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August 2018 NTRWA Newsletter

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North Texas
Romance
Writers
of America



ntrwa.org



**POLISHING
YOUR MANUSCRIPT
FEBRUARY 18**

GET PUBLISHED 10:00 to 10:30**BUSINESS MEETING & LUNCH 12:15 to 1:30*****The Heart to Heart***

NTRWA
Founded March 1983
Chapter 33, Region 5
February 2019
Volume 37, Issue 2

Meeting Dates:

February 16: Candace
Havens, Polishing your
Manuscript

March 16: Kat Baldwin,
Getting Emotions Write

April 6, 2019: Damon Suede

2019 BOARD**President**

C.A. Szarek

President Elect

Susan Person Miller

SecretaryCarolyn R.
Williamson**Treasurer**

Regina Richards

**Communications
Director**

WORKSHOP: FEBRUARY
Polishing Your Manuscript
By Candace Havens

It's time to Polish your Manuscript to Perfection. We'll be going over everything from Big Picture and Characterization to Fist Pump Endings and Smooth Transitions.

Lizzie Bailey

Contest Director
Amanda Byrd

Membership Director
Ranee Leigh

Program Director
Linda Bolton

Want to be a part of the NTRWA machine?! Contact Chrissy - president@ntrwa.org

2019 Committee Chairs

PAN Liaison
Chrissy Szarek

PRO Liaison
Ranee
Paraskevopoulos

Bylaws
Angi Morgan

The Carolyn
Audra Lewandowski

Great Expectations
Amanda Byrd

Hospitality
Amanda McMurrey

Writing Incentives
Kim Miller

Get Published
Jen FitzGerald

Two Step 2019 Conference
Linda Bolton

We'll help you get rid of Fish Heads, and tighten your story so that it's ready for whatever is next for your book whether that's traditional publishing, self-publishing or sending to an agent.

Biography of Candace Havens

Bestselling author Candace Havens has published more than 25 books. Her novels have received nominations for the RITA's, Holt Medallion, Write Touch Reader Awards and National Readers Choice Awards. She is a Barbara Wilson Award winner. She is the author of the biography "*Joss Whedon: The Genius Behind Buffy*" and a contributor to several anthologies. She is also one of the nation's leading entertainment journalists and has interviewed countless celebrities from George Clooney to Chris Pratt. Her entertainment columns are syndicated by FYI Television, Inc. She is the Executive Editor, and Editorial Director for the Embrace and Indulgence lines at [Entangled Publishing](#). Candace also runs a [free online writing workshop](#) for more than 2000 writers, and teaches comprehensive writing classes. She does film reviews with Hawkeye in the Morning on 96.3 KSCS, and is a former President of the [Television Critics Association](#).



#GETPUBLISHED - February Regina Richards

Are you struggling with dictation? Regina will talk about the craft of dictation, so bring your questions and she'll have the answers to reach your unlimited potential!

Join us at 10am sharp for a brand new year of GET PUBLISHED! Please see the article below from Jen FitzGerald for more info. Our great club will help YOU finally grab that spanking new publishing contract or enable you to hit PUBLISH on that e-book you've been dreaming about publishing!



FROM THE PRESIDENT

CHRISSY SZAREK

I can't believe it's February! I know I said I couldn't believe it was 2019 in my January letter, but it just seems to be moving so fast already. Somehow, I want it to slow down!

I really hope you're writing all the words! And I hope you're excited about the programs we have upcoming, including Get Published, and our Texas Two Step with Damon Suede in April!

It's never too early to remind us all, including myself, to stay focused.

As I've already mentioned, time tends to move faster than we want it to, so if we don't remain to focused and have balance, we won't get any work done. By work, I mean books. Words. All the stories in our heads.

Women are so busy, and I think these days, we are so more than ever. Kids, husbands, jobs at home and outside of the home, (not to mention, errands, laundry dishes) take precedent, and while that's okay some of the time, we still need to make time for us. sometimes that's a hard thing to remember.

Time for US definitely includes writing.

I personally struggle with balance, and I am a busy girl as many of you know. That doesn't negate the fact that I want to write. I need to write. When I don't write, I'm really grumpy LOL! Like WRITER PMS.

I know there are others of you that are the same. So, I just want to take a minute to remind you that YOU are important, and so is your writing.

Don't lose sight of that for February, and of course, for the rest the year.

We all may struggle for balance, but at least we are in it together!

Good luck for the month, and as I said I hope you write all the words!

Can't wait to see y'all at our next meeting!



2019 GET PUBLISHED Information

Contributed by Jen FitzGerald

Our goal, as you all know, is to help all our members become published authors.

To that end, GetPublished! 2.0 is in progress.

The program is open to all of our pre-published authors and any author who hasn't published since 2015.

Requirements include a \$10 participation fee, inclusion on the accountability group, and beta reading* two other participants' books when they finish them.

You may use a work in progress or you may start a new book.

As you careen toward completion, and upon completion of your manuscript, we have a checklist of things to work through, both for those pursuing traditional publication and those working toward publishing independently.

This is where the membership as whole comes in--if you have a special skill set, such as writing blurbs or query letters, writing synopses, etc., or if you know your way around aggregators or website platforms and would be willing to help your chapter mates out, I'd ask you to sign up. I'd also like to ask that you share the names of your resources--editors, cover artists, formatters, and the like.

Those who complete their manuscript will be required* to beta read two other participants' manuscripts. The GP! Coordinator will do their best to pair you with manuscripts you will enjoy and provide worksheets for you to fill out. (* If you do not beta read for a fellow participant, you will not receive beta reads in turn, nor will you be allowed to attend the luncheon.)

Those who complete their manuscript by August 31st will earn the opportunity to attend a lunch or a dinner with a featured guest of whom they can ask questions for the duration of the luncheon.

To sign up for the GetPublished! Program, please visit NT's website.

Sign-up form is here: <https://ntrwa.org/writing/get-published/getpublished-participation-form/>

Pay your fee here: <https://ntrwa.org/writing/get-published/getpublished-participation-fee-payment-portal/>

As a published member, we hope you'll sign up to help our pre-published members by working with them on various items of the checklists, such as writing query letters or book blurbs and on and on. We also ask that you share the names of your cover artists, formatters, and copy and content editors.

Share your info here: <https://ntrwa.org/writing/get-published/getpublished-member-resource-signup/>

If anyone has any questions, please contact Jen FitzGerald at getpublished@ntrwa.org

Count Your Pages!

Contributed by Carolyn Rae

Count Your Pages by Carolyn Rae

Did you know the member who reports the most pages written or edited in a year gets a certificate and a gift card?

I won for most edited in 2018. Okay, Cindy Dees is hard to beat, but take it as a challenge. Visitor Rifi Strawn actually wrote more pages in January.

While it's important to get that first draft done, the manuscript isn't ready for publication until it's edited. After your first draft is finished, let it sit for a week or two. You'll be amazed at what you see that needs to be improved.

Since I'm weak on emotion, I plan to go over the two novels I just revised and add in more emotion and setting.

Below are the numbers for January. Let's see what you can do for February.

TOP WRITTEN:

Rifi Strawn - 325

Cindy Dees - 187

Rita Ward - 125

TOP EDITED:

Cindy Dees - 1020

Tish Sanders - 726

Carolyn Rae - 587



Goodreads - why you need it!

by Audra Lewandowski - @NTRWA Social Media Goddess.

It's that time of year again- Check your Goodreads buylinks.

1. Go to each of your books.
2. Click on each buylink to verify that it directs you to the product page(s).
3. If you notice that it just appears to pull up a search page on Amazon with your book title, you may be able to fix that.
4. Make sure you are signed in as the **Author**.
5. One book at a time, go to the "Edit Details" at the bottom of each book (after the blurb).
6. From there, scroll down to the ASIN or ISBN, and enter one of those numbers.
 - a. This will make it easier for the Goodreads computers to find you.
7. If you already have the ASIN/ISBN field populated, and it still doesn't bring up your Amazon product page, message them.
 - a. Go to the bottom at "Help," and fill out a Contact Us form. Good luck!




UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

March 29, 2019 | 11:00am-4:00pm

Home Run Author Event

<https://www.facebook.com/HomeRunAuthorEvent>

June 8, 2019 | 12:00p-3:00pm

Boas & Tiaras hosted by Fresh Fiction

<http://www.freshfiction.com>

November 14-17, 2019 | 12:00p-3:00pm

Readers n Ritas hosted by Fresh Fiction

<http://www.freshfiction.com>

Have an event you want to share? Email us via newsletter@ntrwa.org so we can add it to the list!

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES OF NTRWA January 18, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 10:40 a.m. by President Chrissy Szarek. There were no corrections or additions to the minutes of the December meeting, so it will be filed as a record.

- Chrissy announced Robin Nelson, Kim Miller, and Clover Autrey will audit the treasurer's financial records.
- Cindy Dees, 2018 treasurer, reported NTRWA has \$15,836.00 in the treasury, and that the board has prepared a budget for the year. The report will be filed for audit.
- Chrissy announced she received a waiver from RWA to collect dues from NT's own website instead of going through the RWA Website. Dues of \$30 are due by the end of January. All members should fill out the information form when renewing their membership.
- Program chairperson, Linda Bolton announced Cindy Dees as a speaker on the topic of Voice for the January program, and Candy Havens will speak in February. Linda plans to bring in a fire chief as a speaker later in the year.
- Audra Lewandowski, Chairperson for the Carolyn contest, announced submissions for the Carolyn and GE were less than last year and suggested we promote it. The GE deadline is January 27th.
- Audra also announced NT has a twitter page. Members can share news, but not promote their books.
- Lisa Fenley announced NT will schedule Write-Ins once a month at different places. The first will be On Sunday, January 27th, at her house, 1305 Pecos Dr., Southlake, 76092, from 2 -6. Bring your own snack food.
- Lisa also announced Amanda has withdrawn as GE chairperson, and Angi Morgan will help Lisa. She needs judges. Members can volunteer by signing up to judge. Please promote the contest between now and January 27, the new deadline.
- Linda Bolton announced the details for the Damon Suede Workshop, April 6th from 9-4 at the Grapevine Golf Center. He will speak on characterization from 9-12 and talk about dialogue from 1-4. We must be out by 4:30. Lunch will include a taco buffet with vegetarian options. The price for members of NTRWA and DARA, who are sponsoring the program, is \$40. Non-members will pay \$75. A dinner with Damon on Friday night will be arranged, as well as a get-together on Saturday night with him.
- Jen FitzGerald, Get Published Chairperson, announced a \$10 charge to sign up. Those who finish by August 31st can attend lunch or dinner with a popular author. She handed out a sign-up sheet for NTRWA members to write down their strengths in case another member needs advice. She has compiled a list of publishers and would like contact info for formatters, editors, and cover designers. Monthly programs begin at 10:00 a.m. Subjects are: January – Clover Autrey, taking advantage of drive time –dictating in your car, February – Regina Richards, quick tutorial on the craft of dictation, March – C.A. Szarek, going to conferences–how many, which ones, why, preparation.
- Jen presented the case for changing our fiscal year to match that of RWA, stating the money collection for the GE contest in two separate years was awkward. Lisa Fenley moved, and Kim Miller seconded a motion to change NTRWA's fiscal year to run from September 1st. to August 31st. The motion passed
- The Cruise for 2020 was discussed. NT will pay the deposit of \$500 and pay \$100 for the first 20 to sign up. Gina Nelson, who was not present, is chairperson for the cruise.
- The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

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www.ntrwa.org

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