

September 2020

Issue 8

## Welcome to Central Ohio Fiction Writers Newsletter

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Newsletter Editor: Rachel Dye

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.

## **2020 Leadership**

### **Board**

President: Janice Beckett.

Secretary: Sandy Kachurek

Treasurer: Stacy McKittrick

### **Non-Board Positions**

Newsletter Editor: Rachel Dye

Programs Chair: Vacant

Education Chair: Erin Novotny

Social Media Chair: Gina Smith

Incentives Coordinator: Julia Blaine

Ignite the Flame Contest Chair: Shari Heinrich

Monthly Meetings Facility Coordinator: Vacant

Equipment Inventory Coordinator: Robin Gianna

## **Meetings**

First "Teen" Saturday of the Month. Social: Noon to 12:30. Business: 12:30. Guest Presentation: 1:30. Location: Check [www.cofwevents.org](http://www.cofwevents.org)

## **Dues**

New Members: \$35

Renewal before January 31: \$30. After January 31: \$35.

- Dues run January to December
- Membership with Romance Writers of America required.

## **Follow COFW**

Twitter <https://twitter.com/COFWriters>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/COFWriters>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/cofwriters/>

Closed Facebook Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/177462723049177/>

## **Next Meeting: October, 17 2020; A Workshop with Grace Burrows~**

Have you ever wondered what being a successful writer looks like from the inside?

Here's your chance to glean insights from a NYT and USA Today bestselling author and 5-time RITA finalist with Best Book of the Year kudos from The Library Journal, Publishers Weekly, Kirkus and RT Book Reviews. Grace Burrowes is the author of 79 books—and counting!

We want to share this great opportunity with as many authors and would-be authors as possible, so the workshop is only \$10 for non-COFW members—and just \$5 for full-time students! Please direct them to the pay button on the COFW Website.

Business meeting at 12:30 pm, Discussion at 1:30 pm

*Our meeting will be held via Zoom. The password will be posted on the Central Ohio Fiction Writers Group page which can be accessed via the Romance Writers of America website under the Forums tab. If anyone has any questions, email [authorkimberlybeckett@yahoo.com](mailto:authorkimberlybeckett@yahoo.com)*

## **COFW Fiction Plotters Meet Monthly - East**

Need a boost with a story idea that has yet to see words on a page? Can't get your protagonist out of a hole you've written her into? Not sure whether the antagonist is antag-ging enough? Consider stopping by the COFW Fiction Plotters group. We meet the first Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. at the Panera Bread in Taylor Square in Reynoldsburg, Ohio, 43068.

If you have questions, contact:

Andrea McConnell: [fyrefly93@gmail.com](mailto:fyrefly93@gmail.com)

Saralee Etter: [saralee\\_etter@yahoo.com](mailto:saralee_etter@yahoo.com)

## **COFW Fiction Plotters Meet Monthly - West**

All the same fun as above but located in Huber Heights. We meet the second Monday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Panera Bread off I-70 exit 36.

If you have questions contact:

Jeanne Estridge: [jeanneestridge@gmail.com](mailto:jeanneestridge@gmail.com)

Rachel Dye: [juliette.r.hyland@gmail.com](mailto:juliette.r.hyland@gmail.com)

## **Minutes of the COFW Meeting via Zoom**

**September 19, 2020**

**12:30 p.m.**

### **I. Welcome.**

### **II. Attendance/WIP:**

Approximately, 11 members in attendance.

#### WIP/Incentives:

An agent, who said she liked the voice, asked for the whole manuscript of Shari Heinrich's *Queen of Wands*; Becky Barker is revising; Janice Beckett/Kimberly Beckett's latest will be out September 30 and its audio version by October 15; Jordan Riley Swan launched *Heart's Bidding* two weeks ago and is working on a heist genre with an author from England; Michelle Orloff's WIP will debut this spring; Jeanne Estridge is wondering what if hell had daycare for her third book in her demon series; Linda Rice has accumulated over 100,000 words as a result of attending "Book in a Week" and COFW's weekly Writing Sprints since March and hopes the number results in at least three books. At 81, she's trying to find answers to aspects of relationships in contemporary romance.

**III. Minutes** from August were accepted as posted; motion by Jordan, seconded by Jeanne, approved by all.

### **IV. Reports**

#### **1. President Janice Beckett:**

A. Virtual RWA National Conference: Zoom didn't seem to hamper the speakers and workshops she attended where sessions were pre-recorded but Q&A was live; however, in some places, the voice and PowerPoint text didn't match but overall good content considering the conference was put together quickly. Most of the sessions' recordings can be accessed by attendees until December 31. Janice's highly recommended session was "Growth-Hacking a Best Seller" by Liz Pelletier of Entangled Publishing. Another good session was "Moments of Brilliance" by Rebecca Hunter about adding oomph and emotion to writing.

Liz Pelletier's "Growth-Hacking a Best Seller" can be used for free by RWA chapters to encourage chapter membership.

B. Updated Chapter Affiliation Agreement: highlights include the minimum number of members needed to form a local chapter is now five, not ten, thus allowing more rural areas to create and maintain chapters. Questions still pending on how associate members may run for office and vote within their local chapters but not do the same on the national level. Such issues will be brought up again at the next RWA Board meeting in November.

## **2. Treasurer's Report for August** (Stacy not in attendance, report posted):

Checking: \$7,323.24

PayPal: \$614.17

\$7,937.41

Perseverance Fund: \$1,519

### Assets Activity:

\$1,250 transfer from PayPal to checking.

\$45 in contributions.

\$315, including \$5 for August and \$310 for September classes.

### Expenses Activity:

\$225, including \$150 to speaker Sherry Thomas and \$75 down payment for speaker Patricia Sargeant.

## **3. Programs Chair Jeanne Estridge:**

Today: "Fun With Plotting" with best-selling author Patricia Sargeant, who also writes as Olivia Matthews and Regina Hart, via Zoom.

October: Grace Burrowes, via Zoom.

November: "Stronger Scenes" with Jeanne Estridge, via Zoom.

December: Holiday party.

### Non-member and Student fee for Grace Burrowes:

1. After lengthy discussion, a motion by Sandy Kachurek to charge nonmembers \$10 to attend the October program by Grace Burrowes via Zoom, seconded by Jordan Swan Riley. Motion passed.

2. Motion made by Jordan Riley Swan, seconded by Jeanne Estridge to set a nonmember student rate of \$5 for the same program by Grace Burrowes. Motion passed.

Increasing the avenues of publicity of COFW programs:

Janet Ciccone brought up the beginnings of a good discussion that will be the structure of a future chapter discussion regarding publicizing the meeting programs and other workshops to a broader audience.

2021 Programs: Ideas to be put on hold until after a 2021 COFW board has been formed.

**4. ITF Contest Chair Shari Heinrich:**

Shari is officially stepping down as chair for 2021 due to Shari agreeing to run as secretary for COFW. Ideas to confirm for a 2021 contest: whether the submission should focus on the "meet cute" or the first few chapters, and what the final prize will entail.

**5. Education Chair Erin Novotny (absent):**

The digital class set for October, "Being the Extroverted Introverted Writer" with Eliot Parker has been cancelled.

January 1-30, 2021: "The Book Writing Checklist" with Linnea Sinclair and Stacey Kade is still on.

**6. Incentives:** see WIP/Incentives.

Magic Spreadsheet Winners: August, Shari. In the running for September, Jeanne.

M-T-F Writing Sprints on FB doing well. Plotters Group met both in person in Huber Heights and via Zoom (but both groups didn't interact.) in September.

**V. Unfinished Business:**

A. Vote to Remain RWA-Affiliated or Disaffiliate: The voting window is open for September 19 until midnight. Non-votes mean status quo, or remain affiliated. Fourteen votes for disaffiliation are needed for disaffiliation.

**VI. New Business:**

None.

Adjournment: 1:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy

Sandy Kachurek

Secretary

## Patricia Matthews “Fun with Plotting”

By Jeanne Estridge

- 1) Tools are not just for romance or mystery writers. Can be used for all forms of popular fiction.
- 2) Work well for people who fall between plotter and pantser.
- 3) Disclaimer: There isn't one way to write. There isn't a right way to write.
- 4) First ms—Built sequentially, scene by scene. Second ms may not come sequentially, but happens in second draft. Third ms. —Maybe end came first? Give yourself the flexibility to write your own unique story.
- 5) Seven elements to help you conquer the blank page.
  - a. Log line
  - b. Character diamond
  - c. Gmc
  - d. Stakes
  - e. Turning points
  - f. Plots
  - g. 25 Things that Have to Happen
- 1) Log line—one or two sentence summary of your story. Aka Story premise, elevator pitch This is an exercise in getting a firm grasp of what your story is about. Figure out how to boil your story down to a single line. In Hell, a secretly pregnant she-demon goes on trial for the murder of her ex-husband. Elements of a logline: Protagonist, antagonist, conflict
- 2) Character diamond:
  - a. Primary trait—strongest personality trait (extrovert/introvert; follower/leader)
  - b. Secondary trait—trait your character aspires to
  - c. Shadow trait—supports character's primary trait (e.g loner if introvert)
  - d. Fatal flaw—what prevents character from achieving her aspirational trait
  - e. Belle's character diamond:
    - i. Primary—caretaker
    - ii. Secondary—adventurer
    - iii. Shadow trait—dutiful daughter
    - iv. Fatal flaw—nurturer
  - f. Beast's character diamond:
    - i. Primary—Loner
    - ii. Secondary—Empathetic
    - iii. Shadow trait—Arrogant
    - iv. Fatal flaw—Self-absorbed
  - g. Lilith's character diamond:
    - i. Primary—career-oriented, achievement-driven
    - ii. Secondary—nurturer/mother
    - iii. Shadow trait—survivor
    - iv. Fatal flaw—sees herself as unlovable
- 3) GMC—your character is your story. Protag shouldn't be the same at the end of the story as she was at the beginning. Internal GMC drives the character. External GMC drives the action. Spell these out immediately, so your reader knows what's going on.



- 4) Stakes (motivation)—Help readers understand what keeps protagonist/story going despite obstacles. Must rise as story progresses. Must be consequences to protagonist's action/inaction.  
B&B: 1) Maurice's safety; 2) Maurice's health; 3) Beast's life  
How do the stakes in TDWS rise as the story progresses? 1) Lilith's pride; 2) Baby's safety/life; 3) Baby's soul
- 5) Turning points: Stories have 3 parts: Beginning/middle/end. Resolution of first stake is the turning point into middle part of story. Resolution of second stake is the turning point into the end of the story. Resolution of third stake is the turning point into the resolution of the story/HEA.
- 6) Plots: The bigger your story, the more plots you need. Story: 1; novella: 2; Single title (60K to 100K): Main plot, 2 subplots, romance plot. All move forward at the same time, interacting with main plot. B&B: Main plot: lifting the curse; Subplot 1: Rescuing Belle—Maurice's subplot leads to Belle's return to town and the threat against Beast; Subplot 2: Marrying Belle: Gaston's efforts to marry Belle, bring Belle back to town and lead to the threat against Beast. Romance subplot: Learning to love: Belle helps Beast to heal and to be more empathetic. Beast provides Belle with next experiences and adventures.
- 7) 25 Things that Have to Happen:
  - a. Focus on one main event per chapter.
  - b. Why 25? 400 pages per ms.; 16 pages per chapter;  $400/16=25$
  - c. Possible big events (romance)
    - i. Protagonists meet
    - ii. Protagonists fall in love.
    - iii. The Ordeal: Protagonists torn apart.
    - iv. Conflict resolved
    - v. Happily ever after
  - d. Mystery novel examples:
    - i. Dead body discovered
    - ii. Identify means, motive opportunity
    - iii. Interview suspect
    - iv. Identify the villain
    - v. Close the case
  - e. B&B:
    - i. Belle takes Maurice's place
    - ii. Belle and Beast fall in love
    - iii. Gaston threatens Maurice
    - iv. Beast is attacked
    - v. Curse is lifted
  - f. TDWS
    - i. Satan assigns Sam and Lilith to work on the trade summit
    - ii. Lilith discovers she's pregnant
    - iii. Gibeon tries to crash the plane
    - iv. Lilith pushes Sam into the Lake of Fire
    - v. Sam & Lilith outwit Satan and escape Hell

8) Suggested reading:

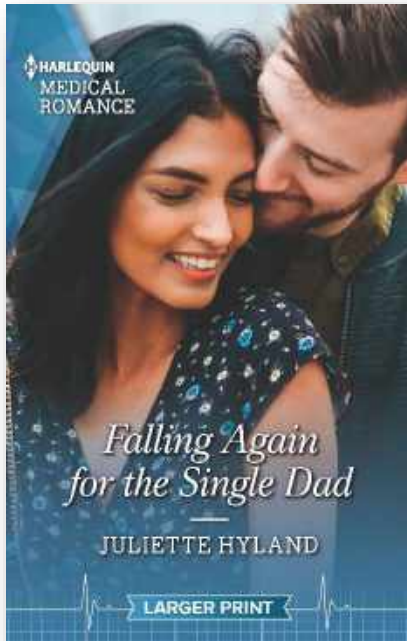
- a. GMC by Debra Dixon
- b. The Writer's Journey: Mythic Structure for Writers by Christopher Vogler
- c. Writing the Breakout Novel by Donald Maas
- d. Books by your favorite authors
  - i. *Temporary Wife Temptation* by Jayci Lee (Patricia Sargeant)

## Workshops:

Erin has put together a google doc to poll COFW members for ideas for next year's workshops. Please find it here:

<https://forms.gle/oJXsPjiJNRbrLVED6>

## New Releases:



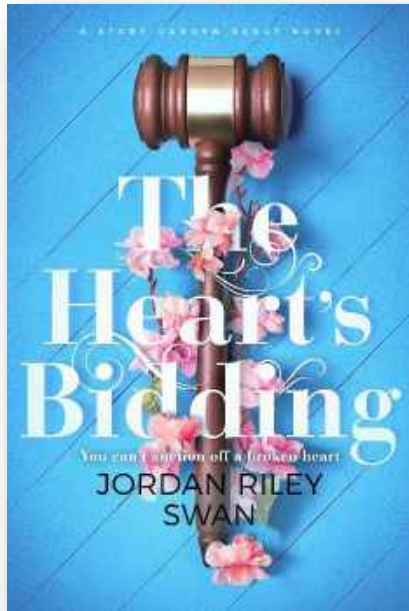
### *Falling Again for the Single Dad* By Juliette Hyland

**Fatherhood has changed him—**

*But can she risk her heart?*

ER nurse Amara Patel is starting over. Running into her ex, physician Eli Collins, on her first day at Boston General throws a major wrench in the works! Because despite his still irrefutably sexy appearance, he's not the Eli she remembers. He's always put work first, but now that he's bringing up his niece, everything's changed—except his and Amara's feelings for each other! Dare Amara allow herself a second chance at love?

***Available Now!***



## *The Heart's Bidding* By Jordan Riley Swan

Kaylee Heart would rather run through a roaring fire than endure even a minute of public speaking. Put in an eighty-hour work week? No problem. Shut down her grandfather's gold-digging girlfriend? Easy peasy. Stand in front of an auction crowd and call for bids? Show her the exit.

So she has no idea how Gerald, the golden-voiced auctioneer she's been crushing on at the local auction house, can find the courage to stand on stage every week, with all those eyes on him. But as cruel fate would have it, she is about to find out.

Her family antique shop, the Vintage at Heart, has tripped over one financial hurdle too many and Kay is propelled, full speed, into her biggest phobia—the spotlight.

With terror chasing her, she'll have to fight to keep the family business from closing forever. Even if the battle takes place in front of a live crowd...

***Available in September***

