novel Neighbor on Wednesday, November 11, for an inside look at the bookstore business. We'll learn how books are selected and ordered, how an independent bookstore operates, and what authors should know about book signings and events.

The Novel Neighbor, 7905 Big Bend Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63119

Bring your questions and join us for an insider's look at how independent bookstores connect books, authors, and readers.



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.
stlouispublishers.org/join
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