



February 2020

Issue 2

## 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.

## **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](http://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: March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020; Craft class: Building Better Scenes Using Beats by Author Jeanne Oates Estridge OR Understanding Federal Law Enforcement and Intelligence Community for Writers by Author Juliette Hyland**

February 14th, 2020 - Business meeting at 12:30 pm, Discussion at 1:30 pm  
Norwich Township Fire Station 83, 4283 Davidson Rd, Hilliard, OH 43026

- *Please note that we are at the smaller location this month*

## 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](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)

**Minutes of the Central Ohio Fiction Writers  
Norwich Township Fire Station 82. Hilliard.  
February 15, 2020**

**I. Welcome:**

President Janice Beckett opened the meeting at 12:35, directing members and guests to sign the Works in Progress/Attendance sheet going around the room.

**II. Minutes:**

Jeanne Estridge moved and Bernie Miller seconded to accept the minutes of January 18 as posted. Motion passed.

**III. Reports:**

**A. President, Janice Beckett:**

1. After a brief update of RWA's current events, including the resignation of all RWA Board members, two members running for RWA president, names coming forward to run for other elected positions, and a new DEI representative in place, Janice said that things seem to be moving in the right direction for RWA.

2. The purpose of the East and West Plotting Groups was given for new members and guests along with where and when each meet.

**B. Treasurer, Stacy McKittrick:**

Membership: 35

Cash on Hand [Assets] for January 2020:

Checking: \$7140.40

PayPal: \$478.99

Total: \$7619.39

Perseverance Fund: \$1519.76

**C. Program for March 15:**

Depending on availability of tech equipment, either:

1. "Building Stronger Scenes Using Beats" by Jeanne Estridge, or

2. "Understanding Federal Law Enforcement and Intelligence Committee for Writers" by Rachel Dye.

**LOCATION CHANGE for March: Smaller Firehouse 83. 4283 Davidson Road. Hilliard. 43026.**

**D. Ignite the Flame Contest, Shari Heinrich:**

Stacy made a motion, seconded by Rachel, to not hold an ITF contest this year, due to 2020 being a year of great transition. Motion passed.

**E. Digital Education, Erin: Absent**

**F. Incentives:** Shari Heinrich served as Incentives chair in lieu of Julia Blaine's absence. Notables: Rochelle Bradley showed her fourth published book, *Municipal Liaison*; Ken Shipley, paranormal romance writer, was attending his first meeting; Jeanne Estridge recently sat on a romance panel at Books & Company in Dayton; Janice Beckett's third book in her *Horses Heals Hearts* series will be out soon in an audio book format.

**G. Newsletter, Rachel Dye: recently solved a MailChimp verification error.**

**IV. Unfinished Business:**

**A. Results of Cause and Benefits Analysis Committee:**

Shari shared the results of the Cause and Benefits Analysis of COFW remaining or leaving its affiliation with RWA. The analysis has been posted. Its highlights include: The potential cost for COFW to market its digital classes and contests without RWA channels; current status of other RWA-affiliated chapters across the country, including San Diego, San Jose, Las Vegas and NEORWA Cleveland; what COFW's affiliation with RWA costs us; what RWA gives us, in monetary value; and costs for continuing with RWA and for starting up a chapter without RWA affiliation.

**B. Discussion: Can we keep solvent if we start anew?**

1. Areas of note: COFW keeps its tax exempt status. Splinter groups (non-RWA affiliated groups) exist. Over the years, RWA's purposed advocacy of writers has waned. COFW's assets total \$7619.00, the amount due RWA if COFW officially disaffiliates itself today.

2. Need for a lawyer: a huge issue in the decision to start anew is the loss of COFW assets to RWA. A consortium of chapters seeking legal advice offers other similar chapters to join them. Joining reduces the cost of COFW procuring a lawyer on our own. Motion made by Shari, seconded by Susan Gee Heino, to invest approximately \$300 to buy into a consortium of RWA-affiliated chapters who are also seeking legal counsel in consideration of disaffiliation. Motion passed.

**Break: 1:30-1:50.**

### **C. Investigating the Steps of Disaffiliation: Game Plan**

1. Confirming Legal Language: Bylaws stress in a dissolution, COFW's assets go to RWA. Any changes to these bylaws by COFW must be approved by RWA. Practices & Policies Manual (P&PM) states that in the event COFW disaffiliates itself from RWA, COFW owes "remaining assets" to RWA.

**2. Reducing Current COFW Assets:** Spend assets by getting a big-name presenter for a workshop later in the year, or pay ahead for annual purchases, such as the web developer. Shari suggested making donations to marginalized groups that may have accidentally been excluded. One example is to the work being done by local author Yolonda Tonette Sanders, Founder and CEO of Yo Productions, LLC. <https://www.yoproductions.net/> Needed: a list of COFW's monetary responsibilities.

### **D. Options:**

Shari took on typing duties for the overhead screens to encourage and facilitate brainstorming on all options open to COFW.

1. Turned down by members at the meeting:

- Dissolve completely.
- Remain status quo.
- Disaffiliate from RWA immediately.

2. Given Consideration:

- Revisit disaffiliation in August after the Annual General Members meeting (AGM) during the National RWA conference in San Francisco. RWA may dissolve itself at the meeting, thus giving us a chance to retain our assets.
- Set a Mile Marker, such as, "If RWA has not done X by Y, then do Z on our part," which could be done in conjunction with revisiting the issue in August after the AGM in San Francisco.

3. Completed. See Motion under B. above:

- Work with a lawyer being hired by other chapters to see if we can keep our chapter's assets.

4. Voted Unanimously:

Motion by Susan, seconded by Rachel to the following option: COFW plans to vote on disaffiliation from RWA by the end of 2020. We will time our disaffiliation decision based on the legal advice we are soliciting regarding our assets. We will continue to plan our

programming, understanding that we may disaffiliate on or before December 31, 2020. Should RWA dissolve before then, we will transfer our assets to another nonprofit organization to be chosen by the COFW membership. The goal would be to minimize the assets that we turn over to RWA, given our lack of trust in the current fiduciary stability of the organization.

Motion passed.

Adjournment: 3:15.

Sincerely,

Sandy

Sandy Kachurek, Secretary

Central Ohio Fiction Writers

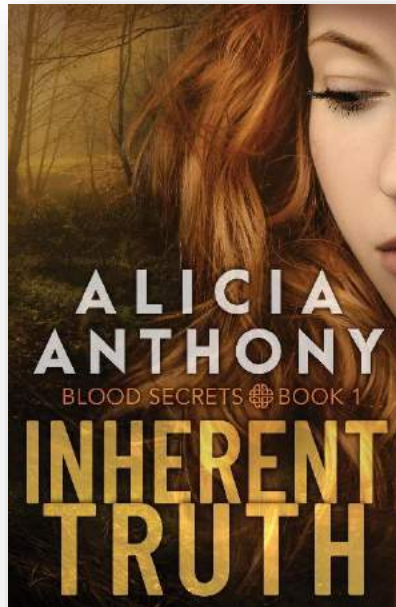
**COFW Minutes/Feb 2020/3**

**Central Ohio Fiction Writers Works in Progress/Attendance for February 2020**

1. Linda Rice: being supportive
2. Stacy McKittrick: working on Ghostly Protector
3. Kenny Shipley: working on a paranormal romance
4. Shari Heinrich: YA Queen of Wands, draft 5
5. Jeanne Estridge: The Demon Wore Stilettos
6. Bernie Miller: The Heart's Bidding
7. Rachel Dye: Editing. On deadline!
8. Gina Smith w/a Rochelle Bradley: Editing for an anthology
9. Janice Beckett: writing book 4 in Horses Heal Hearts series
10. Saralee Etter: working on a new direction
11. Susan Gee Heino: edit on medical romance
12. Sandy Kachurek: writing short stories.

**February Recap: No Program. Please see minutes for discussion**

## New Releases:



### *Inherent Truth by Alicia Anthony*

***A woman with buried secrets...***

***An agent with an impossible mission...***

***An inheritance that will destroy them both...***

When Liv Sullivan's grandmother beckons for help from beyond the grave, the reluctant psychic returns to her small Ohio hometown. Scrambling to make sense of the clues left by the vision, Liv finds herself face to face with undercover agent, Ridge McCaffrey.

Assigned to protect a woman whose gifts unnerve him, for a covert psychic intelligence operation he doesn't understand, Ridge struggles to place duty over desire. But when a gruesome discovery is unearthed at Sullivan Farm, the truth becomes clear...

Some family secrets are best left buried.

*Inherent Truth* is the first book in the gripping Blood Secrets psychological thriller trilogy about the cost of truth and the price we pay for love. If you like pulse-pounding page-turners laced with a touch of romance, and shocking twists that will leave you dying for the sequel, Alicia Anthony's thrilling debut is for you.





## *Municipal Liaisons: A Fortuna, Texas Novel by Rochelle Bradley*

***She aspired to renew the town; he desired to revive her love life...***

Who'd have thought Michaela Arschfick would like Texas? Particularly some Podunk town with the mighty Fire Ant as its mascot. But from first glance, Fortuna captivates Michaela. With most of the residents, primarily men, keeping their noses glued to the pages of romance novels, they don't notice Fortuna needs a makeover. Michaela takes on the challenge of opening the eyes of City Hall to Fortuna's potential. The longer she stays in the cozy town the more it feels like home, especially with the sexy, young mayor giving her

VIP treatment.

After his wife died in a flash flood, the mayor of Fortuna, Texas, Jasen Delay, delved into work. Two years later, he's still wearing the placating smile, but when a vanload of urban consultants visit the town... a beauty catches his eye. Determined to keep their relationship professional, Jasen and Michaela must stymie their blossoming feelings and focus on revitalizing Fortuna's downtown. A nosy newspaper reporter, a perverted prankster, and sightings of Jasen's wife's ghost have Michaela second guessing her choice to stay. Jasen will do anything to keep Michaela in town. Fortuna needs her but, more importantly, Jasen needs her. With Jasen's help, can Michaela wade through small town bureaucracy, solve the mystery of the canyon ghost, and learn to trust to her heart?

**Available now!**



## *The Secret of Skye Isle by Marisa Dillon*

**A lifesaving antidote grows as a rare rose on an isle full of faerie lore. Healer Ursula Fraser won't risk delivering her best friend's twins without it, but first she'll need a guide and a miracle.**

Both come in the form of battle-scarred laird Alasdair MacLeod, a Highlander who seeks to avenge his father's death and claim the title, Lord of the Isles. He requires an heir, not a wife. But when he offers her his guidance, he also offers her his bed and a bargain.

Insulted, but fearless, Ursula expects she'll triumph without sacrifice until Alasdair takes a potion of accidental attraction and she's certain he's

confusing love with infatuation. Even when he risks all to save her from the murderous MacDonalds, is her price is too high for him to pay?

Will this Highlander who harbors a family secret keep her from returning to Fyvie Castle in time for the twins delivery? Or will a faerie prophecy filled with magic and a roll of the dice settle all the scores?

**The answers lie in *The Secret of Skye Isle*.**

**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 a goal sheet!!!**

**Thanks to Erin Novotny 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>

January Winner: Stacy McKittrick

The winner gets Eddie!

## January Newsletter:

I sincerely apologize that the January newsletter had issues. It is loaded in our RWA forums and is on the Facebook page.

Respectfully,

Rachel Dye

COFW Newsletter Editor

