



December, 2018.

Volume XXX. Issue 11.

## **Welcome to Central Ohio Fiction Writers Newsletter**

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**Newsletter Editor. Sandra J. Kachurek**

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.

December, 2018/Issue 11/Volume XXX/1

**♥ Central Ohio Fiction Writers ♥**  
**Proud Chapter of the Romance Writers of America®**

**2018 Leadership**

President, Jenessa McRoy <[jenessahl@gmail.com](mailto:jenessahl@gmail.com)>  
Secretary, Susan Heino <[susan\\_gee\\_heino@yahoo.com](mailto:susan_gee_heino@yahoo.com)>  
Treasurer, Jeanne Estridge <[jeanne.estrIDGE.author@gmail.com](mailto:jeanne.estrIDGE.author@gmail.com)>

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Social Media Chair, Andrea McConnell <[fyrefly93@gmail.com](mailto:fyrefly93@gmail.com)>  
Incentives, Julia Blaine <[julmassie@aol.com](mailto:julmassie@aol.com)>

**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 [Must also join RWA.]**

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

**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

## COFW Leadership for 2019

President, Jeanne Estridge, <[jeanne.estrIDGE.author@gmail.com](mailto:jeanne.estrIDGE.author@gmail.com)>

Secretary, Sandra J. Kachurek, <[sandrajkachurek@gmail.com](mailto:sandrajkachurek@gmail.com)>

Treasurer, Stacy McKitrick, <[semckitrick@aol.com](mailto:semckitrick@aol.com)>

Programs Chair, Aleta Dodson <[aletawrites@hotmail.com](mailto:aletawrites@hotmail.com)>

Newsletter Editor, Rachel Dye w/a Juliette Hyland <[juliette.r.hyland@gmail.com](mailto:juliette.r.hyland@gmail.com)>



*The COFW Board for the 2019 Term includes Stacy McKitrick, treasurer; Jeanne Estridge, president; and Sandy Kachurek, secretary.*

# **COFW Fiction Plotters Meet Monthly**

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?

## **COFW Fiction Plotters of the East**

First Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m.

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](mailto:cofwplot@yahoogroups.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 Add a West Wing**

If you're from Dayton or Troy or points west of Columbus,  
COFW members are forming a plotting group.

Panera Bread

8104 Old Troy Pike. Huber Heights 45424

First Meeting: Monday, January 14, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

# Allie Pleiter and the Chunky Writing Method

By Julia Blaine

I was one of the COFW members, along with other writers, who attended the workshop led by author Allie Pleiter at the Clintonville Women's Club in Columbus on November 10.

Most of Allie's 40 published books are contemporary fiction with one historical based just after WWI. Her nonfiction books about writing include *The Chunky Method Handbook*, *Your Step by Step Plan to Write that Book When Life Gets in the Way*, and *How to Write When Everything Goes Wrong*.

She spent the morning describing the Chunky Way to write.

The Chunky Writing method involves evaluating how you spend your time. For Allie, she believes in lists and schedules.

She recommends you make a list of all your activities, such as writing, working, family time, domestic chores, sleeping, recreation and school. For some writers, perhaps life includes other things like an important hobby.

Next you should consider the hours in a day and hours in a week. For example, you may run two or three times a week rather than everyday, and work only 30 hours. Guesstimate how long each activity takes. The list should be weekly, not daily. Make a rough calendar and be somewhat flexible because life does get in the way. Allie gave us a chart to fill in.

Number your activities by priority. Know what you will be doing next. What can you ignore if something unexpected happens?

I thought this sounded like a lot of work but Allie Pleiter does it. She says that to make your list you must discount emotions and acknowledge your goals so you can make them happen.

What was most useful for me was figuring out how many words I could type in an hour.

Most of us have a word count on our computers. Allie said you should keep track of when you start writing and stop writing. I wrote from noon to 3 p.m. and did 674 words that day. If I measure the same way for the next day or so, I can take an average. It's easiest to figure out if you work the same amount of time every day. That's where the schedule comes in.

Why is this important?

If you know about how long your book should be, you can figure out how long it will take to write it. Even better, should you be asked to do revisions by your editor, you can give her or him an accurate date to submit the changes. This should keep an author from guessing and ending up rushed at the last minute.

If you are submitting to a certain publisher, you will know how long the book should be and when a submission will be due.

Usually a single title is 85,000 to 100,000 words. A novella is 20,000 to 40,000 words. Short genre fiction is 45,000 to 65,000. Mysteries run 55,000 to 75,000 words.

Allie Pleiter advises knowing how your book should turn out before you start writing. She also likes to keep writing and then go back to make corrections or revisions later. The number of pages you turn out a day can be very encouraging. You feel in control.

The Chunky Writing method will work for both Planners and Pantsers, she said.

She had suggestions for being comfortable while you write. Listen to your body. What are you wearing? Do you need quiet? Music? Is your desk the

right height?

Her ideas for removing writer's block include: (1) writing down ten "what ifs" relating to your plot; (2) writing three random words, which can loosen up ideas; and (3) going through each setting by senses. Remember opposites attract, (4) make a list of opposites defining your hero and heroine. Finally, (5) keep in mind that a virtue can be a vice if carried too far and vice versa.

Basically, I found that Allie Pleiter helps writers take control of their lives. Her books on Chunky Writing have a great deal of information to help organize a writer to be successful.



**Julia Blaine** has been writing stories since before she could write. "I drew pictures until I mastered a few words." She lives in the country with a grumpy husband, a cantankerous computer, and too many ideas to take advantage of.

## ☆☆☆ *Stellar News* ☆☆☆

*What have you done recently to get one step closer to achieving a contract,  
perfecting your business, connecting with your readers?  
Let's celebrate your efforts.*

☆ **Donna MacMeans:** A Hollywood literary agent/producer is reading her *Bound by Moonlight* with consideration for a movie or series on television.

## COFW to Offer Two Online Classes by Linnea Sinclair

According to member polling results, two online classes taught by romance science fiction author Linnea Sinclair are on the events calendar for 2019.

The first class, "Inside Out: Crafting Your Character's Internal Conflict," will begin April 1.

"Linnea wants to make it clear," said Jeanne. "This class is NOT a beginner class. To get the value from the class, you need to be familiar with the basics of [\*Goal, Motivation and Conflict\*](#). If you've never read Deb Dixon's masterwork on this topic, please plan to do so before the class starts."

Second online course will be Linnea's "Pitches and Blurbs and Tag-lines. Oh, My!" It will begin June 1.

Authors need to master these three areas of the writing business, whether they self-publish or go the traditional route. "Even if you're not ready to publish or submit, being able to summarize your story in a few pithy words can be very helpful in clarifying just what story you're telling. It also helps when you ask for brainstorming help," said Jeanne.

The bio on Linnea's website, [Linnea Sinclair](#), explains why she is a perfect pick for COFW's first step into offering digital classes.

"Winner of the prestigious national book award, the RITA®, science fiction romance author Linnea Sinclair is a name synonymous with high-action, emotionally intense, character-driven novels.

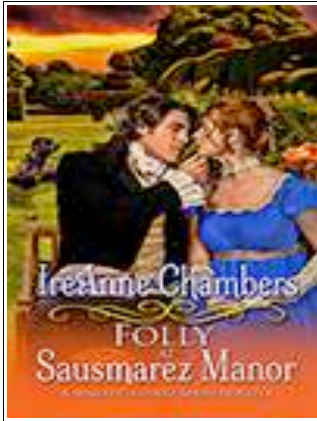


"Reviewers note that Sinclair's novels 'have the wow-factor in spades,' earning her accolades from both the science fiction and romance communities."



**New Release**  
**by**  
**IreAnne Chambers**

## Folly at Sausmarez Manor



The folly begins when Lady Cordelia "Delia" and her family visit Sausmarez Manor on Guernsey Island in the fall of 1801. And why not? It's the perfect stopover on their way to the continent for reasons that can only be discussed in confidence.

Marshall Compton, Marquess of Daventry and archaeologist extraordinaire, certainly isn't aware of their visit until he offers to escort Lady Delia to see prehistoric ruins on the island. This piece of chivalry lands him a fiancée he's not sure he wants, in-laws he can do without, and run-ins with the Russians. Or are they pirates?

One thing is sure. Marshall's plans for an Indian expedition are lost. Maybe.

[IreAnne Chambers](#) writes Fun, Cozy, Historicals, and Then Some ... filled with Sweet Romance and Always PG/PG-13.

**IreAnne has been a member of COFW since 2012.** "I believe the education I received on the publishing industry, how to promote, how to stay motivated, how to improve my craft, and so much more has been exceptional. The encouragement I've received from published authors, both traditional and indie, is priceless. Although I'm not able to get down to Columbus from Cleveland as I have in the past, I am so thankful to be a member of this group."



**New Release**  
**by**  
**Barbara Lohr**

## **Christmas Dreams and Santa Schemes**

**Man from Yesterday**

Can the young widow make her family's Christmas dreams come true? Her scheming little boys might have an answer.

Sarah has to fill the bakery cases in her coffee shop this Christmas to catch up on late taxes. Her brother-in-law Ryan volunteers to help bake. She almost turns down the offer since he's more comfortable on a Harley than in a kitchen. Her children don't agree. Nathan and Justin adore Uncle Ryan and scheme to make him the man of Mom's dreams.

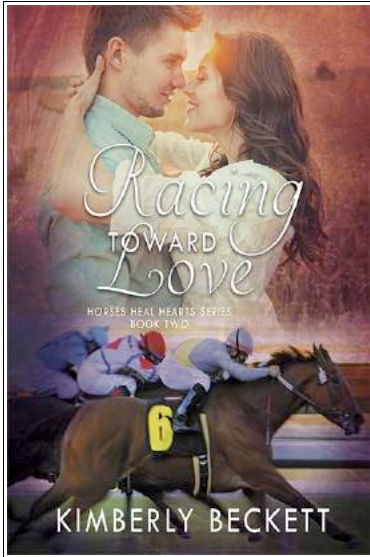


**Barbara Lohr** writes sweet, heartwarming romance with a flair for fun. Her two series include *Windy City Romance* and *Man from Yesterday*. *Christmas Dreams and Santa Schemes* is the seventh book in that series.

Good often figures in her work. She feels strongly that dark chocolate should be a part of the food pyramid. Although she now lives in Savannah with her husband and a cat that insists he was Heathcliff in another life, she has fond memories of Ohio and remains a member of COFW.

**New Release by Kimberly Beckett**

## *Racing Toward Love*



When Megan Brady's thoroughbred becomes a contender for the British Triple Crown, the Irish mob offers Megan's brother a bribe to purposely lose the most important race of Seabiscuit II's career.

Her brother refuses and Megan takes it upon herself to thwart the mob, whose brutal tactics nearly see her raped until Ian steps in to save her.

Ian Stafford, former British Special Forces soldier, sees a woman being threatened and intervenes. The woman escapes, but Ian accidentally kills one of the attackers. Ian is charged with manslaughter, and the woman who can exonerate him has disappeared.

Megan knows she must come out of hiding to free Ian. If she does, however, the mob will be waiting for her. What about Ian? Will Ian allow himself to love again and to trust Megan with his heart?

**Kimberly Beckett** says, "I credit my status as a published author to my membership in the COFW. It was at a COFW meeting that I pitched my first book to Soul Mate publishing and was accepted. I have also learned so much from the guest speakers as well as the members themselves who are knowledgeable about the craft of writing and the newest methods of sales and marketing. I am so glad I joined nearly two years ago now. I couldn't imagine not being a member."



## January Release by Jeanne Estridge

### The Demon's in the Details



It'll be a cold day in Hell before artist Georgia O'Keeffe "Keeffe" Blackmon gives up her statue of the evangelist *John*. Not even when the gorgeous but morally repulsive billionaire Seth McCall is buying. That is, until Keeffe discovers she has just one month to prove she's earning a living with her art. If not, *John* will be lost to her forever.

Abaddon, aka Bad, is Satan's geekiest--and smartest--minion. He offers to demonically possess McCall and talk Keeffe out of the statue if Satan will agree to put him back in charge of Hell's technology hub.

Keeffe races to earn cash by painting a mural at McCall's mansion. There the billionaire blows hot and cold, as if he's two different men: one sweet and nerdy, the other a total jerk.

Their attraction is sizzling, but how will Keeffe feel when she learns the truth about her demon-possessed lover? And is Bad smart enough to win himself and Keeffe their happy ever after?

**Jeanne Oates Estridge** wrote her first short story in third grade, a tale of birth-control-challenged bunnies who named their children in alphabetical order. *The Demon's in the Details* was a 2018 Golden Heart® finalist and is the second book in her *Touched by a Demon* trilogy of paranormal romances.



**Jeanne joined COFW in 2014.** "RWA is the only writers' organization that I know of that actively works to teach the craft and business of writing to would-be romance writers. What romance writer wouldn't want to be a part of that?"



# 2019 COFW Board Looks Ahead

President Jeanne Estridge, Treasurer Stacy McKitrick, and Secretary Sandy Kachurek made their debut as the new COFW Board during the holiday party at Jane Conner's on December 6.

Rachel Dye accepted another significant position for the chapter, the newsletter editor.

Member-of-the-Year award went to Aleta Dodson, who is continuing her role as Programs Chair for 2019.

After delicious food and conversation, attendees at the party gathered together in the living room where President Jeanne shared her goals for the coming year. Number one was to raise money for the Chapter to be able to host gay romance author Damon Suede at our November workshop.



*Rachel Dye is the chapter's newsletter editor for 2019.*

"We are in decent shape for 2019," explained Jeanne, "but if we don't do some serious fund-raising, we'll be out of money by the end of this coming year."

Her immediate plan is to offer two online courses facilitated by romance/sci-fi author Linnea Sinclair. Jeanne made a copy of possible online session topics available at the party as well as putting a copy in the Files section of our Yahoo loop.

"We need to make our decision quickly about which sessions we'd like to take and offer them to the public before another group gets them and they are unavailable," she said. "I told Linnea I would be back in touch with her this weekend."

Jeanne also spoke of the Ignite the Flame Contest.

Based on feedback from the committee to revamp the contest, Jeanne said most likely the basic requirement for the contest will remain the same: a maximum of 15 pages of an unpublished work that expresses the moment in which the flame of love is ignited between characters. "We will accept entries in May and do first-round judging in June," said Jeanne.



***Programs Chair Aleta Dodson will continue her position in 2019.***

Changes to the contest may include doing away with categories.

"The purpose is the same no matter the genre or audience," said Stacy McKittrick.

"The challenge is how well the scene of igniting the flame unfolds. It doesn't really matter whether the flame is between fantasy characters, gay characters, within a historical romance setting, a contemporary romance setting, or for an audience of adults or young adults."

Jeanne added. "Another change is that we will allow authors, both published and unpublished, to compete.

The only requirement is that the submitted scene comes from an unpublished and un-contracted manuscript."

Entries would be dispersed among judges. Because this fund-raising effort is critical to the future of COFW, Jeanne is asking that all members plan to judge. According to scored points, the top three highest entries then will be judged to make the final, one-winner determination. Karen Harper, New York Times best-selling author and COFW member, has tentatively agreed to judge the final round.

Top three finalists will be reimbursed their entry fee. The winner will receive a copyedit from a professional editor.

Plans for the contest must be finalized before the end of the year because, according to Linda Rice, the chapter's encyclopedia on all things RWA

related, the ad for the contest must be placed in *Romance Writers Report* (RWR) by January 1.

Branding and marketing is another goal on the President's list.

"Our website looks very dated," said Jeanne. "We need a fresh, modern look that will attract younger and more diverse members."

The timeline is sometime next year. "We will move the hosting of our website to fall under the new RWA website. When that happens, we need to be ready with our brand in place."

Because the committee that formed this summer to revamp our branding task has not been able to move forward, Jeanne asked for a new crew of volunteers. About eight chapter members stepped forward. Their charge is to come up with three choices of logo, tagline, and color scheme. Donna MacMeans and Maddie James agreed to chair this committee and to have results to report to the membership by the February meeting.

The holiday party at Jane's ended as it began with lots of good cheer and lots of good things on the horizon for the COFW!



*Enjoying the holiday party at Jane Conner's home: Donna MacMeans, Linda Rice, Robin Gianna and Karen Harper, standing. Susan Heino and Becky Barker, sitting.*