

**From:** NTRWA Newsletter <newsletter=ntrwa.org@mail128.us2.mcsv.net> on behalf of NTRWA Newsletter <newsletter@ntrwa.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 14, 2013 3:51 PM  
**To:** Jen FitzGerald  
**Subject:** October Newsletter

The holidays are almost here and that means writing, contests, and parties.  
Don't miss what's coming up next...

[View this email in your browser](#)



*Founded March 1983*

*October 2013*

*Chapter 33, Region 5*

*Volume 32, Issue 9*

## **Letter from the President**

I recently spent a weekend in Houston with my mother and her brother and sister. Just being with the people I spent so much time with as a child made me think about my life and what I still hope to accomplish. My mom is the youngest of seven children. Her father died when she was three and her oldest brother, Charlie, became the man of the house at twenty-three.

In this day and age, it's hard to imagine a twenty-three year old man taking on the responsibility of raising six children while helping his mother manage the house. (My eldest is that age and while he'd give it his all, it would be a huge endeavor now.)

My uncle worked hard, helped put food on the table, and kept a roof over the family instead of letting family services split up his brothers and sisters. He postponed his private life until they were all grown.

Growing up, Uncle Charlie was more of a grandpa to me than an uncle. He even took me to a David Cassidy concert when my mom refused. Seeing him in the stadium with his hands over his ears is something I will never forget. We celebrated his ninetieth birthday Saturday.

It's hard to see him going downhill but I'm thankful for the opportunity to see him while he still recognizes me.

On the long drive home, I gave some thought to where I want to be at ninety. First and foremost, I want to be here at ninety. I want to have decent health, which means I need to work on how I treat my body. Junk food and late nights need to be curtailed. I want some grandkids—but not just yet.

I want to be working at a job I love.

The last one's a biggie. I want to be writing for a living when I'm old and gray(-er). And I want to have writer friends to hang out with in my old age, so get busy on your own master plan to reach the ripe old age of ninety. And keep on writing.

We have memories to accumulate and stories to tell.

-Michelle Welsh

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September 22, 2013

## **BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

A regular meeting for the North Texas Romance Writers of America (NTRWA) was held on Saturday, September 22, 2013 at the La Hacienda Restaurant in Colleyville, Texas. The President and Secretary were present. The meeting was called to order at 12:50 p.m. The minutes for the July and August meetings were approved as printed in the September newsletter.

### **OFFICER REPORTS:**

**President: Michelle Welsh reported:**

- Welcomed members and visitors

**President-Elect: Clover Autrey was absent.**

**Secretary: Nancy Connally: No report**

**Treasurer: Angi Morgan reported:**

- Distributed and reviewed treasurer's report.

- The Treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

**Program Director: Lara Lacombe reported:**

- Holly Fox will be the October speaker.
- The November meeting has been moved to the second Saturday, November 9. A mini-retreat will be held at Lara's home. She will provide more information via the NT Yahoo loop.
- The Conference will be the last weekend in March 2014. A link for hotel information, reservations and registration will be available soon at the NTRWA website.
- If members have suggestions for 2014 programs, please contact Lara.

**Membership Director: Jen FitzGerald reported:**

- NTRWA has 78 members.
- There were five visitors: Sheryl Maas, Rickey Thornton, Laura Guthrie, Elizabeth London and Julie Abdinor.

**Communications Director: Heather Long reported:**

- Requested that members write articles for the Newsletter.

**Website Director: Jen FitzGerald: No report.**

**COMMITTEE COORDINATOR REPORTS:**

**PAN Liaison: D'Ann Burrow was absent.**

**PRO Liaison: Jeanne Guzman reported:**

- Urged PRO members to become active on Yahoo loop.
- Explained qualifications for PRO. Members should email Jeanne if they qualify for PRO.

**Great Expectations: No report.**

**Carolyn Contest: Jen FitzGerald: No report.**

**Hospitality: Sidney Bristol was absent.**

**Audio Librarian: Clover Autrey was absent.**

**Writing Incentives: Chrissy Szarek was absent.**

**Texas Two-Step: Marsha West: No report.**

**Bylaws: Angi Morgan: No report.**

**Spotlights: Gina Nelson reported:**

- Susan Sheehey was the September Spotlight.

**30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: No report.**

**Unfinished Business: None**

**New Business:** None

Next Business Meeting: 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 19, 2013 at La Hacienda. The meeting adjourned at 1:24

Submitted electronically by Nancy Connally

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Corrected: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Most Pages Written

- Heather Long 1,125
- Lavender Daye 232
- Jerrie Alexander 127
- Carolyn Williamson 125
- Angi Morgan 124

## Most Pages Edited

- Heather Long 3,500
  - Jerrie Alexander 325
  - Kimberly Quinton 301
  - Angi Morgan 300
  - Marsha R. West 289
- 

## Great Expectations 2014 Rules

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Rules](#)

[GE Judge Application](#)

### ***NEW THIS YEAR!***

5000 word entry limit instead of page count

No synopsis or blurb.

Finalists will be asked to include and un-judged synopsis for editors.

[ENTER NOW](#)

### *Dates, Deadlines and Fees*

**Tuesday, October 1st:** Great Expectations open for entries.

**Sunday, December 8th, midnight CST:** Early bird entry fee ends.

- \$20 for members of NTRWA
- \$25 for all others

To receive the early bird discount, you must submit payment (via Paypal) by midnight CST on Sunday, December 8, 2013.

**Monday, December 9th:** Entry fees increase.

- \$25 for members of NTRWA
- \$30 for all others

**Sunday, December 29th:** All entries and payments must be received.

**Thursday, January 2, 2014:** Approximate date entries will be distributed to first round judges.

**Thursday, January 30, 2014:** Date entries should be returned to contest coordinator: [gecoordinator@ntrwa.org](mailto:gecoordinator@ntrwa.org).

**Wednesday, February 5, 2014:** Approximate date to announce finalists.

**Saturday/Sunday, February 8 & 9, 2014:** Approximate date to return non-finaling entries.

**Wednesday, February 12, 2014:** All finalists' revised entries due back to contest coordinator:

[gecoordinator@ntrwa.org](mailto:gecoordinator@ntrwa.org).

**Saturday, March 15, 2014:** Approximate date to announce final placements.

### *Entry Fees:*

All payments must be submitted via Paypal.

Entry fees for multiple entries may be combined.

Entry fees are non-refundable EXCEPT in the event that a category is cancelled due to low numbers of entries.

Early bird rates (for payments received before midnight CST on Sunday, December 8, 2013):

- \$20 for members of NTRWA
- \$25 for all others

Regular rates (payments due no later than midnight CST on Sunday, December 29, 2013):

- \$25 for members of NTRWA
- \$30 for all others

### *Eligibility:*

All work must be the author's original work that has not been contracted for publication prior to the entry deadline.

This contest is open to all authors who have never been published in book-length romantic fiction as well as authors who have not been contracted or published in the entered category during the last three years (during 2011, 2012 or 2013).

Previous first place winners may not re-enter the winning entry, even in edited format. They may, however, enter another work.

Authors may enter as many times as they wish (in one or multiple categories).

Failure to comply with any of the rules may disqualify the entry, resulting in a forfeit of the entry fee.

### *Details*

Our final round editors have agreed to complete the judging score sheet and will hopefully include comments.

All payments must be submitted via Paypal.

Include the Paypal transaction number on your entry form.

Entry fees are refundable if the contestant becomes ineligible (as in publishes) before December 29, 2013. Paypal fees will be deducted from the returned amount.

The Great Expectations committee will make every effort to adhere to the above time schedule.

[ENTER NOW](#)

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## **Final Round Judges**

### *CONTEMPORARY SERIES*

[Megan Long](#) | Associate Editor, Harlequin Publishing

Romantic series novels. If your manuscript is a series romantic suspense, you may enter the Contemporary Series category

or the Romantic Suspense category. Please check our score sheets to see which benefits your writing.

### *HISTORICAL*

[Chelsey Emmelhainz](#) | Assistant Editor, William Morrow Avon

Romantic novels with non-contemporary settings, including regency & gothic romances.

### *NEW ADULT*

[Elizabeth Poteet](#) | St. Martins Press

Novels appropriate for young adult readers. Includes young adult heroes and heroines not exceeding 25 years of age.

### *MAINSTREAM with ROMANTIC ELEMENTS*

[Alex Logan](#) | Editor, Grand Central Publishing/Forever

Novels that include an element of romance but in which traditional romance conventions are not followed and in which there are themes and conflicts beyond romance. Mainly women's fiction and chick lit.

### *SINGLE TITLE*

[Madeleine Colavita](#) | Editorial Assistant, Grand Central Publishing

Romantic novels released as individual titles.

### *YOUNG ADULT*

TBA

Novels appropriate for young adult readers. Includes young adult heroes and heroines not exceeding 25 years of age.

### *INSPIRATIONAL*

TBA

Romantic novels with an inspirational message/theme, including romantic suspense, historical, etc.

### *ROMANTIC SUSPENSE*

TBA

Romantic novels that include an element of mystery or suspense. Since the final round editor is from a single title publisher, contestants may want to enter series romantic suspense in the contemporary series category.

### *SPECIALIZED (FFTP)*

TBA

Romantic novels of any time setting (historical or futuristic) with Alternate Earth Histories, Dystopian, Futuristic, Fantasy, Time Travel, Paranormal, Urban Fantasy. The emphasis must be on the romance.

## *EROTIC ROMANCE*

Due to a continued lack of entries, we've had to cancel the Erotic Romance category. Erotic entries can now be made in any category. Please indicate EROTIC in the header and on the entry form heat level. Please review our score sheets to see if your entry will benefit from comments.

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## **The Carolyn Readers Choice Award, 2014**

### **~ a contest for 2013 published books ~**

The Carolyn Award was created in 2013 to honor Carolyn Williamson, a founding member of the North Texas chapter of RWA. She has served the chapter in almost every capacity and is one of the earliest members of RWA as well.

Since 1983, Carolyn has pursued her dream of being a published romance author. She faithfully writes and attends meetings, workshops, and conferences in pursuit of the knowledge that will turn her dream into reality.

Her dedication and perseverance is an inspiration to many.

*Entry Form ~ Judge Information ~ Sample Score Sheet*

### *Timeline*

- November 14, 2013 ~ contest open for registration, entries and early bird payments of \$20
- November 14, 2013 through February 14, 2014 ~ receipt of entries
- December 14, 2013 ~ contest price goes up to \$25
- February 14, 2014 through March 14, 2014 ~ first round judging
- March 14, 2014 through March 31, 2014 ~ finalists notified
  - Finalists will be notified via phone or e-mail
- March 31, 2014 ~ finalists officially announced
- March 31, 2014 through May 14, 2014 ~ final round judging
  - Winners will be notified via phone or e-mail
- May 14, 2014 through May 31, 2014 ~ winners notified
- May 31, 2014 ~ winners officially announced
- July, 2014 ~ ad appears on All Romance Ebooks website

### *Eligibility*



- The Carolyn Readers Choice Award contest is open to all authors of traditional, e-published, and self-published books.
  - Only the author or the publisher may submit an entry.
  - Entries must represent the author's own original work.
- No anthologies or story collections accepted. Individual shorts and anthology stories may be entered into one of the nine categories. No anthology as a whole is eligible.
- Authors or publishers may enter more than one book.
- Books may be entered in one category only.
- Original copyright or first printing date must be between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013.
- Membership in Romance Writers of America® is NOT required.

### *Categories*

**Please note:** categories will be capped at 30 entries; if a category does not receive at least 10 entries by the deadline, authors will be notified and entries transferred to the secondary category.

All lengths of stories will compete in these nine categories. There are no additional categories.

- Erotic Romance
- Historical Romance
- Romantic Suspense
- Inspirational Romance
- Contemporary Romance
- Young/New Adult Romance
- Series Action Adventure Romance
- Mainstream with Romantic Elements
- Specialized Romance: Alternate Earth Histories, Dystopian, Futuristic, Fantasy, Time Travel, Paranormal, Urban Fantasy

### *Costs*

- Early bird entry fee: \$20 per entry
  - available from Nov. 14 to Dec. 14
- Regular entry fee: \$25 per entry
  - available from Dec. 15 to Feb. 14
- Requests for refunds (minus PayPal fees if applicable) will be considered on a case by case basis and will be discussed & determined by the NTRWA board.
- Any cost associated with the distribution of the book to judges is the sole responsibility of the author or publisher.

### *The Prize*

- The winners of each of the 9 categories will be featured on a banner ad on the home page of the All Romance Ebook website (collectively, not individually) for a month. The banner ad is a \$500 value.
- All authors will receive the score sheets.
- Each finalist and winner will receive an appropriate website icon.

### *Judging*

- Entries will be judged by romance readers certifying they are not members of any professional writing organization or associated with the publishing industry in any way other than as a reader.
- Entries will be judged by five (5) judges in the preliminary round and three (3) judges in the final round.
- The five (5) entries with the highest score average in each category will continue to the final round, provided the average is in the upper 25%.
- The entry with the highest score average in each category in the final round will be the winner for that category.
- Score sheets will be provided to the entrants.

### *How to enter*

- Complete the entry form.
  - Each novel entered must have a separate entry form.
- Pay the entry fee via PayPal.
  - Each entry must have a separate payment.
  - Please contact the contest coordinator if you do not wish to pay via Paypal.
  - Requests for refunds (minus PayPal fees if applicable) will be considered on a case by case basis and will be discussed & determined by the NTRWA board.
- Submit your book.

### *Other Information*

- **FORMAT**
  - Only PDF copies of your entry will be accepted.
    - PDF version can be a finished PDF or a publisher approved Advanced Reader Copy.
    - The cover does not have to be included.
  - By sending an electronic copy, the author or publisher acknowledges that up to eight (8) copies may be sent out, five (5) for first round judging, and three (3) additional copies should the entry reach the final round.
    - The author or publisher accepts responsibility for any payment required for these copies.

- While NTRWA requires judges to agree to NOT re-distribute or share electronic documents, NTRWA has no way to enforce this policy.
  - The author accepts this risk when sending an electronic document.
- LENGTH
  - Books of all length are accepted and will compete in the same categories. A good story is a good story.
    - Minimum length: 10K
    - Maximum length: 110K
  - Judges may choose to read entries in a single length category or read a mixture of lengths.
- AGREEMENT
  - Entry in NTRWA's The Carolyn Readers Choice Award contest constitutes agreement by the author to conform to all contest rules, abide by the decision of the judges, and hold blameless NTRWA, The Carolyn Readers Choice Award contest coordinators and all judges.
  - In entering, the author agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the chapter, its officers, members, contest chair people, and all judges of the contest from liability for its/their actions arising from or relating to judging and handling of the entry and conducting, sponsoring and advertising the event.
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**2013 Meeting Schedule**

[Join us October 19th](#)

**Denton County Judge Holly Fox**

Holly Henson Fox was born and raised in McAllen, Texas. After graduating from Baylor University with honors, she attended Texas Tech School of Law where she received the American Jurisprudence Award for Professional Responsibility. Upon graduation from law school, she returned to her hometown and worked as an Assistant Criminal District Attorney in Hidalgo County, Texas. Mrs. Fox successfully prosecuted misdemeanor, juvenile, domestic violence and felony cases.

In 1998 she was selected by the United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation to serve as a Special Agent in the FBI. Upon successful completion of new agent training in Quantico, Virginia, she was transferred to the New York Office of the FBI as her first office assignment. As a special agent she conducted background investigations of Presidential appointees, performed undercover operations, surveillance details, Title III wiretaps, search warrants, evidence recovery operations, interrogations, and other routine and specialized investigative techniques necessary in the successful investigation of white collar crime, organized crime, gang and drug related offenses, public corruption, as well as cases involving the sexual exploitation of children. Some of the white collar crime investigations pertained to internal and external bank fraud, mortgage fraud, government fraud, environmental crimes, and money laundering.

Upon resigning from the FBI, Mrs. Fox practiced criminal law in Denton County and is currently serving as a judge and magistrate for numerous cities as well as providing legal services to several municipalities as a prosecutor.

*Email questions, comments, or articles to [newsletter@ntrwa.org](mailto:newsletter@ntrwa.org).*

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