

Kate Carsella

Freelance Writer & Editor (she/her/hers)

Chicagoland + the ether
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[Website](#) | [Substack](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

A word wizard with the combined energies of encyclopedic quality and bardic whimsy. Professional writer and specialist committed to producing high-caliber results, a polymath with discernment and imagination to craft compelling narratives for various platforms, industries, and purposes. Extensive experience guiding collaborative efforts into a mélange of collective brilliance and success. Strong focus on reliability and adaptability, ensuring sparkling contributions and readiness as growth opportunities sprout and evolve

SKILLS

- Writing and editing (creative, academic, editorial, encyclopedic, scriptwriting)
- Project Management, Content Strategist
- Niche Specialist
- Research
- Quality assurance
- Communication
- Collaboration and service
- remote work, timeliness, reliability
- Multilingual (English, French, Spanish, Italian, HTML, wikicode, SQL)
- Software: G Suite, Adobe, Wordpress, Substack, Asana, Slack, Discord
- Podcasting and spoken word
- Video (scriptwriting, production, editing)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Freelance Writer & Editor | Self-employed (2015 - Present)

- I have achieved mutable mastery in my writing and editing, tailoring style and tone to connect clients with their audiences and deepen their relationships.
- Crafted compelling writing and content for diverse audiences and clients across multiple platforms including blogging, social media, website creation, ecommerce, audio and video. My clients have included small businesses, solo entrepreneurs, and nonprofits.
- Researched and analyzed topics to ensure accuracy and relevance in writing, including interviews and deep data dives. In my journeys I have mastered topics including electoral politics in the U.S. and the federal judiciary, hairdressing and styling, and wholesale distribution of electrical equipment and products.
- Served as a writing expert in encyclopedic writing, sales and marketing copy, editorial, and blogging. My work and expertise have formed the foundations of style guides and brand editorial guidelines organization-wide in order to ensure quality and consistency.
- Collaborated with editors and writers to refine articles and improve overall quality. Mentored writers, providing feedback and edits to elicit their voice into their creations and to enhance their skills and performance.
- Specialized in covering the U.S. judiciary, from local courts to SCOTUS, establishing myself as a subject matter expert in the field, known for accuracy and thoroughly researched coverage.

Author, Bard, Trickster | *bardic bullion* (2007-present)

- Written and published fiction and poetry in literary journals, on personal website, Substack, in audio and visual formats, along with curated playlists. My work is sensory and intimate, notably in my ongoing poetry diary-cycle, *bardic bullion*. I am fascinated by themes of collective liberation and abuses of power.
- I share my distinctive voice through writing but also through reading my works aloud, published via podcast and in video.
- Established strong online presence through social media platforms, fostering community collaboration and a beloved readership.
- Mentored aspiring writers through workshops, sharing insights on writing techniques and publishing processes, and supporting creative dialogue.
- Conducted extensive research to ensure accuracy and authenticity in storytelling and character development.

Staff Writer, Team Lead | Ballotpedia (2019-2025)

- As a staff writer, I covered elections from filing deadlines to swearing-ins and outs through writing, monitoring breaking news coverage, and research, collecting primary sources to ensure encyclopedic-level quality for readers of all lenses (the public, political operatives, officeholders, the media, etc.) Data quality was a chief task, ensuring that our electoral data was consistently accurate. I collaborated with editorial teams, tech, and executives to brainstorm and refine narratives, and maintain quality consistency.
- My writing quality and style formed the bedrock of in-house style guides for other writers on a range of topics. Quickly, I became known for swift turnaround without sacrificing high caliber quality.
- Became a subject matter expert on the U.S. judiciary, ranging from local judgeships to the U.S. Supreme Court. I collected and analyzed data, synthesizing this into clear encyclopedic articles, newsletters, and video essays for readers and clients. My work yielded front page results on Google Search and frequently landed in the site's top five articles. I am grateful to have been of service. One of my favorite achievement was revitalizing the local courts project, reviewing data for local courts across the country and resulting in a new pageset for thousands of these courts. Served as the point person for all judicial coverage, organization-wide.
- As Team Lead, I became a project manager of the expanded federal courts project, from one writer (myself) to four. I developed project plans aligned with the organizational mission and expectations, mentored writers to understand and confidently cover the obscure realm of the courts. I was instrumental in hiring and training writers in editorial and on the court-specific project.
- Built enduring relationships with staff, management, and sources that I treasure to this day. I'm honored to have received this feedback from a direct report—"You are a wizard who makes everyone around you better."

Associate Editor | SGC Horizon (2017-2019)

- I wrote and edited print and digital content for B2B magazines *Professional Builder* and *Custom Builder*, including feature-length articles, columns, interviews, market roundups, product reviews, social media posts, the Daily Feed newsletter, and created a new video series showcasing tech innovations to help housing industry professionals upgrade their workflows. TL;DR, I was a swiss army knife.
- This work contributed to national recognition, including ASBPE and Folio: Eddie Award honors for overall magazine excellence and specific issue quality. As well, I received numerous in-house awards for my work.
- Behind the scenes, I updated workflows to incorporate new and growing editorial products. I coordinated with design teams to integrate visual elements into written content effectively. I coordinated with senior editorial staff to conduct editorial auditing and reader outreach.
- I worked with executive leadership, editorial, and sales teams to plan, organize, and execute national events including the International Builders' Show (IBS) and the Pacific Coast Builders Conference (PCBC).

Contributing Editor | Top Rope Press (2016-2017)

- I pitched, wrote, and published features including book reviews (one of my favorites was tracking down the (at the time) long-lost autobiography, *Playboy Gary Hart: My Life in Wrestling*), interviews, and longform pieces (my favorite was "The World Is Professional Wrestling, by way of Donald Trump", published in 2016 before he was elected to his first term. The gist was that kayfabe rules the day.) I also covered pay-per-views, events, and wrote overnight recaps on WWE's television programming.
- I even emailed with Stone Cold Steve Austin!

Assistant Editrix | Storm Cellar Literary Journal (2014-2016)

- I pitched, wrote, and published features including book reviews (one of my favorites was tracking down the (at the time) long-lost autobiography, *Playboy Gary Hart: My Life in Wrestling*), interviews, and longform pieces (my favorite was "The World Is Professional Wrestling, by way of Donald Trump", published in 2016 before he was elected to his first term. The gist was that kayfabe rules the day.) I also covered pay-per-views, events, and wrote overnight recaps on WWE's television programming.
 - Edited fiction submissions to the literary journal, helped plan and organize sales, marketing, and events for *Storm Cellar Literary Journal*.
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EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisc. (2014-2016)

- M.A. English
- Thesis: *Sneer: the War Chest [Stories]*
- Dean's Honor List (2014-2016)

Knox College, Galesburg, Ill. (2007-2011)

- B.A. Creative Writing
- Portfolio: *Doucement, Chérie: Stories*
- Teaching assistant, ENG 207 Beginning Fiction Writing
- Student assistant, Association for Black Culture Centers (ABCC)
- Co-president, Knox College Zine Club
- Radio show host, 90.7 WVKC
- Dean's List (Spring Term 2009, Winter Term 2011, Spring Term 2011)

Glenbard South H.S., Glen Ellyn, Ill. (2003-2007)

- Honor Roll student
- Société Honoraire de Français
- Section Editor, The Brink, *The Independent* student newspaper
- Award for best Physical Education Student (2007)

PUBLICATIONS & RECOGNITION

Barderie

- [*Poetry Trapper Keeper*](#): “Clearing” (2024)
- [*boudin*](#): “tricky honey”, “a man of winter” (2024); Pushcart Prize nominated
- [*Rat's Ass Review*](#): “my pretty redwood” (2024)
- [*Hunter's Affects*](#): “The Enemies' Disease”, “everything i do is beautiful” (2024)
- [*manywor\(l\)ds*](#): “remember how you had me” (2023); Best of the Net nomination
- [*Reverie Magazine*](#): “Mercurial is a way you cannot stand” (2023)
- [*Driftwood Press Adrift Chapbook Contest finalist*](#): *bardic bullion vol. I: poems* (2022)
- [*Squawk Back*](#): “Statler & Waldorf” poetry cycle (2017); Pushcart Prize nominated
- [*Glimmer Train Fiction Open finalist*](#): “Zosia: Palaver & Bridle” (2016)
- [*Squawk Back*](#): “The Fix: Professional Wrestling's Current Moment” (2016)
- [*Lebowski 101: Limber-Minded Investigations Into the Greatest Story Ever Blathered*](#) (2013)

Ballotpedia

- Awards and honors: Most Valuable Colleague (2021), Notable Newbie (2019)
- [Author page](#)
- Selected writings (newsletters, articles) available on request

SGC Horizon

- Awards and honors: ASBPE Overall Excellence Finalist: Magazine of the Year, National Finalist: Professional Builder March 2018 (2019), Folio: Eddie Awards Honorable Mention: Professional Builder Jan. 2018 (2019), SGC Editorial & Design Excellence Silver Award: Best Single Issue of a Magazine or Supplement, Nominee: Best Digital, Video or Web Product [Daily Feed e-newsletter] (2018)
- [Selected writings](#)

Top Rope Press

- [Archived author page](#)