



October 2019

Issue 10

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.

2019 Leadership

President, Jeanne Estridge

Secretary, Sandra J. Kachurek

Treasurer, Stacy McKittrick

Program Chair, Aleta Dodson

Newsletter Editor, Rachel Dye

Membership Chair, Linda Rice

Social Media Chair, Gina Smith

Incentives, Julia Blaine

Meetings

First "Teen" Saturday of the Month. Social: Noon to 12:30. Business: 12:30. Guest Presentation: 1:30. Location Norwich Township Building 5181 Northwest Parkway. Hilliard, OH 43026

Dues

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

- 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/>

Central Ohio Fiction Writers

P.O. Box 24254 Dayton, OH 45424

Next Meeting: November 2nd

The Dublin Rec Center, 5600 Post Road, Dublin, OH 43017

Time: Workshop runs from 9 to 4

Topic: Brands and Tropes

* Note: Fee applies. See the [workshop page](#) for more details

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.

To verify members are meeting and to stay in touch in between, we use this email:

cofwplot@yahoogroups.com

If you have questions, contact:

Andrea McConnell: fyrefly93@gmail.com

Saralee Etter: 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

Rachel Dye: juliette.r.hyland@gmail.com

**Meeting of COFW
October 19, 2019
5181 Northwest Parkway, Hilliard**

I. Welcome.

WIP.

II. Minutes, The minutes of the September 14, 2019 meeting were accepted as posted.

III. Reports:

A. President Jeanne Estridge.

1. Yahoo files are going away on the 15th of December. Jeanne, Sandy and Stacy will move files we need to the RWA loop. Please check the files and let Jeanne and Stacy know if there are things you want kept. We will be moving minutes, Treasurer reports, resources, photos and forms.
2. Please start to fill out the member of the year form.
3. Reminder – the Dayton Plotting group meets the second Monday of every month at Panera in Huber Heights.

B. Treasurer Stacy McKittrick.

1. Cash on Hand: Checking: \$6279.60 + PayPal: \$2,972.19 = \$9,252.79. Financial Assistance: \$1519.75.
2. Current Membership: 51.

C. Programs, Aleta Dodson was absent.

1. Workshop: November
2. Damon Suede, 9-4 at Dublin Rec Center, \$75 for COFW members and \$85 for non-members, includes lunch.

D. Ignite the Flame (ITF), Shari Heinrich was absent. Surveys are out.

E. Education, Erin Novotny. The following online classes are planned for the 2020 year:

1. January: Alania Abbertson, Instagram workshop
2. March: Stacy Graham – agent from Red Sofa Literary, class on nonfiction book proposals
3. April: S.G. Redling – mystery and suspense author, class on adding suspense to your novel
4. May: Kate Tilton - Finding Your Audience
5. October: Elliot Parker – Author Platforms for Introverts
6. Still working on dates but in either August or September, Joanna Mkchin, Using Project Management to Get Your Book Out There

F. Incentives, Julia Blaine. Sweet treats went to everyone, including Janice Beckett for her release of *Lionel's Leap*, and the having the audio of her first book finished; Erin Novotny for *Sideways* release, her author signing and giving her first *paid* workshop on Bookmapping; Stacy McKittrick whose book *Biting the Curse*, got a 4 ½ star review from InD'tale Magazine; Bernie Miller for receiving a rejection from Hallmark; Rachel Dye signed a two book contract with Harlequin Medical; Robin Gianna has back to back releases out, Gina Smith for completing several author events and heading to Canada for her first international author event; Monica Newcomb for attending her first COFW meeting and republishing her first book; Susan Gee Heino sent her manuscript to her agent; Donna MacMeans survived her haunted iphone and turned in a Novella, Linda Rice for writing this month and Jeanne Estridge for taking a lovely trip to Canada.

G. Magic Spreadsheet Winner. Sandra Rice earned Eddie the Emu for most points earned in September.

H. Social Media, Gina Smith. We have an Instagram account follow us @cofwriters.
<https://www.instagram.com/cofwriters/>

I. Newsletter, Rachel Dye. Julia Blaine agreed to do the newsletter recap. If you are not receiving the newsletter, please check your spam folder. If it is not there, please contact Rachel at juliette.r.hyland@gmail.com. Please put any new releases on the excel spreadsheet - <http://bit.ly/COFWNewrelease>. If you know of a COFW member with a life event, please let COFW know.

J. Nominating Committee, Sandy Kachurek. There are no uncontested positions for next year's positions.

IV. Unfinished Business. None

V. New Business. 1. The Christmas party will be at Robin's house on December 7th at noon. Robin's address is 5437 River Forest Road in Dublin, Oh. Please bring something to share.

2. Spark Creative sold their business to Bookbrush. Several members have had issues with the new owner threatening to close websites without sending invoices. Jeanne also uses them but has not had an issue. Members have used Techsurgeons for hosting and Webcrafters was also mentioned.

3. The membership on the website is not current. If you would like to update your information on the website please contact cofwwebdeveloper@gmail.com.

Adjournment: Business Meeting adjourned at 1:25.

Today's Program: Alessandra Torre. Online course 5 Secrets of Self-Publishing Success

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Dye Newsletter Editor

Works in Progress/Attendance for October 19th

1. Julia Blaine: submitted "Emus" to Harlequin
2. Stacy McKittrick: Editing Finding the Perfect Mate.
3. Robin Gianna: Revision of a Medical Romance
4. Janice Beckett: starting Book 4 of Horses Heal Hearts series.
5. Linda Rice: Still writing
6. Bernie Miller: Editing
7. Erin Novotny w/a Tobi Doyle: Revising a romantic suspense and cozy mystery
8. Gina Smith w/a Rochelle Bradley: revising/finishing Municipal Liaisons
9. Rachel Dye w/a Juliette Hyland: plotting/writing Amara's Story
10. Monica Newcomb: Revising m/m Victorian Novella, Viscount's Heist
11. Donna MacMeans: Turned in a novella
12. Tanya Fazzani: Taking a brief break
13. Saralee Etter: about to start Nano, Cyrano gets a HEA
14. Susan Gee Heino: Sent manuscript to agent; finishing Christmas Regency

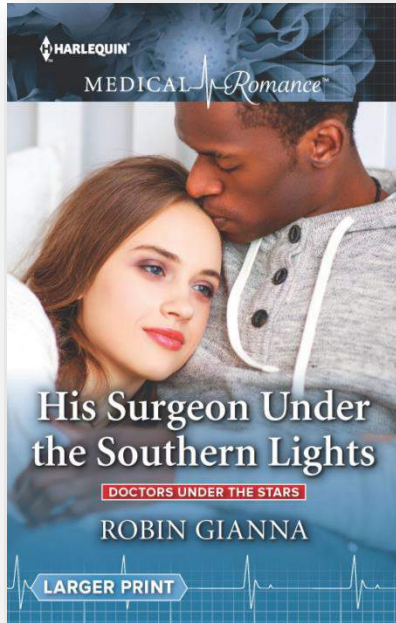


Image credit: Rachel Dye

October Recap: Alessandra Torre 3 Secrets to Indie Publishing

For the presentation section of the October meeting, we watched Alessandra Torre's Youtube video *3 Secrets to Indie Publishing*. The link to the video can be found here: <http://bit.ly/3SecretstoIndiePublishing>

New Releases:



His Surgeon Under the Southern Lights by Robin Gianna

The lone-wolf doc meets his match!

In this *Doctors Under the Stars* story, one unexpected kiss turns into a temporary fling for loner marine biologist Zeke and independent Dr Jordan. Then danger strikes...and they realize their feelings are anything but temporary!

Available now!



Reunited in the Snow by Amalie Berlin

Left at the altar...

...reunited under the stars!

In this *Doctors Under the Stars* story, Lia Monterrosa arrives at the Antarctic science station as resident staff doctor... and comes face-to-face with her ex fiancé! Working in close confines means brooding Dr. Weston MacIntyre can't hide the painful reason he left Lia at the altar much longer. Lia knows she must guard her heart — especially as desire as bright as the Southern Lights still blazes between them!

Available now!

COFW has a spreadsheet for new releases. With the demise of the Yahoo Group, please put your information on the spreadsheet:

<http://bit.ly/COFWNewrelease>

COFW now has goal sheets!!!

Thanks to Erin Novotny & Arianna James for setting this up.



Want to track a daily word count and compete with your fellow COFW members for the highest point total? Add your name and goals to our Magic Spreadsheet here:

<https://bit.ly/2Wprwt0>

September Winner: Sandra Rice with 424 points!

The winner gets Eddie!

Looking for a way to hit those goals: Did you know that studies have shown you're up to 66% more likely to achieve a goal if you write it down and up to 95%(!!) more likely to achieve a goal if you tell someone else what it is and have a deadline by which you need to meet it. List your goals here and

Arianna will check in to see if you've hit them: <http://bit.ly/2HJoDNq>

Updating Your RWA Profile Information:

The new RWA website (rwa.org) is two different software packages. One is for communicating information about what's going on at RWA. (aka the RWA website). The other is used for chapter portals (We have one of these: cofw.rwa.org) and microsites (We don't yet have one of these). Each of these sites has a spot for profile information for members.

You can update your profile at: www.rwa.org and the forum profiles at: <https://community.rwa.org/update-profile>.

You can also access the profile update page by logging in to rwa.org and selecting "Update Profile" at the top of the page.

1. First update your RWA membership profile.
 - a. Click on the pencil beside the little silhouette.
 - b. In the "change picture" dialogue box, click Select.
 - i. From your computer, choose a picture with a file extension of one of the following:
 - .GIF
 - .JPG
 - .PNG
 - .BMP
 - ii. Click Open
 - iii. Click Save & Close
2. Click on the "About Me" tab and then click on the little pencils to update each section. Save each section after completing.
3. Click on the Preferences tab to update your communication preferences. Be sure to save your changes.
4. Review the other tabs to ensure the information is correct. If it's something you don't have access to change, click on Contact RWA at the bottom of the page to send Donna Mathoslah an email.
5. Update your RWA Community Profile (You should still have the original tab with the links to both profiles open)
 - a. Click on the little silhouette and upload your picture.
 - i. On this page, you have the option of pulling in a picture from your computer or Facebook or Instagram or Dropbox or a host of other places. Load your picture and save it.
6. Update your My Profile information:
 - a. Click on the little pencil next to Bio and share a little about yourself.
 - b. If you've been a finalist or winner in any contests, enter that under Honors and Awards.
 - c. If you belong to other professional organizations, enter the information under Professional Associations.

- d. Add or update your social media links.
- 7. Some information was loaded from the old website. Verify everything is correct and up-to-date.
- 8. Click on Communities and then choose My Communities. You should see an entry for Chapter: Central Ohio Fiction Writers (along with any other communities you belong to, such as PAN).
 - a. Click on Central Ohio Fiction Writers.
 - b. Click on Settings and set up your preferences for the discussion forum.

As of January 1, 2019, Treasurer's Reports, Meeting Minutes and presentation documentation will be posted in our COFW community on the RWA site.

Reminder: On June 1, the Board stopped posting to the Yahoo loop and we will stop monitoring the Yahoo loop. Please have yourself set up on RWA COFW discussion loop prior to that date.

GRAMMAR GREMLINS: Pacing Weasels

by Kay Hudson

The following article first appeared in the April 2019 issue of In Print!, the monthly newsletter of Houston Bay Area RWA. Permission granted to reprint or forward to sister RWA chapters with proper credit to author and chapter.

Have you ever been told that your pacing is too slow, by an agent or an editor or a critique partner? Or maybe by your own internal editor? "What does that chapter do?" your critique partner might ask. Or "that scene doesn't contribute much," or "the sagging middle really sags."

Well, those aren't Grammar Gremlin problems, and Ken Rand's *The 10% Solution* doesn't address them either. Where Rand's ideas help is in speeding up the prose itself, regardless of the larger story.

Here's a quick example from Rand's book, part of his original query on *The 10% Solution*:

I've developed a technique I now use regularly that's earned me occasional praise for "crisp" writing. After completion of anything I write-fiction, nonfiction, humor, whatever-I go back and cut out ten percent of what I've written.

Nothing terribly wrong with that, but here's Rand's revised version:

A technique I use has earned some praise for "crisp" writing. After I finish writing-fiction, nonfiction, whatever-I go back and cut ten-percent.

From 38 words to 25, with no loss of content. Yes, it's nonfiction, and most of us are more concerned with fiction, but the techniques are the same.

Rand was not a grammarian. He didn't understand the difference between active and passive voice (no, my children, the verb to be is an essential part of the English language, and it is *not* inherently passive), and he counseled against the use of "past tense" (she ran) when he really meant past progressive (she was running). But even if his grammatical knowledge was shaky, his ideas were good.

Accuracy, clarity, and brevity were Rand's watchwords. "She ran from the room" beats "she was running from the room" (unless, of course, continuing action is important: "she was running from the room when she tripped over the dog").

Word choice can speed things up as well. Dump those nearly meaningless words that we use all the time and rarely need: very, even, much, rather, just, like, really, and so on. Replacing adverbs with stronger verbs not only cuts a word but makes the sentence stronger. "She raced" beats "she ran quickly" (indeed, how else would she run?). "He strolled" rather than "he walked slowly."

Replacing five-dollar words with their fifty-cent equivalents speeds things up, too. Is your character intoxicated, or just drunk? Can you replace conflagration with fire, rationalization with excuse? On the other end of the word-length scale, watch out for short words like "of," "that," and "by," frequently unnecessary.

Why do all this paring and tightening? To quote Rand again, "Because it reads *faster*, so readers have less time for their minds to lollygag and drift." Hold your reader's interest, and she'll read another chapter.

Coming attractions: next month, Point of View Weasels

Kay Hudson looks these things up, so you don't have to, but she encourages you to explore the language. Visit her and the Grammar Gremlins at kayhudson.com.

A vintage yellow typewriter sits on a light-colored wooden desk. A person's hand is visible, typing on the keyboard. To the left of the typewriter is a white bowl containing a red soup or sauce with some garnishes. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue.

COFW

*Professionals, Writers & Friends Perfecting the
Happily Ever After*