



May 2019

Issue 5

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, Andrea McConnell

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: \$25. After January 31: \$30.

- Membership with Romance Writers of America required.

Follow COFW

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

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

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

Central Ohio Fiction Writers

P.O. Box 24254 Dayton, OH 45424

Next Meeting: June 15th

Pitch to Tule Publishing

Pitch to Tule Publishing and 4 Career Sabotages Sneaking Up On You with Julie Sturgeon, a development editor on the Tule Publishing team.

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

Minutes, May 18th

Minutes of the Central Ohio Fiction Writers
Norwich Township Fire Station, Hilliard
May 18th, 2019

I. Welcome. WIP.

A. Membership Chair Linda Rice will provide name tags for future meetings.

II. Minutes, Secretary Sandy Kachurek.

The minutes of the April 13 meeting were accepted as posted.

III. Reports:

A. President Jeanne Estridge.

1. Jeanne presented a banner featuring the new COFW logo and tagline. Members liked it, calling it "pretty" and "classy."

2. As of June 1, COFW will no longer be using Yahoo Groups as it continues to break down, accepting no attempts to add or change COFW data. RWA Forums will be the site for information and conversation exchanges.

B. Treasurer Stacy McKittrick.

1. Cash on Hand: Checking: \$6819.72. PayPal: \$308.30. Financial Assistance: \$1519.67.

C. Programs, Aleta Dodson. [absent]

D. Ignite the Flame, Linda Rice.

1. Six entries have been received and more expected as the May 31 deadline nears. All 34 judges will be accepting at least three entries and many accepting ten or more entries. COFW must receive 13 entries in order to make a profit. As ITF continues to be advertised on social media, please share it. Grand Prize is a professional edit of the winning entry worth \$300; top three winners will have their contest fee refunded.

E. Education, Erin Novotny.

1. Erin was absent. Jeanne reported that the first digital class with Linnea Sinclair made more money than expected and attendees felt the experience was positive. The next class needs ten students to break even and currently has nine. Also taught by Linnea Sinclair, "Pitches and Blurbs and Tags, Oh My," runs in June for the same cost: COFW \$25; RWA \$30; Non-RWA \$35. The class will cover writers wanting to be published independently and traditionally, wanting representation by agents, editors and self.

2. Jeanne read off main responses to a recent survey that Erin sent out for member input on classes. Responses included particular teachers, such as James Scott Bell, and subject material, such as online

promotion and book mapping. Top three interests: marketing, narration and audio books, and paranormal elements and world building.

3. Digital classes are intended to attract non-members. Jeanne and Linda learned that the new process of advertising on RWA Events requires a local chapter to set up the event on the chapter's RWA portal in order for its events to appear at the top of the Chapter Events page.

4. Digital classes for 2020 will need to be confirmed by September to ensure we get the classes and instructors we're interested in. Under consideration is a schedule offering a digital class every other month.

F. Incentives, Julia Blaine.

1. Julia passed out treats to everyone who had something to celebrate in their writing process.

G. Social Media, Andrea McConnell.

1. Andrea expressed the need to have others take on the duties of the social media chair. Her work schedule is too demanding to continue consistent media coverage for COFW. Members discussed how to disperse the duties and the need for Board members to be admins and have access to the passwords.

H. Newsletter, Rachel Dye.

1. No recap writer needed.

2. Rachel announced that Harlequin Presents Blitz is underway until June 2. The trope is Cinderella (billionaire, prince, exotic locale). Provide Chapter 1 of 4,000-5,000 words and a synopsis with a guaranteed critique by June 16. Presents line pays the most money. Go to Submittable.com. See Harlequin SoYouThinkYouCanWrite.com.

IV. Unfinished Business.

1. Website: Jenessa McRoy was absent but had reported last month that COFW should continue to use its own website. RWA microsites do not offer enough options to support the functionality by Cofwevents.org.

2. Speakers' Bureau: A tab will be added to the website listing members who would like to offer speaker services to other RWA chapters. Send Jeanne your information and a description of topics.

V. New Business.

None.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 1:35 made by Linda Rice, seconded by Rachel Dye.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy

Sandy Kachurek

Secretary

Works in Progress/Attendance for May 18th

Attendance/WIP for May 18th, 2019

1. Stacy McKittrick: 40K into WIP.
2. Linda Rice: working on contest and writing a little.
3. Julia Blaine: rewriting *Tea and Sympathy* and *Emus*.
4. Erin Birkhimer w/a Maren Birk: published *Shot Through the Heart* this past February, working on *Runaway Wife* and more.
5. Andrea McConnell w/a Lena Welston: finally has a new laptop up and running with Scrivener 3 downloaded.
6. Rachel Dye w/a Juliette Hyland: finishing *The Doctor's Star* and Harlequin Presents Blitz.
7. Gina Smith w/a Rochelle Bradley: Book 3 in the Fortuna, TX series, *More Than a Fantasy*, releases May 21.
8. Jeanne Estridge: editing *Girl's Best Friend* to submit to Tule.
9. Sandy Kachurek: applying lessons learned in Linnea Sinclair's digital class on internal conflict to my fantasy in progress.

Meeting Recap for May 18, 2019

There is no meeting recap for May 18th. We discussed good critiquing standards for the judges of the Ignite the Flame Contest.

For information on judging contests, please see Jeanne's Slides on the COFW RWA page.

☆☆☆ New Releases ☆☆☆



More than a Fantasy, by Rochelle Bradley

Finally to be content single, second grade teacher Kelly Greene doesn't need a man screwing up her life, even a sexy cop like Ben. All she needs is her rechargeable double A batteries.

Operation: Win Kelly. For Officer Ben Moore repairing a creepy Victorian house, a workplace dalliance, and camping au naturel are beyond his comfort zone. Ben schemes to bring Kelly's fantasies alive, but in Fortuna, Texas, where men read romance and cosplay is second nature, it's hard to keep their rendezvous hidden from gossipmongers and, more importantly, her match-making momma.

When danger threatens Fortuna Elementary, Ben is assigned a case that keeps thrusting them together, Kelly has a helluva time ignoring her heart—let alone her girly bits.

Ben holds the key to the handcuffs but Kelly must decide if he also holds the key to her heart.

Available Now!

☆☆☆Ignite the Flame☆☆☆

2019 Annual Ignite the Flame Contest



A rewarding contest for ANY writer!

We call our contest Ignite the Flame for a reason. We want to see the scene where your couple meets—whether it's for the first time or a reunion after a time apart—and that unforgettable spark of attraction sizzles between them. Whether your characters are ancient nobility or modern-day entrepreneurs, LGBTQ or straight, super stars or high school students—or even not-quite-human—tease us with the moment their romance ignites.

Submit 15 pages of an **unpublished and uncontracted** novel-length manuscript (minimum of 40,000 words) starting **May 1, 2019 through May 31, 2019, 11:59 EDT**.

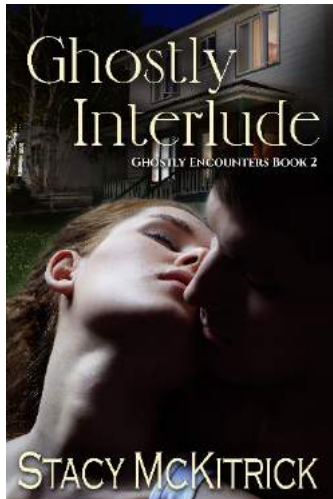
All writers are welcome, whether unpublished or published!

First prize is a copy edit of your full manuscript, up to 150,000 words, by Enterprise Book Services - a \$300 value.

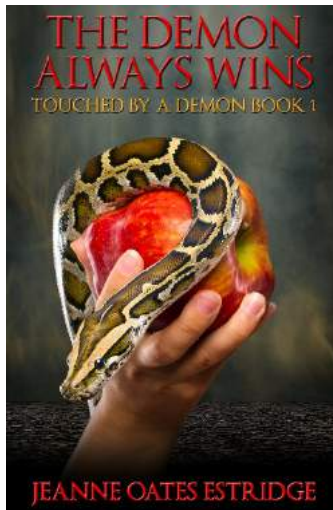
Go to [cofwevents.org/contest](http://www.cofwevents.org/contest) for details.

***Please note, we are looking for judges. If you are available to judge please go to <http://www.cofwevents.org/contest> and sign up!**

☆☆☆Spotlight Corner☆☆☆



Stacy McKittrick's book *Ghostly Interlude* took first place in the Maine Romance Writers Strut Your Stuff Contest's Paranormal/Sci Fi Category!



Jeanne Estridge's *The Demon Always Wins* is a double finalist in the Greater Detroit RWA Booksellers Best Award contest. It finalized in Paranormal Romance/Fantasy/Urban Fantasy and Best First Book.

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>

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
 - Check the picture file's properties and ensure that it's less than 48.83 MB.
 - 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 will stop 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.

Dealing With Rejection

by Pamela Pitts

The following article first appeared in the May 2019 issue of Happily Ever After. Permission granted to reprint or forward to sister RWA chapters with proper credit to author and chapter.

Rejection is an imperative test of one's character.

I don't know who wrote this, but no words ring truer. You've done it. You set pen to paper or fingers to keyboard and poured your thoughts and ideas out on the blank pages or screen before you. After countless edits, revisions, re-edits, your book is complete. After hours of searching through agents' and publishers' websites to find the ones that are specific to your genre, you're ready. Your finger hovers over the submit key and, taking a deep breath, you send your creation, your child, out into the universe.

Within minutes, days or months, a response arrives. You click on the email, and a knife cuts into your soul. Why? You did the research. The agent loves suspense set in small towns. Your book should be exactly what they want. But it's not. You re-read the email, hoping the words will morph into what you want to see, but they remain the same.

After copious amounts of chocolate and curses you repeat the process. Now, you have a folder where your rejection letters live as a reminder that although you love your book, not everyone else does. Over time as writers, we've developed a thicker skin. Once you make the decision to introduce your craft to the world you've subjected yourself to criticism and praise. But we can't forget the criticism. So, we revise and resend, hoping that an agent or publisher will request a partial or full MS.

A rejection isn't personal, although it often feels that way. One thing I've learned is that agents aren't out to undermine you. Their job is to find the next bestseller. They must love the book in order to fight for it. Agents get rejections from publishing companies too, so they have to be selective. This month vampires might be in vogue, next month, werewolves. If you query an agent at the right time, you might get lucky, but, if not don't give up. Writing *is* subjective and trends change constantly.

It's well known that J. K. Rowling's agent received 12 rejections before a publisher took a chance on a story about wizards. It took Agatha Christie 5 years of rejections before she was published, and Beatrix Potter was rejected so many times she self-published *Peter Rabbit*. Stephanie Meyer's *Twilight* was rejected 14 times and *Gone with the Wind* 38 times. Jack London received 600 rejection letters before selling a story. Even Nora Roberts has been rejected.

To those authors who've never received the dreaded email, congratulations, but to the rest of us, we're in good company.



COFW

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