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May 2018 NTRWA Newsletter

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Emily McKay

June 16th, 11:00 am**GET PUBLISHED 10:00 to 10:30****BUSINESS MEETING & LUNCH 12:15 to 1:30**

EMILY MCKAY

Bigger Than Botox

Sure, everyone knows how to edit a manuscript. But how do you revise one? We're not talking mansy-pansy punching-up-your-verbs revisions. We're talking my-book-is-flatlining-and-needs-a-heart-transplant revisions.

Maybe your critique group is harping on your convoluted plot and you're getting rejections that say they just don't feel connected to your characters. These are problems your spell checker and thesaurus can't fix. It could be time for major surgery.

This workshop will unveil three levels of revisions that will take your book from an unhealthy, flabby mess, to a thing of beauty your editor will want to clutch to her chest while singing Etta James's At Last.

About Emily

Emily McKay is a four time Rita nominee. She's published twenty-five books with Harlequin, Berkley, Walker Books, and Entangled. In 2013, she won the Rita award for Best Young Adult Romance. She has over 500,000 books in print in fourteen languages.



She is a life-long fan of books, pop-culture and anything geeky. She has a black belt in Tae Kwon Do and baking cookies. When she's not kicking-butt and scooping cookie dough, she's watching videos on YouTube. Though her interests

may appear broad, the common denominators are chilling suspense and snarky humor.

She lives in central Texas with her husband, kids, two mildly-psychotic dogs, two nervous cats, and nineteen chickens.

Learn more at <http://emilymckay.com/>



#GetPublished initiative in June

Clover Autrey will speak about the promises you make in your bio. Sounds like serious fun. Join us at 10 AM.

Clover Autrey writes the kind of stories she loves to read, high fantasy and time travels with Scottish Highlanders or magical mermen and shapeshifters. The theme, rhythm, and power words of your bio subconsciously clue readers into what they can expect in your story. Learn how to make what's on your bio reflect your true self and also hints of what's inside your book. Join us at 10 am to learn the promises you make with your bio.



#GetPublished initiative in May

Chelsea Mueller spoke about the EU GDPR regulations.

What's the GDPR? The **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU) 2016/679** is a **regulation** in EU law on data protection and privacy for all individuals within the **European** Union. It also addresses the export of personal data outside the **EU**. ...
The **GDPR** replaces the 1995 Data Protection Directive. Here are some articles:

- <https://blog.mailchimp.com/tag/gdpr/>

- <http://bit.ly/2KZSZff>
- <https://kb.mailchimp.com/accounts/management/gdpr-faq>

The Heart to Heart

NTRWA

Founded March 1983

Chapter 33, Region 5

May 2018

Volume 36, Issue 5

2018 BOARD

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YOU CAN BE A PART OF THE
NT MACHINE!! CONTACT MIA.

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Committee
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PRO Liaison

Randee Leigh

Bylaws

Angi Morgan

The Carolyn

Jen FitzGerald

**Great
Expectations**

Amanda McMurrey,

Susan Miller,

Carolyn Rae

Hospitality

Amanda McMurrey

Spotlight

Angi Morgan

Writing**Incentives**

Kim Miller

35th Anniversary

Jen FitzGerald

Two Step 2019**Conference**

Open



From the President
Mia London

What does it mean to be part of a tribe in the 21st century?

Webster's defines Tribe as a group of persons having a common character, occupation, or interest. It is beyond the family. Sometimes we are part of a "tribe" without even realizing it—like at work or church or school. In the online world, a tribe tends to form around an authority, expert, or celebrity.

When you move, you may find you need a new tribe(s). And isn't that sometimes the hardest part of moving? We get in our groove, our routine, and almost in an instant it's all changed in our new home environment. In many cases, if a person cannot find a place to share their personal and professional energy, it never feels like

home.

And what if you take on a new interest or hobby? That could mean a new tribe for you. With the exception of people with severe wanderlust, most will seek out people with common interests or goals to connect with.

In very much the same way, we at NT are a tribe. My question to you is what does your tribe mean to you? Is it about sharing triumphs or struggles? About learning your craft? About socializing and idea sharing? Any combination of those? And furthermore, what can you do to make your tribe great?

As a successful author, you are chief of your tribe, even if in a small way. Your goal is to write, publish, and sell books. You draw more and more people around you to strive to complete your goals. These tribe mates take on many forms. They can be online or offline connections to you. Some, you are closer to than others.

I dare say, you can call it a group, a clan, a family, or a tribe, but everyone needs one. It is crucial for our survival as individuals and as a whole. Simply put, people **like** to belong to a tribe(s). Make yours great, connect with yours, and they will help you succeed as an author.

Best wishes!

~Audra



Dear North Texas . . .

RECENTLY YOU SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED AN EMAIL about your membership information. If you didn't, please contact the Membership Director.

STEP ONE – YOUR NAME ON WEBSITE

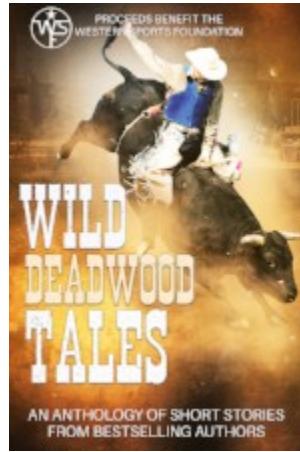
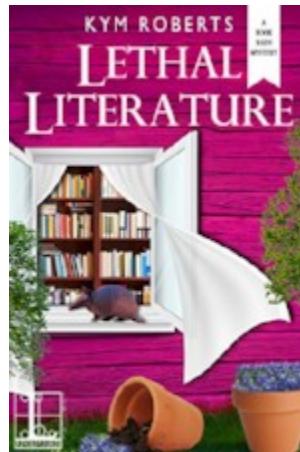
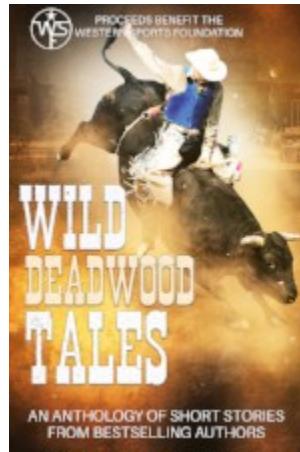
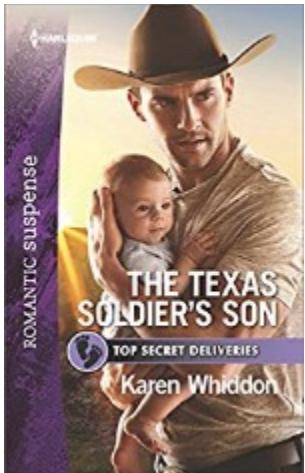
We are planning to add a public page to our website that lists ALL our members, not just the published ones. (See an example of this here: <https://swfrw.org/swfrw-members/>)

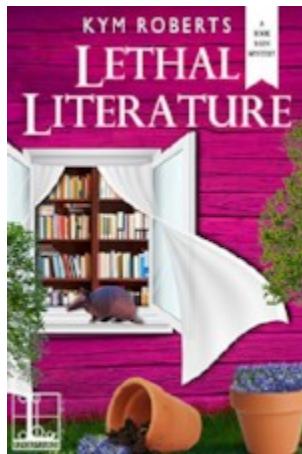
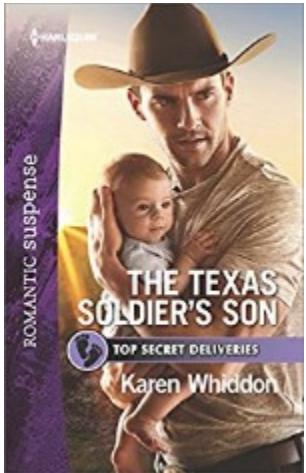
If you want to be included, please take a look at the two steps in your email and verify your information is correct. Please send an email by Friday 5/18/18 to membership@ntrwa.org with any changes or updates.

~Thanks, Randee, NTRWA Membership Director

Member Releases

Don't forget to share the
May & June book birthdays!



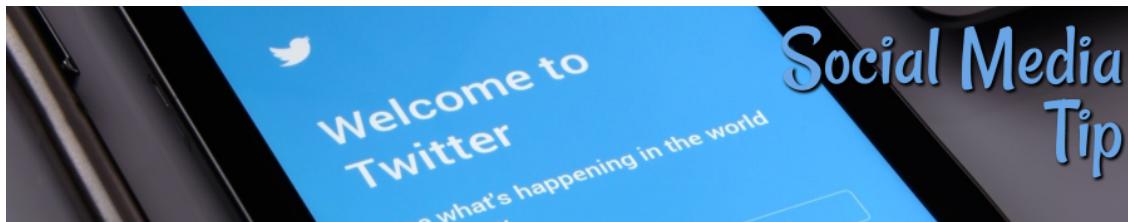


DOES CLEANING YOUR DESK HELP YOU WRITE?

by Angi Morgan

The organization of our offices, desks, and computers isn't just for neatniks. Every writer can learn to write better and more efficiently by putting a little extra time into cleaning up. If we can spend less time trying to find our favorite pen or our notes on one of our minor characters, we'll be able to spend more time actually writing.

Organization always comes down to personal style. One person's slobfest is another person's I-know-exactly-where-everything-is. Some of us need a little clutter to help us feel comfortable in our workspaces; some of us need everything squared away, so we can think better. How you organize isn't so important as just doing it. Following are a few tips I've found useful in keeping my writing life organized and myself on track to write that next novel.



TRYING TO GET INTO TWITTER?

I find that I read my Twitter feed on my phone when I'm out and about. The re-Tweets help keep my content fresh and random. But most of my Twitter posts are pre-scheduled on TweetDeck.

TweetDeck is a free platform. I know there are others out there, but it comes down to having to learn something new. I just haven't taken the time. But I am looking for something (free) that schedules Instagram from my laptop. Any suggestions?

Back to TWITTER...or TWEETDECK...

Scheduling my posts helps me get all my links correct and scheduled for a new release. I space out the pre-scheduled tweets with buyer buy-links using one site (iBooks, Kindle, B&N, etc) for each. I add pictures or sayings with different hashtags for popular things on Twitter (#DogsOffTwitter, #Bluebonnets, #TexasHighways, #AmWriting, #MotivationalMonday). Many times, I will gain a follower for a picture or saying which makes it worth the while.

TweetDeck also helps with my blog posts since I can post all at one time instead of everyday. My Facebook posts from my author page directly tweet. Here's a hint: schedule your Facebook posts as tweets, then go back and edit those posts to look right for Facebook.





Indian Paintbrush or Red Blanket?

This spring I've heard it called both.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES of APRIL 21, 2018

A regular meeting for the North Texas Romance Writers of America (NTRWA) was held on **Saturday, April 12, 2018** at the La Hacienda Restaurant in Colleyville, Texas. The President and the President-Elect were present. The meeting was called to order at 12:34 p.m.

President: Aurdra Lewandowski reported: no report

Secretary: Robin Nelson reported: The March 17, 2017 meeting minutes were approved and filed for audit.

Treasurer: report by Audra Lewandowski: The Treasurer's report was presented and filed for audit.

Program Director: Linda Bolton reported: Working with DARA on the NT Two Step for 2019. May 19th meeting is *Psychic Melanie Jade Rummel*. June 16th *Managing Resources* with Emily McKay.

Membership Director: no report

Communications Director: Angi Morgan reported: Send information / articles / photos for inclusion in the newsletter to newsletter@NTRWA.org by the first week of the month.

Great Expectations Contest: Amanda McMurrey reported: One final-round judge outstanding.

Carolyn Contest: Jen FitzGerald reported: Waiting on final-round judging.

ByLaws Chair Angi Morgan reported: There is an update to the bylaws. RWA made it easier for small chapters to serve and easier for those who move around a lot to have their service counted as a board member. Does not effect our chapter at all. Voting will proceed when the website is ready.

Unfinished Business: No unfinished business to report.

New Business: No new business to report.

Next Business Meeting: 12:15 p.m. on May 19, 2018 at La Hacienda.

The meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m. Submitted electronically by Robin Nelson.



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