

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▾](#)[View this email in your browser](#)***The Heart to Heart***

NTRWA

Founded March 1983

Chapter 33, Region 5

February 2022

Volume 40, Issue 2

**FEBRUARY 2022
Newsletter****CHAPTER MEETING INFORMATION**

3rd Saturday of each month, via ZOOM

11:00am: General Speaker

12:00pm: Business Meeting

On Zoom Links on our Facebook page and below.

2020-2021 BOARDAudra Lewandowski
*President*Chrissy Szarek
*President-Elect*Clover Artrey
*Secretary*Jen FitzGerald
*Treasurer*Celia Naples
*Programs Director**Membership Director***Stay Focused**

You've heard me talk about what you need to be a successful, published author: get a website up and running, learn how to market your books, cultivate your subscriber email list, etc. But we've never talked about staying focused.

This is a big one. Very big. The one thing that can separate the successful author from the author who just sort of flounders and does not find their way is *focus*. Something that works for me is writing with a friend. We meet, away from our homes, every month. We eat lunch, chat, but we

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Audra Lewandowski
*Texas Two-Step
 Conference*



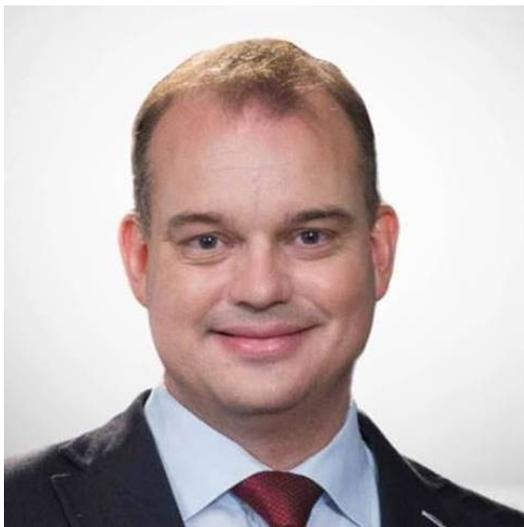
Weight Watchers meets every week, and why? To help motivate its members to stay the course. To stay motivated.

We had write-ins, and if you took advantage of them great! What are you doing now? Are you on track for meeting your goals of how many books you want to write this year?

Let's face it, authors are creative and as such, we have minds that are fertile and active. We have no shortage of ideas, but we do have a shortage of time. Most of us don't have an infinite number of hours to complete everything we want to, that's where focus comes in.

Happy writing!

Audra



Spotting Trends and Profitable Markets For Romance Authors: Latest Market Research To Up Your Game

In this session, Alex Newton from K-lytics will open his book market data vault to share latest insights from the romance market. Alex will help us maneuver through the Amazon jungle of sales ranks, categories, keywords, pricing, KU vs. Non-KU, trends, competition, profitable tropes, high-selling covers,

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write but hate math, this event is for you.

Non-members are welcome to attend! [Register here.](#)

* * * * *

About Alex

Alex Newton is the founder of K-lytics.com, a leading provider of book market research. His Genre Reports and Amazon category performance database have made the power of “Big Data” accessible to individual authors and smaller publishing houses. Alex’s research from analyzing millions of books over the last seven years has helped thousands of authors to spot opportunities, sell books in attractive market niches, and optimize their book marketing.

Alex spent more than 20-years in top management consulting for Fortune 500 companies. He lives in Switzerland with his wife and daughter and looks forward to joining us to share his latest insights. Want to get a taste of Alex’s research beforehand? – Get the free Christmas Romance report and seminar at => <http://k-lytics.com/christmas>

[North Texas Romance Writers is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.](#)

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North Texas Romance Writers is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: NTRWA Monthly Meeting
Time: Feb 19, 2022 11:00 AM
Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88214200294?pwd=WWhaSVRDcVhmMGRvblRjcktXbm1qdz09>

Meeting ID: 882 1420 0294

Passcode: 703094

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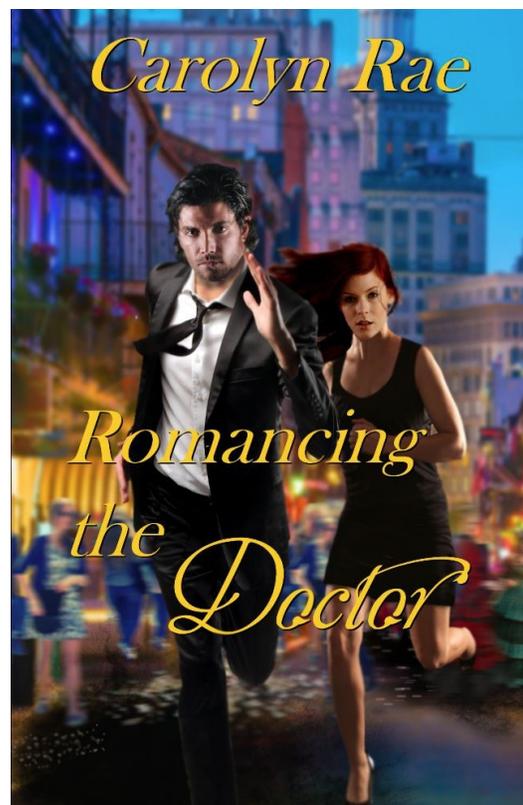
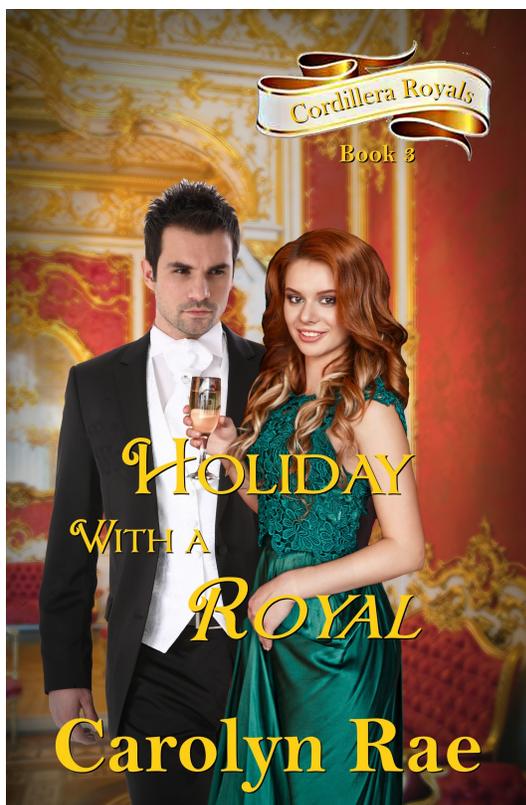
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**You Are Cordially Invited to Attend
Metroplex High School Reunion**

In 5-year increments from 2018 back to 1983.

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Class of 2008 ~ 15-year

Class of 1988 ~ 35-year

Class of 2003 ~ 20-year

Class of 1983 ~ 40-year

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In March of 2023, NTRWA will celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with yet another anthology, and we hope you'll join us, whether for the first time or once again.

All current and former NTRWA members are invited to submit a short story for the next anthology, tentatively called "The Stars at Night."

In case you couldn't tell, we're going with a class reunion theme, but here's the twist: Your graduating class member must have been featured in their high school yearbook in the "superlatives" section and voted "Most likely to..." or "Best... / Worst..." or something along those lines. Be creative and think outside the box. A list of 150+ superlatives has been assembled and is available for your use, but feel free to come up with your own.

Also! I'm asking you, if at all possible, to turn that superlative sideways or on its head. For example, if you want your character to have "Had the worst case of Senioritis," then have your character now be a high school teacher. If your character was voted in as the "Worst Driver," have him or her now be some sort of crash test driver or perhaps a (winning?) race car driver.

It'll be way more interesting if superlatives aren't repeated, so one to a customer, if you please.

Claim yours here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1VxrlwDrAjGFhUUY5VlwXfK4RpNhA7b9jY27h7fmGCDk/edit?usp=sharing>

If you don't see the one you want, feel free to add it.

You are, of course, more than welcome to write more than one story, which would require an equal number of superlatives, naturally.

In addition, we'll sort stories by reunion year, and if authors writing stories about the same graduating class would like to collaborate or share characters, for the sake of uniformity, then by all means, do so.

\_Here's the basic participation list:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1AUrMJMDhsjEK-yPBStHoRac-cjH7ggKQLD5WJ-ajJoo/edit?usp=sharing>

### **School / Reunion Information**

School: Metroplex High School

School Colors: green & purple

Mascot: Dragons

Location: Reunion takes place at a five-star hotel in Dallas

Room Description: The ballroom was suitably decked out with a dozen or so round tables covered with white tablecloths; small, purple-flowered centerpieces sat in the center of each table. A banner hung across a small dais announcing the "Class of XXXX Reunion" in dark green letters. A dance floor was set up on the far side of the room. Three portable bars lined the wall right inside the ballroom doors.

### **Submission Guidelines:**

Submissions are open to all NTRWA members, past and present.

Submissions should be between 4000 and 5000 words.

Up to three stories may be submitted by each author.

Entries must be romance.

All sub-genres except erotic are welcome: young adult, romantic suspense, inspirational, sweet, etc. 1983 will be as historical as it gets this time around.

Heat level must not exceed PG-13.

At least one member of the romance couple had to have been featured in the superlatives section of the yearbook at some point.

Entries are due to Jen FitzGerald no later than January 21, 2023.

The anthology will go live early in March of 2023.

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## New Loop

Communication with chapter mates used to be a whole lot easier...

It was quick and easy and could be done via email. No one had to login to a website to send a message.

Well, gang, we're trying to get back to that.

After some research, the board has agreed that a communications loop through Groups.io is the way to go.

Groups.io has all the ease of our former Yahoo Groups loops, with far fewer issues. In fact, it was created by the same guy, but he was able to eliminate many of the issues people struggled with in the old Yahoo format.

So if those of you who are members (or are pretty sure you are still) would create an account at Groups.io (if you don't already have one), that would be super. Then about mid-February, I'll send invites to join our chapter loop. If you don't get an invite, that probably means your membership lapsed along the way.

If you don't get an invite, feel free to reach out to me (Jen, your humble treasurer) for confirmation of membership / lapse.

Many thanks!

Jen FitzGerald  
NTRWA  
Treasurer

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## MINUTES JANUARY MEETING

### CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting for the North Texas Romance Writers of America (NTRWA) was held on Saturday, January 15, 2022 via Zoom.

Board members present: President-Elect, Treasurer, Membership Director, Secretary, Communications Director, and Contests Director.

Others present: Regina Richards, Kim Walton, and Christine Crocker.

The meeting was called to order at 11:57.

### OFFICER REPORTS:

President Audra Lewandowski reported:

· No report.

President-Elect C.A. Szarek reported:

· No report.

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· No report.

Treasurer Jen FitzGerald reported:

· Funds are in good condition.

Program Director Celia naples reported:

· Alex Newton, founder of K-lytics, will be speaking via Zoom in February. We will not meet at La Hacienda.

Membership Director Carolyn Williamson reported:

· No report.

Communications Director Marsha West reported:

· Anything to go into the newsletter must be turned in by January 28.

#### COMMITTEE COORDINATOR REPORTS

Carolyn Contest Chair Jennifer Looft reported:

· We have 53 judges and 46 entries to date. We need more entries. Please share on social media. The deadline is February 18. \$35 fee.

Bylaws Chair Carolyn Williamson reported:

· No report.

Unfinished Business:

· 40 Year Anniversary Anthology update. Class reunion theme. "The Stars At Night." Jen will send out details.

New Business:

Next Business Meeting: Saturday October 16, 2021

The meeting adjourned at 12:22 pm.

Submitted electronically by Clover Autrey

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

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

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Please remember to like our FB page: [\(20+\) North Texas Romance Writers | Facebook](#) This is the best way to get notifications on meetings.

#### Inspirational Thought

"When one door of happiness closes; another opens, but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us."

*Helen Keller*

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President-Elect—Chrissy Szarek  
Secretary—Clover Autrey  
Treasurer—Jen FitzGerald  
Membership Director—Carolyn Williamson  
Communications Director—Marsha R. West  
Program Director—Celia Naples  
Contest Director—Kaylene Greenig



NTRWA on Facebook



NTRWA Online

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