NANCYKAY WESSMAN

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[www.NancyKayWessman.com](http://www.NancyKayWessman.com); www.NKWessmanEditor.com

Overview

NancyKay Wessman writes, edits, reads, and tells stories. She’s a public health expert through work and education. She’s written everything from annual reports to websites, from newspaper articles to books. She values truth. She’s also a public relations consultant and speaker. Sometimes she cooks, gardens, and entertains. NancyKay gets stuff done.

Special Qualifications/Areas of Expertise

Publishing, nonfiction writing and editing, book coaching, journalism, public health practice, research, disaster preparedness and management, news media relations . . .

Experience

* **Publishing Coach/Editor.** Since 2019, NancyKay Wessman has worked one-on-one with multiple other writers to develop, copy/line edit, proofread, and advance toward publication their books:

• For Robert L. May, a memoir—*Have Fun, Dammit! A Humorous Guide to Putting Up with Parents, Kids, and Pets*—and a mystery novel, *The Blue Lady.*

• For Dale Beasley, a fictionalized account of his fourteenth summer with family in Mississippi—*What I Learned At The ‘Zoo*—and a patriotic coffee-table book, *We Will Not Be Home By Christmas*.

• For Wade N. Spruill, Jr. (Deceased January 2021)—an illustrated children’s book, *Archie’s Tale: Life as I Saw It*, and his memoir, *Raising the Star: Mississippi Milestones in EMS and a Few Related Stories*.

• For Alexander Blevins, two novels, *Bycatch* and *Arkansas Black*.

• For W B Henley, a young adult fantasy novel, *The Firekeepers*, and a Southern Gothic mystery, *Inescapable: Swallowed By The Depths*.

 • For Terry Woosley, a work-in-progress memoir tentatively titled *Me And My Shadows*.

* **Author** of *Katrina, Mississippi: Voices from Ground Zero*, a work of creative nonfiction, and *You Can Fix The Fat – & Other Heart Risks, Too*, narrative nonfiction of lessons learned in the Bogalusa Heart Study. **Editor** of *Catfish Days – From Belzoni To The Big Apple* and of *Celebrating Public Health Nursing: Caring For Mississippi’s Communities With Courage And Compassion.* **Member**, Board of Directors, **and secretary**, Tulane University School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine Alumni Association (through 2019); **member**, Board of Directors, Mississippi Writers Guild; closing keynote **speaker** for the 28th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration; panelist, Tulane University 2018 Women Making Waves. On Mississippi Arts Commission Artist Roster.
* **Owner**, Wess*Comm,* LLC, a communications consulting and services provider for organizations that serve people, particularly in public health and preparedness, assuring open, honest communication to benefit the public good.
* Former **Director**, Communications and Public Relations, Mississippi State Department of Health (1979-2003).

Education

* Tulane University School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine, MPH (health communication and education)
* University of Southern Mississippi, BS (mass communications and English)