



A Proud Chapter of  
Romance Writers of America®

**August 22, 2016**

**Volume XXIX, Issue 8**

## **WELCOME TO CENTRAL OHIO FICTION WRITERS**

**COFW's August meeting was a recap of our members' experiences at the 2016 RWA National Conference in San Diego!**

**For more great articles and news about your fellow COFWers, see inside.**

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Central Ohio Fiction Writers (COFW) <http://cofwevents.org> is a non-profit professional association for romance writers and a local chapter of the Romance Writers of America (RWA) organization that offers monthly meetings. Since 1987, COFW has promoted excellence in fiction writing, encouraging writers to grow and gain knowledge in their craft. Members provide a networking system to share knowledge and support the goal of becoming published.

# MINUTES OF THE COFW BUSINESS MEETING 8-13-2016

by Julia Blaine



At 12:45, President Jane Conner brought the meeting to order at the Nowich Township Building, Hilliard, Ohio. She reminded members to wear a name tag and fill out Works in Progress for the Newsletter. We are to silence our cell phones.

Present were Jane Conner, Robin Gianakopoulous, Sheri Atkins, Shawn Dickinson, Nancy White, Becky Barker, Julia Blaine, Michelle LaPointe, Andrea McConnell, Arianna James, Sandy Kachurek, Jeanne Estridge, Tanja Frazzari, Linda Rice, Kate Kennedy, and Janet Ciccone.

Sandy will do the recap of the report on the RWA Convention for the Newsletter.

Robin reported that the **September meeting on Saturday the 17th** will be a half-day **workshop with Alicia Rasley**. It is free to the public. The business meeting will start at noon with the workshop beginning at 1pm. There will be 2 workshops, the first being "Heroic Journey," featuring a 3-D protagonist. After a break from 2:30 to 3pm, the second program, "Emotion Without Purple Prose," will begin and last until 4:30pm. The workshops will include "Scene Design."

Our business meeting (exact time and location TBA) on **October 15** will be at the **Tremont Public Library in Upper Arlington**. They are holding **"The Write Stuff"** from 10:30 to 3:30 pm. and members are encouraged to attend the free break-out sessions for that event. Karen Harper will be among the speakers.

In **November**, our speaker will be **Tracy Brogan** who will speak on creating a big story from several small stories.

Formal Incentives announcements and prizes will be next month, but Jeanne reported she had a request for a full manuscript from agent Nicole Resciniti of the Seymour Agency.

The Yellow Rose Chapter of RWA is having a **cover contest**, "Cover the Words." **Dates to enter are from August 15 to September 4.**

Nancy reported on ITF. She still has 12 more contestants to notify. The second editor has examined the winning entries and has asked for a full manuscript of one Historical and two Erotic entries.

Jane reported on **revisions to the Uniform Chapter By-Laws**. Amongst the changes were loosening the restrictions on Officer qualifications. Each chapter will also decide how many officers/directors will comprise their Executive Boards. Currently COFW has five officers but with the uniform by-laws we can exist with only a president, treasurer and secretary. The current Board will be meeting to discuss the revisions after which those changes will need to be approved by RWA. Once approved, the By-laws will return to the membership for a vote at either our September or October meeting. These changes will be helpful in years that the nominating

# COFW MEETING MINUTES (CONT'D)

committee has difficulty filling a slate. Training for Board Member positions is available online at the RWA Website.

RWA By-laws have also been revised and will be voted on by the RWA membership in the Fall. All members were sent links (via e-notes) to online copies of these changes to read before the vote. The reasons for the changes are to simplify the By-Laws.

An up-coming Board Meeting will reconcile our Policy and Procedure Manual with new RWA and Chapter guidelines.

Sheri and Shawn reported on the **Nominating Committee**. Nominees for the 2017 Board will be announced at the next meeting.

Andrea McConnell is our **Social Media Chair**. To become comfortable with social media for your own author promotion purposes, she asks us to observe what is on Twitter and FaceBook. Andrea is using Hoot Suite to post COFW's messages to both Twitter and Facebook simultaneously.

Hootsuite is a free app which she encourages anyone posting to Facebook/Twitter/Instagram/etc. to try for their own author Facebook/Twitter/etc. accounts. It will efficiently allow you to schedule your social media posts, post to the all of your accounts simultaneously, and is remarkably straightforward. The easiest way to learn how to do this is search YouTube for "How to use Hootsuite" and watch the short video. **For COFW members who would like their new releases to be posted to COFW social media sites (Facebook COFW page and Twitter), there is a simple online form to fill out.**

Click on this website address: <http://bit.ly/2bGAZXf> or on this one:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1TBkzNHV8zTkze5\\_PYyNV3-lot33h-p2AQBi76sHEreW8/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1TBkzNHV8zTkze5_PYyNV3-lot33h-p2AQBi76sHEreW8/edit#gid=0)

Choose the first blank line closest to the top.

Keep in mind that this document will save as you type.

Notice the example highlighted in orange.

See the instructions highlighted pink.

Fill in the form.

New releases will be posted on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Andrea can be reached at 614-530-2275, or at [lenawelston@gmail.com](mailto:lenawelston@gmail.com). She has already sent us information and the link through our individual email. We are not allowed to include buy links through Face Book or Twitter but we can link from them to our Websites. You are allowed to sell through your website. Our Social Media sites will also feature our speakers, events and blogging.

On Tuesday, August 23, at 7pm, there will be a book signing at **Books & Co**, 443 Walnut Street in Dayton featuring **Susan Elizabeth Phillips** and her new book, "First Star I See Tonight."

Adjourned.

# RECAP: SAN DIEGO 2016 RWA CONFERENCE!

*by Sandy Kachurek*

Leadership. Consistency. Damon Suede. Key words helped shape the RWA Convention for our members who attended the national event in San Diego in July and shared highlights during our recent meeting.

One of President Jane Conner's choice of sessions was on leadership. Presenters and attendees shared ideas on enticing members to attend chapter meetings. Responses, such as offering after-hour events for socializing, prompted COFW members to generate their own suggestions that included PAN member recognition, a "plotluck" get together and using SKYPE for celebrity or long distance guest speakers.

A branding and series design session emphasized consistency. Called "exterior branding," all the elements of an outside design from artwork to font style must be consistent so readers can immediately identify the author. "Interior branding" should also be consistent. If your use of heat is sweet or sweaty, be steady. At a glance, your reader knows you by your cover design as much as she'll remember you by your handling of story elements.

Consistency was again the main point in a session about audience and keeping readers. If a writer has no common threads between her novels, it is best to use a pseudonyms.

Advice to those, like Jane, who sat in on a session about mastering great conflict was "fall in love with insurmountable odds." For your heroine or hero, of course. Though many tropes for conflict work, such as wounds healed by lover, do avoid the pitfalls of "instant love," "misunderstanding," and "too stupid to love."

Even if you're an introvert, you can reach your reader, according to a session by the same name. Jane jotted down ideas, such as be on panels and attend library events with others. Additional tips advised every author included: Stand, not sit, behind your table; and attend events where the ratio is greater in readers than authors.

Jane moderated a session featuring someone she admires, Michael Hauge, whose outstanding use of the six-stage plot structure remains an excellent tool.

Robin Gianna's biggest take-away from RWA National Convention was the latest information on who's looking for what in the next romance. Harlequin's Desire line wants stories that involve unusual twists on tropes. Charles Griemsmann, associate editor at Silhouette Desire, said he's looking for "epic gothic sagas with deep family secrets." The comment generated a lot of talk among COFW members.





## RWA CONFERENCE (CONT'D)



What agents and editors are looking for was also the topic for a session for Sheri Adkins. The news wasn't very positive. She reported, "It's hard to sell a book right now." For example, a YA winning writer had her second book deal turned back two weeks after the release of her first book because the first one hadn't sold enough copies. An agent reported receiving a lower number of self-published submissions than in the past because writers who tried self-publishing are going back to traditional publishing and are looking for agents.

Of all the sessions Sheri sat in on, the one led by Dr. Valerie Young that focused on her book, *The Secret Thoughts of Successful Women*, was the best. Dr. Young explained how women tend to downplay their success, calling it a fluke or calling themselves a fraud or imposter. Young's session spoke of how to overcome it.

The session also emphasized that it's okay to make mistakes and to discuss the mistakes openly but never with shame. Take the misstep as a learning experience. It's the same with rejection, which is normal, not shameful. Young stressed the toxicity in talking ourselves into not believing that we are successful.

Sheri highly recommended Dr. Young's book.

Craft sessions were important to Jeanne Estridge. She highlighted the five cliches in closing a book: the hurt and comforter; the groveler; the pseudo betrayal; the heroine's death; and the hero's sacrifice.

More than one COFW National Convention attendee mentioned Damon Suede, author of male-male romance. In the manner of a game show host, Damon talked of a variety of author brands. In creating your brand, attendees came up with three verbs, three nouns and two modifiers that would best define it. Even if you're not aware of it, he explained, you carry that brand wherever you go. It is or should be expressed in your clothing, your speech and your interaction with others.

Arianna James recently moved to Ohio from Arizona and was attending her first COFW meeting. She also attended RWA National Convention and appreciated a session focusing on the psychology of creating character. It made her



## RWA CONFERENCE (CONT'D)

reevaluate her own characters. New considerations included taking not one but up to three core archetypes to create one 3-D character.

She, too, enjoyed Damon Suede and his session that stressed verbs. He said to find the verbs that encapsulate the core of your characters. Nouns come in second in importance. But adverbs? He called adverbs the "lice on monkeys." Stick with verbs.

Arianna's brief but useful takeaways from a panel about villains were "evil wears a pretty face" and is often "charismatic."



Tanja Fazzari was a virgin RWA National Convention attendee and spoke from that unique perspective. With 2000 to 3000 in attendance, overwhelming is often used to describe the convention and for good reason. But it shouldn't be a reason not to attend. Because writing romance is your profession, Tanja said, going to the national convention is a must, even if it's expensive.

Tanja suggested arriving a day early, especially as a first attendee, to give yourself time to wander and "get your feet wet." Other suggestions included definitely scheduling programs to attend, even if you can't do everything.

You can and should pay the \$135 for a flashdrive of all the recorded sessions and programs.



Tanja enjoyed Damon Suede as well in a session about character excavation. "Embrace or erase," he said, when it comes to characters and back story. His advice is to only keep the backstory that relates to what's going on at that moment. Cut the rest.

Another useful session for this first-time attendee focused on the issue of getting the writing done. In essence, Tanja reported, you have to find your own way. To discover what works for you, try something, and if that doesn't work, try something else.

Some writers found success in keeping a journal and writing in it every day. Begin by setting a goal and keeping track of it. Every day. You didn't write at all? Mark it. Just keep pushing forward.



## RWA CONFERENCE (CONT'D)

If you're good at dialogue and you're having a bad day, do dialogue. Go out and touch base with a group of writers. Share, then go back to writing.

Whether it's about a new project or the writing business such as your newsletter, the key is to be constantly working on writing of some kind. You'll get results.

Tanja is on board for the next RWA National Convention.

As another COFW member said as the national convention re-cap wound down, "Who wants to carpool to Orlando?"



## NEW RELEASES BY COFW MEMBERS!

### SNEAK PEEK SAMPLERS: CONTEMPORARY ROMANCE

*Including a "peek" by Marcia James*

The FREE Sneak Peek Samplers are a great introduction to the books of bestselling and award-winning authors, as well as new up-and-coming writers in your favorite genres

From sweet to sizzling, these are sample chapters, not the entire books, with added bonus material you won't find anywhere else.

**Marcia James** includes a taste of "**Racing Hearts**," the first in her Klein's K-9s Service Dogs series:

Stock car legend Tom "Torque" Tyler faces a bleak future after a career-ending head injury. Service dog trainer Meg Klein and a tiny seizure-response dog bring Tom hope and love.



# NEW RELEASES BY COFW MEMBERS!

## REUNITED WITH HIS RUNAWAY BRIDE

*by Robin Gianna*

*Brought back together by a baby*

It broke Dr. Bree Donovan's heart to end things with family-oriented surgeon Sean Latham, but marriage and kids are not for her. Only, now Sean is asking her to help care for his newborn nephew while his sister is in hospital, and Bree can't say no.

It's temporary, but as Bree experiences how rewarding family life can be—and gives in to the passion she and Sean have always shared—is it possible for her to believe that this time around they really could have it all?



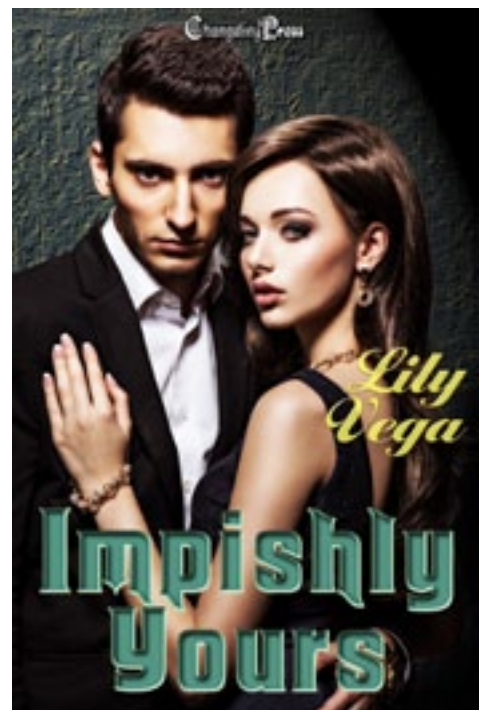
## IMPISHLY YOURS (DEVIL MAY CARE #5)

*by Lily Vega*

An imp, granted twenty-four hours in human form, plans to hunt down his stripper dream girl to make his perverted fantasies a reality. Before he begins his strip club bender, his spellbinding witch chaperone alters his plans.

Elle is tempted to engage in a romp with the sexelicious faux human, but she's pledged to auction off her virginity to help her coven rebound from bankruptcy.

While the clock ticks down, she must decide who deserves the whipped cream with her cherry on top -- HornyHenry, the current high bidder, or the imp who stole her heart.





# LIFE-LONG LEARNING — ONLINE!

*By Saralee Etter*

One of the great things about the internet is the opportunity to learn from the comfort of your own home. You can learn anything! You can learn in your PJs, if you want to! You can take classes at MIT <http://ocw.mit.edu/index.htm>. You can learn new language at Duolingo <http://www.duolingo.com/> or you can learn how to decorate a cake, make jewelry or knit a shawl at <http://www.craftsy.com/>. And that's not even counting the vast jumble of opportunities for learning on YouTube and elsewhere.

So naturally, you can also learn about the craft of writing and the business of book marketing online.



This isn't just a subject for indie-published authors, either. Even an author who is traditionally published can benefit from learning how to establish an on-line presence and build her "tribe" of loyal readers. While individual personal appearances at book signings and conferences will allow an author to meet a handful of her readers, the fact is that these events are limited in time and space.

Yes, it is true that no matter whether it's online or in person, you gather your readers one at a time, creating an individual connection. But it's also true that a person needs to have multiple contacts with you before they move from being a casual acquaintance to a loyal fan. With the internet, people can get to know you when they're ready, by visiting your blog or website and checking out your books at their own pace.

So my view is that all authors can benefit from learning how to use marketing techniques to build their readership. Your loyal fans, those devoted readers who will buy all your books and talk you up to their friends, may be located anywhere on Earth – and it's through the internet that you can connect with them.

With online learning, the internet is your oyster – open it and find a pearl.

## **The resources:**

My favorite resource for online learning is a site called [www.udemy.com](http://www.udemy.com), which offers online courses on all sorts of topics. The courses usually include a series of video lectures (sometimes actual live lectures and sometimes they're Power-Point slides with a voice-over from the instructor), quizzes, written resources and a question-and-answer area. Some of the courses are free or reasonably priced, and if you like a course by a particular instructor, you may also get discount codes for additional courses they offer. I am presently working my way through a number of courses on writing productivity, book marketing, Scrivener, using MailChimp, using the GIMP (a free alternative to Photoshop, so I can create book covers), and more.



# LIFE-LONG LEARNING (CONT'D)

## Individual teachers:

**Bryan Cohen** is an actor, freelance writer, author and an occasional game show contestant. He has written over 30 books, which have sold more than 30,000 copies. His latest release is the fairy-tale based "**Cinderella Dreams of Fire**," under the pen name Casey Lane. This new book was just launched on August 15, 2016, and he has discussed its progress on his podcast, the Sell More Books Show, <http://sell-morebooksshow.com/> and on his Facebook group, "Selling for Authors" <https://www.facebook.com/groups/509197505915958/> .

He also prepared the course "How to sell the first 100 copies of your book" <http://www.udemy.com/authors-how-to-sell-your-first-100-copies-of-your-book/> which is available on [www.udemy.com](http://www.udemy.com) . The course is free when you sign up for a free membership in the Author Marketing Club <http://www.authormarketing-club.com/>



**Joanna Penn** <http://www.thecreativepenn.com/> has a ton of valuable writing, publishing and marketing resources on her website. This Oxford-educated thriller author and entrepreneur is notable for her bold explorations into the "brave new world" of the internet. In her weekly podcast, The Creative Penn Podcast, <http://www.thecreativepenn.com/podcasts/> the topics range from global publishing markets and trends to writing and creativity. Her newest non-fiction book is "**The Successful Author Mindset**," which you can find here <http://www.thecreativepenn.com/mindset/>



Bestselling romance author **Marie Force** <http://marieforce.com/> has some online workshops scheduled for upcoming months that may be worth investigating. Plus, the good news is that the cost of one of her workshops is a very reasonable \$20! <http://marieforce.com/workshops/> She has a Self-Publishing 101 course scheduled for October.

**Nick Stephenson** <https://www.yourfirst10kreaders.com/> Nick's online course, Your First 10,000 Readers, is one of the top-rated book marketing courses out there. Nick is also the author of the Leopold Blake series of private investigator thrillers that blend murder, mystery and mayhem with a dose of humor. Nick also has several books and a blog <http://www.blog.yourfirst10kreaders.com/> dedicated to how to market books online.



# LIFE-LONG LEARNING (CONT'D)

**Tim Grahl** <http://timgrahl.com/> For seven or eight years, Tim Grahl specialized in book launches. He's launched numerous best-sellers and worked with prominent authors such as Daniel Pink, Chip and Dan Heath, Hugh Howey, Dan Ariely and Pamela Slim. He even had five authors on the New York Times bestseller list at once – How cool is that?

Now he has devoted himself to teaching others how to build their author platform and conduct a successful book launch. An aspiring fiction author, he has also partnered with Shawn Coyne on a podcast about writing, The Story Grid Podcast <http://storygrid.simplecast.fm/>

Check out his fantastic collection of online resources on his website, as well as his book, Your First 1000 Copies. <http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00DMIWAIC/>



**Shawn Coyne** <http://www.storygrid.com/> is a twenty-five-year book-publishing veteran. He worked as an editor at the Big Five publishing houses, a literary agent for both books and movies, and an independent publisher. He's edited, published or represented works from numerous well-known fiction and non-fiction authors including Harlan Coben, David Mamet, and Steven Pressfield, among many others.

Shawn Coyne's resource-rich website includes a blog, an author forum, a podcast series, and more. Coyne's "story grid" method helps an author analyze their work in order to make it the best it can be. His workbook "Story Grid" is available through Amazon and from his website. <http://www.amazon.com/Story-Grid-What-Good-Editors/dp/1936891352>

So those are my top suggestions for you to begin exploring the resources available to writers online. Best wishes, and may you find your pearl.

*After years of writing newspaper articles, public relations releases, and legal briefs, Saralee Etter published three sweet Regency romances with the Cotillion line. As Rose Maybud, she published the sexy contemporary comedy "Something in the Coffee."* <http://www.amazon.com/dp/B01715I0H6/>

Now she is working on a Victorian-era murder mystery series. The first book, "A Short Sharp Shock," will be coming soon. You can find her at [www.saraleeetter.com](http://www.saraleeetter.com) and on her blog, A Fine Mystery Indeed. <http://saraleeetter.com/blog1/>





# DEVELOPING GRIT

By Kate Curran, Sacramento Valley Rose RWA

*This article was first used in the Sacramento Valley Rose RWA July/August 2016 Newsletter.*

If you've been following my blog you'll know I've been on a grit kick. I first got tuned into grit after listening to the **Freakonomics Radio** podcast about grit and reading Angela Duckworth's book, **Grit, the Power of Passion and Perseverance**. From this podcast I discovered how gritty people become great in anything from spelling bees to athletics. What Duckworth discovered was, years of hard work and practice are more of a factor than natural talent.

## Do I Have It

If you asked me if I had grit when it came to writing, I would have immediately said yes. I do have it, but not for the reasons I thought I did.

I've written over 35 books in the last 25 years, but I've only published three novels and six children's books. You'd think just completing that many books would show I have grit, but what it shows me is that back in those early days I didn't have the grit to make them publishable. When I hit a snag, I moved on to a new project. It took me years to develop the grit to stick with a project and work and rework it until it was publishable.

I believe the principles from Duckworth's book can be applied to any aspect of my life. I'm currently working to develop grit in two areas—running and marketing my books. I know this sounds like a really bizarre combination, but both are areas where I don't excel, so they have that in common.

I've found when I'm running, I think about how to become a better marketer. And when I'm working on marketing, I think about running and I look for ways to improve my form and speed. I continually remind myself that each week my running is improving, and I can do the same with marketing.



## Fear

Even as I write this there is a weight lodged in my stomach and a little whiney voice in my head saying no, no, no. I don't wanna market. I just wanna write my books.

The fact of the matter is, if I don't market my books no one will read them or even know about them, and why go to all that work if they aren't read?

And honestly, my efforts to market my books have been more like throwing spaghetti on the wall to see if it sticks. I'm a hit and miss marketer at best, but that is going to change.

I'm digging deep to persevere, to never give up, to put as much time into learning marketing as I have writing.

# DEVELOPING GRIT (CONT'D)

## Talent vs. Grit

Before I started reading about grit, I thought those people who were successful at marketing were those with an innate, inborn talent that I could never hope to achieve. After I started reading about grit, I am convinced it is less about talent and more about perseverance. People who are successful, whether they start with natural talent or not, have spent years practicing and improving their craft until they are successful. They don't quit. They don't give up. I am determined to do exactly that. I won't give up until I succeed.

I am determined to become more than proficient with marketing. I intend to excel at it, but saying this won't make it so.

## Setting Goals

First, I lack two major things—confidence and knowledge, so these are my first goals. I'm starting with knowledge, and I believe confidence will follow once I start seeing success.

This week I have started allotting 30 minutes a day to reading about marketing and setting up a strategy, which just happens to be a similar strategy to my running.

Five weeks ago I started running, and I had an impressive 15 minute mile! Each week I've added a half a mile, and yesterday I ran three miles at 11.68 minutes.

Before you write this off as talent, it's not. I have no natural talent in athletics, and as my blog says, I am the Klutzy Athlete. But what I lack in talent, I make up for in determination—GRIT—and you have it, too. You just have to dig deep and find it, develop it.

What are you passionate about? Do you have the grit to keep going when the going gets tough?

*Kate Curran writes deeply emotional, feel-good stories. She also writes From the Farm to the Table series of nonfiction children's books as Kathy Coatney.*

<http://www.katecurran.net>

<http://www.kathycoatney.com/blog/>

Kate Curran (@Katecurran3Kate) | Twitter <http://twitter.com/Katecurran3Kate>



# GUNS, AMMUNITION, AND BALLISTICS, OH MY

By Michael Mendershausen, Sacramento Valley Rose RWA

*This article was first used in the Sacramento Valley Rose RWA July/August 2016 Newsletter.*

Many bestselling authors get it wrong: caliber sizes, weapon terminology, and what each type of bullet does when it hits an object.

If you think this doesn't matter because you're writing romance books, men also read romance and millions of women own and shoot guns and read romance books.

For example:

**Montana Sky**, Nora Roberts: "The .30 caliber carbine he shot into the holster was a brute of a revolver."

*Mistake:* A .30 caliber carbine is not a revolver. A carbine is a short-barreled rifle. The only .30 caliber carbine I'm aware of is the M1 carbine first used in WWII by the U.S. and it can't be slipped into a holster because it has a magazine sticking out of it.

**Moving Target**, Elizabeth Lowell: "The first shot requires a double pull. After that a single pull gets it done."

*Mistake:* No gun ever made requires two trigger pulls to fire it. I know where her confusion lies. There are two types of "actions," single and double. A single action handgun performs a "single" action, that of dropping a cocked hammer. With a single-action handgun the hammer must be cocked manually. The most notable example is the Colt Army Peacemaker everyone has seen in Western movies. A double-action performs two actions of cocking the gun when the trigger is being pulled, and when the trigger is fully pulled it drops the hammer, all in a single pull of the trigger. These actions are the same for pistols as for revolvers, but the pistol after the first shot will automatically cock the hammer for the next shot. She confused "double-action" with having to pull the trigger twice the first shot. I just wonder how this error got past everyone in the editing and publishing chain.



In another book, whose title and author (male, I remember that) I don't remember, a character fires a .357 magnum into the ceiling leaving a "fist-sized" hole.

*Mistake:* A 102mm mortar, about 4 inches, would leave a fist-sized hole if it didn't explode upon impact. A .357 Magnum would leave a hole approximately .357 inches.

Regarding the .357 magnum and its caliber. A .357 magnum is the same caliber as a .38 and .38 special. The difference is in the length of the case. The Thirty-eight Special's case is longer than the .38, and the .357 magnum is longer still. Longer case, more gun powder. When the .38 was first produced, the manufacturer measured the outside of the case, .38, instead of the common practice of measuring the inside of the case, .357. The .357 boys used the nominal size of the bullet, but wanted it to sound bigger, thus Magnum after the large champagne bottle.



# GUNS, AMMO (CONT'D)

For more on all the most popular rounds, and some not so, you must see <http://www.corneredcat.com/article/ammunition/caliber-confusion/>

Velocity and bullet weight determine bullet energy and accuracy. In most handguns and virtually all rifles, the bullets are supersonic. So never have your characters hear them before they impact. And, while they are supersonic, when they pass close enough your character should hear a little snap, the little bullet's version of a sonic boom.

*Pet peeve:* A magazine and a clip are not the same thing, in spite of crime writers, police and military (sometimes), and dictionaries conflating them. Words enter dictionaries through usage, and writers' intermingling of these two types of "bullet holders" caused the damage.

Two types of magazines are:

1. Removable (as in handguns and "assault weapons")
2. Internal (non-removable). One type of internal magazine is attached to the underside of the rifle, while the other is an internal hole in the stock where "clips" are inserted.

Two types of clips for rifles, and one for revolvers, are:

1. Stripper clip, and en bloc. The most notable "en bloc" clip is used in the M1 Garand military rifle. There are eight bullets held in this clip. The clip with bullets is inserted into the M1's fixed internal magazine. After the eighth bullet is fired the clip is automatically ejected.
2. Stripper clips are inserted into the rifle's fixed internal magazine and the bullets are "stripped" off the clip manually into the internal magazine and the clip used again.
3. The moon and half-moon clip are used for revolvers to allow speed loading.

*Revolver silencers.* Revolvers do not have silencers. They've been tried, but because there is a gap between the chamber and the cylinder holding the bullets, sound escapes this gap rendering the gun not silent. More than one writer has put a silencer on a revolver.

*Revolver safeties.* They do not exist, except for early impractical failures. More than one writer has put a safety on their character's revolver.

If you've made any of these mistakes, don't feel bad, the grand master Lawrence Sanders (in *Small Town*) made a mistake. If you read the book (recommended), see if you spot it.

Don't forget to research what you don't know, and only put in relevant research. Focus on character.

Happy writing.

*Michael Mendershausen lives and writes in Northern California. He's currently seeking representation for a screenplay and two novels.*

# WORKS IN PROGRESS

**Sheri Atkins:** Starting a new Adult Contemporary Romance.

**Becky Barker:** The only writing I'm doing is blogging and monthly newsletters.

**Julia Blaine:** Have a children's picture book at Createspace, working on a Regency Paranormal with cats.

**Janet Ciccone:** ( aka Janet Lynnford) Starting rewrites on first book, "Pirate's Rose," to which I have rights back. It was 120,000 words by contract, so working on shortening.

**Jane Conner:** Chapter business.

**Shawn Dickerson:** Working on the edits for my "Azrael"/ starting my Paranormal Romance & my Inspirational Christian, "Surviving Yourself & Your Poor Choices."

**Jeanne Estridge:** Contemporary Romance, Paranormal.

**Tanja Fazzari:** Continue to work on Paranormal.

**Robin Gianna:** Revising Medical Romance.

**Arianna James:** Working on editing a romantic suspense & making progress on a new contemporary.

**Sandy Kachurek:** Lengthening a short story into novel-length.

**Kate Kennedy:** Visiting.

**Michele LaPointe:** First time here. Finished Fiction Suspense novel, working on Romantic Suspense.

**Andrea McConnell:** Finishing last bit of "The British Captain."

**Linda Rice:** Working on plots.

**Nancy White:** Finishing ITF and a wedding.



# COFW 2016 LEADERSHIP

## Executive Board

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