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President's Corner

Is it July already? The days, weeks, and months are speeding by way too fast.

I'm still plugging away on revisions of my two short stories (Entangled's Flirt line is basically short stories). It's been a lesson in perseverance and I've been ready to give up more times than I care to admit. But I haven't. Sure, I've taken breaks from them, but I'm determined to see them through. I love the characters and their stories, and I really do want to share them with the world someday soon.

How often do you feel like giving up? I've felt that way often of late. Sometimes I think writing or revising is too hard in general. Sometimes I'm just weary of that same story, even though, as I just mentioned above, I do love the stories and the characters. Sometimes the shiny new story line and the new characters beckon me and are hard to resist.

What do you do? Sometimes, I take a break—just a short one. You definitely have to be disciplined to keep that break short because it is far too easy to not return to that which you left. I'll re-fill my creative well with reading or TV or movies. Or maybe I'll play with that shiny a bit. Make plot notes or character sketches. Write the scene that keeps me awake at night.

Continued on page....12



June 16, 2012
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Board of Directors:

Officers

Jen FitzGerald
President

Michelle Welsh
President-Elect

Nancy Connally
Secretary

Angi Platt
Treasurer

Nikki Duncan
Program Director

Jamie Webb
Membership Director

Heather Long
*Communications
Director*

Clover Autrey
Website Director

Committee Chairs

Roni Griffin
PAN Liaison

Carolyn Williamson
PRO Liaison

Heather Long
Kim Quinton
Great Expectations 2013

Marty Tidwell
Hospitality

Heather Long
Newsletter Editor

Dawn Clyburn
Spotlights

D'Ann Burrow
Audio Librarian

Chrissy Szarek
Writing Incentives

Nikki Duncan

Texas Two Step 2014

Angi Platt
Bylaws

Michelle Welsh
Angi Platt

30th Anniversary

CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting for the North Texas Romance Writers of America (NTRWA) was held on Saturday, June 16, 2012 at the La Hacienda Restaurant in Colleyville, Texas. The President and Secretary were present. The meeting was called to order at 10:47 a.m. The minutes for the May meeting were approved as printed in the June newsletter.

OFFICER REPORTS:

President: Jen FitzGerald reported:

- Proxy forms for RWA are available. Please fill out and give to one of the members attending the national conference, mail in.

President-Elect: Michelle Welsh reported:

- She will take proxies to the national conference.

Secretary: Nancy Connally had nothing to report.

Treasurer: Angi Platt reported:

- Books are being spot monitored by Michelle Welsh.
- The Treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

Program Director: Nikki Duncan reported:

- Upcoming programs:
July: Vicki Taylor about Search and Rescue
August: Cindy Dees
September: Sue Grimshaw, who will also be taking pitches.

Membership Director: Jamie Webb reported:

- NTRWA has 73 members.
- There were three visitors: Carolyn Rogers, Rebekah James, and Ann Zang.

Communications Director: In the absence of Heather Long, Jen FitzGerald reported:

- Articles needed for newsletter.

Website Director: Clover Autrey had nothing to report.

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR REPORTS:

PAN Liaison: Roni Griffin reported:

- Recognized sold books/authors for April.
- Members should email information regarding their sale to Roni. If it is entered on the clipboard information, the member will be recognized at the next meeting.

PRO Liaison: In the absence of Carolyn Williamson, Jen FitzGerald reported:

- Contact Carolyn for more info about PRO membership.

Hospitality: Marty Tidwell reported:

- Raffle tickets to win prizes are available for purchase at the monthly meetings.
- Donations are needed for the basket for the national conference. Members who wish to donate can contact Marty to coordinate picking up items.

Spotlights: In the absence of Dawn Alexander there was no Spotlight.

Audio Librarian: D'Ann Burrow reported:

- Discs are available for borrowing.

Writing Incentives: Chrissy Szarek reported:

- Held the quarterly drawing for pages edited and written.
- Reminded writers who qualify to pick an item from the treasure chest.

Texas Two-Step: Nikki Duncan had nothing to report.

30th Anniversary: Michelle Welsh reported:

- The committee has decided to publish an anthology. Information is available at the meeting and will be in the newsletter.
- The 30th Anniversary Committee and any other interested members will meet after the general meeting and program.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

- Reviewed goal cards for 2nd quarter and updated goal cards for 3rd quarter.

Next Business Meeting: 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 21, 2012 at La Hacienda. The meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Submitted electronically by Nancy Connally

Date Approved: _____

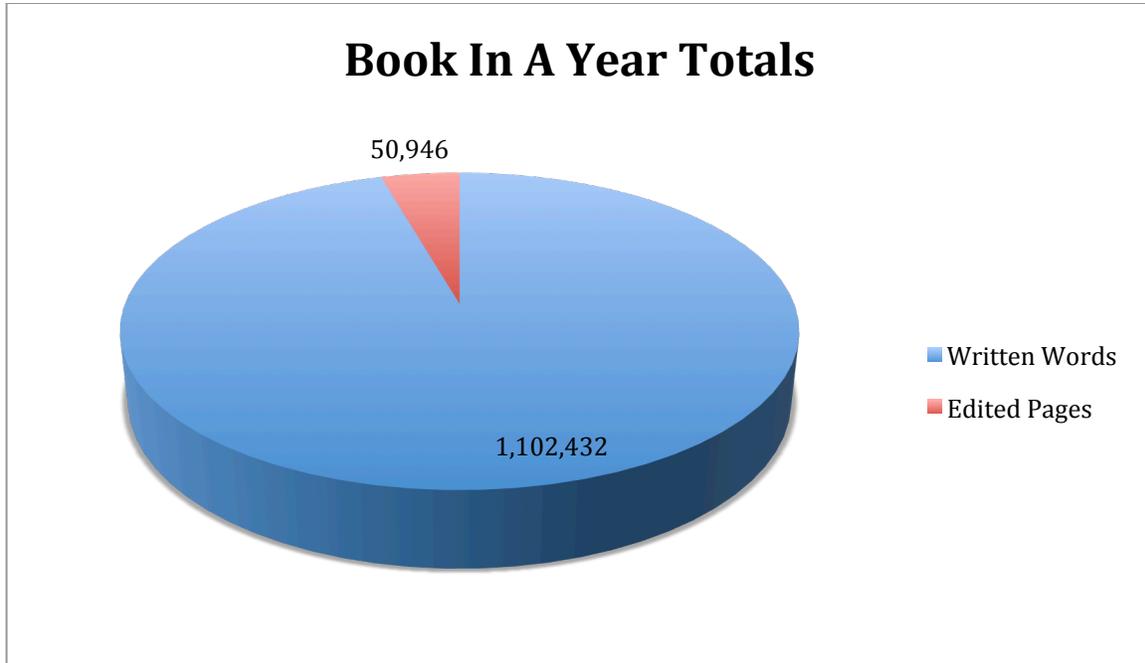
Date Corrected: _____

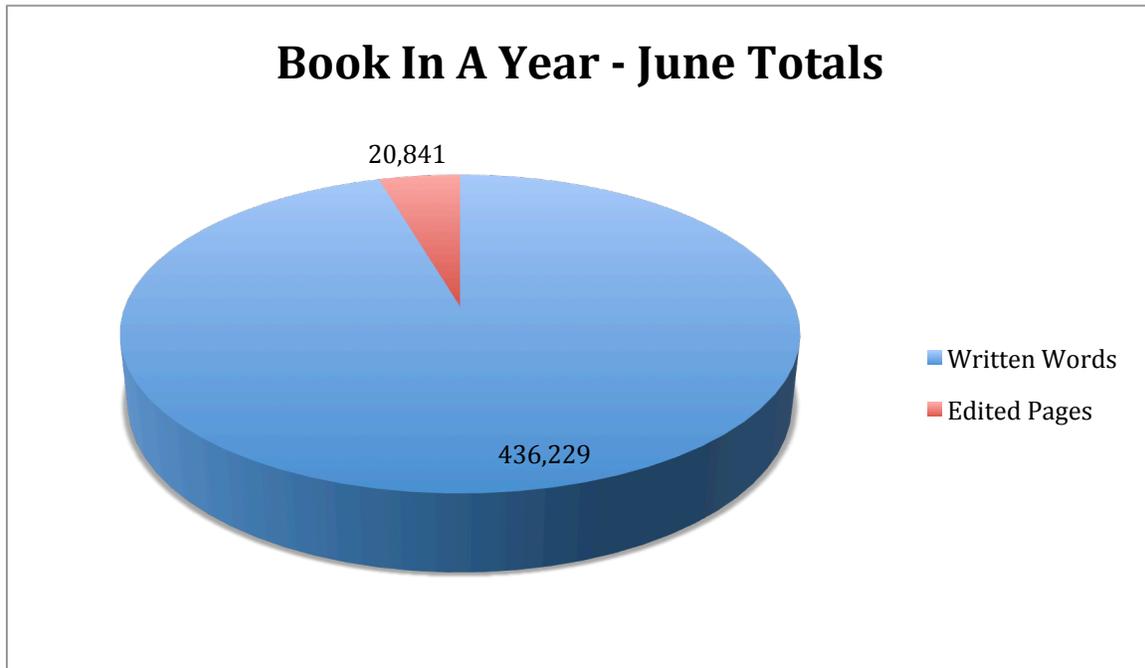
Charm Incentive

March 2013 will be the 30th anniversary of NTRWA. To help celebrate, the chapter is sponsoring a Book In A Year program for all members. For more information, visit the [Writing Incentives](#) page. (While you're there, you can see some of the other awesome ways we encourage our members to write.)

How Book In A Year Works:

- The program is open to all NT members, local and long distance.
- To sign up, please download and fill out [the BIAY form](#) and then e-mail it to the [BIAY Coordinator, Angi Platt](#).
- Complete your word goal each month.
- Charms will be earned in the following order . . . for example, if you meet your writing goal in March, but not in April, but then again in May, you will receive the cowboy hat in April (for March) and then the boot in June (for May).
- For those who earn all twelve charms, the last one will be a 30th anniversary commemorative disk.
- Alternative charms are available for those who participated in the 25th anniversary charm incentive.
- E-mail your word count/page count to the BIAY coordinator each month (biay@ntrwa.org) within seven days of each meeting, so that she can order your charm in time for the following meeting.





It's not too late to add your words to our pie! Join BIAY@ntrwa.org

July's BIAY Charm

THE LONE STAR – well, yes, there is a Lone Star on the Texas flag. And yes, Texas is even a part of our chapter name. But this star on our charm bracelet can represent so much more. LONE. Writing is a lonely job, so we've heard. Ultimately, each of us has to put those muddled (or organized) thoughts onto paper (physical or electronic) and then SHARE. Each word we write connects together to form an overall canvas to be interpreted as a whole.

How 'bout that? One LONE STAR appears in the night sky, and before we know it, many more are there creating a beautiful backdrop of enjoyment...sort of like putting one word on the page after the other. Each person gets to enjoy and interpret those stars to mean exactly what they want. Just like our stories.

Don't forget to write this month!! But also, enjoy that night sky from the first LONE STAR to the infinite number of pinpoints of light.

CONGRATULATIONS to those finishing books in the BIAY program.

- Clover Autrey: *The Vampire and the Highland Empath*
- Sidney Bristol: *Dream Vacation & FLE* (acronym)
- Nikki Duncan: *Her Miracle Man*
- Lara Kingeter: *Edge of Trust*
- Heather Long: *Jacob's Trial & The Taming of the Thief & The Rapture & Hel's Gauntlet*

Embracing Change

By Lavender Day

Change. Just the word itself can cause a grown woman to frown. Everyone has a ritual to their life, a pattern they follow day in and day out. Change means disrupting that pattern.

Let's face it. The pattern we live by keeps us sane. Gives us freedom, a schedule to follow without conscious thought. Who hasn't made coffee in the morning while half asleep?

But change can be a good thing.

I've dealt with a substantial amount of change in my life. I married a sailor twenty-four years ago, and I can honestly say it was an adventure. Every time he can home and said, "the detailer called. Time to look for new orders." I got a little crazy (but I tried to hide it).

Way back then, change meant finding a new place to live, new doctors, schools, shopping centers, and new city maps to learn. Now, change is a little more personal.

I've found something I truly love to do (writing), and my wonderful retired sailor husband offered to give me a year off to explore the possibilities. Great idea. Monumental change.

Eleven years ago, I went from a stay at home mom to a full time teacher. Now I've reversed the process, packing all my school stuff into what looks like a million boxes and giving up my paycheck for a chance to be a full time, productive writer of happily ever after romances.

Sounds like a great job, doesn't it?

Change is scary.

Exhilarating, but scary nonetheless.

I've set my own schedule, getting up every morning and writing instead of reading the paper and drinking coffee until nine. I've had extremely productive days, and days that I deleted more than I wrote. I spend an inordinate amount of time letting the dog out. And in. And out. And in.

(Wait, that sounds like an erotic romance!)

I'm learning to pace myself, writing in sprints and distracting my brain with housework that doesn't take conscious thought. Some days it's a struggle to squash the procrastinator in my head who urges me to trade the laptop for the ereader.

Change is a worthwhile place to learn about yourself, explore your psyche and discover just how creepy your inner bad guy can be.

Change is making me learn how to manage a website and (I guess) pushing me to get busy with social media. Primarily, change is helping me grow and learn and experience things I didn't have time to do when I was raising children.

Change is definitely a good thing.



Spotlight on Suzan Butler

By Dawn Alexander

1. Tell us a little about yourself and what you write.

Well, I live with my two boys that I've affectionately named Monsters online. Unofficially, I call them EmoBoy and Jabbermouth, because that describes them pretty accurately. I also have a year and a half old boxer named Moxie who thinks she's a cat, and an orange tabby cat named Rocky who thinks he's a dog.

As for what I write, that's no small list. For now, I'm concentrating on contemporary romance of the spicier variety. In addition to adult romance, I also write YA romance, and fantasy. I'm currently working on the first of my hockey romance books.

2. How did you get involved in NTRWA? What do you remember most about your first meeting?

I'd been a member of RWA for about a year. I'm a member of two online special interest chapters. I actually renewed my RWA membership and joined NTRWA on the same day this year. I'd visited a couple local chapters at that point, and I really loved the atmosphere of NTRWA. Everyone was friendly and wasn't afraid to come say hi. Oh, and the food. I fell in love with the queso.



3. You are also very involved with NaNoWriMo. What exactly is that and what is your role?

NaNoWriMo is short for National Novel Writing Month. It's a challenge set in November for novelists to set aside the time to write 50,000 words in 30 days. It's a lot of fun.

For last year's NaNoWriMo, I volunteered to be a Municipal Liaison, which I tell everyone is the Head Cheerleader for our region, only I don't have to wear the outfit. I was one of four last year. As MLs, we organize the official NaNoWriMo events for our region, and promote and encourage other writers to host or come participate in write-ins during November.

It's a good way for writers to meet other writers. I met my current critique group, Team Awesome, through NaNoWriMo in 2009.

4. I love reading your blogs about online dating. What has been your best online dating experience? What has been your worst?

Oh, that's a fun topic. Online dating is an interesting beast. Each dating site is different, has a different culture, and people behave differently on each one. I'm on a couple different ones. I keep one particular site for two reasons. One, I can't find the 'delete account' button, and two, I've found some fantastic, yet horrible material for the blog there.

I've met all kinds of people through these sites, from a concert violinist, to a professional race car driver (not anyone famous, but maybe in a few years, I'll kick myself). It's a fascinating experiment in people. While I don't think that I'll actually find someone serious to date there, I do end up with great stories to tell people.

5. You also have a slight obsession with hockey. Do you bring that into your writing? If you could have dinner with any player, who would it be and why?

Slight obsession, huh? We'll go with that. I'm actually a huge Dallas Stars fan. I also love the Boston Bruins, and I regularly go to minor league games with the Texas Brahmas. There's just something about two incredibly rich guys beating the crap out of each other and then going out for beers afterwards. And hockey players are among the nicest people I've ever spoken with.

I do have a hockey romance series for which I'm currently shopping the first book around. I think that every contemporary book I've written has some mention of hockey in some way. Either they're watching it, playing it, or maybe the characters used to play it. It's almost always there.

Dinner with any player... Hmm... I think I'd have to go with Jamie Benn. I have his Bobble-head sitting at my desk as I type. He's one of the few players that I've never spoken with, and I love the way he plays and I'd like the opportunity to get to know him and see if he's as awesome a person as he is a player.

6. What is something most of our members wouldn't know about you?

I have a secret obsession with color coding things, which is why my graphic design major actually turned out to be a good idea.

I'm not actually sure how many people know I'm a Navy Seabee, so maybe that's something interesting.

7. What is your writing routine like? How do you work it out with children at home?

Routine?

I should have one of those right?

It really depends on the time of year, and I think a lot of writers would agree with this. During the school year, both the kids and I are in school. I fix my schedule so I have large blocks of time during the day to do homework or write. Then I run off to a coffee shop or a B&N and do it. After school, the kids go to karate, and then dinner, and then I write some more after they go to bed. I cannot do the early morning writing sessions like many other writers can. I just don't function right before the sun comes up. During the summer, it's kind of a free for all. Mostly, I wait until the kids go to bed, and then I write all night. I also count down the days until school starts again.

8. Where is the one place you have never been but would love to visit?

That's really hard, because I've done a fair amount of traveling in my lifetime. I think I'm going to have to choose Japan. I've been doing research on Japan for an alternate historical fantasy romance, and I'm so in love with what I'm reading. I'd love to go and actually experience the culture for myself.

9. What do you do when you aren't writing?

I'm currently learning how to ice skate so I can play hockey. And you said I'm only slightly obsessed... Most of the time, I'm playing in Photoshop, making book covers for people, and sometimes myself, because that's a fun procrastination tool.

I'm thinking about taking kick-boxing. It seems like it might be fun.

10. If we were doing this interview five years ago, what would be different? How about if we fast forward five years into the future?

In 2007, I was working at a store manager for Domino's Pizza. I was barely writing, if at all, because I was working 70+ hour weeks. I'd just started getting into online writing forums. At this point, I was just learning about the business. I think I might have googled "literary agents" for the first time. I also started my first blog, which I barely updated, because I didn't know how to blog (I'm a little addicted now...) or how amazing a tool it was. AND... I self-pubbed a fantasy romance on Amazon but took it down a year after that because I got scared that agents wouldn't look at me because I'd self-pubbed.

In five years, I'll still be plugging away, having a grand ol' time. I know exactly where I want to be, because I have my handy dandy Serious Writing Career Plan that details exactly what my goals for the five-year mark is. I think the most important part is that I'll still be writing.

Independence Day Challenge

By Kimberly Quinton

With all the Fourth of July celebrating I have been thinking about the word Independence. I came up with a challenge for myself, and thought what the heck, I'll share. We've all heard about getting rid of our internal editors so we can write. It's the key to banging out that first draft and to not overly-obsess with perfecting that manuscript before submitting it. I've come to realize my manuscripts will never be what I consider perfect. They will be the absolute best I can do with my craft



ability at the time. In saying this I remember that I am growing and improving as a writer everyday that I write.

So what's the challenge? Break away from what's got you bogged down, tied up, jailed, stifled, stunted, stalled, freaked out. Let's bring in some Independence from what's keeping us down.

Have you made yourself sick agonizing over a pitch appointment for an upcoming conference? Try putting it away for a day and journal about the new story you will write when you come home from conference. Or better yet, start that new project. This gives you something else to be excited about after the pitch- besides the full you envision being requested. What does this give you? Independence from that all-or-nothing feeling that can be suffocating.

Have you been revising the same manuscript for years? I have. (cough, blush) The first story I ever wrote is a paranormal I can't give up. So, every time I think my craft has improved I go back to it and "revise" some of it. I have one last plan for it and then it's going in a drawer! I swear! I'm taking the concept and characters that I loved so much and trashing the rest. Try it with your albatross manuscript. What aspects do you love about it the most? Pull those out and trash the rest. It's the only way I'm going to freshen up the story that I started almost eight years ago... And finally gain independence from it.

Have you let everything else in your life take precedence over your writing goals? Who hasn't? Stuff happens, life gets in the way. I have a particularly hard time with this one. I'm gaining independence by struggling every day to remain mindful of my ultimate goals. I've said no to just about everything that's been asked of me if it doesn't help me on my writing path. Is there one thing you can change to free up a little time for writing? Is there one thing you can change that eases some of your stress so you can think about your writing again? Maybe a volunteer activity or a habit that's holding you back? I bet there's at least one thing!

So there it is, my Independence Challenge to you. It's the little things like this that help me keep going when my self-confidence is lagging and I think it would be easier to put writing away and do something else. Happy Independence Day Y'all!

Most Pages Written

Sidney Bristol - 188 pages
Roni Loren - 160 pages
Angi Platt - 134 pages
Nikki Duncan - 130 pages
Mary Beth Lee - 100 pages

Most Pages Edited

Cindy Dees - 750 pages
Chrissy Szarek - 721 pages
Nikki Duncan - 530 pages
D'Ann Burrow - 325 pages
Mary Beth Lee - 300 pages

The Leftover Words Club

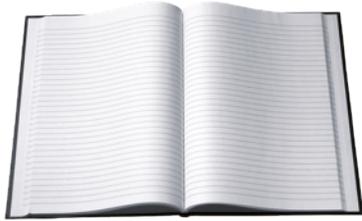
Encouragement Partners

by Jen FitzGerald, Jan Schliesman & Angi Morgan

ANGI --

For the past couple of months, Jen & I have accidentally become encouragement partners. We hold each other accountable for writing, but, you know, life is a bit more complicated. As writers, we wear a lot of

hats. And life throws a lot of hats our way too. Finding balance is always hard. If I'm writing, I feel guilty about whatever else is on the to-do list and vice versa. But that's not what this article is about.



At this time, I'm under deadline and had to get back into a story I began last November. That was four stories ago (a full manuscript and three partials). It was slow going this past week. But Jen encouraged...every day. I felt like she was having to pull teeth and I wasn't obtaining my projected daily word count.

Then she wrote: just write 125 words.

That's all--not 1500, just 125. When I reached that goal, she wrote: just 125 words. And I passed it. Then it was: how about 160 this time? And slowly the dam broke.

By the end of the week, I had THE highest word count day since I've been keeping track. Many people easily write more than I do in a day or week, but that wasn't the point. *I* wrote more in one day than *I* have ever written.

So a natural progression of breaking the word count down has been listing what needs to be accomplished each day: blogs, laundry, articles, exercise, NT Board work. Whatever's on the list, I know I need to work it in with the projected word count for the day. It helps me not get side-tracked (which still happens, but not as often) and it marks things off my to do list, and marking off is such a good feeling.

The other great feeling I've experienced? Seeing Jen accomplish her goals. Editing or fresh words, reading or creating (not eating sugar). It makes me feel better to know I helped in a small way.

JEN --

What Angi forgot to mention was that we do this via a free online chat room. We don't get together every day, though that could be fun. And we don't text all day, every day either. Good thing, as I'm a really slow texter...

As you may know from my president columns, I'm goal oriented. I have daily writing goals that equal up to a weekly goal, and then that translates into a monthly goal, which I only have for the purpose of the BIAY program at the moment.

Anyway...

One NT meeting day early in 2012, Angi invited me to her chat room to sprint. A sprint is a short writing session, usually 20 to 25 minutes. Someone cracks the whip—uh—I mean keeps time and calls for progress reports at the end of each session. (Why, yes, I do usually end up with that job.)



If your word count's high, everyone who happens to be there cheers you on. If your word count's low, everyone encourages you to press on, that you'll do better next time 'round. Sometimes we visit for a few minutes, but then it's sprint time again and we're off.

So when Angi got behind, she was like a three-year-old told to clean up a bedroom full of toys. Looking at the sea of toys would be overwhelming to a small child. Where do they begin?

Angi's 1700 word per day goal seemed insurmountable to her at the time. (It seems insurmountable to me all the time, to be honest.)

So how do you help the three-year-old clean up the room without doing it yourself? You tell the little tyke to pick up all the stuffed animals. It's specific. And easy to accomplish.

The same principle applied. Write 125 words. Easy as cake, right? Anyone can bang out 125 words in 20 minutes (our average sprint time). Once you write the first 125, and the next and the next, you've written a quarter of your goal, then a third, then a half. Hopefully by that time, you're on a roll and consistently chalking up 200 and 300 words at a sprint.

Anyone who's in the room, cheers you each step of the way.

But it's not always about word count. Sometimes it's just about sticking it out. Several times over the last couple of days, I've wanted to shut down the laptop and go watch TV or collapse into bed. But because there was still someone there to encourage, I hung out and made my words for the day.

It's said that writing is a lonely business, but it doesn't have to be that way anymore. Our monthly meeting brings us together with like-minded people who understand our troubles and our successes. And that's a wonderful thing.

On a daily basis, it could mean the difference between 0 words and 1700 words.

As the Beatles say, I get by with a little help from my friends.

JAN--

I first "met" Angi last August in the GIAM (Goal in a Month) Chatzy room. We were both working on new projects and after a week or so it seemed like it was just the two of us in that room. Angi invited me to her Chatzy room where I've been hanging out ever since.

I live in Wichita. The writing chapter here is no longer RWA affiliated (I swear it had nothing to do with me moving to town!) The next closest chapter is in Oklahoma City, a three-hour drive for me. I went once last fall but haven't made it back since. It's tough being a social person without a social writing circle. I was taking college classes full-time and writing a new story while trying not to count the days until I heard back from Harlequin. I had the opportunity to return to police dispatching, my favorite career, and since nothing was happening with my writing, I took it. There was a lull before I could start the new job and I spent every extra minute on homework or in Chatzy. I am a slow writer. I ponder every word and can't move forward until what I have written sounds right. Sad but true. On the upside, I keep 90% of those words.



With that in mind, I'm plugging away in Chatzy when I take a break and grab my mail. There is a letter from Harlequin and it feels a little fat. I've heard rejections come in flat envelopes. I run back inside and start typing in chatzy that I have a letter. I'm trying to scan it and type in what it says at the same time. Angi is asking me questions and I'm completely in shock. It's a detailed revision request with an offer to resubmit. Happy dancing follows.

It seems to be my destiny to have an all or nothing life. I like to plan and if I had a plan it wouldn't include working full-time, attending college full-time, keeping my family happy full-time and revising a manuscript in my spare time. One thing was always there whenever I needed it. Chatzy.

I found out that I am a night person. I do my best work from 9 PM to 1 AM. When I get home from work I log into Chatzy and catch-up with what everyone else has accomplished, and none of the ladies let grass grow under their feet. I absorb the good news, which reinforces my confidence. Toss out a question like "How can my pilot hear what's going on in the back of the plane?" and you'll learn that introducing a plane as "special" makes it capable of almost anything. (Thanks, Robin!) It's even okay to whine and commiserate with others for about five minutes and then they'll kick your butt right back into gear. On the flip side, it's also fun to share good news and help heft someone out of the doldrums. Even when I'm revising, Chatzy keeps me connected.

The strangest part of all of this is that I've never met anyone in Chatzy. My husband asks how I can be sure that the screen names aren't aliases and that I'm possibly talking to inmates at a minimum security prison. Hmmm. I guess I can't be a hundred percent sure. But as best we can figure, Angi and I have been to several of the same parties at convention and never crossed paths. (We also have husbands named Tim and daughters named Carley/Karlie☺)

I'll close with a quote by Goethe that hangs over my desk: At the moment of commitment, the universe conspires to assist you.

THE LEFTOVER WORDS CLUB:

JAN SCHLIESMAN writes series romantic suspense and has a wall full of plaques and certificates that insist she has talent. A long-time RWA member, she is also a past president of Heart of Iowa Fiction Authors. She's currently making revisions to her award-winning manuscript, *KIRA'S KEEPER*, for an interested editor at Harlequin.

JEN FITZGERALD writes short sexy contemporary romance. Currently, Jen serves as the 2012 president of her NTRWA. You can find her blogging MWF at jenfitzgerald.blogspot.com.

ANGI MORGAN writes Intrigue where honor and danger collide with love. Angi's *.38 CALIBER COVER-UP* is a finalist in the KOD Daphne Series category. *DANGEROUS MEMORIES* is available electronically January 1st. You can find her regularly on Facebook (Angi Morgan), follow her on Twitter (AngiMorganAuthr), or check out her website (AngiMorgan.com).



...continued from page 1

How do I get back to it or keep going? It helps to keep the prize, the goal, firmly fixed in your mind. For me, right now, the prize is multi-layered. First of all, I will finally get to well and truly proclaim, "I finished a manuscript." (Short though it is.) I will also get to add a certain charm to my

BIAY bracelet. When I bought the set, I set one aside for the moment when I really felt book one was finished. The third prize is that I will be able to send that manuscript out into the world, to sink or swim on its merits. I'm not sure which I'm most excited about, but those things in whole and in part keep me chugging along even though it's taking longer than I'd planned.

I took a break this weekend and it felt good. I haven't opened a manuscript in about four days. Haven't exercised or cleaned house or anything. I really needed that break and with the holiday a few days away, I'm going to have more break than I anticipated. (Most of you know the Fourth is a huge deal at my house.)

But my batteries are recharged and I'll be ready to get back at it with new energy and enthusiasm.

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday.

Happy birthday, America!

Have a great writing month!

Jen

Nationals Basket!

Don't forget to bring you donations to the July meeting and give them to Marty. She's putting together our raffle basket for Nationals and it's a great way to help out with a good cause !

Search & Rescue with Vickie Taylor!

Be sure to join us Saturday, July 21st and special guest Vickie Taylor.

Vickie Taylor wrote her first novel in 1997. Upon completion, she was too chicken to give the manuscript to anyone she knew to read, so she sent her baby off to a few contests to get some anonymous feedback instead. Little did she know how her life was about to change: a few months later, she had won all four of the Romance Writers of America chapter contests she'd entered, was a Golden Heart finalist and had sold the book to Silhouette Intimate Moments!



Since then, Vickie has written numerous romantic suspense novels for Silhouette Books and Berkley Sensation, garnering such recognition as the Daphne du Maurier Award of Excellence in Romantic Suspense, a four-and-a-half star “Top Pick” review in Romantic Times, and four coveted Romance Writers of America “Rita” nominations for her work.

Vickie lives in a small town in north Texas dubbed “The Heart of Horse Country” where she rounds out her writing days raising horses, volunteering with the local Humane Society, and serving on a K-9 search and rescue team



newsletter@ntrwa.org
NTRWA
2100 W. Northwest HWY
Suite 114-1081
Grapevine, TX 76051
NTRWA monthly meeting

NTRWA monthly meeting
Third Saturday of the month
Doors open @ 10 a.m.
La Hacienda Ranch
5250 Highway 121 South