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Feb 2020 NTRWA Newsletter - Perfect Your Writing Technique &
Book Description Tips

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L.C. Hayden
Presents
**Perfect Your
Writing
Technique**
FEBRUARY 15th

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 38, Issue 6

2019 BOARD

President

Jen FitzGerald

President Elect

Celia Naples

Secretary

Kaylie Greenig

Treasurer

Regina Richards

Communications

Director

Susan Sheehey

Contest Director

Audra Lewandowski

Membership

Director

OPEN

Program Director

Chrissy Szarek



Join us for Cozy Mystery & Thrillers author L.C.
Hayden and her program,
"How to Perfect Your Writing Technique"

Some books are okay; others, good and few
outstanding. So how does an author take an

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2019 Committee Chairs

PAN Liaison

Chrissy Szarek

PRO Liaison

Lisa Fenley

Bylaws

Madison McCall

The Carolyn

Audra Lewandowski

Great

Expectations

Lisa Fenley

Hospitality

Clover Autrey

Writing

Incentives

Lisa Fenley

Get Published

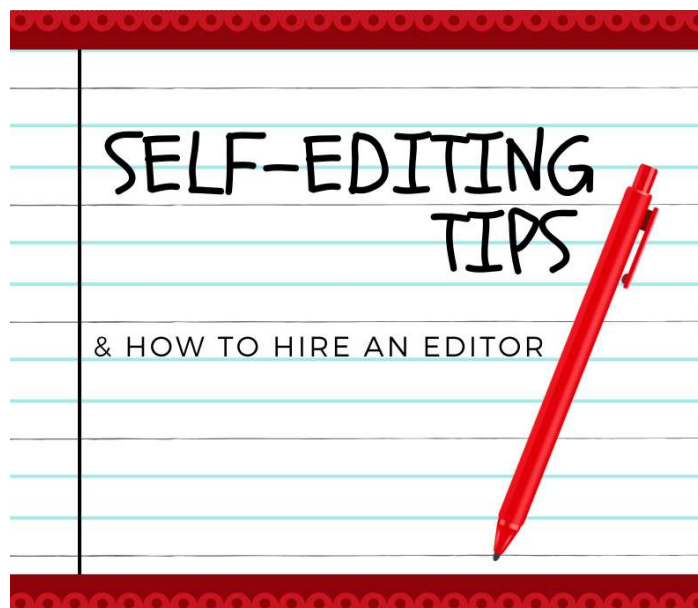
Lisa Fenley

Spotlight Chair

K.M. St. James

L. C. Hayden will address this question on her upcoming workshop "How to Perfect Your Writing." She will demonstrate how to use some literary concepts--such as diction, background story, flashbacks, setting and others--correctly.

After her workshop, the attendees will easily know how to create the ideal story that will attract readers and publishers.



#GETPUBLISHED - FEBRUARY

**SELF-EDITING TIPS &
HOW TO HIRE AN EDITOR
with Susan Sheehey**

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Susan will provide a checklist of useful techniques on how to self-edit your story to get it ready for an agent or editor's review, or to publish it yourself. In addition, she will offer tips and guidelines for hiring an editor.

For those aiming to have your story traditionally published or indie-published, come join us.



Hello NTers,
I hope the new month finds you well and productive.

I'd like to dive right in and address the issue of "Business as Usual."

As I said in January's letter, we are continuing to conduct business as usual—insofar as holding meetings, planning the next conference, and keeping our group running is business as usual.

But "Business as Usual" doesn't mean we don't care about what's happening at the National level or that we aren't taking the lessons to heart.

The events happening at RWA have rightfully sparked outrage and anger and multitude other emotions throughout the 9000+ membership roster. People are calling for answers and for change. Not an unreasonable expectation. But when people leave the organization because they don't want to be associated with it, that means there are fewer people left to affect that change and the progress of that change slows to a crawl.

But what does this all mean for NT? It means that NT should (and will) take a look at itself. It means we'll take action to address the issues. It means we put policies in place so that we are as welcoming on paper as I believe we are in person.

That's not business as usual. That's taking action to effect change. That's learning and growing as individuals and making sure our group continues to operate and to flourish.

To that end, ***I'm issuing a call to action***—come be a part of the change we want to implement in our chapter. I'm asking for 3 to 5 members to form a DEI Committee to put together some policy and procedures in regards to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Shoot me an email at president@ntrwa.org to volunteer. I have some info and links to information that was gathered by several members, so there's a place to start. And thank you to those members--you know who you are.

I've also reached out to the board of W.O.R.D. about them becoming the clearing house for any ethical complaints by writers group members whose organizations are W.O.R.D. members. I've been invited to the W.O.R.D. Leadership Meeting on the 16th, so I'll be

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that brings me to one last point for February: your continued membership in RWA and NTRWA. A couple dozen of you are up for NT renewals either at the end of Jan or the end of February, and I don't know how that overlaps your RWA membership. I know it seems crazy to pay another \$100 to RWA when everything is still in flux, but NTRWA has options even should the catastrophic happen, and we want all of you to be a part of our landscape moving forward. Of course, the decision rests with you and what's best for you, but in case you missed it, RWA has issued grace periods for National and chapter-level dues:

National dues extension:

Members with a paid-through date of December 31, 2019, or January 31, 2020, have until March 31, 2020, to renew their RWA membership. We have emailed all members impacted by the extension.

Chapter dues extension:

Chapter members with a paid-through date of December 31, 2019, have until February 29, 2020, to pay their dues. Chapter members with a paid-through date of January 31, 2020, have until March 31, 2020. These chapter members have not been contacted. If your chapter would like for us to email these members, please email me and I will set this up.

This extension only allows extra time to pay the dues renewal invoice; the member's billing period does not change. For example, if someone has a paid-through date of December 31, 2019, and waits until March 28, 2020, to renew their national dues, their billing period would stay January 31, 2020, though December 31, 2020. If you have specific questions, please email me: megan.sloan@rwa.org

We'll have to see what happens as we march through the month and what news comes out of National.

The crux of the matter is, DARA and NT appear to be the only in-person romance-based writers groups in the DFW area, and DARA's ability to remain a chapter is also in question from a personnel standpoint. So I hope you stick with us for one more year—long enough to see what happens to RWA—1) because I like you and 2) because if romance writers give up hope...well, that's not what we're about is it?

I hope to see you on the 15th.

Jen



NTRWA spotlights Celia Naples

By KM Saint James

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building fantasy worlds, exploring new places, breathing life into characters, and researching every detail. But each of us has so much to share.

After a long hiatus from RWA and NT, I returned to find so many new faces. It has been a wonderful opportunity, and my pleasure, to learn about the current members of NT.

I hope each of you will find something new, something more, something deeper about your fellow chapter-mates.

CELIA NAPLES (President-Elect)

Do you have another career besides writing?

Certified Holistic Health Coach

If you could choose to do anything for a day, what would it be?

Go hiking somewhere beautiful with my family, sit by a stream and listen to the water flow, then have a meal together outdoors at a long table lit by candles and the moon with lots of good wine.

Share two or three things from your bucket list.

Get published.

Travel to New Zealand.

Spend a month in Tuscany and have family and friends visit.

Kodak moments – memories – live vividly in a writer's mind: describe a favorite coffee shop, wine house, or café? Where is this location?

There is one particular coffee shop in Venice that still has a place in my heart. We were there fifteen years ago and I remember exactly what the proprietor looked like. He had a thick gray mustache, a great smile and a warm greeting for everyone who came in his door. He wore white dress shirts with black slacks and a white apron. As much as I wanted to go sight-see, each morning, I found myself sitting at the little square tables on the sidewalk watching Venice pass by.

Name an author – or three – who inspires you? Why?

Nora Roberts – I love her style of writing.

Barbara Kingsolver – Her writing is vivid.

What motivates you to write?

Something inside me that I can't explain.

Plotter or Pantser?

Pantser until it becomes untenable then I'll plot.

When is your favorite time, of day, to write?

Morning

If you could have a personal one-on-one conversation with any person – fictional or real – who would it be? What is one question that you would ask?

Michelle Obama. How did/do you cope?

What is something that you wished you had learned earlier in life?

That I can write.

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No I prefer silence.

Do you write early in the morning? Late at night? All day long?

Whenever I can.

What's the hardest thing – to you – about writing?

Sticking with it.

Do you currently – or in the past – work in a field not related to writing?

I am a Certified Holistic Health Coach.

Is there an interesting story that you can share about that field?

While we think of food as having an impact on our bodies it can also have a significant impact on our emotions and mental health. There are more neurotransmitters in our gut than in our brain, thus the brain-gut connection. What we consume impacts our brain's health, our cognitive abilities, sleep and mood.

Most women I have worked with have similar struggles with food. So much of the problem regarding eating choices center around stress, emotions, and even family of origin issues. It's all about habits, recognizing old patterns, interrupting them and replacing them with healthy ones.

What brings you joy?

My family.



Did you forget to submit your story? There is still time!

The Carolyn Readers Choice Award

For published works.

Submissions close Feb 15th, 2020.

More about The Carolyn Readers Choice Award: <https://ntrwa.org/contests/the-carolyn/>

Please help spread the word.

Copy and paste the following into your social media to help share!

The Carolyn Readers Choice Award contest is live! Enter your 2019 published, romantic works. 6 categories. Bagging rights and boosted exposure for a year!

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BOOK DESCRIPTIONS ON AMAZON

by @MiaLondon - Audra Lewandowski
@NTRWA Social Media

Ever wonder why your blurb for your paperbacks look different than your blurb's for your eBooks on Amazon?

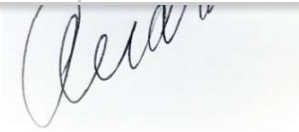
Unfortunately, the book description of your paperback will need HTML tags in order to add spaces between paragraphs or making letters bold/italicized.
Example: <p> for the beginning of a paragraph, and </p> for the end of a paragraph.

To update your paperback's description:

1. Sign in to: <https://kdp.amazon.com>
2. Go to your Bookshelf and click the ellipsis button ("...") under the Paperback Actions menu next to your book.
3. Select "Edit Details"
4. Under Description, make the necessary edits using html code for breaks, bold, and italics.
5. Go to the bottom of the page and click "Save and Continue" and click thru.
6. On the book pricing & promotion page, click the publish button at the bottom of the page.

For a complete list of supported HTML tags supported in the book description field, check our Help:

<https://kdp.amazon.com/self-publishing/help?topicId=A377RPHW6ZG4D8>

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WRITE-IN!

Feb 15th

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE FEBRUARY WRITE-IN!!

Feb 15th, 2020

2:00pm-5:00pm

Tarrant County College Northeast Campus Library
The Heritage Room
828 West Harwood Road
Hurst, Texas 76054

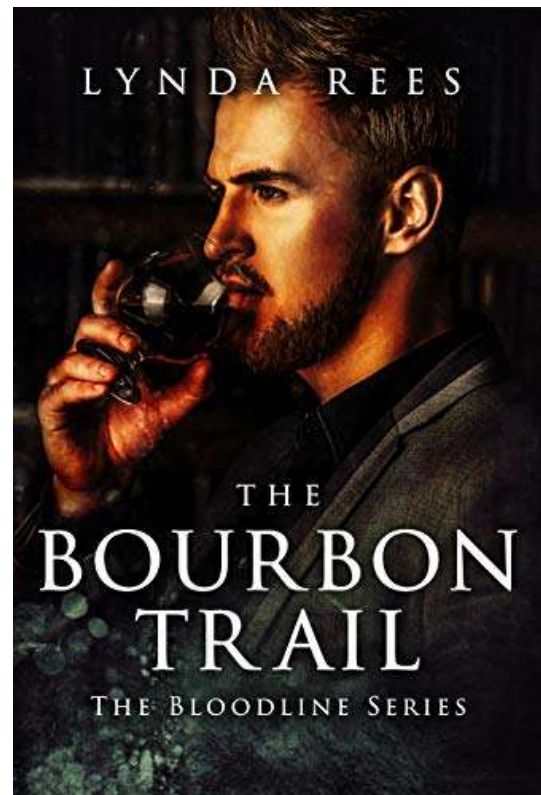
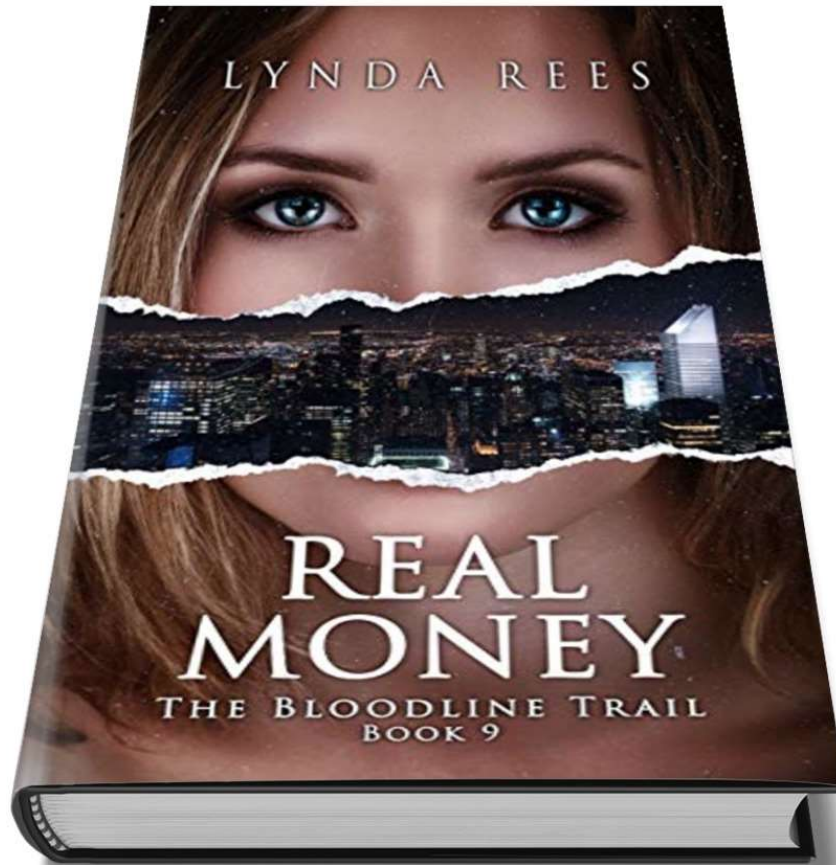
Join the group for concentrated writing sprints (or editing). Bring your beverage of choice (non-alcoholic), a snack to share, and your laptop or notebook, and plan on getting in as many words as your fingers can manage!

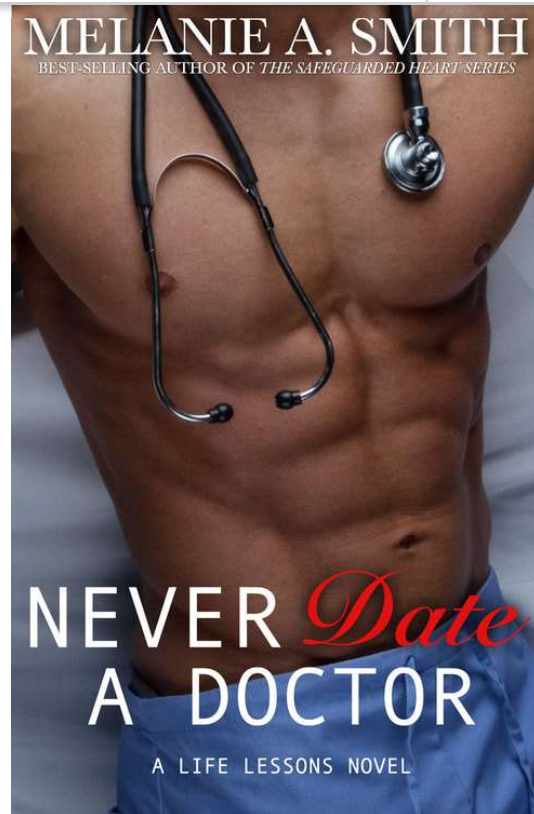
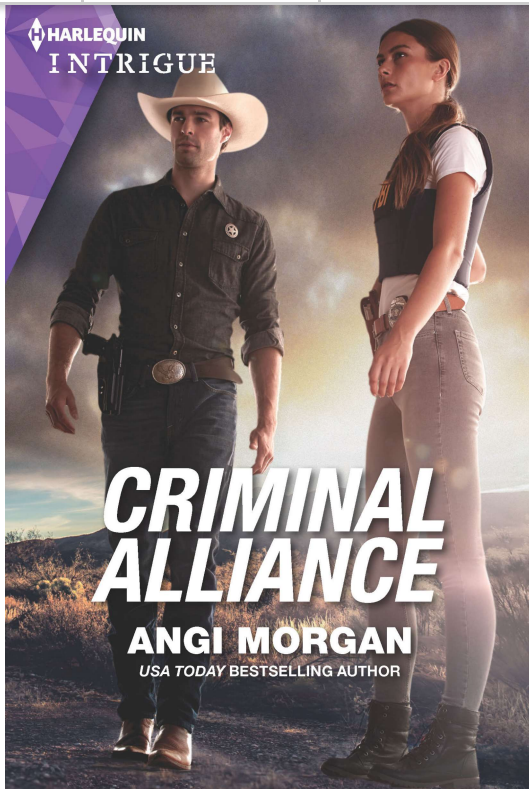
Congratulations on NTRWA Members with new releases!
Check out these amazing stories!

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GENERAL MEETING MINUTES OF NTRWA January 18, 2019

CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting for the North Texas Romance Writers of America (NTRWA) was held on Saturday, January 18, 2020 at the La Hacienda Restaurant in Colleyville, Texas. The President and the Secretary were present. The meeting was called to order at 12:40 p.m. The minutes for the December meeting were approved.

OFFICER REPORTS:

President Jen FitzGerald reported:

- The budget was approved today in the board meeting.
- Meetings dates were ratified. We will continue to meet every 3rd Saturday.
- The cruise has been postponed.
- The Two-Step is scheduled for April 17, 2021. Audra is working on it.
- Our membership director has left RWA and, as President, Jen will contact someone to fill that position, per NTRWA bylaws.
- The board is creating DEI verbiage and policy to put on our website. We developed a diversity statement; it is now online.

President Elect Celia Naples reported: No report.

Secretary Kaylene Greenig reported: No report.

Treasurer report:

- Treasure report was sent directly to members via the NT/RWA forum.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)**Membership Director ~~Stephanie Blackhart~~ reported:** No report.**Communications Director Susan Sheehey reported:** Not present.**Contests Director Audra Lewandowski reported:** No report.**COMMITTEE COORDINATOR REPORTS****PAN Liaison Chrissy Szarek reported:** No report.**PRO Liaison Lisa Fenley reported:**

- The RAMP program has been postponed.

Great Expectations Chair Jen FitzGerald reported:

- We have 54 entries. We may have to extend the deadline.
- We are still trying to fill slots for editor judges.
- We need more judges for the G.E. Please sign up.

Carolyn Contest Chair Audra Lewandowski reported:

- Please share the Carolyn Contest on Facebook.

Hospitality Chair Clover Autrey reported: No report.**Writing Incentives Coordinator Lisa Fenley reported:**

- There's a write-in next Saturday, 2-5
- Location details will be posted to the FB group.

Most Written: Rifi Strawn**Most Edited:** Suzan Butler**GetPublished! Coordinator Lisa Fenley reported:**

- Upcoming classes are as follows...
 - Self-editing
 - How to establish your own publishing company
 - Hybrid career
 - Critique partners
 - Cover design

Bylaws Chair Madison McCall reported: No report.**Unfinished Business:**

- No report.

New Business:

- No report.

Next Business Meeting: February 15th, 2020 10:30

The meeting adjourned at 1:43 PM

Submitted electronically by Kaylene Greenig.

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Be sure to check out the schedule for the rest of the year's meetings and speakers on our website, including the Get Published topics!

<https://ntrwa.org/meetings/>

Feb 15 - L.C. Hayden - How to Perfect Your Writing Technique
Mar 21st - Diane K. Peterson - The Evolution of the Romance Novel

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www.ntrwa.org*

Our mailing address is:

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2100 W Northwest Hwy Ste 114-1081
Grapevine, TX 76051-7808

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