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President's Corner

Well, I finally did it. I COMPLETED a manuscript. And SUBMITTED it too.

I can hardly wait for September's meeting to officially write my name on the clipboards—'cause, you know, it's not official until it's written on them clipboards!

Damn that felt good. Hey, Angi, *the beginning, the middle, the end!* Oh, crap. I think I forgot to write The End. Oh, no! Okay, yes, I know that's not what she meant.

So now what?

Do it all over again.

WHUT?

Yeah, yeah, I know. And I'm ready. Already started revisions on book two. They're going well. I'm excited about them. Only...real life has now reared its ugly head. My son is in marching band, which means a lot of time spent on the band. Not that I begrudge Sonshine (aka Marching Band Boy) a single minute, but *man* I want to *complete* book two. And *submit* it. ASAP <imagine a big grin smiley here>

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North Texas Romance Writers of America

August 18, 2012
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting for the North Texas Romance Writers of America (NTRWA) was held on August 18, 2012 at the La Hacienda Restaurant in Colleyville, Texas. The President and Secretary were present. The meeting was called to order at 10:41 a.m. The minutes for the July 21 meeting were approved as read..

OFFICER REPORTS:

President: Jen FitzGerald reported:

- The Board is reviewing the Policy and Procedures Manual and will report back after their September meeting.
- Changes in self-published recognition occurred as a result of the National RWA Board decisions. Members can find the changes on the RWA Hot Sheet.
- The chapter's annual drawing for reimbursement of fees for one RITA entry and one Golden Heart entry will be held in September. Members can fill out the form in the newsletter or download the form from the files section (under Miscellaneous) of the Yahoo group. Members do not need to be present to win.

President-Elect: Michelle Welsh reported:

- Volunteers are needed for the following Board and Committee Chair positions for 2013: PRO Liaison, PAN Liaison, Hospitality, Programs, and President-Elect.

Secretary: Nancy Connally had nothing to report.

Treasurer: Angi Platt reported:

- Funds were transferred to avoid a service charge when the balance is below \$3000.
- The Treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

Program Director: Nikki Duncan reported:

- Sue Grimshaw will speak about Random House, where she is Editor-at-Large. She will also take pitches before and after the meeting.
- October: Sherry Thomas
- Reminder about retreat at Jefferson Inn in lieu of November meeting. Contact Nikki for details.

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

Membership Director: Jamie Webb reported:

- NTRWA has 73 members.
- There were four visitors: Vicky Green, Rita Ward, Susie Sheehey, and Martha Ponce.

Communications Director: In the absence of Heather Long, Kim Quinton reported:

- Members should send articles by August 28 for the September newsletter.

Website Director: Clover Autrey reported:

- Members should submit any new or changed information for the website.
- She is in the process of updating the Published Author page.

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR REPORTS:

PAN Liaison: In the absence of Roni Loren, Jamie Webb reported:

- Presented pencils for book sales to Barb Han and Angi Platt.

PRO Liaison: Carolyn Williamson reported:

- To become a PRO, a member must submit a manuscript to an agent or editor and have proof of submission. Application forms are available.

Great Expectations: Kim Quinton reported:

- The committee is reaching out to the final judges.
- Angi will begin the judges' training week for volunteers after Thanksgiving.

Hospitality: Marty Tidwell reported:

- Raffle tickets to win prizes are available for purchase at the monthly meetings.
- Described the Hospitality chair duties since the position requires a volunteer for 2013.

Spotlights: Dawn Alexander was absent.

Audio Librarian: D'Ann Burrow reported:

- Discs are available for borrowing.

Writing Incentives: Chrissy Szarek reported:

- The Writing Incentives Treasure Chest has a new batch of goodies.
- Explained the qualifications for choosing an item from the Treasure Chest.
- The quarterly drawing for the gift card for most pages written and most pages edited will be in September.

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

Bylaws: Angi Platt had nothing to report.

30th Anniversary: Lara Lacombe reported:

- Submissions are needed for the 30th Anniversary Anthology to be published in March 2013.
- The committee has located an editor for the anthology. They are looking for a cover designer.
- Entries are due by November 1. Submission requirements have been posted on the Yahoo loop. Members can also contact Laura or Michelle.

Book-in-a-Year writing incentive: Angi Platt reported:

- Michelle Welsh completed and sold a book.
- Gina Nelson finished a book.
- Chrissy Szarek finished a book in July.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

- President Jen FitzGerald: check RWA site for changes made by the RWA National Board to the categories and a four-tier scoring system for the Golden Heart and RITA.
- The Board will discuss the effect of the RITA/Golden Heart changes on our contest, Great Expectations.
- President Jen FitzGerald presented Chrissy Szarek with her first cover in a glass block frame.

Next Business Meeting: 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 15, 2012 at La Hacienda. The meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Next Board Meeting: Following the Saturday, September 15 meeting at La Hacienda.

Submitted electronically by Nancy Connally

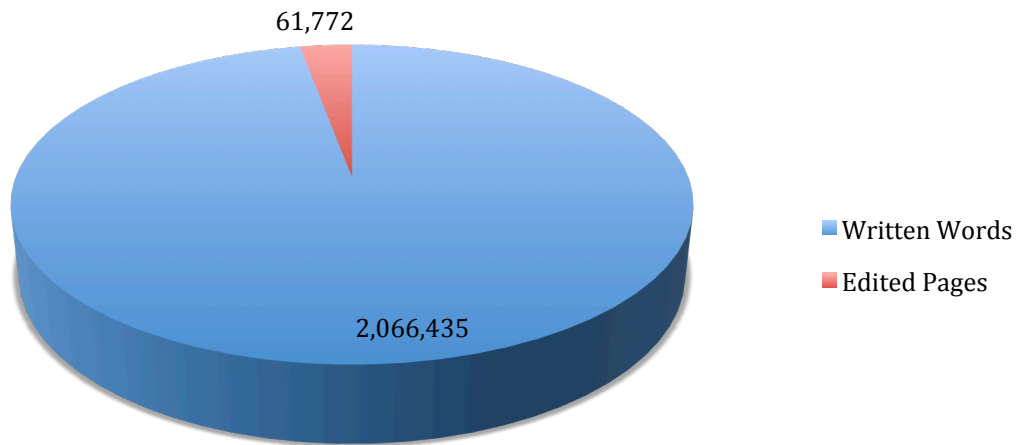
Date Approved: _____

Date Corrected: _____

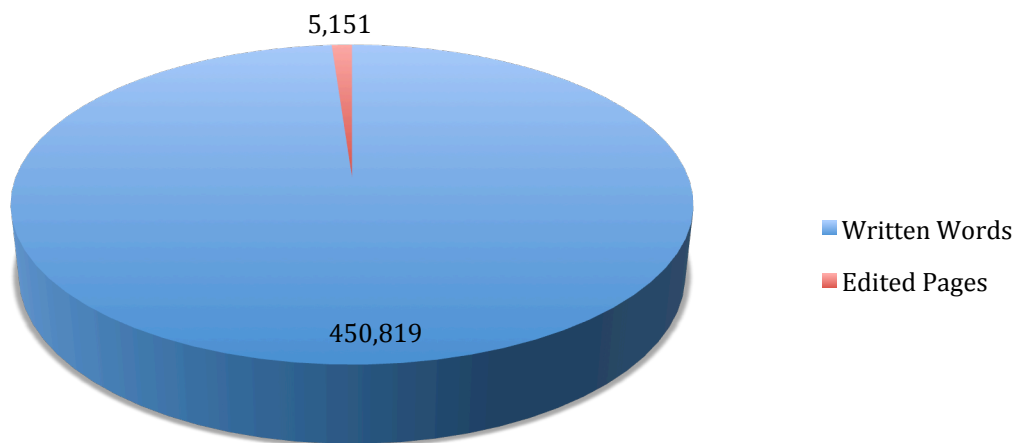
Charm Incentive

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.)

Book In A Year Totals



Book In A Year - August Totals



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

September's BIAY Charm

be·lieve: *verb (used without object)*

1. to have confidence in the truth, the existence, or the reliability of something, although without absolute proof that one is right in doing so: *Only if one believes in something can one act purposefully.* (<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/believe>)

Writers, including Nora Roberts, must reassure themselves that each word deserves to be on the page. We must BELIEVE in ourselves, our ability, and our writing. We believe when agents and editors don't. We believe we'll sell when our families are tired of asking. We believe that our story is unique and worthy to be shared.

I normally don't like remakes of movies as much as the original, but the modern version of MIRACLE ON 34th STREET captured me with its city-wide campaign for Chris Cringle: I BELIEVE. I believe that writers write, we'll doubt ourselves, but we'll continue because the words must make it on the page. So believe. Believe in yourself and finish the book.

CONGRATULATIONS on your FINISHED BOOKS:

- Rene Jones, NO COURAGE IS EASY
- Michelle Welsh, HIGHJACKED AT THE RODEO
- Heather Long, THE LADY IS A THEIF
- Heather Long, SOME LIKE IT ROYAL
- Heather Long, MICAH AND MRS. MILLER
- Heather Long, OUT OF THE SHADOWS
- Heather Long, THE MARINE COWBOY (short)
- Susan Butler, NO STRINGS ATTACHED
- Sydney Bristol, RACE TO COME
- Jen FitzGerald, A SNOWBALL'S CHANCE IN TEXAS (short)

What I'm Listening To...

Our Conference CDs

By Clover Autrey

Breathing Life into a Dying Scene (not death scenes) presented by Roxanne St. Clair and Catherine Iberra

They go through their own worse "dying scenes" as examples of what not to do. There's some good stuff to glean from this.

Questions to a Killer Marketing Plan presented by Louise Ahearn

How to tailor a PR plan designed especially to you and what you write.

Turn the Page! Writing Techniques guaranteed to Improve your Pacing presented by Ann Voss Peterson

About pacing to make your novel one that the reader needs to turn the page. Centers around sequence, conflict, delayed gratification, and escalation. This is nuts and bolts informative with good instruction. A winner!

Writing Pitfalls We All Seem to Fall Into...or How to Outwit the Muse

What to do when secondary characters take over and how to avoid sagging middles.

Developing the Romance in your Novel presented by Virginia Kantra

I found this one really interesting. She explains what scientific hormonal markers are in males and females and how we can use them to create characters that will be drawn to each other.

Aggressive Promotion presented by Brenda Novak and Rachel Chase

How to get above the media roar and set yourself apart. Covers what to do with your brands, websites, contests, hiring PR specialists, etc. They basically run through promotional efforts that have worked for them and what hasn't.

Dialogue presented by Karen Rose

Covers tags, pacing, putting backstory into dialogue instead of telling it in narrative. I learned a lot of good dialogue techniques from this one.

So Then What Happened... presented by Jill Marie Landis

Explains scene and sequel (as an aftermath to the scene, not as in the next book). Goal to reaction, conflict to dilemma, disaster to decision.

Online Promo Buy the Book –Panel

How to work with a publicist and what you can do online. Great tips on how to approach bloggers to become a guest.

How to Find a Man Worth Loving in any Time

Very funny. I wish her last name came through on the CD. Jody Somebody. Talks about the tendency to over-introduce a hero right at the beginning and shows how to seed details in better through the phenomenon of how some people get better looking or uglier as you get to know them. Out of this month's batch, this is my top pick.



Most Pages Written

- Sidney Bristol - 163 pages
- Barb Han - 130 pages
- Marty Tidwell - 105 pages
- Carolyn Williamson - 80 pages
- Cindy Dees - 72 pages

Most Pages Edited

- Marty Tidwell - 1012 pages
- Nikki Duncan - 910 pages
- Marsha West - 760 pages
- Angi Morgan - 550 pages
- Barb Han - 460 pages





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Looking back over the past eight articles, I've talked A LOT about goals. At September's meeting, we'll be pulling out our cards again to see how we're doing. One of my two goals for each quarter was to take an online class. As of the writing of this, I have not taken a class this quarter, and I'm not sure I'm going to get to it now that school's in session. But that's okay, because I reached a couple really important milestones! (see the opening sentences of this article if you've already forgotten)

Do you remember when I confessed I'd been in RWA for nine years and I hadn't even completed a manuscript? Yes, nine years, and I'm just now accomplishing it. Now, it's not a path I recommend you take, but here's the thing...we each have our own road to travel, whatever it may be. Sometimes, the journey is planned and sometimes life deals you detour after detour. But, looking back, I know this is the path that I was meant to follow.

So whether the outlook is smooth sailing or whether it's stormy seas, embrace it, because as much as it's about the destination, it's also about the journey.

Have a great writing month!

Jen

Sue Grimshaw!

Be sure to join us Saturday, September 15th for special guest Sue Grimshaw!

Sue Grimshaw is a former buyer turned editor at large for Ballantine, Bantam, Dell, and Loveswept at Random House. Sue has always been a great friend and supporter of romance writers and readers. Now as an editor she's in charge of the revived Loveswept line at Random House. Loveswept is back as a digital imprint that will publish new titles and reissue ones from the past.

Sue is on Twitter @SueGrimshaw and online at www.romanceatrandom.com
<<http://www.romanceatrandom.com>> .

Saturday, we will have a Q&A with Sue where we'll learn about BBD/Loveswept and so much more.

Friday, September 14, NT Members only are invited to have dinner with Sue at Carrabba's in Grapevine at 6:30.



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