



September 2019

Issue 9

## 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: \$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: October 19<sup>th</sup>**

Norwich Township Safety & Services Building

5181 Northwest Parkway

Hilliard, OH 43026

**Time:** Networking at 12:00 pm, Business meeting at 12:30 pm, Speaker at 1:30 pm

**Topic:** 5 Secrets of Self-Publishing Success (marketing tips) with live Q & A afterward  
with Alessandre Torre

## **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@yahoo.com](mailto:cofwplot@yahoo.com)

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)

**Meeting of COFW  
September 14, 2019  
5181 Northwest Parkway, Hilliard**

**I. Welcome.**

**WIP.**

**II. Minutes, Secretary Sandy Kachurek.** The minutes of the August 17, 2019 meeting were accepted as posted.

**III. Reports:**

**A. President Jeanne Estridge.**

1. Two plotting/brainstorming groups, East and West, continue to meet when members are available. Plotters East meets the first Wednesday of the month, 10 AM, at Panera on Taylor Road in Reynoldsburg. Plotters West meets the second Monday of the month at 6:30 PM at Panera in Huber Heights on Rte 202.
2. Many members were not in attendance due to several author events.

**B. Treasurer Stacy McKitrick.**

1. Cash on Hand: Checking: \$6327.22 + PayPal: \$1336.05 = \$7663.27 Financial Assistance: \$1519.71.
2. Current Membership: 51.
3. Bernie Miller, who writes sweet romance, was introduced as COFW's newest member.

**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.
- Four members from the Indiana RWA Chapter having Damon Suede for a workshop the weekend before ours, have bought tickets for our workshop. Twenty have registered so far. Printed flyers were distributed to anyone who had a place to post them in the area.

**D. Ignite the Flame (ITF), Shari Heinrich.** Shari plans to have a survey out by September 28 and has mailed out gift cards to the winning judges. One judge returned his/her \$25 gift card, which will be used somewhere else.

**E. Education, Erin Novotny.** Erin has sent out a contract to Elana Albertson for her digital class "Instagram for Authors" set for January 2020. Albertson is taking the place of Casey L. Bond's class.

**F. Incentives, Julia Blaine.** Sweet treats went to everyone, including Janice Beckett whose upcoming release is now available for pre-order on Amazon; Erin Novotny who has story published in an anthology; Stacy McKitrick who sold 21 books at a recent show in Savannah, Georgia; and to Bernie Miller for not only being an RWA member but also the newest member of COFW.

**G. Magic Spreadsheet Winner.** Stacy earned Eddie the Emu for most points earned in August.

**H. Social Media, Gina Smith was absent.** Gina has set up an Instagram account for COFW.

**I. Newsletter, Rachel Dye was absent.** No recap writer needed for today's program.

**J. Nominating Committee, Sandy Kachurek.** The only unconfirmed position is President.

**IV. Unfinished Business.** None.

**V. New Business.** 1. Donna had attended a writers' event at OSU where no one had heard of COFW. Members shared ideas on how to attract younger writers and perhaps having a COFW meeting at OSU would help. Aside from cost of a location and parking, the main deterrent is the mandatory RWA dues.

2. NaNoWriMo is a possibility for bringing in new, younger members. Our meeting could be a site for one of the many write-ins occurring in October as a prelude and in November during NaNoWriMo. What would be needed is a local liaison with the organization to present a program during an October meeting to present information on how we could become an event on the NaNoWriMo calendar.

**Adjournment:** Business Meeting adjourned at 1:20.

Today's Program: *Hero's Two Journeys* by Michael Hauge and Chris Vogler on DVD.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Sandy Kachurek Secretary

## *Works in Progress/Attendance for September 14<sup>th</sup>*

1. Julia Blaine: finished editing Tea and Sympathy and Emus for the third time.
2. Stacy McKittrick: first draft of Ghostly Protector and editing Finding the Perfect Mate.
3. Shari Heinrich: editing YA Queen of Wands and participating in another 48-hour story contest.
4. Janice Beckett: starting Book 4 of Horses Heal Hearts series.
5. Linda Rice: writing again, finally.
6. Bernie Miller: The Heart's Bidding.
7. Erin Novotny w/a Tobi Doyle: AJ and Marina's story, Marina's Risk, a romantic suspense.
8. Jenessa McRoy: editing for a friend.
9. Sandy Kachurek: roughing out ideas for a new novel

## September Recap: *The Hero's Two Journeys*

For the presentation section of the September meeting, we watched portions of *The Hero's Two Journeys* from a DVD provided by Donna MacMeans. The DVD featured Michael Hague and Christopher Vogler. Due to time constraints, we elected to focus on the portions presented by Michael Hague.

The primary objective of a movie script or mainstream manuscript is to elicit emotion. The writer accomplishes this by creating an emotionally involving character who pursues a visible goal that has a finish line and who faces seemingly insurmountable odds against achieving that goal.

Per Hague, all Hollywood movie scripts and most genre fiction feature a six stage plot structure and these stages are separated by five formulaic turning points. This is the external journey.



Image from: Storyboard That

### Stage 1

- Setup—introduce the hero and their everyday life, create a connection for the audience
- First 10% of script/manuscript

### Turning Point #1: Opportunity

### Stage 2

- New situation—This is not the overarching goal, just a desire to go someplace new
- Next 15% of script/manuscript

Turning Point #2: Change of Plans—This changes the new situation into the visible goal.

### Stage 3

- Progress—plan seems to be working
- Next 20% of script/manuscript

Turning Point #3: Point of No Return—where the hero realizes they can't go back to the way things were

### Stage 4

- Complications and higher stakes
- Next 25% of script/manuscript

Turning Point #4: Major Setback (aka All is Lost, aka Black Moment)

Stage 5

- Final push—hero puts every ounce of courage and strength into achieving goal
- Next 15-24%

Turning Point #5: Climax

Stage 6

- Aftermath—hero's new life. They may not achieve their goal or achieves only part of their goal (e.g. Rose in *Titanic* gets to America but Jack is dead) but their life is still changed by the journey
- Final 1-10%

Per Hague, there are only 4 goals in movies:

1. Win (*The Karate Kid*, all romance movies)
2. Escape (*The Truman Show*, *The Firm*)
3. Stop (*Die Hard*)
4. Retrieve (*Raiders of the Lost Ark*)

The Inner Journey:

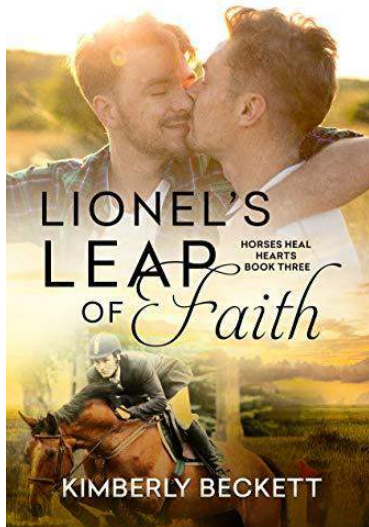
Each hero has an identity, which is what we see ourselves as being, the way we show ourselves to the world. But we each have an essence—who we truly are beneath that mask. The inner journey is about moving from identity to essence.

The arc of a character corresponds to the stages of the plot.

- Stage 1: Living fully in identity (Shrek is just an ogre who keeps people away; Rose (*Titanic*) is just a woman who wears fancy clothes.)
- Stage 2: Hero gets a glimpse of what life would be like living in his essence. (Shrek is crowned by the other fairytale creatures; Rose meets adventurous Jack.)
- Stage 3: Vacillates between identity and essence, straddling the fence. (Shrek is attracted to Fiona but won't expose his vulnerability)
- Stage 4: Commits to essence
- Stage 5: Retreats to identity then returns fully to essence because they realize they can't live in identity anymore. (Shrek leaves Far Far Away, then returns to save Fiona)
- Climax
- Aftermath—transformed existence



## New Releases:



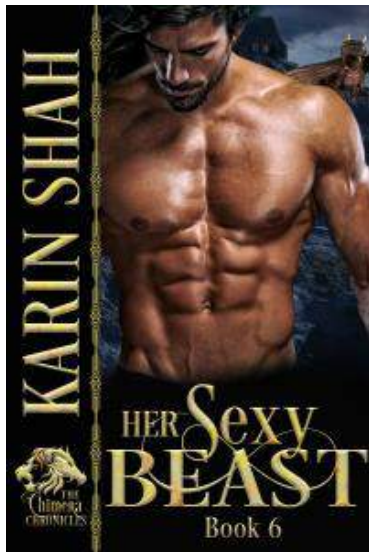
### *Lionel's Leap of Faith* by Kimberly Beckett

One fateful decision in a moment of weakness destroyed Lionel Hayes' life as he knew it and led to the death of his longtime partner and lover. At first, he blamed his friend Michael Stafford for his misfortune and sought revenge, but through his work rehabilitating abused horse, and the trust of one special horse, he realized that he had to take responsibility for his actions, and that he and he alone should take the blame. From that day forward, Lionel vowed to restore his image and resume the career that he loved. In the process, he found the horse of a lifetime, Gideon's Rainbow.

Monty Campbell was a rising star on the international show jumping circuit until he lost his horse to injury. Desperate for a replacement mount, and with the support of the British Equestrian Team, he leaned of Gideon's Rainbow and knew this horse was for him. To

his surprise, the horse's owner was also a perfect match for him, although the man stubbornly refused to acknowledge it. How could Monty convince Lionel they were meant for each other and would the sinister force that sought to destroy Lionel destroy Monty as well?

**Available now on Amazon**



### *Her Sexy Beast* by Karin Shah

#### **Beauty and the Beast with dragons...**

##### *Beast...*

Stolen off the street as a teen, tortured for months, altered into a monster, and dumped with only vague memories of his past, Ronan found refuge in the sideshow of a traveling carnival. It's a lonely life, but it's all he's known for years—until he finds himself transforming further day by day, his temper becoming more and more volatile, his body changing into what he can only label as a beast.

##### *Beauty...*

Sofia Flores always knew what she would do when she grew up, help run the family-owned carnival. She's been studying for years, first as a scholarship student at boarding school, then college, and finally getting her MBA. Now, at last, it's time to take up the reins. But she never bargained with her own fascination for her Tia's star attraction, Ronan. Not only does he appear not to return her interest, he seems to actively dislike her.

## Available now on Amazon

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>

August Winner: Stacy McKittrick, 123 points, 13,017 words

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](http://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.**

# **Deadlines: We All Have Them**

by  
PF Karlin

This article was used in the July 2019 issue of Happily Ever After. Permission granted to reprint or forward to sister RWA chapters with proper credit to author and chapter.

The dreaded deadline. We all have them, but they aren't six headed monsters that will devour us whole if we don't meet them. That is unless you let them.

In daily life we constantly meet deadlines. We pay monthly bills. We have to get to work on time or we might be greeted by an unhappy boss. Deadlines are all around us in everyday life, but they become routine and pressed into our memories as things we just have to do. As a result, we don't fear them. After all, if you don't pay a bill what's the worst that will happen? You pay a late fee.

So, what makes the deadline to write a book different? Fear? Anxiety? Procrastination? It's most likely a bit of all of these.

If you're a traditionally published author you have an idea, write an outline and synopsis, then you sell your agent on the idea, who then sells the idea to a publisher. Great! Now, you're told you have three months to write the book. There are editors, graphic designers, publicists and your agent all waiting in the background for your creativity to kick in. If it's your first book the simplest solution to reduce the stress of publishing is to have the book written before you make the pitch to your agent. The editor suggestions are far easier to take if you don't have the pressure of spontaneous creativity. The changes may lead to some serious scene rewrites, but hopefully the suggestions will result in a better book and a contract for a second, third, or even a fourth.

Now, Indie Publishing is a different animal all together. There is no one in the background asking for more, except maybe a significant other or family member. The indie pub author is an island of her own making. If they don't do it, it doesn't get done.

However, the traditional and indie authors do have the same problem. They both have deadlines. The traditional author has one set by the publishing house. The indie has to set one for herself, but in either case, it requires discipline.

Think about what makes us sit down every month to transfer money to a bunch of companies in order to have a roof over our heads and eat regular meals, so we can

live in some facsimile of comfort. Discipline. The routine of doing that every month becomes second nature and we just do it. Maybe a little early or late, but we do it.

Now, take that same principle and go into writing training. Set a time when you write the best and the length of time that is the most realistic for you to devote to writing. Be practical when setting up this time frame. Write the times in your daily planner. Schedule your appointments around your writing sessions. Don't let anything or anyone interfere with your schedule. Don't give in, stay strong, and before you know it, you'll have a disciplined writing schedule that's pressed into your mind because it's your routine.

