



June 2020

Issue 5

Welcome to Central Ohio Fiction Writers Newsletter

Contents

1. COFW Basics: Contact and Meeting Info. Dues. Media Connections
2. July Meeting
3. COFW Fiction Plotters
4. June Minutes
5. June Recap: Audiobook Panel
6. New Releases
7. Spotlight Corner
8. COFW Magic Spreadsheet

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

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/>

Central Ohio Fiction Writers

P.O. Box 24254 Dayton, OH 45424

Next Meeting: July 18, 2020; Learn Book Brush with Kathleen Sweeny

Join us for a fun live walk-through with Kathleen Sweeney of the Book Brush tools & see how easy it is to create your own eye-catching images. See why authors say that Book Brush saves them both time and money! 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

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

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 of the Central Ohio Fiction Writers via Zoom
June 13, 2020**

I. Welcome

II. Attendance: Janice Beckett, Sandy Kachurek, Linda Rice, Gina Smith/Rochelle Bradley, Shari Heinrich, Rachel Dye/Juliette Hyland, Jeanne Estridge, Andrea McConnell, Becky Barker, Susan Gee Heino, Erin Novotny.

III. WIP:

Jeanne said that on Amazon, when sort order is "Top Reviews," the review(s) that have been marked "Helpful" most often by potential buyers sort to the top. To get a favored review to rise to the top of the list, an author can ask friends and family to go to Amazon, search for the book in question, go to the reviews for that book, and click "Helpful" on the desired review.

Gina pointed out that it's possible to link directly to the desired review. She will post an example with one of her books on the COFW FB Page.

IV. Minutes from May were accepted as corrected for grammar errors by Rachel, seconded by Gina.

V. President's Report, Janice:

1. RWA Town Hall Meeting for All Members, June 3 [recap by Sandy]:

Recap: Interim President Alyssa Day presented a brief update of four major issues: (a) a draft of a code of ethics should be ready by end of June; (b) dispelling divisions in chapter relations; (c) threading the work of the DEIA though everything RWA 2.0 is doing; (d) language changes in articles 10, 11, 12 in the bylaws will open for voting beginning June 4-11.

Q&A Highlights: (a) PAN forum will not open until code of ethics, guidelines and moderating are in place to cease the forum's toxicity from recurring; (b) RWA wants authors affected by the lack of royalty payment by Dreamspinner Press to contact them and the RWA attorney; (c) Vivian, RITA replacement, will focus on literary merit, not subjectivity, and unpublished authors will have equal opportunities; (d) the website is being redesigned for easier access to share and meet members and will be ready by end of July; (e) current software cannot allow for monthly payment of dues; (f) current RWA membership is 6633, approximately 1900 members and three chapters have left; (g) RWA building is up for sale or lease.

Next town hall meeting: August 8.

2. 2020 RWA National Conference will be online, August 28-30. Details in the works.

3. Only 800 RWA members voted on bylaw changes, which was approved 98.1%.

VI. Treasurer's Report: Stacy McKittrick not in attendance:

Report posed in Forum. Rachel accepted report at posted, seconded by Jeanne. Passed.

VII. Programs, Jeanne:

Programs for the year are posted on COFWEvents Meetings page. Our webmistress has set it up so that the Home page will automatically update with the info on the next meeting at 4 p.m. on the day of the current meeting.

Today: Audio Books with Erin Novotny, Janice Beckett, Justine Covington and Becky Bartley via Zoom.

July: BookBrush, ads and social media images, tutorial via Zoom.

August: Recap of the 2020 RWA National Convention via Zoom.

September: "Fun With Plotting" with Patricia Matthews [fantasticfiction.com] at the Norwich Township Building, 5181 Northwest Parkway, Hilliard.

October: Grace Burrowes at the Norwich Township Building, 5181 Northwest Parkway, Hilliard.

November: "Stronger Scenes" with Jeanne Estridge at the Norwich Township Building, 5181 Northwest Parkway, Hilliard.

December: Holiday party.

January 2021: Sherry Thomas of The Lady Sherlock series.

VII. Ignite the Flame Contest: Shari:

Shari will consider whether the top prize will be an editor, agent or professional edit; she believes the decision will occur following the virtual 2020 RWA National Conference.

VIII. Incentives, Julia (absent):

Janice, major edits on WIP going to publisher on Monday; Rachel, edits back and title defined on WIP-- *Stolen Kiss with the Midwife*; Shari, Draft 6 of *Queen of Wands* with one left to go; Gina, two anthologies in July for charity and another anthology for Valentine's Day; Susan signed with Harlequin's Inspire line for book due in November.

Magic Spreadsheet winner for May: Ann Chlovechok with 560 points for 46,412 words.

IX. Newsletter: Rachel:

No recap writer needed for today's panel. Looking for new releases for July. Appreciates the cover for Karen Harper's release and statement regarding Ignite the Flame being renamed in her honor.

X. Ohio Fiction Writers (OFW), Gina: Zoom meeting on Monday is set.

XI. New Business:

1. Future COFW Meeting Sites: Option 1: shift between Columbus and Dayton because 50% of members live in both; Option 2: shift between Zoom and live meetings; Option 3: all meetings on Zoom; Option 4: live meetings with online coverage at same time.

Members discussed various aspects of each option. Gina suggested the Oakwood library's meeting room in its basement, and Sandy said she'd look into Springfield library's set up and policy. Janice will conduct a survey.

2. Officers for 2021: Voting is in November; however, be thinking about serving on the board, which includes a president, treasurer, and secretary. Janice is not running again; Sandy's and Stacy's terms will expire. Please let Janice know, ASAP.

Adjournment: 1:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy

Sandy Kachurek, Secretary

Audiobook Panel

By Rachel Dye

The COFW Zoom meeting on June 13 featured speakers Becky Barker, Kimberly Beckett, Tobi Doyle and Justine Covington.

There are lots of factors to consider when launching your audio book. Our speakers covered a range of topics from the process to find a narrator, royalty shares, doing it yourself and some online groups to help you along the way.

Amazon (ACX) is the biggest player in this arena. Amazon will let you put together a list of requirements for your narrator, and price settings. If you are exclusive with Amazon for seven years then the royalty is 40%. If you are exclusive for a year, then you have twenty-five percent royalty.

Choosing a narrator:

- Everyone recommended listening to multiple actors and to their auditions
- Justine recommended including internal thoughts in the monologue to make sure that you like how they read internal thoughts
- Some narrators are also producers
- If you use ACX, Amazon gives you a sheet to fill out which gives you options across the board.
- If your narrator is a member of SAG then their rate will be 250 dollars at a minimum
- If you do dual narrators, that will drive your cost up

Royalty Shares:

- This is where you and the narrator share the royalty shares and there are no up front costs to the author.
 - Please note, that multiple panelists say that many narrators are no longer doing royalty shares.
- Hybrid: Royalty share and pay for production

Doing it yourself:

Before getting started you need to consider the following:

- Do you have a nice voice?
- Are you comfortable learning new computer software?
- Do you have a quiet place to record?
- Do you have a silent/quiet laptop or computer?
 - If no, can you afford one?
- Can you afford \$200-500 in equipment?

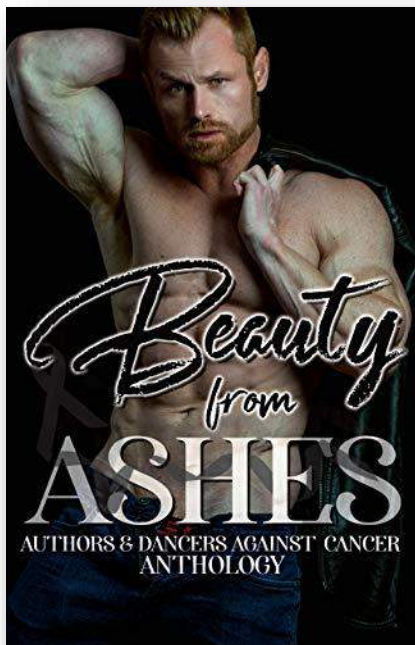
- TL:DR The process is time intensive, expensive upfront costs, but royalties are forever
- Equipment required:
 - A good cardioid condenser microphone \$80-400
 - Great article regarding microphones here: <https://www.voices.com/blog/which-microphones-are-best-for-voice-actors/>
 - A pop filter \$20
 - Foam \$20-100
 - Headphones
 - Computer
 - M-Audio M-Track USB audio and MIDI interface \$250 (not sure if you need this for a USB microphone)
- You need a quiet space!!
 - A quiet place, indoor, heavily carpeted or many fabrics to deaden noise. Best to use a room that doesn't adjoin to outside. (Leaf blowers are your nemesis)
 - Closet under the stairs
 - Kids moved out and I took over a bedroom closet and use HEAVY drapes for windows.
 - I used blankets, comforters, sleeping bags, etc. and then finally purchased foam squares which are great. (Still use the blankets)
- Software requirements:
 - Adobe Audition is the industry standard but it's expensive
 - Audacity is FREE for both Mac and PC, lots of YouTube videos to help you learn how to use it.
- How to:
 - Record yourself narrating (either mono or stereo)
 - Keep in mind that your voice will become stressed and change after 90 minutes.
 - Read manuscript while listening to your recording and mark sections that need to be re-recorded. (slurred/skipped words/noises)
 - Re-record sections and carefully edit them into the narration.
 - Edit out breath sounds and mouth clicks.
 - Follow ACX submission guidelines: <https://www.acx.com/help/acx-audio-submission-requirements/201456300>
 - Seriously – GO THROUGH THE ACX GUIDELINES
 - Check out YouTube for great instructional videos for whatever software you're using
- The money
 - Exclusive deal with ACX means 40% royalty share
 - Only available through Amazon
 - Non-exclusive deal means 25% but you can sell it through other outlets
 - Contract is for seven years (the last time Tobi checked)

- Tobi's Numbers
 - Tobi make \$50-\$250 pfh for non-royalty share as a narrator
 - Every 10,000 words = 1 hour audiobook = ~4 hours work
 - Royalty types:
 - AL units (Allocation factor) – member used credit (royalty about ¼ price)
 - ALOP units – member price, 30% of regular price
 - ALC units – a la carte – regular price
 - Bounty units-Earn up to \$75 if your book is the first book purchased and the person joins Audible. (I usually get \$20)
- 2020 Audio Book retail prices
 - under 1 hour (10K words): under \$7
 - 1 - 3 hours (10-30K words): \$7 - \$10
 - 3 - 5 hours (30-50K words): \$10 - \$20
 - 5 - 10 hours (50-100K words): \$15 - \$25
 - 10 - 20 hours (100-200K words): \$20 - \$30
 - over 20 hours (>200K words): \$25 - 35
- Tobi's Audio Book Numbers (over eight years)
 - 6 of my books and sold 120 audiobooks
 - I don't advertise my audiobooks
 - 42 titles and sold 2500 audiobooks (over 8 yrs)
 - With credits used, that can be as low as \$1.20/book
 - Narrated "for hire" anywhere from \$50/pfh* to \$250/pfh
 - I no longer do royalty share
 - Fun fact: narrated Leigh Michaels Creating Romantic Characters and decided to write my first romance 😊
 - *pfh is per-finished-hour and only includes the length of the audiobook, not the time spent to create it

If you have questions on how to do it yourself, Tobi stated that you could email her questions, tobi@tobidoyle.com

- Resources:
 - ACX has SO many resources, start there: <https://www.acx.com/help/authors-as-narrators/200626860>
 - YouTube is VERY helpful
 - Oral Fixation: Facebook Fan group for different audio actors. These are readers who will listen to anything if a certain actor is narrating
 - Audio Book Boom: Facebook page where authors pass codes in exchange for reviews of books

New Releases:



Beauty from the Ashes Anthology

Beauty from Ashes Authors & Dancers Against Cancer Anthology 19 Amazing Authors, Different Genres, & One Great Cause. Proceeds benefit Dancers with Cancer.

Rochelle Bradley's short story, - The Playboy's Pretend Fiancé is included in the anthology.

Available Now!

Take Two Anthology



Take Two: A Collection of Second Chance Stories is an anthology of from the authors of Writers on the River. Love and life get another chance in these tales that will warm your heart and make you fall in love again.

Rochelle Bradley's short story is included in the anthology.

Available Now!

The proceeds of this anthology will go to Thistle Farms, a non-profit organization located in Nashville, Tennessee that helps women survivors of violence, sex trafficking, prostitution and addiction

COFW has a goal sheet!!!



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>

May Winner: Anne Chlovechok

The winner gets Eddie!

A vintage yellow typewriter sits on a light-colored wooden desk. To its left is a white cup filled with orange tea, garnished with a slice of citrus and a small flower. To its right is a dark blue wristband with a white floral pattern. A person's hand is visible, typing on the typewriter's keyboard.

COFW

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